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LEt's Talk about drugs – new MEthods of communication with youth – LET ME

Bulgaria



Drug use among young people

- 26.2% had used drugs at least once in their lives 9th to 12th grade*
- 19.0% of the young population in the country indicate that they have ever used a drug in their lives. (20-34 years)
- According to 75.9% of the respondents, drug use is a problem for our country, while only 4.2% are of the opinion that drugs are not a problem.

* *2017 an average of 3700 students in 9-12 grade from 47 schools (189 classes) nationwide.
(<http://www.nfpdrugs.bg/bg/?&itype=174&info=2693>)*



Prevention and drug education in the country

- Officially Bulgaria has assured a wide prevention network - National and municipal authorities share responsibility for the planning and implementation of prevention activities. A total of 27 municipal drug councils need to implement the national drug policy at the local level and are supported by prevention and information centers that collect and analyse data and inform the design and implementation of municipal programmes and strategies. Local committees on juvenile crime also play a role in the implementation of some of the objectives of the national prevention policy.



The Efficiency

- “Preparation of an independent evaluation of the implementation of the strategy and action plan”

“Funding is set out in the Action Plan, but no estimates of budgets have been made, which in practice stops its implementation. No mechanism has been set up to control and accounting of activities and costs. “

The National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)



According to the action plan of drugs, the Minister of Education is committed to part of information and prevention tasks of the National Drug strategy 2014-2018

“The Ministry of education has not spent funds from the budget of the department under the Action Plan related to the implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Drugs 2014-2018.”

The responses we received from the 28 regional education departments said that they had no costs in implementing the strategy.



“How would you evaluate the existing drug education in Bulgaria?”

- “I’ve never heard to have something.”
- “What? What to have? There is ONE lesson in chemistry or biology, or something like that...”
- “How?! As inadequate, late, incomplete, inadequate, inadequate, inadequate...”
- “It doesn’t exist! Drug education and prevention of drug use in the country doesn’t exist! I don’t accept one biology lesson as a drug education or a prevention.”

The young participants of the focus groups also shared the similar experience. Only two of them reported that they received “something about drugs, which were very theoretical and hard to remember”



Good practices

- BAFP and Sofia municipality “Health academy”
- CHP harm reduction training among 15-16 old students in schools
- P.U.L.S.E. foundation drug education in schools
- CHP assessment of needs of the 12-14 years students
- The new Drug strategy 2020-2024 was adopted



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Thank you!

