



THE LUXEMBOURG PAPER ON PNSP

As adopted by the delegates participating at the conference « Needle exchange and other harm reduction measures in prison settings» in Luxembourg 30 June 2017

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Define and assess the needs of the inmates

- Involve inmates from the beginning to elaborate an efficient program
- Ask if they need a PNSP and how, in their opinion, it should work
- Define together the barriers and find arguments to overcome these

Include international guidelines and recommendations

- Different papers exist from WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC and other institutions to implement PNSP
- Read them carefully and use these papers but do not forget that one prison is different from an other

Apply a participatory approach of inmates, prison staff and prison management

- Build up a working group and involve every person who you think could be important including the inmates

Background



Prisoners are known to be high risk groups for HIV, Hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses, especially when they are also an intravenous drug users

Efficient harm reduction measures as needle and syringe exchange could help to prevent the inmates of these diseases

The measures can only work if a comprehensive package is in place

One of the major issues is to implement a Prison Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (PNSP) in prison settings

The Luxembourg Paper is a consentment of 20 requirements which could help to implement a PNSP

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Define the key roles

- Everybody should have a defined role
- The responsibility of each participant is scaling up and there will be a higher interest from everyone

Build up teamspirit in the preparatory working group

- Every participant should stand behind the project
- Convince persons with a negative attitude to the project

Involve the prisoners' delegation if applicable

- The members of the delegation could be used as a peer
- They know many things which can be useful

Prepare a structural project

- Prepare a paper with what you want to do
- Be structural

- Point out positive issues as well as negative ones
- Do not forget the eventual changes which may be

Secure financial issues

- Even if a PNSP does not cost much much, the financing should be assured
- Prepare a budget
- Find eventually partners for the financing (medical firms, others...)

Define the legal context and get the approval

- Read the laws and regulations to see if there is no contradiction to implement a PNSP
- Ask the approval (prison management, prison board, politicians, ...)
- Use the positive issues of the structural paper you did before to convince the concerned people

Build up a network and look for partners

- Open your mind
- Work together with outstanding partners
- Ask institutions, hospitals, medical doctors and NGOs to construct a network

Get the acceptance of everybody

- Discuss the PNSP wherever you can
- Convince people with negative attitude
- Use people with positive attitude as peer
- Give information to everyone
- Use the press for press releases to inform the public society

Respect the fears

- Take into account the fears of the prison staff and the inmates
- Try to find issues to take their fear off

- Discuss and inform about the issues of the PNSP

Discuss together the mode of distribution

- Try to find a model which satisfies everybody
- Discuss on existing models (by medical service, by automates, by prisoners)
- Involve prison staff and inmates

Setup a list of rules

- Rules should be applied for a PNSP
- Setup also disciplinary sanctions
- Be clear

Be transparent in preparation and organization of the PNSP

- People who are missinformed could block your project
- Respect the medical secret
- Inform on a regular base about the PNSP

Define a concrete timeframe

- Avoid too long discussions with no issues at the end
- Set up dates for different steps

Give out also other material needed

- Do not only give syringes and / or needles
- Give materials like sterile water, cotton pads, alcohol pads, filters, spoons

Make PNSP part of a comprehensive disease control package

- Implement other harm reduction measures
- Use a step by step implementation

Monitoring and evaluation

- Count exchanged material

- Write down positive and negative issues of the PNSP
- Do not forget to monitor the financial issues

Let the PNSP live

- This should be a continuous work
- Evaluate the project at different times preset in the time frame
- Adjust the project if needed

Proactive information of all stakeholders

- Give as much information as needed
- Point out the positive issues of the PNSP
- Point out the positive effects on behalf of the public health
- Inform stakeholders and public society