

## Recent Development in the Prevention Base

Dear readers,

Among other high-quality articles, this issue of *Adiktologie* features several papers dedicated to prevention. The activities of the International Society of Substance Use Professionals should be noted in this respect. Its website, <https://www.issup.net/>, offers plenty of interesting and important information. To give one example, I was personally intrigued recently by infographics based on research conducted by Glasgow Caledonian University, Strathclyde University, SHAAP, and the Glasgow Centre for Population Health which points out some major gender-specific topics in relation to alcohol use. This data was also presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Alcohol Policy Conferences hosted last November in Edinburgh.

The ISSUP's vision is a connected, trained, knowledgeable, and effective international network of substance use prevention and treatment professionals undertaking and promoting high-quality, evidence-based, and ethical substance use prevention and treatment. The Universal Prevention Curriculum for Substance Use (UPC), a very useful model which has become widespread among the community of addiction professionals, was developed for this purpose. According to the ISSUP website, the UPC is informed by the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2013. The major role in the development of the UPC has been undertaken by Applied Prevention Science International (APSI) led by Dr. Zili Sloboda, working with international experts on prevention from around the world. The underlying principles of the UPC are to provide a way forward for prevention that is based on scientific research and evidence, sound quality standards, and an ethical stance on how prevention should be undertaken. The ISSUP states that the UPC was designed to meet the current demand for a comprehensive training package in the field of drug use prevention, based on evidence-based principles.

There are two training series in the UPC: *UPC Coordinators Series* and *UPC Implementers Series*. According to the ISSUP, the first is designed for those wishing to pursue thorough study of prevention. It is intended for coordinators, managers, and practitioners, as well as for those who wish to undertake a major programme of study (288 hours) in prevention. The other one is designed for implementers and practitioners who work with families, at schools and in workplaces, and in the community. Should you wish to learn more, the website contains all the information in detail. It should be noted that a partner organisation of the ISSUP is the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) (<https://www.icuddr.com>), which also helps in incorporating the curricula into university education around the globe.

Would you like to stay in touch with the ISSUP? No problem at all. The ISSUP uses Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. I gave my like to Facebook@issupnet and you too join more than 3200 fans of this profile. Among other things, information about a must-read in our field, the *European Drug Report (EDR) 2019: Trends and Developments*, was made available there recently. Do you prefer Twitter? If so, you may enjoy more than 2300 tweets under @issupnet. The ISSUP has run this profile successfully since the autumn of 2016.

By the way, have you seen the new website of our journal *Adiktologie* (<https://adiktologie-journal.eu>)? There you can find some interesting papers dealing with prevention and the UPC. If your mother tongue is Czech or you would like to improve your addiction-specific Czech, you can look up our more practice-oriented journal, *Adiktologie v preventivní a léčebné praxi (Addictology in Prevention and Treatment Practice)*, at <https://www.aplp.cz/>.

I wish you good reading and fulfilling moments engaging in meaningful prevention activities and research.

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