

Europe Has a New Curriculum for Prevention Professionals

Dear readers, dear colleagues,

Major milestones on the map of events in 2019 included the *UPC Adapt*¹ project, now entering its closing stages, and efforts pertaining to education in prevention in general. If the period of the formulation, the first testing, and the first actual implementation of the original Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC) can be referred to as a breakthrough, then the development of discussion about its various adaptations and models is, as expected, the next crucial step.

It is satisfying that support from the European Commission made it possible to manage such a project in financial terms and it is even more satisfying that so many excellent partners agreed to join in and form a strong team. Our colleagues Peer van der Kreeft, Gregor Burkhart, Annemie Coone, Rachele Donini, and other project members did a tremendous job. Collaboration with Professor Zili Sloboda, the head of the original team which developed the UPC and the mother of the educational concept as a whole, was essential. More background information and the results of the entire project will be revealed at its final conference in November 2019 in Prague, an event which, I am convinced, will clearly demonstrate the viability of the notion fostered, encouraged, and supported by the EMCDDA.² I believe that in the future such projects may be the way of building bridges between efforts and initiatives developed by teams of experts in the USA and Europe, as well as facilitating the creation of a framework for liaison. It is amazing to see that in Europe the process led to several successful local national implementation efforts, such as those pursued in Portugal, Spain, and the Czech Republic. It is also absolutely fantastic that all these efforts are enriched by their protagonists to include specific cultural and local aspects, as well as technical elements involving attempts at highly sophisticated design and support aimed at developing online teaching and e-learning. Both the Portuguese and Czech examples give an idea of which considerations there are to ponder and which directions are there for both teams to explore (both examples are being prepared for publication in 2019).

The idea of giving prevention education in our field a new impulse obviously resonates within the wider professional community. Receiving special attention on our part, it has also attracted and provoked engagement on the part of major US and European institutions. It is thus apparent that in addition to initiatives supported by the INL which led to the establishment of global professional platforms such as the International Society for Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) and the International Consortium of Universities on Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), other networks and organisations have also shown interest, which is very prom-

ising. Thus, in 2020 specific outcomes and implications of the process can be expected and so can the results of additional implementation projects on both the national and international levels. The *Adiktologie* journal will continue to address the area under consideration and facilitate its better reflection.

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1 | <http://upc-adapt.eu>

2 | https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/manuals/european-prevention-curriculum_en