

## Involving civil society in drug policy making

Many civil society organizations have a vision on how drug policies should be changed in their respective countries, and are familiar with the daily realities of drug users. Yet, their impact on a policy-making level is limited because they often lack the knowledge and structure. Civil society involvement in drug strategies in European countries is low. As a result, there is mismatch between policy and practice. Policy-makers are not familiar with the rapidly changing environment and lack awareness on how civil society organizations can inform them on the current situation. At the same time, civil society organization often lack the knowledge and structure to create meaningful impact on the policy-making level.

Our project, civil society involvement in drug-making policy, aims to fill that gap by providing roadmaps, national action plans and a general platform for information, exchange and cooperation among civil society organizations in drug policy decision making.

### Partner:

The Regenboog Group (RG), The Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research of the Hamburg University (ZIS), Apdes (Portugal), Ana Liffey (Ireland), Droghe Forum (Italy), Lila (Italy), Initiative of Health (Bulgaria), UTRIP (Slovenia)

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# csidp

## Civil Society Involvement in Drug Policy

## The project Civil Society Involvement in Drug Policy (CSIDP)

is an initiative of a group of organisations, active in this area on national and/or European level and closely connected to the European Civil Society Forum on Drugs. We aim, to stimulate inclusion of community members, NGO's and other Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) in drug policy decision making. Please contact us to get involved and share your experiences with us.



### Definitions of “Civil Society”:

“the associational life operating in the space between the state and market, including individual participation, and the activities of non-governmental, voluntary and community organisations”

*(GREEN PAPER on the role of Civil Society in Drugs Policy in the European Union 2005, Council's Horizontal Drugs Group 2005)*

## What do we do?

### An assessment of civil society involvement in drug policy which will cover:

- Definitions and meaning of CSI
- Local, national and European experiences and approaches regarding CSI
- Impact and limitations analysis
- Good practice examples of effective CSI (e.g. for initiating new services, for implementing activities, for impact evaluation, etc.)

### A roadmap with

- General conditions and critical factors for developing and implementing effective CSI;
- Guidance for conducting national assessments;
- Guidance for developing national action plans;
- Guidance for forming CS coalitions;
- Guidance to set up feasible and sustainable CS structures.

### National action plans

are introduced by project partners in Bulgaria, Ireland, Italy, the Netherland, Portugal and Slovenia to establish better involvement of civil society in drug policy.

### Resource Centre

The resource centre will be equipped with documents, reports and papers relevant for civil society involvement in drug policy.

### CSI Conference 2018

In 2018, a conference on civil society involvement in drug policy will be organised in Brussels.