Efforts in enhancing quality of drug abuse prevention programmes in Croatia

Dijana Jerković.
Senior Expert Advisor, Office for Combating Drugs Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia
Lisbon, 9-10 October 2013.
Content

- Delivering prevention policies in organizational terms
- Environmental prevention
- How much policy makers and professionals know about effective principles?
- Involvement of research centers in evaluation and development
- The availability of evidence-based programmes
- Linking quality criteria and funding?
- Database on Drug Abuse Prevention Programmes
Delivering prevention policies in organizational terms

- In Croatia, at the National level, state administration bodies finance prevention programmes (risk of duplication of finances for same activities)
- National Committee on Drugs Abuse (policymakers)

- In 2010, the National Foundation built an on-line programme “Potpora-plus”
- Available for donors and funders at national and local level (enhance the transparency of financing)
  = Cooperation between different policy sectors

- Drug abuse prevention is organized on the level of 21 counties
- County Committees (multidisciplinary teams)
- Action Plans on Combating Drugs Abuse
- Decisions about funding prevention activities
- Delivered by NGOs, school services, health services, social services…
About environmental prevention...

- The assessment of coherence of policies on different psychoactive substances and addictive behaviour (OCDA, 2013; within PG project)
How much policy makers and professionals know about effective principles?

- National Reports: mainly data on short-term activities, not on effective structured programmes
- In 2011, Office for Combating Drugs Abuse (OCDA) & EMCDDA (IPA3 project) = regional workshops on drug abuse prevention programmes
- In 2012, OCDA & TAIEX (participation of the EMCDDA expert) = regional workshops on minimum quality criteria in drug demand reduction

- OCDA Call for tender in 2013:
  - around 80 programmes were submitted;
  - only few of them fulfilled criteria

  ↓

- Adaptation of the criteria for financing + need for organizing additional education on programme development (adjusted to the needs of the programme providers)

Involvement of research centres in evaluation and development

- Centre for Prevention Research, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences University of Zagreb adapted and implemented:
  - Communities That Care
    Since 2010 (as a part of CTC): Project PREFFI: Ensuring quality of prevention programmes in Istria County
  - PATHS
  - Unplugged

- Postgraduate Doctoral Study on Prevention Sciences

- Involvement in the trainings/ workshops for programme providers, organized by OCDA

- Involvement in evaluation of some NGO projects
The availability of evidence-based prevention system

Communities That Care (CTC; Croatian: Zajednice koje brinu)

- Adaptation of the CTC (Social Development Research Group, Universtity of Washington)
- Coordinator for Croatia: Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb, in cooperation with Istria County
- 2002-2006 – CTC as a model for prevention of behavioural disorders of children and youth in the local community
- Since 2007– 2013 - CTC: development, implementation and evaluation
- Six phases of the model □:

□ Described in Bašić, Ferić Šlehan, Kranželić Tavra, 2007a; Bašić, Ferić Šlehan, Kranželić Tavra, 2007b; Bašić, Grozić - Živolić, 2010
The availability of evidence-based manualised programmes (1)

Life Skills Training (*Dr Gilbert J. Botvin*); (Croatian: Trening Životnih Vještina)

- Health promotion and life skills programme for drug and violence prevention
- Based on personal and life skills, knowledge and attitudes
- Delivered by teachers in 3-7 grade (elementary school)
- Since 2005/06, implemented in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (90% of all schools)
- Coordinator Public Health Institute of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County: develops and prints teaching materials; organizes four-day education and training for teachers, supervises program delivery and manages evaluation, program promotion and fund raising)
- Since 2010/11, implemented in Zadar County (coordinator: Public Health Institute of the Zadar County)
The availability of evidence-based manualised programmes (2)

PATHS-RASTEM
(Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, M. Greenberg, C. Kusché)

- Comprehensive universal programme for preventing behavioural and emotional problems in children
- Coordinated by Centre for Prevention Research, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb
- 2007/08 – 2010/11, piloting in elementary schools (1-4 grade) in Istria County (as a part of CTC)
- Cooperation with Penn State University (kindergarten version: C. Domitrovich)

- Since 2010, implementation in elementary schools and kindergartens in the City of Zagreb, Istria County and City of Rijeka
The availability of evidence-based manualised programmes (3)

Unplugged (Croatian: Imam stav)

- Created on initiative of the European Union Drug Abuse Prevention (EU-Dap)
- School-based prevention program based on life skills education and social influences approach
- 2009-2011 implemented in elementary schools in the City of Zagreb and Zagreb county (within European project Mentor Unplugged)
- Target young people aged 12-14 years and their parents
- Coordinator: Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb
- Implemented by teachers and expert associates
- Since 2011/2012, implemented by NGO PET+ in the City of Zagreb)
Linking quality criteria and funding?

- In 2013, Office for Combating Drugs Abuse (OCDA) financed programmes that fulfil minimum quality criteria (similar with EDDRA Level I):
  - interventions that have at least process evaluation
  - that have theory base (logic model)
  - clear evaluation indicators;
  - a clear plan for further (outcome) evaluation
  - and must be at least one year old

- November 2013 – January 2014 project on enhancing quality of prevention programmes
  - Cooperation of Faculty for Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb and OCDA
  - training for financed programme providers
  - evaluation of the financed programmes

- Certificates for prevention programmes in 2014 (OCDA)
Drug Abuse Prevention Programmes Database

Nalazite se na javnom dijelu portala Ureda za suzbijanje zlouporabe droga. Za unos programa [prijavite se] u sustav.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Naziv programa</th>
<th>Razina preventivne intervencije</th>
<th>Vrsta evaluacije</th>
<th>Okruženje</th>
<th>Ciljana skupina</th>
<th>Županija</th>
<th>Naziv provoditelja</th>
<th>Godina provođbe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mladi za mlade protiv ovisnosti</td>
<td>Univerzalna</td>
<td>Evaluacija procesa</td>
<td>Škola</td>
<td>Srednja škola</td>
<td>Grad Zagreb</td>
<td>Udruga za unaprijedjivanje kvalitete življenja “LET”</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;RAZLOZI ZA ZADRJENOST&quot;</td>
<td>Univerzalna</td>
<td>Evaluacija procesa i učinka</td>
<td>Škola</td>
<td>Osnovna škola</td>
<td>Brodsko-posavsko</td>
<td>Osnovna škola &quot;Stjepan Radč&quot;</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mjesec borbe protiv ovisnosti</td>
<td>Univerzalna</td>
<td>Evaluacija procesa</td>
<td>Škola</td>
<td>Osnovna škola</td>
<td>Brodsko-posavsko</td>
<td>&quot;Antun Matija Rejković&quot;</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naučni životi</td>
<td>&quot;Naučni živjeti&quot; pretpostavka je naše unutarnje motivacije da čuvamo zdravlje i izbjegavamo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Profile of the Database

- **Goals**
  - Short-term: raising awareness and improve knowledge among program providers; getting insight into preventive activities
  - Intermediate: enhancing the quality of prevention programs
  - Long-term: disseminating effective drug abuse prevention programmes

- **Determinants:**
  - Lack of the knowledge / motivation (risk factors)
  - Providing support and strengthening program providers (protective factors)

- **Available at:** [http://www.programi.uredzadroge.hr/Public/Prevencija](http://www.programi.uredzadroge.hr/Public/Prevencija)

- **Methods:** providing information, education, training and support; **influence mechanisms:** knowledge transfer, funds

- **Timing:** 2011 - dissemination of information on Database; 2012 - submission of the programmes (adoption by prevention community); 2013 - implementation period; future years - sustainability of the project
Logic model of the Database

Situation
- Lack of data on effective programmes in Croatia
- Poor prevention practice
+ Existing services for intervention

Main risk factor:
Lack of knowledge on program development

Analysis

Inputs
- Staff
- Expertise
- Time
- Money
- Technology
- Partners

Outputs
- Activities
- Participation

Workshops with program implementers
- Technical support
- Administrative support
- Train
- Facilitate

Network service providers
- Stakeholders
- Satisfaction
- Direct & indirect coverage (reach)

Outcomes - Impacts
- Short term
- Medium Term
- Long term

- Awareness
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Programs submitted in the Database
- Enhanced quality of drug abuse prevention programmes
- Large scale dissem. of effective programmes

ASSUMPTION:
Effective programmes prevent drug abuse

EXTERNAL FACTORS
+ Cooperation of stakeholders
- Possible lack of interest

Monitoring ◆ Evaluation ◆ Evidence
Future steps and possible bottlenecks...

- Motivate programme providers to submit their projects in the Database
- Organized educations on programme development and EU standards
- Introduce three-level certificates (minimum quality criteria, effective programmes, model programs)
- Negotiate with other state administration bodies common criteria for financing (evidence-based or promising programmes)
- Focus at program adoption, implementation and effectiveness under real-world conditions (Type 2 Translation Research)
  (At this point, the Database project is still focused at translating basic knowledge into prevention interventions, i.e. Type 1 Translational Research)
- ...

- Comments, questions, suggestions…?
Thank you for your attention!

dijana.jerkovic@uredzadroge.hr