

To: [redacted] ([redacted]@minvws.nl)
Cc: [redacted] ([redacted]@ec.europa.eu); [redacted] ([redacted]@minvws.nl); [redacted] ([redacted]@emcdda.europa.eu); [redacted] ([redacted]@emcdda.europa.eu)
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue 3/24/2020 10:03:58 AM
Subject: Re: Corona - prevention / treatment /harm reduction
Received: Tue 3/24/2020 10:04:06 AM

Dear [redacted]

Hope you are safe and taking in time all the precautionary measures of the case.

Acting early can make the difference to a whole community.

We are grateful you have raised the issue and I have enquired my colleagues of the health unit glad to inform you on EMCDDA activities to cover the impact of COVID-19 on drug services across Europe.

We are in constant contact with our network of experts and frontline professionals aiming both to identify their concerns and their experiences related to the outbreak and the needs of their clients.

As a first response we will be launching a new web page on the topic (hopefully today) which we hope will function as an information hub for those working in the field. In addition to offering some top level information on key risks and implications for people who use drugs and drug services, we link to updated information from the key agencies dealing with the pandemic such as ECDC, WHO. Importantly we have set up an area with softer links where we can share new guidance and examples of practice as they emerge from national health agencies and civil society organisations, and we anticipate that these will be particularly useful for services and planners. Importantly we will be regularly updating the information we provide as evidence emerges and national experiences are documented. We also have a number of additional initiatives being explored including the drafting of some FAQs for services, utilisation of the Reitox Forum for information exchange between Focal points, a and a rapid review of drug service disruption across EU countries.

Thank you once again for your query and update. We will inform you as soon as the web-page is online and we may consult you for a feed-back on it.

Best regards from the EMCDDA Public Health Unit

Stay Safe

[redacted]



[redacted]
 [redacted]
 Reitox and external partners unit
 Principal policy analyst — Support to policy sector
 Public health unit
 Tel: [redacted]

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
 Praça Europa 1, Cais do Sodré, 1249-289 Lisbon, Portugal • www.emcdda.europa.eu

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From: [redacted] <[redacted]@minvws.nl>
Sent: 20 March 2020 20:37:28
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Corona - prevention / treatment /harm reduction

Dear [redacted]

How have you been? Still healthy?

I was wondering if the EMCDDA is getting information from member states on the situation with corona in relation to prevention, treatment or harm reduction? Maybe there is a way we can exchange information on problems we are running into and possible solutions / recommendations? What do you think?

We have been in contact with Trimbos, treatment services and civil society. For example, Trimbos is working on prevention messages (risk of drug use in relation to corona) through its communication channels.

The main concern for the treatment services seems to be now the lack of face-masks and other protection for the staff. Mental health care and addiction treatment seem to be last in line for this (even though they are working with a very vulnerable group). Trimbos is also working on an overview of how harm reduction services are dealing with corona. For now they seem to be coping even though they need to make necessary changes. We can give you more details next week if you are interested.

In attachment I'm sending you a position paper of Correlation – European Harm reduction Network and the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association. Maybe worth spreading to all MS?

Have a good weekend!

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention Department
Parnassusplein 5 | 2511 VX The Hague
P.O. [redacted] 2500 EJ | The Hague

M +31 6 [redacted]
[redacted]@minvws.nl
www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/vws