

Choosing an expert as part of the European project “Solidify”

- Call for applications -

The European project “Solidify - Supervised Drug Consumption Facilities to Instill Harm Reduction and Social Cohesion at Local Level”, led by the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus), aims to support cities in the deployment of a harm reduction policy. It gives them concrete, efficient and concerted tools to accompany the installation of drug consumption facilities. As part of this project, UTRIP is looking for an expert to support the project on the assessment of drug consumption facilities, particularly regarding the evaluation and assessment methodologies (e.g. development of an assessment tool).

Who we are

Created in 1987 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) is the eldest international non-governmental organisation gathering local authorities working in the field of urban security and crime prevention. The network aims to strengthen crime prevention policies and to promote the role of elected officials in national and European policies. Efus works on all the themes linked to urban security and develops links between local authorities in Europe through the exchange of practices and knowledge, cooperation and training. The forum also serves as a link between local authorities and national, European and international institutions.

Institute for Research and Development “Utrip” (UTRIP) is a non-governmental and a non-profit research institute in the field of youth risk behaviour, addiction prevention, health promotion, healthy lifestyle and advocacy. UTRIP is a member (among others) of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSF), the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR), the International Confederation of ATOD Research Associations (ICARA) and Vienna NGO Committee (VNGOC). It is involved in several European research and developmental projects, co-financed by the European Commission. UTRIP is a national centre for school-based prevention programmes EU-Dap (»Unplugged«) and EFFEKT, and family-based prevention programme »The Strengthening Families Program« (SFP). UTRIP leads a national network of NGOs and other institutions in the field of prevention »Prevention platform«, which is co-funded by the Ministry of Health.

Context

The project will focus on the implementation and sustainability of the Drug Consumption Rooms in several European cities and assess their impacts on the territory.

These measures pursue objectives of both public health and safety, public tranquillity and social cohesion. As highlighted by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA, reports “European report on drug consumption rooms” 2004 and 2016 or the European Harm Reduction Network (Euro HRN), they can reduce opencast consumption and the problems that arise (nuisances, delinquency, trafficking) if they are part of a comprehensive local strategy. Yet, they also give rise to negative representations and phenomena of rejection known as the “Nimby phenomenon” (Not in my backyard) which refers to opposition by local populations over the establishment of such facilities near their home that could prevent their installation or harm their operation.

However, several studies show public acceptance is considerably high in neighbourhoods where these structures were set up when all local actors, including the local residents, were involved in cooperation and communication links (EMCDDA: Drug consumption rooms: an overview of provision and evidence IDPC: low-risk consumption rooms: evidence and practice).

The conditions for the success and sustainability for this type of system require consultation and acceptance by all actors (health, police, judicial, associative actors) as well as inhabitants and traders in a territory in order to make them adhere to the objectives involved in the assessment of the impacts on the territory and as appropriate adjust the means implemented. Cities hosting this type of arrangement have important work accompanying supporting structures to help them settle on a territory, meet and consult all partners and local actors and to assess the impacts on the territory.

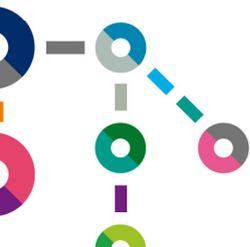
Several studies have been conducted over the installation in neighbourhoods. However, these studies date back to the 1990’s and mainly concern Western European cities in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Germany. The project involving cities from different EU countries will focus on different socio-geographic contexts. Moreover, since the first studies many variables have changed, such as scenes of drug use, hyper-marginalization of certain populations and increased migration.

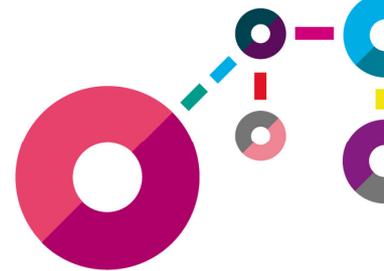
Project Objectives:

The general objective of this project is to better equip cities which have drug consumption rooms, both in order to help them accompany and facilitate the installation of structures offering this scheme in any given territory and to evaluate the rooms’ impacts in terms of localised nuisance reduction.

The project will provide for the completion of a collective cross-analysis of the installation and evaluation process of a drug consumption room and thereby equip local authorities to promote the installation of health facilities, which provide these schemes. The project will also identify indicators for assessing short, medium and long-term impacts on the territory.

Furthermore, the project will enable the sharing of practices between experienced partner cities that have already tested and implemented drug consumption facilities and those partner cities currently considering and/or going through the process of installing this type of scheme, which will allow these cities to benefit from the recommendations and critiques of their peers. It will also strengthen partnerships and coalitions at the local level, between local authorities and civil society organizations.





Project Activities

A shared methodological foundation will be designed in order to promote analysis and the contextualisation of specific local circumstances. This will enable the presentation of varied experiences and will facilitate the evaluation of drug consumption rooms and their impacts on the territories in which they are established (issues involving security and delinquency in proximity to the site, feelings of insecurity, improving cleanliness, dialogue and acceptance of the scheme by residents, shopkeepers, public authorities etc.). The methodological tools will be filled out by the cities prior to each visit and then completed by field observations from peers and experts during the time on the ground.

Following the visits, the project partners and experts will work on the definition of qualitative and quantitative criteria and the construction of an assessment grid, which will provide for evaluation of the installation process of a drug consumption room and its short- and long-term impacts on the territory.

A collection of recommendations and practices will be produced and presented at a final event (colloquium) which will gather the project partners and the organisations who host these schemes in the partner cities. This event will be open to members and partners of the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus), including local authorities (elected officials and technicians), government representatives, European Union representatives, scholars, and specialised CSOs and civil society representatives. The members of the European Commission's Civil Society Forum on Drugs, of which Efus has been a member since 2008 and UTRIP since 2013, will be invited, as well as the partners of the Democracy, Cities and Drugs network. The event will be organised in Lisbon in the second semester of 2019, synergies with the EMCDDA will be sought.

Subject-matter of the contract

The terms of collaboration between Efus, UTRIP and the two experts chosen as part of the project "Solidify" will be as follows. The experts will:

- 1) Attend regular virtual meetings (phone/video conference calls) with the project team (UTRIP and Efus) to discuss issues relating to the project and upcoming activities;
- 2) Attend and support all 6 audits and 5 study visits that start May 2018 in Liège/Brussels and continue through May 2019. A final schedule is being developed. During these visits, the role of the expert will be to take an active role, especially during the planned discussions (questions, advice and recommendations for the audit process and on the development of strategies and actions regarding DCFs). Write a document with minutes as well as suggestions and recommendations for the cities after each audit/study visit;
- 3) Contribute to the **development of an assessment tool** aiming to evaluate the effects and impacts of drug consumption facilities and other harm reduction measures on public health and notably public safety in the partner cities;
- 4) Contribute, in cooperation with UTRIP and Efus, to the project publication, a guidebook on the implementation and evaluation of drug consumption activities on local level;
- 5) Take an active part in the preparation and realisation of the project's final conference, notably by sharing their expertise in the preparation of contents and by actively participating in the conference.

Profile of the expert

- The expert must demonstrate extensive knowledge and understanding of the themes relating to evaluation and assessment methodologies in the field of drug demand reduction and also themes linked to harm reduction strategies, drugs and drug addictions, and evaluation of public policies in the field;
- The expert must demonstrate a strong interest in the European dimension, as well as a strong ability to adapt to information being exchanged in a transnational context;
- The expert should possess strong analytical and writing skills;
- The working languages on the project are English and French: for the project meetings, interpretation services will be provided. While it is not necessary to be bilingual, a good command of these two languages is an asset.

Funding and duration

A contract (terms of reference) will be drawn up by UTRIP, the starting date of which will be set when the two parties sign it (May 2018) and it will be valid until the end of the project (December 2019). The party could also be the expert's institution.

The project's funding covers:

- A staff days/salary based on a daily rate for carrying out the activities stipulated in the contract. The salary will vary according to the experience of the expert. It is estimated that the contract will be completed in between 35 and 40 days.
- Travel costs, which will be reimbursed on the basis of real costs of 6 audits and 5 study visits. The expert will be responsible for organising his/her own travel as part of the programme of visits set out by Efus and UTRIP. All the justification concerning the meetings (boarding passes, receipts, etc...) will have to be compiled in a financial report sent to Efus after each visit.

Two payments will be made on receipt of the invoice issued by the expert and sent to UTRIP. The first invoice will correspond to 50% pre-financing at the signing of the contract (May 2018), the other at the end of the project and after completion of all tasks agreed upon in the contract (December 2019).

Selection Procedure

UTRIP invites those interested by this call to send their application by email to **Matej Košir**, coordinator of the work package on development of an assessment tool: info@institut-utrip.si, **before 17pm on Monday 28 May 2018.**

- A **detailed CV** including recent publications;
- A **cover letter** summarising why you want to be part of this project.

Schedule

- Deadline for submission of applications: 17pm, Monday 28 May 2018
- Estimated date for choosing the expert: 31 May 2018
- Date for the first virtual meeting: week beginning 1 June 2018

For further information concerning the call for applications, contact UTRIP on +386 31 880 520 (Matej Košir).

