**Vocational training in illicit drug addiction: Equipping health care practitioners with addiction treatment competences and techniques (CARE4SUD)**

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**Press release**

The CARE4SUD project was successfully implemented by Klaipėdos Ernesto Galvanausko profesinio mokymo centras (Lithuania) in partnership with Institut Za Raziskave In Razvoj Utrip Zavod (Slovenia), Sosu Ostjylland (Denmark), Universidade do Porto (Portugal), Direcția de Asistență Socială și Medicală, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and Institute of Social Solidarity and Wellbeing: Social Mind (Greece) and its overall objective was to ensure a higher professionalism of the healthcare work force in the illicit drug addiction field at national and European level.

The target group of the project included: *health care practitioners* *in the primary health sector* inexperienced in illicit drug addiction and/or *physicians* who seek to enter the field of addiction to enhance their knowledge and skills required for employment and professional development; *addiction professionals (social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists working in illicit drug abuse settings)*; *VET Educators, experts in the SUD field*, *VET providers, social care professionals*, as well as targeted *policy makers.*

The achievements of the activities at the end of the project implementation:

* *A systematic review*conducted across the project countries to map existing addiction training opportunities;
* *Six National Gap Analysis Reports* (Healthcare Professionals) outlining skill shortages in healthcare related to illicit drug addiction treatment;
* *Six National Gap Analysis Reports* (Patients’ Perspectives) summarizing patients’ perspectives*;*
* *CARE4SUD transnational report* *on needs and gaps in the addiction field;*
* *CARE4SUD Curricula***-** A structured curriculum defining learning outcomes, learning units, general and specific educational objectives and the main content areas for training on illicit drug use disorders;
* *Transnational Demonstration and Validation Report of the training content;*
* *Piloting of the CARE4SUD training* across partner countries;
* *CARE4SUD online learning interactive platform*with training content and audio-visual materials uploaded which will be active for 3 years for professionals to access the training course*;*
* *Policy briefs* on training needs in the substance use field in each partner country.

The approved budget of the project was of 250.000 Euros and its implementation period was 31 months (November 1st  2022- May 31th , 2025).

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