

RIGHTS REPORTER FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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RIGHTS REPORTER FOUNDATION

The Rights Reporter Foundation (RRF) is a non-profit organisation founded by Hungarian activists to advocate for the human rights of vulnerable populations. We use the power of video for community mobilisation and advocacy campaigning. Our vision is of a society where policies affecting vulnerable communities are evidence-informed and respect human rights, as well as developed and implemented with the meaningful involvement of these communities. The main focus of our work is on people who use drugs, sex workers, and people who live with HIV, but we are glad to work with other stigmatised communities, such as LGBTQ people, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, and homeless people. Our mission is to educate the public about the role of evidence in policy formulation, to provide a voice for vulnerable communities, and to improve the advocacy efforts of NGOs by providing technical assistance and training. The RRF team is based in Budapest, and most of our activities focus on Europe, but we have cooperated with a number of NGOs beyond Europe, from New Zealand to Canada, from Mexico to Indonesia.



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All the films and articles in this publication can be found at drugreporter.net.

rightsreporter.net

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HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOU

If you are a community activist or work for an NGO, we can help you in multiple ways.

We can provide you with technical support in designing and implementing awareness-raising campaigns, to address barriers to services, systemic discrimination, or criminalisation.

We can travel to your country and produce a film about current advocacy issues, including human rights abuses, effective services, campaigns, etc.

We can produce a video about your organisation, highlighting your key activities and successes. The video can be used for promoting your NGO, mobilising members, fundraising, or other purposes.

If you are organising a major conference or other event, you might consider contracting us to film key sessions/speeches, as well as to produce and edit a short conference video on site, to be screened at the closing session (in case your event lasts for more than one day). Videos can reach people who could not attend the event, with key messages.

We can train you or your staff members and peers to use the camera, to use editing software, to do interviews, and to produce and distribute videos. No need to have any special technical skills, apart from a basic knowledge of computer use.

We can train you or your staff members about how to communicate more effectively with the mainstream media - our training includes practical exercises, such as writing test press releases and giving test TV interviews, which can be discussed with the group.

CONTACT US AT: rightsreporter@rightsreporter.net

DRUGREPORTER

Our drug policy website, drugreporter.net, is an important voice in the international harm reduction and drug policy reform community.

We published 61 original English language articles on Drugreporter in 2018, as well as 32 new online videos, which are available in our ever-expanding video database.

We continued our in-depth expert interview series, and published [9 interviews](#) with activists from different countries.

The key English articles from Drugreporter are also being [translated into Russian](#).

We maintain our [Hungarian language Drugreporter blog](#), which is still the largest drug policy related blog in Hungary, and a respected source of information for professionals and drug users/relatives alike. The Hungarian blog had 45 entries in 2018.

Drugreporter continues to have a strong presence on social media, with 30,000 followers on the [English Facebook page](#), 31,000 followers on the [Hungarian Facebook page](#), 6,500 followers on [Twitter](#) and 3,500 subscribers on our [YouTube channel](#).



drugreporter.net
14,000 visitors a month



facebook.com/drugreporter
30,000 followers
facebook.com/drogriporter
31,000 followers



twitter.com/rrfdrugreporter
6,500 followers



youtube.com/c/drugreportertv
1,814,676 views
3500 subscribers



VIDEO AD



DRUG

reporter

JUST SAY

KNOW

ADVOCACY



JUST SAY KNOW SERIES

In 2018 we started a new educational video clip series, [JUST SAY KNOW](#), which aims to educate the public about drugs, drug policies and harm reduction in a simple, easy-to-understand way, using the power of video advocacy and social media networks.

The first episode “[What are drugs?](#)” explains what drugs are and how they affect our bodies and minds (More than 13,000 views on Facebook). Have you ever wondered why some drugs are illegal and others are not? Because illegal drugs are more dangerous, you may think. But you are wrong! [In the second episode](#) of the series we explain the real reasons behind the prohibition of certain substances (More than 36,000 views on Facebook).





SPARKLE IN THE DARK - HARM REDUCTION IN MONTENEGRO

Drugreporter produced a film about the work of the NGO Juventas in Montenegro, which was premiered on the night of the “Support. Don’t Punish.” campaign in 2018. Filmed in fall 2017, the video itself is a powerful advocacy tool for Montenegro, and even though the length of the video is just 13 minutes, we managed to send a strong message – that harm reduction in Montenegro works, and that it should be funded. Juventas as an NGO started its work in 1996, providing a variety of services to people who use drugs, sex workers, and other vulnerable groups, with the support of the Global Fund. As Montenegro became a middle-income country, it was no longer eligible for Global Fund support, and the program had to stop most of its services. The film explains the need for these life saving services, and shows how Juventas is working together with government institutions to ensure state funding of harm reduction programs. Fortunately, after a number of difficult months, their efforts paid off, and all their services started working again. The support of the Global Fund matched with domestic funding for the next three years is conditionally provided.





PUNISHMENT DOESN'T HELP CAMPAIGN FOR DECRIMINALISATION IN LITHUANIA

The Rights Reporter Foundation helped “Coalition I Can Live”, a Lithuanian drug policy reform NGO, to launch a media campaign for the decriminalisation of drug use. We filmed with celebrities who were speaking out against the criminalisation of drug users. The videos were very well received in the Lithuanian public (8000 views on Facebook at that time), several opinion leaders shared these videos on their social networks, and although decriminalisation has not yet been achieved, the campaign succeeded in changing the opinions of several Lithuanian Parliament members and other key decision makers. We published a written interview with Laura Bliujiene, from “Coalition I Can Live,” in which she explains the campaign and the Lithuanian situation in detail. The project was co-funded by the European Union, in the “Drug Policy Impact Assessment for Change in Central and Eastern Europe (Drug Policy 1A)” project.



THREE HOPES DRUG POLICIES IN LATVIA

In cooperation with Dialogs, a Latvian harm reduction NGO, [we have produced a movie](#) about drug policies in Latvia – mainly for a Latvian audience, to educate them about why people who use drugs need support and not punishment.

Vjaceslav was once an active drug injector himself – now he is an outreach worker helping people on the street, giving out clean needles and condoms to drug users and sex workers. We escorted him and his team on an outreach trip into the depths of Riga nightlife. He is an excellent social worker, his understanding of the philosophy and practice of harm reduction does not come from books, but from his own experience.

It's visible that he has a trustful relationship with his clients, for whom he is often the only person from the outside world who shows some signs of understanding and empathy. He works for Dialogs, an NGO providing harm reduction services to people who use drugs in Latvia. In this small Baltic country the prevalence of HIV infections among injecting drug users is high (25%) by European standards. Approximately half of all HIV cases reported between 1987 and 2015 were attributed to injecting drug use. Thanks to the work of Vjaceslav and his colleagues working in harm reduction, there is a decreasing trend in HIV infections. The project was co-funded by the European Union, in the "Drug Policy Impact Assessment for Change in Central and Eastern Europe (Drug Policy 1A)" project.

HARM



ASOCIATIA ROMANA ANTIDROGURI

Membru a Coaliției
Internationale 'Globe'

REDUCTION





BIOMEDICA

Your
Partner in

In Vitro
Diagnostics

SPOT



8 LESSONS LEARNED

AT THE EUROPEAN HARM REDUCTION CONFERENCE

The 4th European Harm Reduction Conference took place in Bucharest on 21-23 November, 2018, and [we produced a summary movie](#) of the main lessons learned:



1. Austerity and populism: sustainability of social change is not guaranteed

In the 2000s the coverage of harm reduction programs was far from adequate in most European countries, but we thought we were on the right track to scale up services in the long run. Nobody expected that 10 years later many professionals would look back at that period as a kind of golden age, with growing frustration about a present where resources are scarce and political support for harm reduction is waning in many countries.



2. Crisis in the East: the weakness of the EU.

The crisis had the most devastating consequences in Greece and some of the new, Eastern members of the EU, with fewer resources and weaker democratic institutions. After becoming ineligible for Global Fund funding, harm reduction services collapsed rapidly, showing the vulnerability and fragility of the systems of care that are solely dependent on international support.



3. Overdose preparedness is a must. The

overdose epidemic in North America (watch our latest movie from Canada!) is being watched with growing concern by people who use drugs and professional helpers in Europe. Apart from Estonia, a country that has been suffering the consequences of fentanyl-related overdoses,



We don't see an overdose epidemic on our continent. However, the example of a local outbreak in Glasgow shows that this situation can change rapidly. The good news is that we know what works to prevent overdoses: Providing people who use drugs (and their friends/families) with naloxone, creating safer spaces where people can use drugs under supervision and care, making drug checking programs available for people who use drugs, and integrating overdose prevention into recovery and rehab programs are among the main tools to be prepared!

4. More support is needed to mainstream innovations. Although still only a few European cities have drug consumption rooms, naloxone distribution and drug checking services, we see that where they exist they prove to be effective to save lives – and save money. These services are now mentioned in the EU Action Plan on Drugs, and service providers, together with the EMCDDA, are now working to standardise them. But the road to mainstreaming innovations is way too long: many people die because we don't respond fast enough to the rapid changes in illicit drug markets. This is especially true for the Eastern part of Europe, where governments and professionals are stubbornly resistant to innovation.

5. Criminal justice reform: the elephant in the room. Without reforming drug laws our efforts to reduce the harms of drug use are just scratching the surface. There are several options to regulate and control the market between total prohibition and free-market legalisation: we should explore them!

6. The needs of vulnerable groups are often overlooked. European societies show great ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity. But regardless of these differences, what they have in common is that in each society drug-related harms, including criminalisation, hit vulnerable, marginalised communities hardest.

7. Community involvement makes harm reduction sustainable. A welcome development at the conference was a very strong presence of community activists. The European Network of People Who Use Drugs is now doing a lot to train activists in countries where there is no community involvement at all.

8. Showing the facts as advocacy is not good enough. Changing prejudices is not a rational, mathematical exercise. It is about interests. It is about privileges. It is about strong emotions. We must provide evidence in the form of credible, simple, and emotional human stories about the benefits of harm reduction. This, again, is not possible without strong community involvement.

We also [published an important session](#) on international developments and harm reduction, including the director of RRF as speaker.



DRUG POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADA

We were invited to film at the Stimulus Canadian Drug Policy Conference, where [we produced a summary video](#) and a [short introduction video](#) to the new cannabis law, and we also [live streamed key sessions](#). Some people say there is an opiate crisis in Canada, but experts and activists say there is an overdose death crisis, with 4 thousand overdose deaths last year resulting from a toxic illegal drug supply. Activists at the conference called for an emergency response, scaling up harm reduction services, decriminalising the use of all drugs and providing safer access to opiates, to end the terrible overdose epidemic. Canada is the second nation in the world after Uruguay to regulate cannabis as a legal product – and the first G7 country. In an age of anxiety,



In an age of anxiety, when the world is falling into a dangerous state of apathy and seems to be losing its enthusiasm for social progress and democracy, it is reassuring to see such a historic move by the Canadian government to end 95 years of cannabis prohibition. From October 17, 2018, every Canadian citizen over the age of 18, has the right to possess up to 30 grams of cannabis. Individuals are permitted to grow up to four plants for their own use. Provinces and territories are responsible for setting up a system of regulation. Some will do this in a more liberal, others in a more restrictive way. Prime minister Justin Trudeau announced that they will look into pardons for those convicted of cannabis related crimes. In our video interview, Jenna Bobenna, an activist of the Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy, explains the details of the new system.



INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM

RRF's team attended the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam from 23rd of July to 27th of July. Together with DUnews, we organised film sessions throughout the whole conference in the community zone. Drugreporter had a



booth in the Eastern Europe Central Asia Networking Zone, where we recorded our live stream shows and where we held the film sessions and discussions, attended by hundreds of conference participants.



We produced 3, 30-minute-long, live streamed discussion shows with activists. In the first show, we interviewed Ferenc Bagyinszki (AIDS Action Europe) and Tamas Berecki (EUPATI) about HIV and LGBTQ activism in Central-Eastern Europe (14,000 views on Facebook). The second one was on HIV and sex work activism in Europe with Luca Stevenson and Dinah de Riquet-Bons (both from ICRSE) (42,226 Views on Facebook). The third interview was about drug user activism in Georgia with David Subeliani (White Noise) (15,074 views on Facebook).

We made several presentations on various themes, including video advocacy and the state of civil society in Hungary.





61ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)

The Drugreporter video advocacy team has been filming the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) since 2008. Every year we attend the event as media representatives to make the UN decision making processes more transparent and accountable. We go to press conferences to ask questions the mainstream media rarely ask, we interview key representatives to put recent developments in context, and give voice to those civil society activists who are often sidelined at the official sessions. RRF attended the CND again in March 2018 to produce live talk shows from the UN HQ with key civil society representatives.

We produced 5 live shows (on human rights defenders under threat, on the UN drug policy steps in 2019, on drug policies in Latin America, on drug control and human rights, and on treatment standards) and live streamed one more external event on psychedelic drug research at the Vienna University. The number of viewers ranged from 800 to 15,000. [All videos are available on Drugreporter!](#)



“DUTERTE ORDERED TO HAVE ME KILLED”

INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR TRILLANES

More than 12,000 people, mostly urban poor, have been murdered in the Philippines since President Duterte took office in 2016. But why is the drug war so important to Duterte? Do the people support his policies? What is the role of the church? Is international pressurwwe effective in preventing the deaths of more people? [We interviewed Senator Antonio Trillanes](#), an opposition politician at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to answer these questions.

DRUG POLICY REDUCTION



Y AND HARM ADVOCACY



CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS

RRF's director is a leading member of the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD), an expert group of the EU Commission on drug policy and a partner in the EC JUST project, co-funded by the EU Commission. RRF coordinated the work of the CSFD working group on the EU drug strategy in 2018. The working group [sent a letter](#) to the EU Commission to urge decision makers to prioritise drug policy as a public health and social issue in the new Multiannual Financial Framework (budget cycle for the post 2020 period).



CIVIL SOCIETY VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU ACTION PLAN ON DRUGS: REPORT BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON DRUGS

The [EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs](#) published a [report](#) assessing civil society perspectives on the implementation of the [EU Action Plan on Drugs \(2017-20\)](#), in regard to access to - and quality of - various key services aiming at preventing, treating, and reducing drug-related problems. The report is based on the findings of a survey completed by 169 civil society organisations (CSOs) working on the ground, from 32 European countries, including all EU member states but Malta. The report was written by Iga Kender-Jegorska ([YODA](#)) and Peter Sarosi ([Rights Reporter Foundation](#)). The report shows significant and numerous gaps between the ambitious strategic goals and policy actions adopted by member states, and the reality on the ground perceived by CSOs. Some of the inequalities are regional: the access to and the quality of services is much lower in the East-Central European and Western Balkan countries than in the Western and Southern member states. It is alarming that in some East-Central European

member states certain basic services, such as needle and syringe programs, have been reduced to zero or close to zero. There are large differences between countries regarding the accessibility of various services. Innovative harm reduction interventions, such as drug consumption rooms, naloxone distribution programs, and drug checking services are only available in a few member states. There are also discrepancies between accessibility and quality of services. The CSFD recommends that the EU Commission strengthens its drug coordination system and urges member states to fill the gaps in funding and political support for services with low access, including among vulnerable populations. It also calls on member states to improve the quality of services by implementing the minimum quality standards of demand reduction adopted by the EU Council in 2015. The report also emphasises the need to involve civil society in decision making in all levels. CSFD also produced a [report from the CSF plenary meeting](#) in Brussels, July 2018. [The RRF produced a video](#) on the CSF's perspectives on the EU Action Plan to bring these important ideas closer to the general public.

LETTER TO THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: RRF contributed to the report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the UNGASS Outcome Document, adopted in New York in 2016, highlighting how the closure of needle and syringe programs violate human rights in Hungary. [The open letter was published on Drugreporter.](#)

RESEARCH ON THE FORMER CLIENTS OF CLOSED NSPS IN BUDAPEST AND BELGRADE: Our research project aimed to follow up the clients of closed needle and syringe exchange programs in Budapest and Belgrade, assessing changes in their social and health status and risk behaviors. The chief researcher was Róbert Csák in Budapest and Jovana Arsenijevic in Belgrade. Data collection for the research was finalised in the summer of 2018 and the report was written and finalised by the end of the year. The report will be presented in February 2019 in both Budapest and Belgrade at conferences organised by RRF and ReGeneracija, our Serbian partner, to initiate a discussion on the negative consequences of closing down harm reduction services. In addition, the research findings will be published in a peer reviewed journal and presented at the HR19 conference in Porto.

STUDY ON STUDENTS' ATTITUDES ON SCHOOL DRUG PREVENTION IN HUNGARY: [An online study](#) – conducted by Drugreporter – of more than 1100 Hungarian students revealed that there are serious problems with drug prevention in schools. It is provided mostly by police officers with outdated methods, focuses on scare tactics, and does not include much interaction with students.



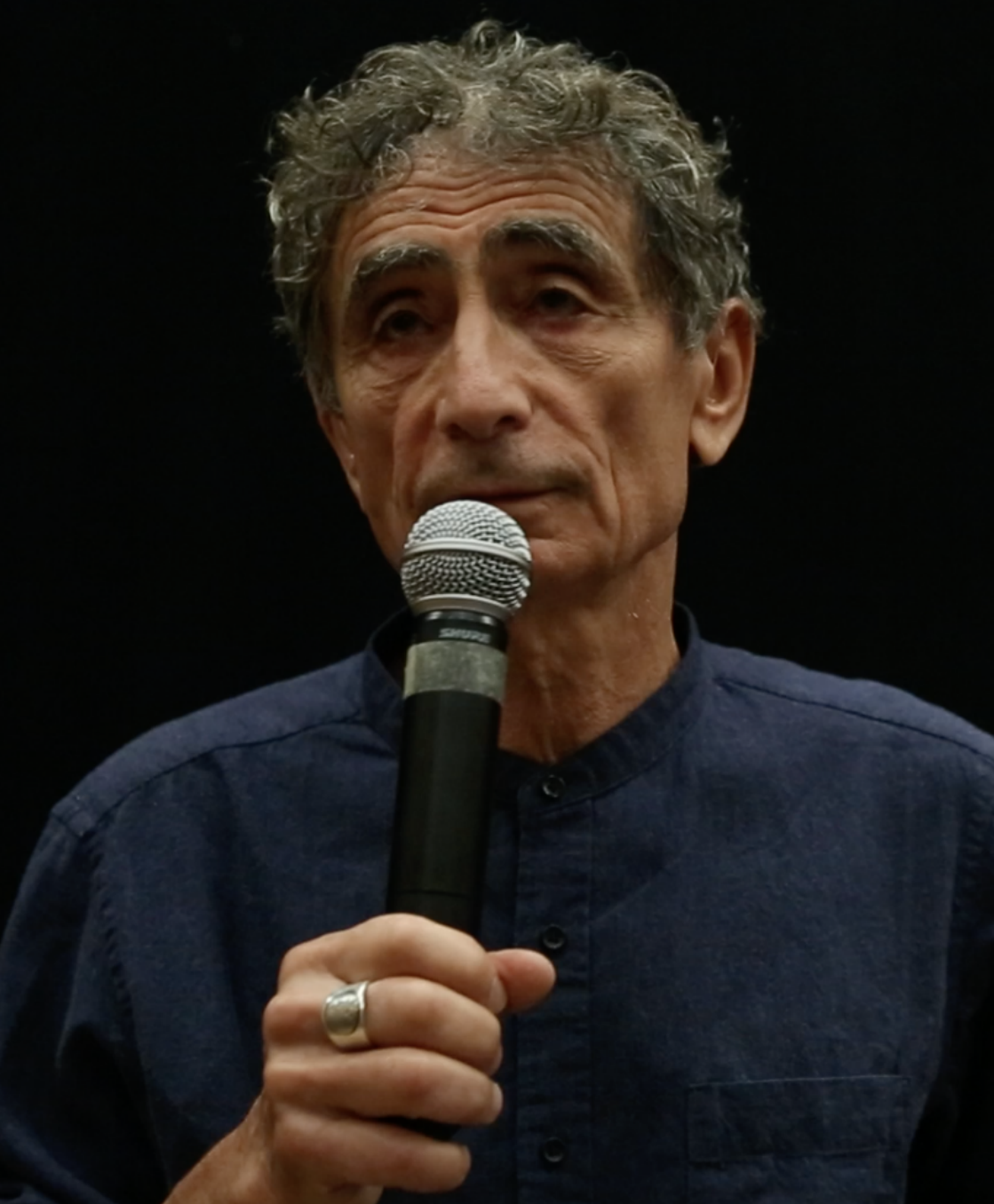
SPEECH AT THE UN ABOUT THE HARM REDUCTION CRISIS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Peter Sarosi from Rights Reporter Foundation spoke about the crisis of harm reduction in Central and Eastern Europe at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs intersessional meeting in Vienna on 8 November, 2018. [The speech can be read online.](#)

FILM SCREENING IN BOSNIA

RRF co-produced a movie about the collapse of harm reduction services in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the NGO Margina. The movie was published in 2017. RRF supported Margina to organise film screening events to promote the video and use it to initiate a dialogue with decision makers and professionals. [Margina produced a report](#) on Drugreporter about the positive experience they had with video advocacy.





We organised a discussion forum with Dr. Gabor Maté on September 28. [We live streamed the very popular event.](#)

«**БЕРЛУН**»

Люди, Желющие Перемен

Фильм производства DUNews



DUN

DRUG USERS NEWS



RRF hosts the [DUnews video blog](#) on its Drugreporter website and provides technical support to its team as a Eurasian regional hub in our video network. As a cooperation project, RRF and DUnews video crews produced a movie about harm reduction in Russia, funded by the Charitable Foundation “Candle” and Open Health Initiative, managing Global Fund budget. The two and a half weeks filming took place in June 2018. The movie - #NonExistentWeExist - is to be published in 2019. DUnews produced [several Russian language videos](#), 6 of them with English articles/subtitles in 2018, published on Drugreporter.



BERLUN - RUSSIAN-SPEAKING 'BERLINER' PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

A film about people from post-Soviet countries who devoted their lives to activism in the field of harm reduction, but for one reason or another were forced to leave their countries. All of them were sheltered and brought together in Berlin, a city of diversity and freedom. The organisation of Russian-speaking drug users in Berlin, BerLUN, is a young initiative that unites unique, experienced, and very different people at the same time.



EASY ACCESS: HARM REDUCTION IN BALTI, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The five cities of the EECA region are Almaty, Balti, Odessa, Sofia, and Tbilisi. United by the regional project of the Alliance of Public Health and Partners, with the support of the Global Fund, they undertook to stop AIDS and tuberculosis in their territories. [DUNews carefully examined this process](#) and observed what will become the starting point for them: how strong the cities are right now, and how the project will change the services for the risk groups over, say, three years.



LACK OF FUNDING AND HIDDEN EPIDEMIC IN SOFIA, BULGARIA

How do I get ARV therapy in Bulgaria? What happens to harm reduction projects after the Global Fund cuts funding? How do public and private substitution treatment programs work in Bulgaria and what are their main differences? The answers to these and many other questions are in [DUNew's video](#).



FOUR METERS BELOW PAIN LEVEL

There is a lot to learn from the Dutch example when it comes to preventing overdoses and infections. In Amsterdam, there are 24 drop-in-centres and 3 drug-consumption rooms, all with free access. The initiators of the creation of these rooms were police officers. There are 32 such rooms and hundreds of low-threshold centres throughout the country.



KOSTYA PROLETARSKY

THE ANIMATED MOVIE IN THE MAKING

On 19 June 2009 Kostya Proletarsky, a drug user and HIV activist, died of tuberculosis meningitis at the Botkin Hospital in St. Petersburg, Russia. His death was the result of three years of mistreatment and torture at the prison facility No. 4 in Karelia, Russia. In Russia, where drug treatment is barely available, imprisonment becomes the main “solution” to the problem of drug addiction. But unfortunately, these institutions don’t cure. Instead, prisons kill.

The animated hand drawn documentary, featuring the original audio interview with Kostya and his mother, Irina, aims to commemorate Kostya Proletarsky and many others who have not survived prison systems around the world.

The animated movie is narrated by Anya Sarang, directed by István Gábor Takács, and is hand drawn frame by frame by Lili Rontó.

WE ARE CURRENTLY FUNDRAISING TO FINISH THE FULL 30 MINUTE LONG ANIMATION. PLEASE SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION OF THE FILM WITH ANY AMOUNT YOU FEEL APPROPRIATE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

[DRUGREPORTER.NET/KOSTYA](https://drugreporter.net/kostya)

If you support the film, you will receive a code to unlock the 7 minute long pilot version of the animation!

VIDEO AND MEDIA ADVOCACY TRAINING







The RRF organised four video and media advocacy training events in 2018.

VIDEO AND MEDIA ADVOCACY TRAINING AT THE CEU SPP, BUDAPEST, 11-13 APRIL AND 28-29 MAY, 2018.

The School of Public Policy contracted RRF to hold two consecutive training events for their first year students: a one and a half day media training event and a 3 day video advocacy training event. Both training events were successful and were among the highest rated courses at CEU.

VIDEO AND MEDIA ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR CENTRAL-EUROPEAN HARM REDUCTION ACTIVISTS. BUDAPEST, 12-16 NOVEMBER, 2018.

RRF invited non-senior, young staff members or volunteers/youth activists from its harm reduction partner organisations from Bosnia, Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, Estonia, Belarus, and Serbia. During the five days of training, participants learned about camera handling, interviewing, and editing, as well as communicating with the media. They practiced filming on external locations, and edited their own footage during the training. We used an improved selection process to make sure that we trained the people who were committed to make videos in the future, and an improved follow-up process required alumni to make a film plan in their own countries. With our support, all alumni are now working on their own advocacy videos about important issues in their countries, and their movies will be published on Drugreporter. Some comments by participants at the training:

"Thank you Rights Reporter Foundation for the opportunity to participate in probably one of the most inspiring events in my life. I have learnt new skills, such as basics of editing, and I got really good tips how to conduct and give better interviews. Just today me and my SIN colleagues shot 2 different videos, one outdoors and one on a green screen - and it all played out beautifully, thanks to the great tips we learned in Budapest and the awesome mics we received. I am about to start editing for tonight and I LOVE it! But all of that really pales out compared to Istvan's and Peter's contagious passion. Passion for work, friendship, and art, but also and most importantly freedom, kindness, and justice. Thank you Istvan and Peter for teaching how to advocate for those who cannot stand up for themselves. I remember being that person, powerless, and I will be forever grateful for Drugreporter, because you helped me feel free when I couldn't. Thank you for the past week. I will do my best to continue to carry the torch :)."

Jerzy Afanasjew, Social Drug Policy Initiative, Poland

"I learned about the Video Advocacy training from a Drugreporter brochure. I really wanted to participate in a future training, to bring my activism and advocacy work to another level. Now, two weeks away, I'm already working on a first mini-series of video advocacy movies. And I will not stop here. Thank you Rights Reporter Foundation, for empowering me with this new skill. Thanks a lot for everything,"

Alina Dumitriu, Director Executiv, Asociația SENS POZITIV



**SUPPORT. DON'T PUNISH. COMMUNICATION TRAINING
IN BANGKOK, 30 APRIL TO 4 MAY, 2018.**

This training was co-organised with the International Drug Policy Consortium for activists from the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Japan, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. It included one day's training on social media, one day's training on working with the mainstream media, and two days on video advocacy. By the end of the training, most participants gained the skills to give TV interviews and produce short, simple videos, editing them with a free software.

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC LIFE VIDEO ADVOCACY TRAINING,
BUDAPEST, FEBRUARY 2-3, 2018.**

This training event was co-organised and co-funded by the School of Public Policy NGO. Participants were community activists representing vulnerable groups in society. The training was aimed at empowering these activists by teaching them how to record short videos and thus document human rights abuses and communicate their message more effectively.





DRUGREPO ADVOCACY

Almost all training participants have become part of our global video advocacy network (with a total of 58 members). In 2018 we welcomed 17 new network members, most of them from South East Asia and from Central Europe (as our training events focused on these regions). Movies that were produced by our video network members with our technical and financial support:



NOW AND THEN: PSYCHEDELIC SCIENCE CONFERENCE

A [video report](#) from the Psychedelic Science Conference 2017 with several interviews with key speakers of the conference, including the legendary founder of transpersonal psychology, Stanislav Grof. Produced by **Brun Balanced** and **Karina Muscarina**, Mexico



LUGARD'S STORY: WHY I'M TAKING ON KENYA'S DRUG LAWS

This [film demonstrates](#) the human face of the impact of prohibitionist drug policies in Kenya. Lugard Abila has worked in harm reduction for years and lost a drug-using friend to a 'mob justice' attack. 'Mob justice' is just one example of the effects of the stigma prohibition creates around drug use and users. Produced by **Cara Lavan** in Kenya

PORTER VIDEO NETWORK

NETTI'S STORY: A PREGNANT WOMAN'S JOURNEY IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN BERLIN



Netti had a difficult life. Living as a sex worker who used drugs in Berlin she was exposed to many risks, including financial exploitation from pimps and dealers and stigmatisation from society. She met the father of her child at a detox centre. When she got pregnant, she started her journey in the social and healthcare system of Berlin, which is perceived as pretty good from a global perspective. Still, she had to face several unexpected challenges and barriers. Produced by **Ágnes Pákozdi** and **Alexandra Gurinova**, Germany

ERIK'S STORY: DRUGS SHOULD BE TREATED AS A HEALTH ISSUE



Erik, a drug user from Kenya, describes the rehab/relapse trap within which his brother is caught, and calls for a complete overhaul of the system. He then calls on the Kenyan government to approach drugs from a health perspective, not a criminal one. Produced by **Cara Lavan**, Kenya

MWANA AND FATUMA



A childhood illness left Mwasuma unable to walk unaided. Growing up, he found that cannabis and heroin helped him to be socially accepted and to be able to work. But his drug use got him into trouble with the law, and he ended up dying of drug related complications, leaving his family much worse off as they relied on him for financial support. [In Mombasa, Kenya, his mother Mwana and his sister Fatuma tell his story.](#) Produced by **Cara Lavan**, Kenya.

BELGRADE WONDERLAND!



As Serbia still doesn't have regular harm reduction services and drug checking is not allowed, NGO Re Generation [filmed the Belgrade Wonderland](#) to shine a light on the situation and promote drug checking as a possibility that individuals have in order to test their own substances and find out more about them, inform themselves about the substances they are taking, and take necessary measures if needed or choose not to take the substance at all. Being aware that testing is not the safest and most precise tool, we still promote it as one step closer to knowing your substance, and that one step could be crucial in order to stay alive. Produced by **Irena Molnar**, Serbia.

NALOXONE SAVES LIVES - TRAINING VIDEO



[The video was filmed](#) with the help of the Irish NGO Depaul's EVS programme, residents, and staff that have gone through the training. The video is to be incorporated into their current training programme to demonstrate the application of the training in an emergency situation. Its staff are then required to demonstrate these skills as they would be used in a real life scenario. Produced by **Depaul**, Ireland.

HARM REDUCTION CHALLENGE IN SLOVAKIA



From the original 6 organisations which provided outreach needle exchange programmes in Slovakia, just 3 of them remain and they are also [struggling for survival](#) each year. Every year, they face financial instability, and money must be secured from many sources, but no single source is ever truly secure. Produced by **Oriol Camacho** and **Dominika Jasekova**, Slovakia.

DRUG POLICY MUSEUM IN MEXICO



The fourth stop of the [Drug Policy Museum](#) was Mexico City, following stops in London, Montreal, and New York. The exhibition lasted just 3 days, and featured more than 80 works from 26 artists from around the world, including 12 Mexicans. The goal was to show the effects and repercussions of drug policy worldwide, but with a special focus on Latin America. The Drugreporter Mexico team also produced a film on the [“Support. Don’t Punish”](#) campaign event. Produced by **Karina Muscarina** and **Fanny Pineda**.



JAKARTA’S CRYSTAL INJUSTICE

This is the story of Maulana who was caught and tortured by the Indonesian police for possessing a small amount of crystal meth. Produced by **Yohan Misero**, Indonesia.

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