



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

In collaboration with



**World Health
Organization**

A blue-tinted image of a DNA double helix structure, showing the characteristic twisted ladder shape with rungs representing base pairs.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**Scientific Consultation on Prevention of Drug
Use and Treatment of Drug Use Disorders**

Vienna International Centre | 08-10 December 2015

Disclaimer

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Foreword

In line with its mandate of promoting science-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of drug use disorders, UNODC organised a Scientific Consultation on Prevention of Drug Use and Treatment of Drug Use Disorders in collaboration with the World Health Organization from 8 to 10 December 2015 in Vienna. This event aimed to support Member States in building a solid bridge between science and policy, while prioritising the dignity of people affected by drug use disorders.

The Scientific Consultation brought together more than 30 leading researchers from around the world and over 200 policy makers from 85 countries to discuss the latest findings in drug prevention and drug dependence treatment. Central topics of the Scientific Consultation included the promotion of science-based approaches to drug use prevention and treatment of drug use disorders, as well as access to quality and ethical services for all those in need.

An essential part of UNODC's overall efforts is helping to ensure that the available science can be taken into account by policymakers, and that people receive care and treatment based on the most up-to-date science, as with any other health condition. This Scientific Consultation helped to advance these goals by providing a forum for experts and policy makers to work together to dispel ignorance and eliminate stigma; as well as to prevent the discrimination and marginalization of people who use drugs and who desperately need our support.

In response to the great interest shown by the scientific community, representatives of the Member States and International Organisations, UNODC has produced this book of abstracts to look beyond this event and to spread scientific understanding to a much broader audience. I hope this book will help answer any questions and raise awareness on issues related to the prevention of drug use and treatment of drug use disorders.

Sincerely,



Yury Fedotov
Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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Introduction

UNODC supports Member States in their efforts to increase access to drug dependence treatment, care and rehabilitation services that are based on scientific evidence, through worldwide advocacy, capacity building and expansion/development of drug treatment services.

UNODC has devoted a large proportion of its technical assistance efforts advocating for the recognition of drug use disorders, in particular drug dependence, as a multi-factorial health disorder affecting the brain, often following the course of a chronic, relapsing disease.

Thanks to the ongoing voluntary contributions from donors, UNDOC has been able to support more than 20 countries in various regions to i) assess the magnitude of their drug related problems and identify the gaps in their treatment systems; ii) systematically train health service providers on science-based treatment interventions; iii) improve the quality of treatment services, increasing availability and facilitating access to those in need; iv) monitor and evaluate interventions for further improvement.

To this regard, the aim of the Scientific Consultation on Prevention of Drug Use and Treatment of Drug Use Disorders was to promote the scientific understanding of evidence-based interventions, to support the Member States in the development of policies, strategies and methods based on rigorous scientific evidence to prevent and treat such disorders.

The overall goal of the Scientific Consultation was to help disseminating the state of the art knowledge on drug demand reduction amongst participants and to promote evidence based strategies, policies and initiatives. To this end, at the Scientific Consultation 2015 they had a chance to learn about a wide range of ethical and science-based drug prevention and treatment methods, as well as rehabilitation programs that have been proven effective in stopping or reducing the negative health and social problems caused by drug use disorders.

This event presented an opportunity for policy makers to witness how these evidence-based prevention and treatment methods can be applied to major policy issues and how the political and practical concerns about applying these methods can be resolved

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