

The DRSTP Connection

Issue 3

March 2000

To all NPT members

As mentioned in the first issue of The DRSTP CONNECTION, the intention of this Newsletter is to have an on-line forum for exchange of information to be used by the Pompidou Group Secretariat, the National Project Teams and members of the National Core Groups.

So far 'The Connection' has been a one-way form of communication, providing information from the Secretariat to the NPTs. However, the Secretariat expects more contributions since the consultations are now being launched.

This issue provides a preliminary calendar of consultations. In addition you will find the Second Project Implementation Report attached. The report will also be sent by 'snail-mail' to all members of the NPTs and the NCGs.

Spreading information

We urge the NPT leaders to assist us in passing on information to all experts involved (and to members of the NCGs) since there are, from time to time, problems with internet servers, faxes and since mail sometimes is slow.

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DRSTP SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

In the course of the project implementation there are many details that need special attention. To attend to some of these details the Secretariat has produced 5 documents which we optimistically have called 'Support Documents.' Our intention has been to ease project implementation.

The first 3 'Support Documents' address the planning of consultations (#1), the monitoring consultations (#2), and the providing of information to

consultants (#3). The last 2 documents are a mission report form for consultants (#4), and a claim form for payment of interpretation (#5).

As the Secretariat is only able to observe the implementation from a somewhat distant perspective we may not see all the relevant details. As national experts you are, however, involved in the practical project implementation at the local level and therefore you will be able to address issues possibly overlooked by the

Secretariat. In case there are some frequently asked questions (FAQ), please send them to the Secretariat and we will post them in the DRSTP Connection.

READY FOR ACTION

The DRSTP Consultants are ready to start working with the NPTs and the NCGs. Most of the NPTs have set dates for the first consultation and the detailed preparations are ongoing. You will find a preliminary calendar of events in this issue.

Czech Republic:

1ST CONSULTATION COMPLETED

In the second week of February the Czech NPT, NCG and the consultant Wim Buisman, EATI, started their cooperation. A preparatory meeting between the consultant and the NPT before setting the agenda with the NCG proved very useful for the detailed planning of the work.

The main objectives for the first mission were to agree on methods of cooperation and on the results expected. Time was also spent clarifying the role of the consultant and the responsibilities of the people involved. Another issue addressed was the need to adjust the ambitions for curriculum development to a format feasible within the framework of the project.

Romania:

1ST CONSULTATION COMPLETED

The Romanian NPT and NCG have also completed the implementation of their first DRSTP consultation. On the recommendation of the Romanian NPT, Wim Buisman, EATI, was contracted to

assist the Romanian experts in developing 'Guidelines on care and treatment for treatment staff in drug and addiction services'. Given the fact that national statistics show a quite high prevalence of relapse, the Romanians are eager to improve their drug treatment services, particularly for 'post cura' drug services, e.g. psychosocial treatment and aftercare.

A preliminary agenda for an initial meeting between the NPT and the consultant was agreed upon in advance by electronic mail. The first meeting provided the consultant with an update of the drug situation in the country and presentations of new drug related initiatives. As the theme is quite broad different possibilities for development of training materials were discussed.

Perhaps the most important achievement of the consultation was the clarification of a concrete format and focus for the training material to be developed. The guidelines will consist of 6 main sections: 1) Basic articles on dependencies and addiction, assessment methods etc. 2) Description of all main substances. 3) Treatment approaches. 4) Types of drug services. 5) 'Capita Selecta'. 6) Appendices.

Furthermore a detailed 6 month-working plan for the NPT/NCG was agreed to. This plan includes the second and the third consultation and work to be undertaken at the national level in between the consultations.

The Secretariat is pleased that the input of both the consultant and most importantly the national experts has been very satisfactory and is pointing in

a very constructive and fruitful direction. Thanks to the immediate reporting from the consultant we hope that other NPTs and NCG can feel inspired by the good news from Romania and the Czech Republic.

Preparing missions:

CONSULTANTS' MEETING

To discuss their work in more detail, the Secretariat met recently with some of the consultants for a planning meeting. An in-depth orientation about the project's objectives, practical planning issues as well as the role and function of the consultants were on the agenda. The consultants also contributed by sharing previous experiences from having worked with other relevant international programmes.

The meeting triggered the launching of the first DRSTP Support Document on overall planning of consultations. This document has been distributed to the leaders of the National Project Teams and the consultants who did not take part in the meeting. The Secretariat would recommend that all the national experts involved in the NPTs and the NCGs get this information.

PROJECT MONITORING

'Implementation monitoring' is not only to be used for collecting information, but is also an important system for communication.

To support systematic monitoring and reporting the Secretariat has developed a 'Monitoring Form' (see attached SD #2). The form will enable

the NPT leaders to take note of and assess, in a systematic way, the most important elements of the DRSTP implementation process during and between the consultations.

The monitoring form will also provide all parties involved, including the donor countries, with information on the project's progress.

By using the Monitoring Form as intended, the DRSTP II will be transparent at any given time and the current state of its implementation will be open to everyone involved.

DRSTP Consultations: PRELIMINARY CALENDAR

Below you will find a preliminary calendar of events:

Czech Republic, "Treatment and Rehabilitation", 9-12 February, Wim Buisman (Netherlands).

Romania, "Treatment and rehabilitation in a psycho-social framework, reorganising a clinical setting and retraining staff", 8-11 March, Wim Buisman (Netherlands).

Latvia, "Drug prevention in the local community, handbook for local administrators and professionals", 4-7 April, Elin Wormnes (Norway).

Lithuania, "Drug prevention in the local community, handbook for local administrators and professionals", 4-7 April, Roland Andersson (Sweden).

Slovakia, "National curriculum for GPs and Nurses, early intervention/crisis

intervention/outreach and social rehabilitation", 5-8 April, Arne Johannesen (Norway).

Poland, "Drug prevention in the local community, guidelines on basic approaches to the Polish context", 10-14 May 2000, Stein Norman Mikkelsen (Norway).

Russia, "Guidelines on drug treatment and rehabilitation", 3-6 May 2000, Arne Gerdner (Sweden)

Estonia, "National Guidelines for drug treatment and rehabilitation for professionals and NGO's", 26-30 April 2000, Martien Kooyman (Netherlands)

Bulgaria, "A common DDR curriculum for graduate students of medicine, psychology, pedagogy and social work", May 2000, Sally Woods (UK)

Still pending:

The Secretariat is still awaiting information on dates from the NPTs in the following countries:

Hungary: Agneta Flinck (Sweden),
Gabriella Fischer (Austria),
Igor Koutzenok (Bulgaria)

Slovenia: Kim Wolff (UK)

Slovakia: Sandor Bereczki (Hungary)

In the case of Albania the NPT has been reorganised and the Letter of Agreement will have to be signed before further progress can be made.

Please contact us with questions or comments! We can be reached by email at:



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