

and regions. Key 2018 surveys such as EMCDDA's European Drug Report⁴ and the UNODC's World Drug Report⁵ show alarming trends in drug production, traffic and consumption and call on us to step up our common efforts.

- Local and regional authorities are at the forefront when it comes to tackling the issue. However, national legislations and some penal provisions are overly restrictive or outdated and therefore limit local authorities' options. At the same time, cooperation with national and/or European levels of government remains too often underdeveloped. It is therefore increasingly important that local and regional authorities be provided with the best possible conditions and means to address the issues that prevail in their territories..
- The EU's key policy documents on drug policies, particularly the European Drug Strategy 2013-2020⁶ and the relating EU Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020⁷ are comprehensive documents proposing the way forward on key topics such as drugs demand reduction, drugs supply reduction and international cooperation. Efus' Executive Committee considers that these documents are not implemented sufficiently at the local level. Efus wishes to see the role of local authorities and civil society organisations better recognised so they can take part in achieving the ambitions stated in these strategic documents.

Local and Regional Multi-Agency Partnerships to Foster Harm Reduction

- Drug policy must not be seen exclusively from a public health or a public security perspective. For interventions to succeed, both approaches should be integrated and combined. Municipal departments and services that intervene in these two areas must collaborate closely and develop a shared understanding of problems and the strategies being implemented.
- Drug policies must be pragmatic and seek to reduce the harms drug use causes to the health, social wellbeing and security of individuals, communities and society. They must be designed taking into account the needs on the ground, in each specific territory. They must seek the active involvement and participation of local residents and strive to protect the fundamental rights of all concerned groups and individuals, including the most vulnerable. In particular, drug users themselves must be involved in the development of these strategies.
- A wide variety of stakeholders at the local level – among them police forces, the judicial system, civil society organisations, health service providers and the educational sector – must be involved in local harm reduction strategies in order to

⁴ www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2018

⁵ www.unodc.org/wdr2018/index.html

⁶ www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/publications/european-union-drugs-strategy-2013-2020/

⁷ www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/attachments/5642/eu-action-plan%27-on-drugs-2017-2020.pdf

ensure acceptance and effectiveness. Local authorities are particularly well placed to coordinate and lead such co-production.

Supervised Drug Consumption Facilities as a Tool to Promote Urban Security

- Numerous local authorities member of Efus and beyond observe that supervised drug consumption facilities (SCDFs) have proved to be efficient tools to locally improve public health and security. They help prevent drug-related deaths, the transmission of blood borne viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis C, and reduce public nuisances. They are an effective means to reach and stay in contact with highly marginalised target populations. They do not not encourage drug use.⁸
- Efus' Executive Committee considers that ideological debates around SDCFs are not helpful. Efus advocates thorough assessments of local needs and conditions for success as well as scientific evaluations of modes of operation and impacts. The research done by the EMCDDA and other research institutions is helpful in this regard and must be stepped up.
- Local authorities have a key role to play in accompanying SDCFs and ensuring their effective management and acceptance in the local community. In order to do so, local authorities need better support and advice on how to design and establish and manage an SDCF that corresponds to the local needs and resources as well as on how to monitor and assess their impact for public security and public health.
- National legislations should, where necessary, be adapted so as to allow local governments to design the strategy that fits the needs and conditions in their territory and include all available evidence-based tools.

⁸ See EMCDDA, Drug consumption rooms: an overview of provision and evidence, www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/drug-consumption-rooms_en