

Abstract:

The thesis describes the course and results of the research into the field of Harm Reduction (HR) through the internet websites in the Czech language. Nowadays the internet forms an inseparable part of most people's lives from all social classes. This fact is reflected in the interests of both service providers for drug users and laymen interested in drug issues. Unfortunately, according to current research we do not know much about what information and in which quality and range can people find about drug Harm reduction on the internet. Therefore, the aim of this thesis was to identify and evaluate internet websites in the field of harm reduction intervention focused on the users of illegal drugs in the Czech Republic. Internet websites were evaluated not only with respect to the contents and range of the information provided but also with respect to topicality, functionality and objectivity. What was found were 13 Czech complex websites, 7 professional HR organisations and also 6 non-professional HR websites. The websites of professional organisations in most cases fulfilled the essential criteria of authority, objectivity and topicality. Among non-professional websites there were high-quality ones containing a wide range of information and correct approach to drug issues but there were also two websites seriously exceeding the threshold of objectivity. The research confirmed the necessity of standards and professional approach to internet intervention, preferably with the background of a functioning organisation working with clients also outside the internet. The field of internet harm reduction intervention focusing on the users of illegal drugs will have to be constantly adapted to new trends regarding sharing information on the internet, which are nowadays for example social networking sites and internet video.