

Abstract

Abroad is the method of peer work dealing with the involvement of drug users (active and retired) extended far more than in the Czech Republic. Information and data are available mainly from foreign sources, where peer work has been continuing a tradition. In the Czech Republic, this method is still not so much used, as well as is the lack of Czech professional literature on the subject.

Method of peer work in the Czech Republic has not been comprehensively mapped, described and evaluated. They are organizations dealing with the involvement and employment of drug users, which usually draw information from foreign sources and work with their data. There is no comprehensive overview, providing information and data in this area in the Czech Republic. The target of this work is to map the use of peer work in the Czech Republic in the area of drug services. Within the sub-targets are the structure and functioning of each peer programs studying.

The practical part is realized by an empirical research (research orientation) in order to get a general overview of the analysis of the problem in the form of quantitative research. For the data collection was used a questionnaire distributed in the online version.

The basic set was consisted of low-threshold programs in harm reduction, contact centers and outreach programs in the Czech Republic focused at users on narcotic and psychotropic substances, which were selected on the basis of deliberate purposeful choice.

From 51 low-threshold programs for drug users who responded to the questionnaire has 34 programs experience with peer work and 18 programs implement or implemented peer programs. There were 37 peer workers employed at the time of data collection. Peer workers are mainly active users of illegal drugs in 16 programs. Former drug users are employed in 8 programs. The programs also involve active and former users of legal drugs (7 programs). Peer workers frequently collect and distribute HR material and contact hidden population of drug users on a closed drug scene. All peer programs offer their peer workers individual consulting, food and hygiene services, group supervision, education and an integral part of the program are also business meetings. For these programs are responsible mostly 2 permanent workers and are funded mostly by government subsidies.

Key words: Czech Republic - harm reduction - peer programs - peer work - drug user.