

Tercer curso: Enfoque de salud pública en las políticas sobre drogas

| Topic | Title | Content | Author |
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| 1 | Drugs Policies and Public Health: A comprehensive approach | Beyond the “supply reduction and demand reduction” dichotomy, deepening into the implications of the public health perspective in the approach to the use of psychoactive substances and its consequences. Importance of the bio-medical, psycho-social and socio-cultural approaches in the design of drugs policies. | María Elena Medina Mora, PhD. |
| 2 | Evidence as base for decision-making | The role and importance of the Inter-American Drugs Observatory and of the national observatories in the generation, processing and analysis of the scientific evidence. Tools for the analysis of key indicators related to drug use (access and availability for use, socio-sanitary impact of use and other relevant indicators), the impact on others (traffic accidents, work accidents, domestic and gender violence, among others) and other social problems (such as human trafficking and social vulnerability), as well as other ones relevant to the definition of the problem and programmes to address it). Tools and methods for the analysis of the formulation, implementation and evaluation processes of public drugs policies. | Francisco Cumsille, MD. |
| 3 | Diagnosis and research of drug-related problems. (1) Quantitative methods | Collection and analysis of statistical data applied to public health and the use of psychoactive substances. Primary and secondary sources. Validity and reliability of measures. The meaning and importance of periodical sample and census-based studies. Introduction to descriptive analysis and statistical inference. Correlation, regression and causality. How to create and interpret a report with statistical data. | Novie Younguer-Coleman, PhD. |
| 4 | (2): Qualitative techniques | Collection and analysis of qualitative information for the formulation, permanent monitoring and evaluation of health policies on the use of psychoactive substances. Documentary analysis, deep interviews, ethnographic interviews, social network analysis and use of information technologies to promote drugs policies and programmes. | Iria Puyosa, PhD. |
| 5 | The state of the art in the field of health promotion and prevention of drug use | Information, education and empowerment of people and communities in relation to drugs. Normative frameworks and development of policies promoting individual and collective health. | Juan Carlos Mansilla, MSc. |
| 6 | The state of the art in the field of successful interventions in the treatment of different types and different levels of drug use, and social reintegration of the people assisted | Evaluation of the efficacy, accessibility and quality of the services: What Works and what does not work? What success to expect? Intentional, legal, financial, and organisational requirements to guarantee its quality, adequacy and efficient use. Provision of public care services. | Gabriel Rossi, MD. |



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| 7 | Analysis of efficacy, efficiency, equity and sustainability of public policies in health | The health system. Indicators of efficacy and efficiency. Good practices promoting equity in care in the health sector. Generation of financial and institutional strengths to achieve the sustainability of health policies and programmes to address drug users. Project management and process management in public health. Cost-effectiveness analysis. Optimisation of the health system and of its human and material resources. | Marino González, PhD. |
| 8 | Legal framework of drugs policies and public health | Comparative studies and current trends. Differences and relations between the concepts of prohibition, criminalisation, penalisation, decriminalisation, legalisation, and de-regulation of substance use. Their effects on the right to health of people using drugs and the general population. | Christian Espinoza, PhD. |
| 9 | Equity, Human Rights and Drug-Related Health Policy | The promotion and protection of all the rights for all drug users. Current challenges in inclusion and diversity of drugs policies. The importance of the gender perspective in drugs policies. The specific protection of the right to health as a fundamental right of the whole population, independently of their relation with drugs. Drug use and health problems of populations with specific needs and/or in high-risk situations: people in deprivation of liberty, sex workers, minors, senior adults and people in street situation. | Demaluí Amighetti López, MSc. Eugenia Mata, Msc. |
| 10 | Analysis of the social pertinence and political and legal viability of Drug-Related Health Policies | The necessary consensuses for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public health and drugs policies and programmes. Analysis of the normative, cultural, political and legal, dimensions of the approach to drug use as a public health programme. Stakeholder identification techniques. Social and State stakeholders. International, national and local stakeholders. When a stakeholder becomes an interested part. Determination of influences and relative power of the interested parts. Negotiation and agreement techniques. Mechanisms of conflict management and generation of consensuses. | Ángel E. Alvarez, PhD. |
| 11 | Strategies for advocacy in public health and drugs | Importance and defence of public health –with emphasis on mass media– in the advancement of the objectives of public health in relation to drugs and promotion of advocacy skills in the community as a way of supporting the progress of public policies, normative changes and resource-allocation. Theory and practice of the elaboration of discourses and news in social networks and mass media. | Gloria Perdomo, PhD. |
| 12 | Synthesis: Current state of the formulation of drug-related public health policies | Different trends in the region. Towards the search for consensuses and flexibility in the formulation of drug use-specific policies, focused on health and human rights. | Luis Alfonzo, MD. |
| 13 | The role of civil society | The role of non-governmental organisations (NGO) in the channelling of social involvement in the definition, formulation and evaluation of drugs policies. Consensuses and dissensions among NGOs regarding the social aspect of drugs and how to address it. Balance of the regional incidence of NGOs in drugs policies. Role of NGOs in the prevention, treatment, social reintegration and defence of human rights of the users of psychoactive substances. Recommendations on good practices of NGOs focused on the drug problem. | Margarita Sánchez, MSc. Silverio Espinal, MSc. Josep Rovira, MSc. |



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