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First course: Use of Alcohol and other Drugs: Evidence- Based Prevention

DESCRIPTION: This course is focused on training in the development of evidence-based alcohol and drug prevention strategies in order to increase the effectiveness of preventive interventions, to provide key theoretical and practical concepts for professional practice in drug abuse prevention, and to train in the design, application and evaluation of effective and quality preventive interventions.

ADDRESSED TO: Professionals from the public sector with technical responsibilities in decision-making in the field of drug prevention policies and programs, at the national, regional or local level.

OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, the participating professionals will have received the theoretical and practical training necessary to update and optimize their knowledge about:

- Preventive strategies for alcohol and other drug use based on evidence, in order to increase the effectiveness of preventive interventions.
- Theoretical and practical concepts key to the exercise of their technical role in the prevention of alcohol and other drug use.
- Design, implementation and evaluation of effective and quality preventive interventions.
- Adequate strategies to contribute to the strengthening of networks and technical exchange in the preventive thematic of drugs and alcohol, between the participating countries.

CONTENTS:

	Topic	Content	Author
1	Epidemiology of drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean: prevalence and use trends	Prevalence by type of substance use; main drugs used; patterns of use and meanings associated with the use; new emerging uses; new substances available; territorial displacements in use; and the need for prevention.	Orlando Scoppetta, MSc
2	Drug addiction: The neurobiological roots of risk and protective factors	Neurobiological fundamentals of the brain; epigenetic as an adaptation mechanism; from the biology of the brain to the influence of the environment.	Rubén D. Baler, PhD
3	Psychosocial risk and protection factors associated with the use of psychoactive substances	Basic concepts about risk and protection factors of a psycho-social nature; contributions of epidemiology; experimental designs applied to the evaluation of different preventive models; challenges for research on risk and protection factors.	Gabriela Olivera, MSc
4	Foundations and objectives of preventive activity	Reasons supporting the need for prevention; principles and basic evidence-based quality criteria to make good prevention; cost-efficiency of prevention; case-study; review of evidence-based quality criteria agreed within the framework of COPOLAD.	Elisardo Becoña Iglesias, PhD
5	Evolution of research on theoretical models of prevention	An etiological model underlying drug prevention; main theories and explaining models of drug use; informative models; affective models; bio-psycho-social model: screening, diagnosis and applicability, advantages and disadvantages; the most adequate models for prevention based on the current evidence.	Elisardo Becoña Iglesias, PhD
6	Levels of preventive Interventions	Historical evolution of the preventive model: limitations of the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention model; environmental, universal, selective and indicated prevention; implication of these levels for work with populations in different situations of vulnerability; and case study –example of a universal programme.	Milton Rojas Valero, MSc
7	Area of preventive intervention: review of the effectiveness in each area	Preventive interventions at the communitarian, family, educative and occupational level; penitentiary environments; and case study – example of a school programme.	Milton Rojas Valero, MSc

8	Needs assessment, selection of the population, objectives and estimation of feasibility	Gathering relevant data, diagnoses and information; main sources of information; problem tree; definition of target populations; vulnerability criteria; focalisation of supply; and evaluation of available resources: internal and external, which allow formulating achievable objectives.	Juan Carlos Mansilla MSc
9	Formulation of objectives and indicators	Formulation of achievable, measurable and verifiable objectives; and construction of indicators, processes, product, result.	Juan Carlos Mansilla, MSc
10	Selection of the theoretical model and design of a strategy for working with customers	Adoption or approach to the theoretical model to start from for the intervention; design and selection of specific intervention strategies with the target populations: intervention plan.	Augusto Pérez Gómez, PhD
11	Monitoring system, instruments for evaluation and presentation of results	Design of monitoring mechanisms and control of the implementation of the programme or projects; types of evaluations: process, implementation, results and impact; evaluation instruments; presentation and dissemination of results.	Augusto Pérez Gómez, PhD
12	The future of drug dependence prevention	Explanation of the need to unite research and preventive practices; and efficiency and sustainability of prevention.	Elisardo Becoña Iglesias, PhD