

Report

Enhancing Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Civil Society Organizations in the context of Drug Use and HIV: Sensitization Workshop

1. General information

Date	October 13 – October 14, 2014
Venue	Minsk, Republic of Belarus
Title	Enhancing Partnerships Between Law Enforcement and Civil Society Organizations in the context of Drug Use and HIV: Sensitization Workshop
Brief description: training goals and objectives	<p>The workshops had been guided by three main objectives as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To sensitise law enforcement officials about harm reduction services in the context of HIV and how law enforcement practices can influence (positively or negatively), the access of people who use drugs to harm reduction services;2) To build capacity of the CSOs to advocate with LEAs to ensure greater access of people who used drugs to harm reduction services;3) To create a space for LEAs and CSOs to share respective positions, concerns and ideas for enhancing future collaboration.
Trainers	Aleksandr Zelichenko
Target auditory/group	The workshop is designed for between 20-30 participants, drawn equally from the LEAs and CSOs active at the country level.
Number of participants	The workshop convened 27 participants from all 6 regions of Belarus and its capital, representing Department on drugs counteraction and prevention of human trafficking, Department of corrections and Department on surveillance of the Ministry of Interior; Minsk oblast and Minsk city narcological dispensaries; Department on HIV/AIDS prevention of the Republican center on Hygiene and epidemiology; as well as CSOs working with drug dependent people and people living with HIV, such as “Positive movement” and “Mothers against drugs”. (Please see Attachment 1 – List of participants)

2. Brief description

Background:

In the context of HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support among Key Affected Populations, it is clear that the fostering and protection of an enabling environment for service delivery is of paramount importance. While much work has been focused on the impact of an enabling legal and policy environment, a relative lack of attention has been paid to the operational environment on the ground, especially the need for partnerships and collaboration between law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and services including civil society organizations (CSOs) working with Key Affected Populations.

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The main focus of the workshops is on enhancing partnerships in the context of the enabling environment for scaling up access to the comprehensive package of interventions for people who use drugs, it is however anticipated that the workshops will also discuss the need for partnerships between LEAs and CSOs in the context on HIV among other Key Affected Populations.

The participants had been also asked to complete a pretest (26 respondents, including 18 LEA and 8 CSO representatives), posttest (16 respondents, including 11 LEA and 5 CSO representatives) and training evaluation form (16 respondents) (see Attachment 2, 3, 4, 5) in order to gauge the effectiveness of the workshops for future endeavors.

Goal of the seminar/training:

- To learn the opportunities and key ingredients for enhancing partnerships between LEAs and CSOs that can both increase access to harm reduction services and increase public safety

Objectives:

The workshops had been guided by three main objectives as follows:

- 1) To sensitise law enforcement officials about harm reduction services in the context of HIV and how law enforcement practices can influence (positively or negatively), the access of people who use drugs to harm reduction services;
- 2) To build capacity of the CSOs to advocate with LEAs to ensure greater access of people who used drugs to harm reduction services;
- 3) To create a space for LEAs and CSOs to share respective positions, concerns and ideas for enhancing future collaboration.

Participants – 27 participants from all 6 regions of Belarus and its capital, representing Department on drugs counteraction and prevention of human trafficking, Department of corrections and Department on surveillance of the Ministry of Interior; Minsk oblast and Minsk city narcological dispensaries; Department on HIV/AIDS prevention of the Republican center on Hygiene and epidemiology; as well as CSOs working with drug dependent people and people living with HIV, such as “Positive movement” and “Mothers against drugs”. (Please see Attachment 1 – List of participants)

Preparatory period

The preparatory period (for all high priority countries) was focused on developing a standard two-days’ workshop, partially based on the draft HIV Prevention Training Manual for Law

Enforcement Agencies, tailored to the to the local situations of the assigned HPCs, including the following tasks:

In line with the existing draft global training manual develop, in collaboration with two other selected consultants, a standard two-day workshop for LEA and CSOs, including

- Generic workshop outline
- Presentations
- Case-study materials
- Hand-outs
- Pre- and posttest forms
- Workshop evaluation forms
- Reference list, including international and country-specific information resources

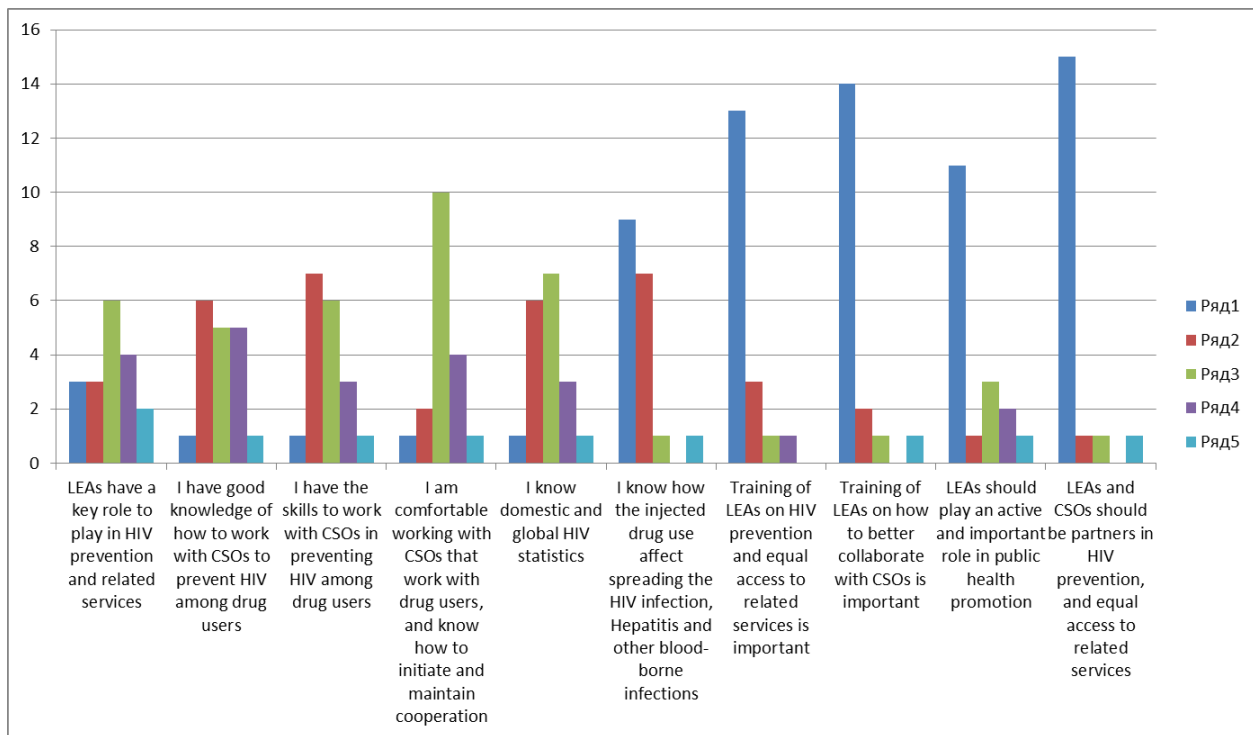
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The workshop support material (presentations, exercises, hand-outs, reading materials, etc.) are prepared and shared with UNODC field-based HIV Experts prior to the arrival the country and all reproduction requests are communicated.

Workshop support material (presentations, exercises, hand-outs, reading materials, etc.), are made available electronically to participants (for re-use locally) and in hard-copy

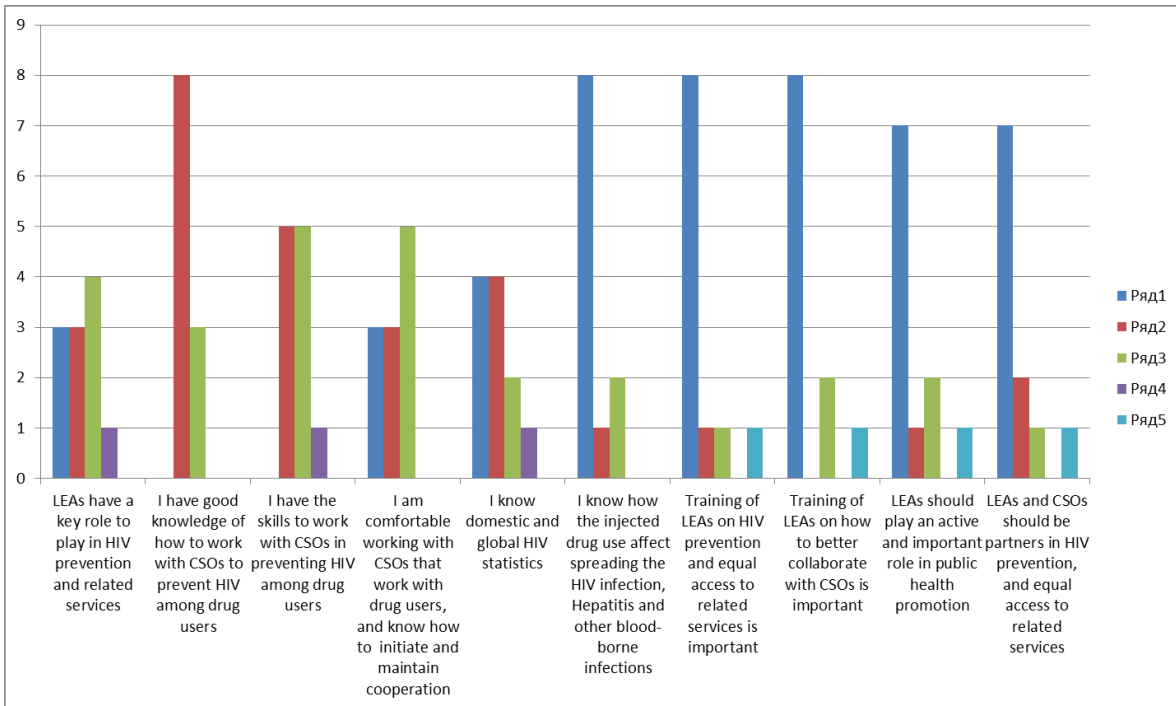
Pre- and post-tests (questionnaires), offered to participants, are intended to assess the ground level and post-workshop level of participants in 3 dimensions: knowledge, skills and attitudes. The comparative analysis of the filled in questionnaires indicates the marked improvement in all 3 in both groups (see attachments # 2, 3, 4 and 5)

LE group. Pre-test (a scale from 1 = Strongly Agree to 5 = Strongly Disagree)

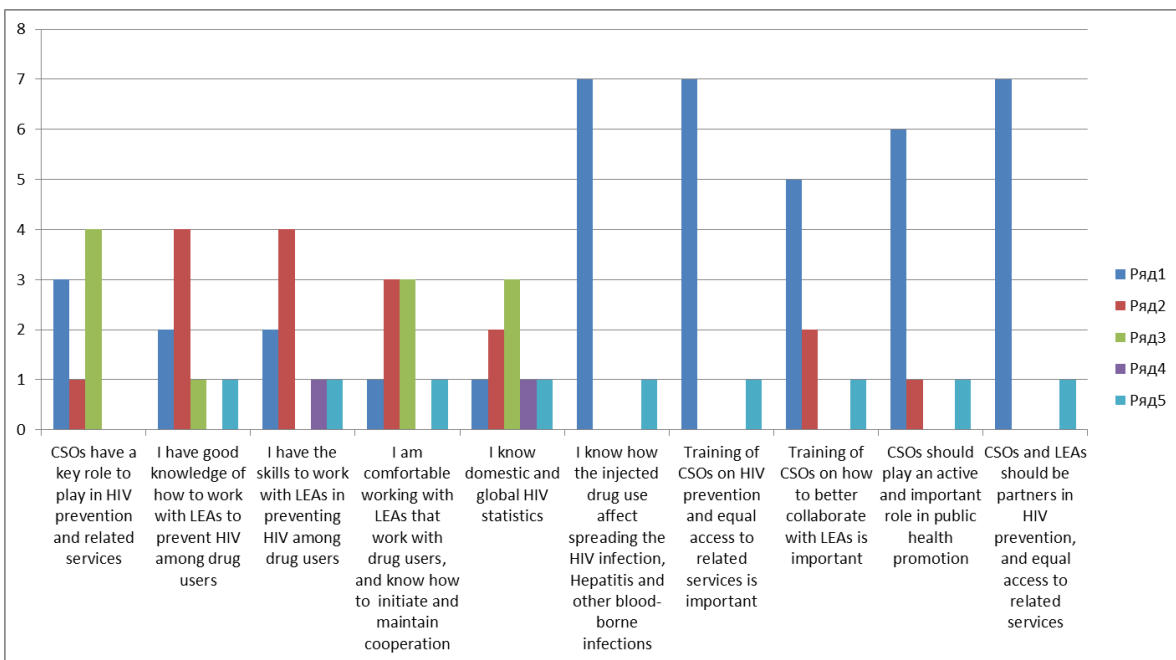


LE group. Post-test (a scale from 1 = Strongly Agree to 5 = Strongly Disagree)

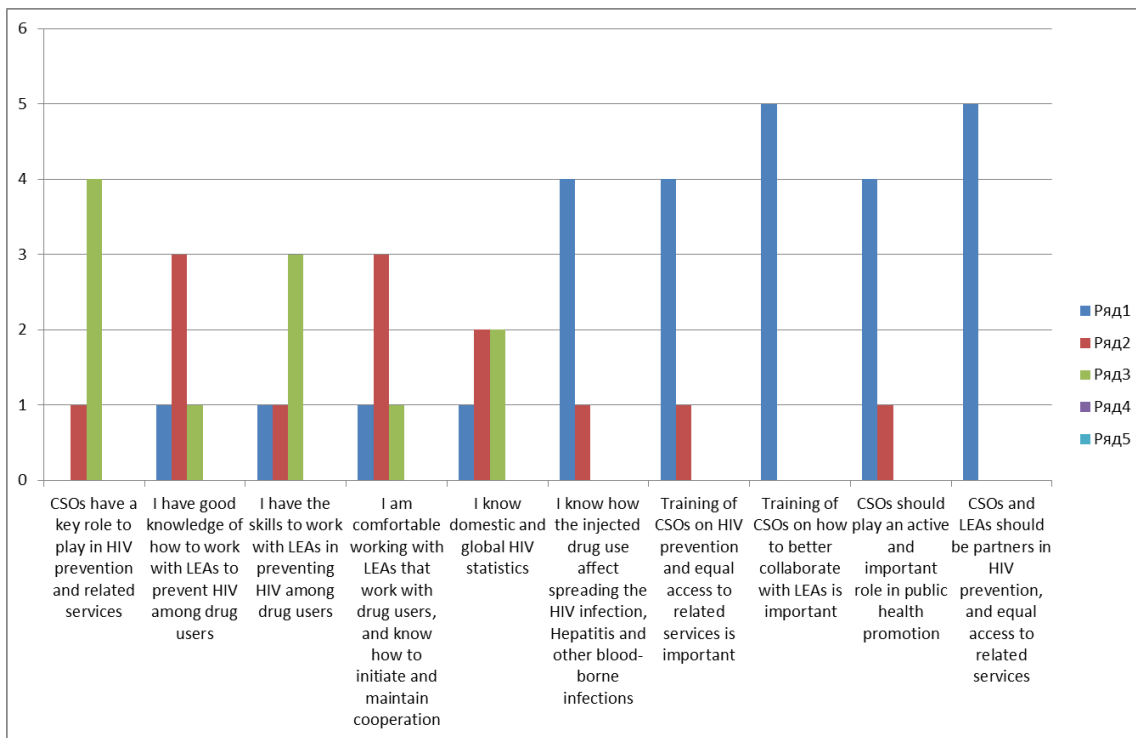
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CSO group. Pre-test (a scale from 1 = Strongly Agree to 5 = Strongly Disagree)



CSO group. Post-test (a scale from 1 = Strongly Agree to 5 = Strongly Disagree)



General workshop outline.

This workshop covered the following topics, including general and country-specific materials:

- How the Afghan drugs affect the national security of CA countries (regional specific)
- Statistics on opium production in Afghanistan
- Drug-traffic routes and situation in transit countries
- Harms and threats on international, national and community levels
 - The harms associated with drug trafficking and corruption (including police corruption).
 - The harms of drug prohibition and a War on Drugs approach.
 - The causes of drug dependence and injection and the harms, including HIV and hepatitis.
- 3 general approaches in drug policy
- Need for retargeting the punitive policy out of drug-users towards drug-traffickers
- Need for humanization of national drug laws, decriminalization and depenalization
- Need for Harm Reduction approaches introduction
- A clear definition and overview of harm reduction and its relationship to supply and demand reduction.
- Drug control from the law enforcement perspective and how that shapes the police world view; drug control from the harm reduction NGO/user perspective and how that shapes the NGO world view: dealing with stereotypes.

- Strategies used/that can be used by police that can allow for harm reduction approaches.
- Some approaches that can gain police support for the aims and objectives of CSOs involved with HIV and harm reduction.
- Starting the process of collaboration with local police services.
- Need for uniform approach of CSOs when dealing with police. Need consistent training and several joint training sessions police/CSO.
- Many of modules in a police training package would also be good for CSOs.
- The common police view of harm reduction and CSOs as promoting drugs.
- The common CSO view of police being obstacles to harm reduction and intent only on criminalization and punishment.
- The role of police in public health; harm reduction as public health.
- Role of co-operative agreements between LEAs and CSOs etc.
- The benefits of collaboration between organizations that implement HIV programs, including harm-reduction strategies, and police services.
- The ways in which collaboration can be increased and maintained.
- The ways in which the enabling environment can be enhanced and maintained.
- The importance of advocacy and communication when working with police services.
- Some perspective on the working environment and culture of police and some of the barriers to harm reduction raised by this.
- Understanding how police often see key affected populations such as drug users and how this affects their views.
- The role of police services in enhancing the enabling environment and some of the barriers they face; dealing with the barriers; the role of police reform and training; the role of Civil Society and networks.
- OST: even if available, many police still opposed to OST and many drug services take confusing positions on it so that they can be worse than police; many professionals not educated about it (i.e., not just police).
- The needs of drug users and others most at risk for HIV: harm reduction services, treatment, housing, support etc.
- Human rights and drug users, sex workers, MSM, street kids, migrants and other most-at-risk populations.

- Gender-related consequences of HIV/AIDS. Gender inequalities underling the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Occupational health and safety, HIV, hepatitis, TB.
- Role of police in VGP education in ways of HIV invasion and preventive measures, availability of post-contact prevention
- Role of police in dissemination of information about current programs on harm reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention: needles/syringes exchange units, methadone therapy centers, specialized medical facilities, rehabilitation centers, social services, crisis counseling centers and hot-lines, peer-to-peer groups.
- The LEAHN website and country focal points and the role and formation of the International Police Advisory Group and the International Statement on Policing Support for Harm reduction and other evidence based HIV prevention services and programs declaration and website <http://www.leahn.org/>
(For the workshop schedule please see attachment)

Methods used:

- Presentations
- Case study
- Group discussions
- Questions-and-answers sessions
- Brain storming (small groups work)

Equipment used:

LCD projector, laptop, flipcharts

Plans for future

The Brain storming (small groups work) was focused on drafting the step-wise action plan for future cooperation of LEA and CSOs.

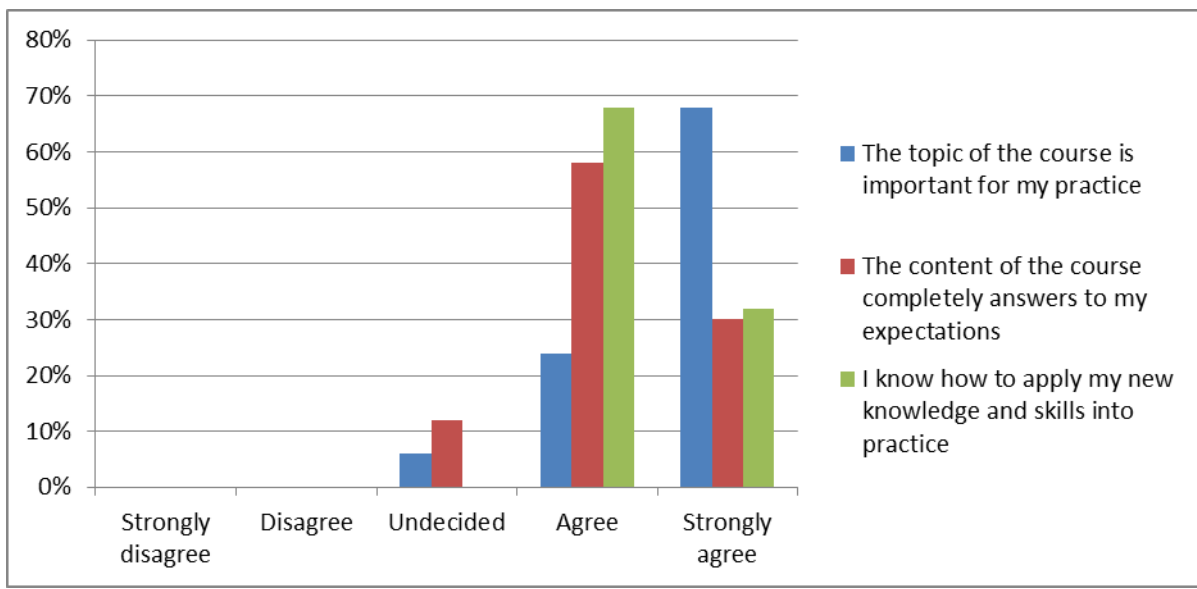
Upon completion of the seminar almost all participants improved their knowledge in the discussed subjects, and shaped a clear understanding of the key role of LEA and CSOs partnership, necessitated by the HIV-related threats.

Workshop evaluation (by course participants)

Categories of post-workshop evaluation:

1. Importance of the topic and its impact on professional competence / practice
 2. Methodology / efficiency of training
 3. Trainers
 4. Participants
 5. Achievement of learning objectives
1. Importance of the topic and its impact on professional competence / practice

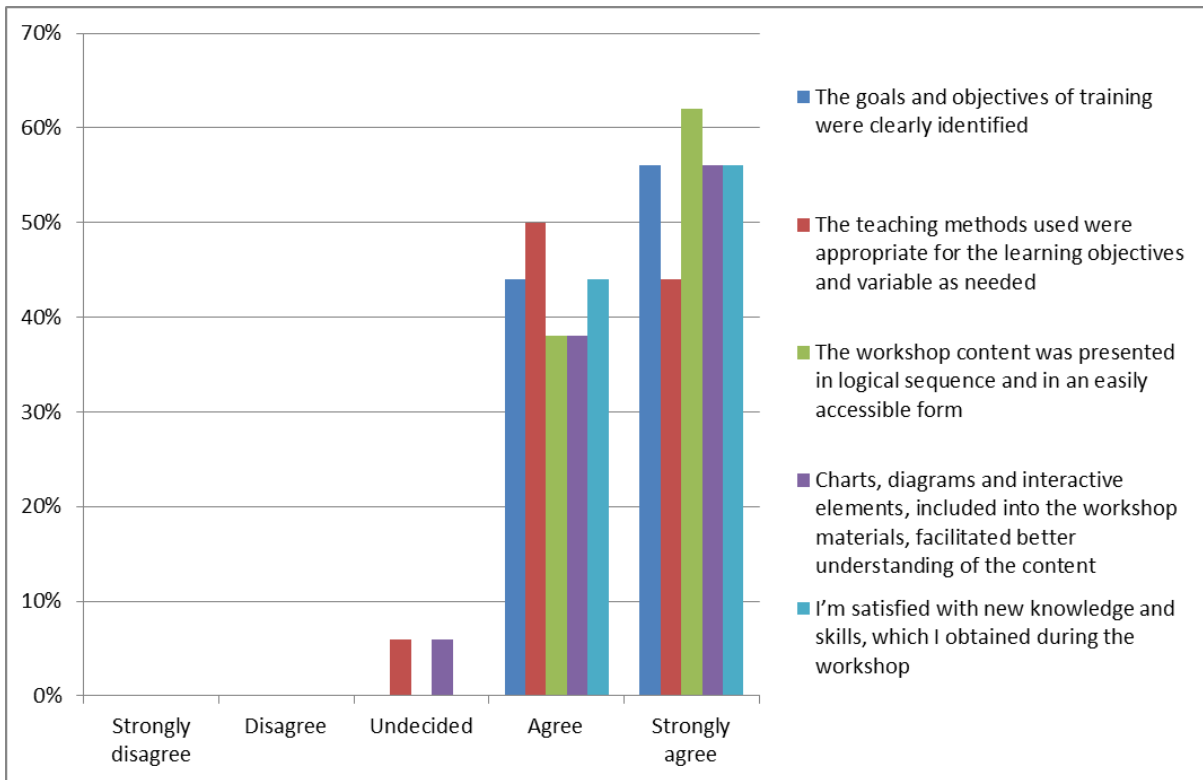
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	n/a
The topic of the course is important for my practice			1	4	11	
The content of the course completely answers to my expectations			2	9	5	
I know how to apply my new knowledge and skills into practice				11	5	



24% agree and 68% of respondents strongly agree that the topic of the course is important for their practice; above 90% agree and strongly agree that the content of the workshop completely answers their expectations and they can translate their new knowledge into practice and have specific plans of their new knowledge practical application.

2. Methodology / efficiency of training

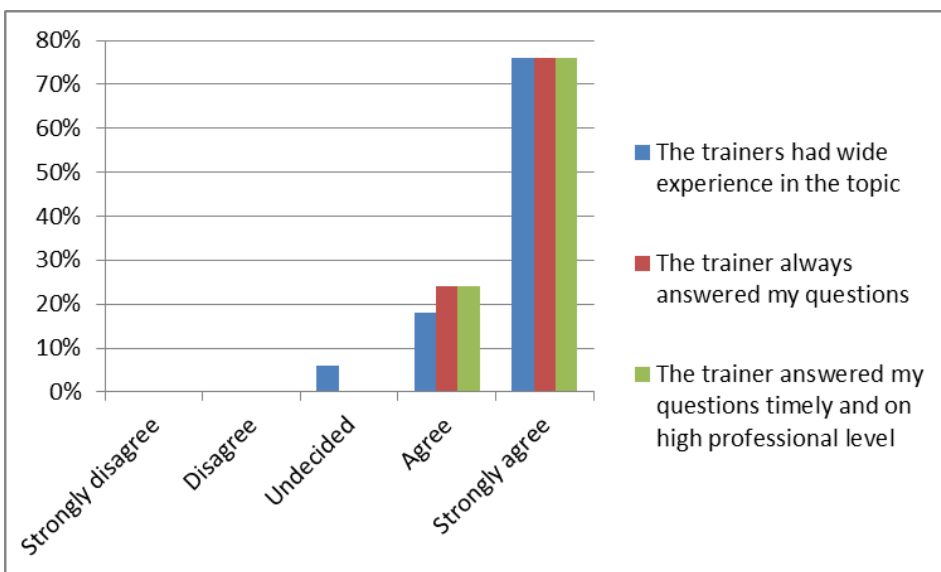
How do you assess the training methodology?	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	n/a
The goals and objectives of training were clearly identified				7	9	
The teaching methods used were appropriate for the learning objectives and variable as needed			1	8	7	
The workshop content was presented in logical sequence and in an easily accessible form				6	10	
Charts, diagrams and interactive elements, included into the workshop materials, facilitated better understanding of the content			1	6	9	
I'm satisfied with new knowledge and skills, which I obtained during the workshop				7	9	



Above 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the goals and objectives of training, content of the workshop and teaching methods and aids were appropriate and satisfied their expectations.

3. Trainers

How do you assess the professional competence of your trainers?	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	n/a
The trainers had wide experience in the topic			1	3	12	
The trainer always answered my questions				4	12	
The trainer answered my questions timely and on high professional level				4	12	

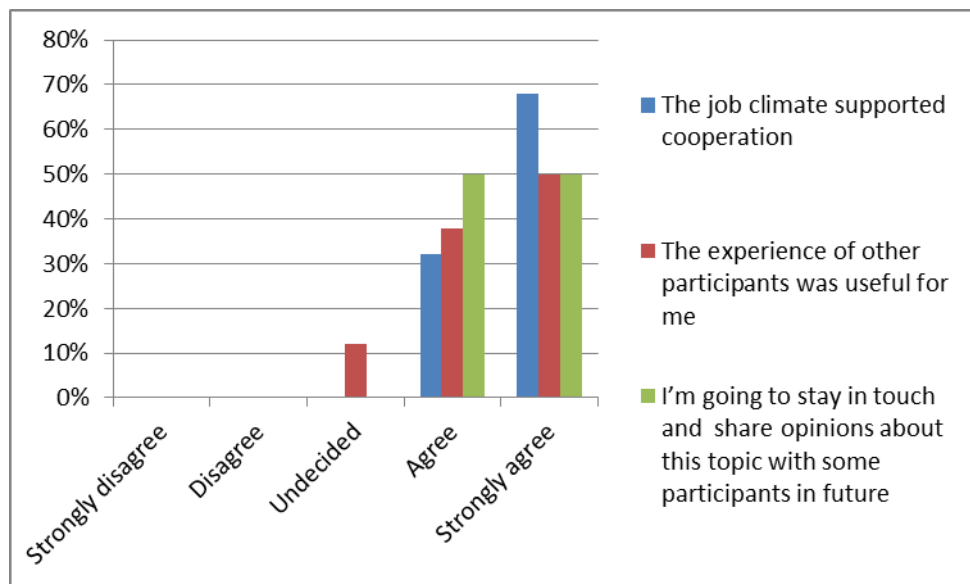


The workshop participants gave high scores to the professional skills of trainer in respect of following characteristics: professional expertise, timeliness and quality of answers on questions from participants.

4. Participants

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	n/a
The job climate supported cooperation				5	11	
The experience of other participants was useful for me			2	6	8	
I'm going to stay in touch and share opinions about this topic with some participants in future				8	8	

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Majority of respondents agree that the job climate supported cooperation; they admitted that learned a lot from other participants and going to stay in touch in future.

5. Achievement of learning objectives

By your opinion, did you achieve the workshop objectives?	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	N/A
			2	8	6	

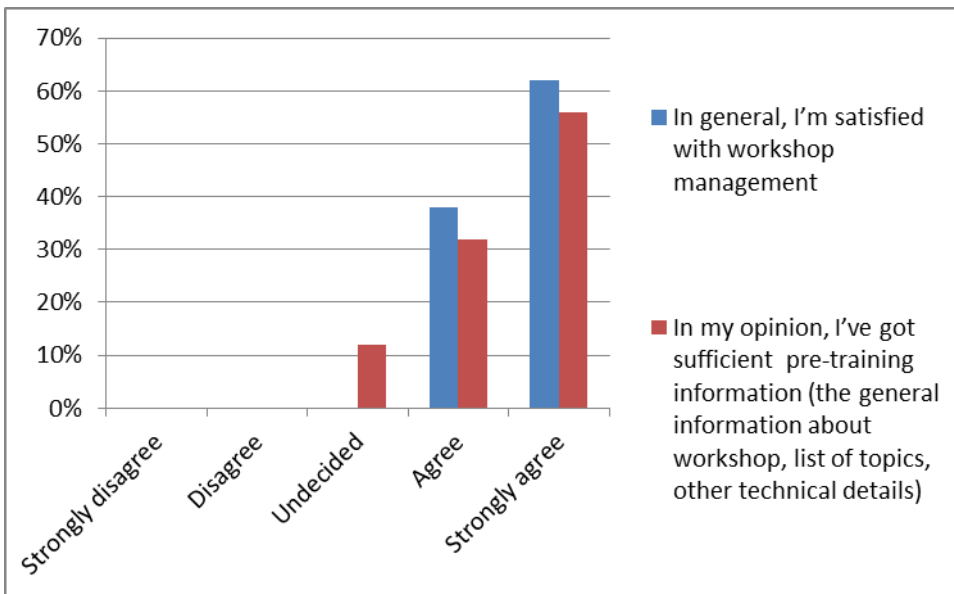
Majority of respondents agree that the workshop objectives had been successfully achieved.

What was the new knowledge and experience that you managed to obtain in addition to the pre-defined goals and objectives of the workshop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is good to know how the illicit drug turnover and trafficking, and other drug-related problems were recognized and responded in other country; to know that cooperation between civil society organizations and law enforcement structures can be very fruitful. It was good to know about drug fighting and harm reduction experience and lessons

- learned by other structures (governmental and non-governmental)
- It was good experience to participate in the workshop and to feel the work atmosphere of cooperation between civil society and law enforcement structures;
- Good experience of discussing and drafting the action plan for future cooperation of CSOs and LE, working with vulnerable groups of population;
- Important information about the world best practices of LE and CSOs cooperation;
- History of drug production; global trends in drug-trafficking; history of drug-business and how it affects political and economic security of the state;
- Mutual cooperation of governmental and non-governmental sectors.
- We've learned the specific practical examples of enhancement of LE and CSOs cooperation.
- Got better understanding of the CSO activities in the field of addictive substances-abuse prevention.
- Raised awareness about the law enforcement role in HIV-prevention.
- Important information about the joint instruction, issued by all involved ministries and governmental agencies, on HIV-prevention and interaction with representatives of vulnerable groups of population.

6. Course management and organizational issues

How do you assess the overall workshop management and organization?	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly agree	n/a
In general, I'm satisfied with workshop management				6	10	
In my opinion, I've got sufficient pre-training information (the general information about workshop, list of topics, other technical details)			2	5	9	



In your opinion, what type of information/documents you felt missing?

We need to allocate more time for the group work to develop the joint action plan for future cooperation.

As long as many important aspects were not covered by this questionnaire, we gladly welcome any additional comments, offers and recommendations.

Some participants added to the evaluation forms additional comments, offers and recommendations:

- It would be useful to share the list of participants with contact information in order to facilitate their future staying in touch and possible cooperation.

7. The overall score

	Excellent ++	Good +	Fair 0	Could be better -	Poor --
How would you score the overall workshop?	10	6			

Please, tick one

Will you recommend the workshop to other candidates?	Yes	No
	16	

All 100% of participants satisfied with workshop management, scored the workshop as good and excellent, and will recommend it to other candidates.

All participants – respondents stressed that the seminar program was well structured, consistent with the subject, with adequately allocated time to discuss and illuminate every topic. Most participants estimated the teaching methods used for seminar and organizational, logistic and administrative arrangements of the seminar host as high. All seminar participants pointed out the importance and fruitfulness of small – group discussions; this method allowed involvement of all participants in profound exchange of opinions and discussion the problems and barriers for HR programs introduction and implementation on practical grounds.

The workshop materials of the second day included the information on the Law Enforcement and HIV network. After brief introduction we offered participant (LEA officers) to read «The Statement of Support by Law Enforcement Agents for Harm Reduction and Related Policies for HIV Prevention». Majority of participants expressed their support to the Statement.

Lessons learned and recommendations:

1. This seminar was one of the first training sessions for the mixed group of trainees – LEA, medical doctors and CSOs. It has been a very valuable experience of establishing contacts between governmental and non-governmental structures. In two days of extensive joint sessions we had an obvious progress from defensive detachment to establishing the dialogue and laying the initial corner stones for possible future cooperation.
2. The seminar confirmed the importance of personal contacts and face-to-face dialogue for establishing the positive social ties and facilitating the future cooperation. **In this context, it is very important to draft and distribute the list of seminar participants including personal contact information.**
3. Positive results of the seminar proved that the chosen approach to the training group forming – to have a mixed group of trainees – is reasonable and works well. I would recommend to use the same approach for further training events.

4. In future I would recommend to select “advanced” police officers and penitentiary service personnel - candidates for ToT (training of trainers), so, after the course completion, they could run the high quality field training sessions.