



**ΤΟΠΟΘΕΤΗΣΗ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΑΕΚ, ΔΡ. ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ**  
**VIRTUAL EU NATIONAL DRUG COORDINATORS MEETING**  
**20 Μαΐου 2021, ώρα: 15:30- 18:00**

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Το Webinar διοργανώνεται από την Πορτογαλική Προεδρία του Συμβουλίου της ΕΕ με θέμα: “Advancing Human Rights -based drug policies”

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Portuguese Presidency for organizing the virtual meeting and for selecting this very interesting topic on human rights-based drug policies.

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Dr. Christos Minas and I am the Chair of the Cyprus National Addictions Authority.

I am very proud to inform you that recently our Council of Ministers has adopted the new, integrated National Strategy for Addressing Dependencies (that is licit and illicit substances as well as pathological gambling) for the period 2021- 2028. It was a long process that led to the adoption of the new Strategy, which included an external evaluation of our previous one and a hard work of consultations with relevant Ministries, other stakeholders and the civil society.

Our National Strategy for Addressing Dependencies highlights the human rights dimension of the policies for addressing addictions. More specifically, through the Strategy the Cypriot State strives to ensure and respect the fundamental principles of human rights,



namely human dignity, equality and non-discrimination, effective participation in public life, accountability, and effective treatment.

The access to the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on grounds of race, religion, political belief, economic or social status, is one of the fundamental human rights that the Strategy is trying to achieve. This right includes access to evidence-based treatment interventions, on a voluntary basis, as well as access to harm reduction services and valid information. Also, the right to an adequate standard of living is one that we are trying to guarantee through the actions of the Social Support Pillar of our Strategy. Additionally, Cyprus has been promoting for a few years now, alternative measures to incarceration through the implementation of a legislation referring drug users that are accused for a crime, to treatment instead of prison, as well as providing the opportunity to young first time offenders that were arrested for drug use or drug possession to be referred to treatment.

Dear colleagues,

These are few examples of how we are trying to incorporate the human rights dimension into our drugs policy. I wish we could have more time to elaborate on the matter but since time is limited, I will end my intervention here.

Thank you very much for the attention!



ΑΡΧΗ ΑΝΤΙΜΕΤΩΠΙΣΗΣ  
ΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΕΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ