

Case Study: Expanding Accessibility of Different Drug Services Through Mobile Units in Slovenia



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Quality Champions Event

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EVROPSKA UNIJA
EVROPSKI STRUKTURNI IN
INVESTICIJSKI SKLADI
NALOŽBA V VAŠO PRIHODNOST

The Basic Values in Slovene Health Care System



Universality:

- everybody has access to health care;

Accessibility:

- access to quality health care for all;

Solidarity:

- All citizens contribute to the financing of health care system in accordance with their income and use health care services in accordance with their needs;

Equality:

- Access to health care services based on needs only and not on other determinants such as ethnic group, gender, age, social status or capability of payment.



Soča



Bohinj

Mobile Units – Cronology and Details

- Started in early 2000 by NGO— for outreach work;
- In 2006 MoH prepared the nationwide project and six vans were purchased and delivered to various NGOs;
- MDDSZ (MoSW) assured funds for the staff;
- The need for nurses;
- Replacement of old vehicles.
- Start date (Year/Month): 2017-01
- End date (Month/year): 2022-12
- EU Funds (ESF and EFRD): €2.642.659
- National: €660.664
- Total: €3.303.324
- 17 professionals employed
- Project Office within MoH established

Aims and Goals of the New Project

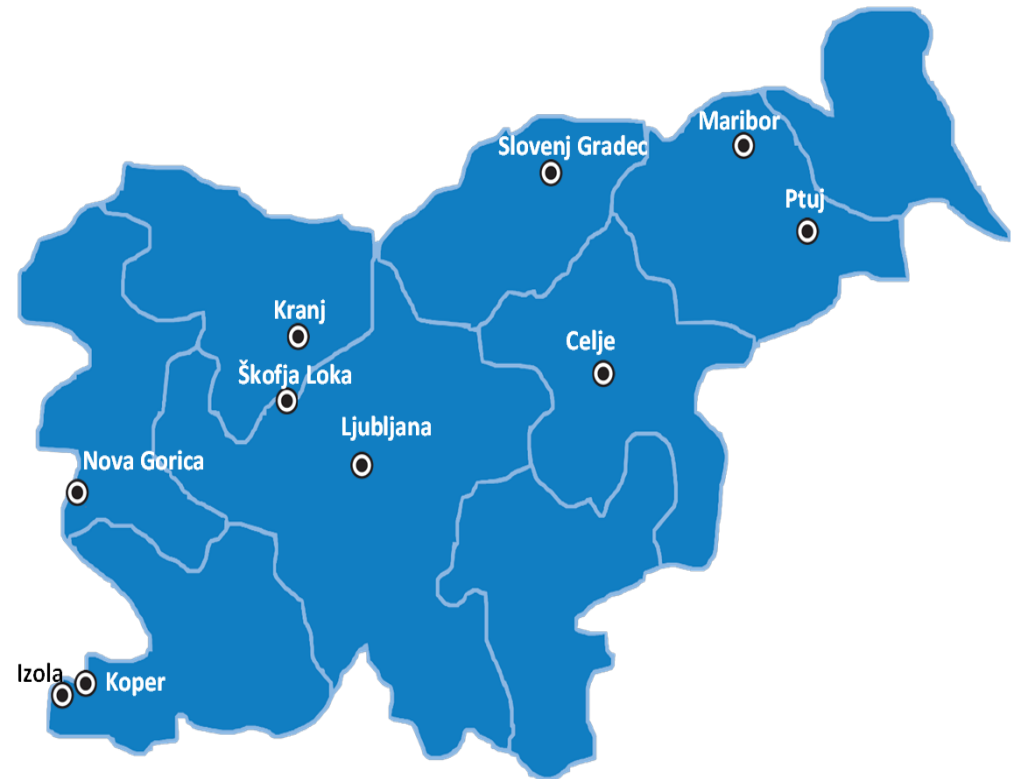
- Comprehensive implementation of prevention and harm reduction services/activities;
- Better cooperation among health and social security services;
- Fulfillment of professional structure among staff in the network of mobile units;
- Broadening of services in the network: two mobile substitution units and one unit for mobile testing.



Summary of the project

1. Illicit drug and new psychoactive substance (NPS) prevention and harm reduction programmes in six mobile units;
2. Two mobile units for social and medical rehabilitation of drug users;
3. Substitution treatment programmes in two mobile clinics;
4. Illicit drugs and NPS analysis in a mobile and stationary laboratory – Drug testing;
5. Project Office established within the MoH.

Geographical Coverage



Drug testing

- Part of EWS - Established by MoH, coordinated by NIPH;
- Since 2014 Slovenia joined/chaired various EU funded projects in this area: RESPONSE, B.A.O.N.P.S. (Be Aware On Night Pleasure Safety); I-SEE project;
- Before: Drug testing provided by the Forensic Laboratory;
- High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) – bought within the project + van + chemist employed.



sprejemnih točk). DATUM SPREJEMA	VZOREC	KUPLJENO KOT	OBLIKA	KVALITATIVNI REZULTAT (kvantitativni rezultat)	DATUM REZULTATA
10/2/2018	DA164	MDMA	kristali	MDMA (43,3 %)	10/12/2018
10/2/2018	DA165	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (78,4 %), Levamisol (1 %)	10/12/2018
10/3/2018	DA166	Konopljino olje	smola	THC (31,1 %), CBDV (0,5 %), CBN (1,7 %), CBG (1,8 %)	10/12/2018
10/4/2018	DA167	LSD	pivnik	LSD (60,5 µg)	10/12/2018
10/4/2018	DA168	MDMA	kristali	MDMA (94,4 %)	10/12/2018
10/4/2018	DA169	Neznana snov	rastlina	Kokain, THC, THCA, CBDV	10/12/2018
10/8/2018	DA170	Alprazolam	tableta	Klonazolam	10/16/2018
10/8/2018	DA171	2C-B	prašek	2C-B (76,2 %)	10/12/2018
10/8/2018	DA172	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (78,1 %), kofein (6,2 %)	10/12/2018
10/11/2018	DA173	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (84,7 %)	10/16/2018
10/15/2018	DA174	Konopljino olje	smola	THC (32,9 %), CBN (0,78 %), CBG (0,67 %), CBDV (0,43 %)	10/22/2018
10/16/2018	DA175	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (46,6%), fenacetin	10/22/2018
10/16/2018	DA176	Hidroksodon	tekočina	Ni zaznanih PAS	10/26/2018
10/17/2018	DAMB26	LSD	pivnik	LSD	10/26/2018
10/17/2018	DAMB27	LSD	pivnik	LSD (173 µg)	10/26/2018
10/18/2018	DA177	MDMA	kristali	MDMA (98 %)	10/26/2018
10/19/2018	DA178	LSD	pivnik	LSD (54 µg)	10/26/2018
10/19/2018	DAMB28	CBD	smola	CBD (0,54 %), THC (0,11 %)	10/26/2018
10/25/2018	DA179	MDMA	kristali	MDMA (97,6 %)	11/7/2018
10/25/2018	DA180	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (82,5 %)	11/7/2018
10/25/2018	DA181	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (31 %), fenactin	11/7/2018
10/25/2018	DA182	Kokain	prašek	Kokain (78,3 %)	11/7/2018
10/29/2018	DA183	Amfetamin	prašek	Amfetamin (15,2 %)	11/8/2018
10/30/2018	DA184	Neznana snov	prašek	Lidokain	11/8/2018
10/30/2018	DA185	Neznana snov	prašek	MDMA (98,2 %)	11/8/2018
10/30/2018	DA186	MDMA	kristali	MDMA (98,8 %)	11/8/2018

Drug Testing

- Cooperation in consortium **LAB** (NLZOH) + **NGO**;
- NGO - received mobile unit and assured 2 professionals from its other (state or local) resources;
- LAB (NLZOH) - additional technical equipment and employment of expert for chemistry: activities in the mobile and stationary unit;

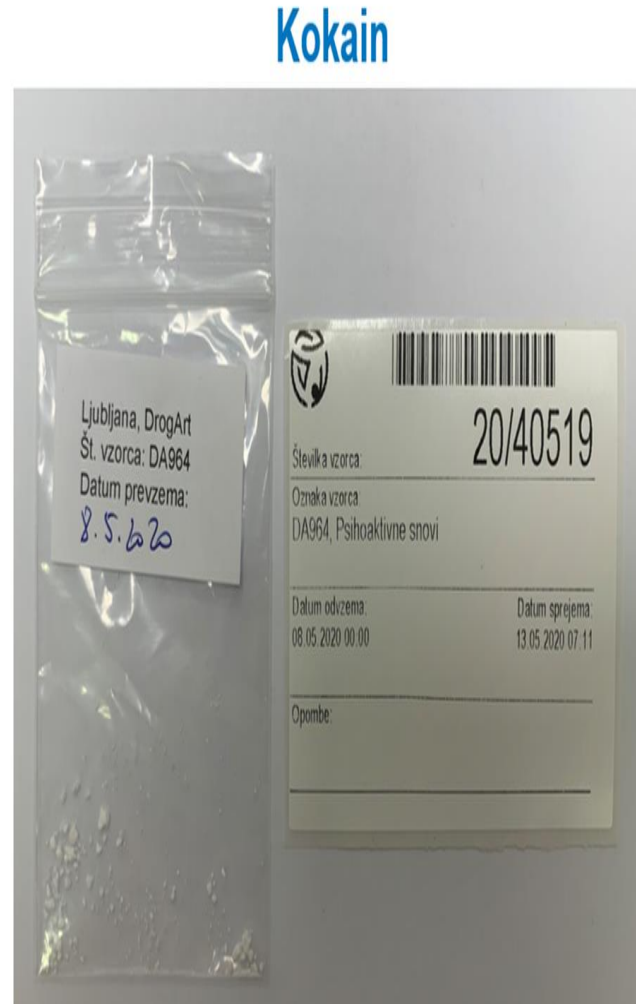
Participating agencies:

- The National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food - NLZOH,
- NIPH – National Institute of Public Health,
- Police – Forensic Laboratory,
- Center for Toxicology UKC LJ,
- NGOs,
- and MoH.



Activities in the laboratory - 1

- Testing of „old and new drugs“ including providing feed back to drug users and other relevant services;
- Information and counseling regarding risk (and protective) behaviors;
- Collection of drug samples within existing EWS system in Slovenia;
- Chemical analyses of collected samples;
- Other activities needed for successful implementation of the project.

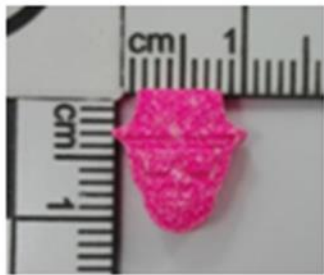


- From January 2018 - May 2021, more than 2,300 analyzes performed;
- In 2019 (902 samples):
- 26,3% Cocaine
 - 20,9% MDMA
 - 16,0% Amphetamine
 - 8,0% LSD
 - 6,1% Cannabis (analyzes were performed only until the beginning of the year 2020)
 - 5,3% Opiates
 - 3,3% NPS
 - 2,9% Benzodiazepini
 - 2,5% Ketamin
 - 5,2% Drugo

Activities in the laboratory - 2

Average purity of substances (data for 2019):

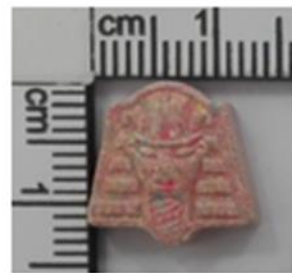
- Cocaine HCl: 74.9%
- Amphetamine sulfate: 23.5%
- Heroin: 6.4%
- MDMA HCl: 82.1%
- Average MDMA HCl content in ecstasy tablets: 146mg / tbl



Roza Heisenberg
276 mg



Modri Punisher
284 mg



Pisani Pharaoh
261 mg

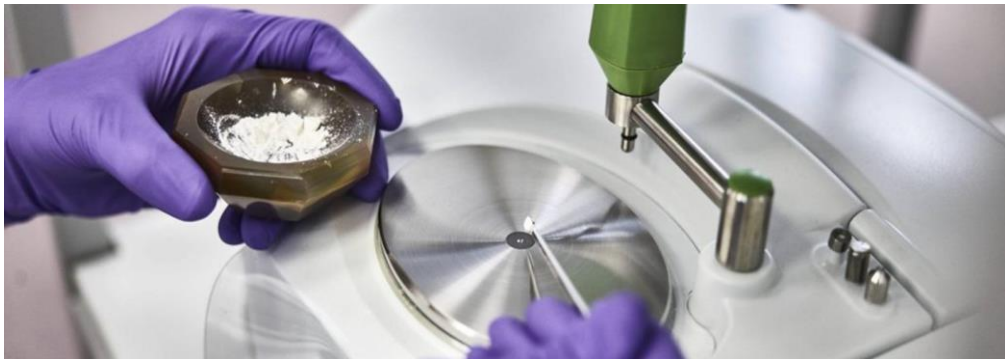
NPSs detected in 2021:

- Synthetic opioids: Metonitazen, Etazen, Brorfin
- Synthetic cannabinoids: MDMB-4en-PINACA
- Synthetic cathinones: N-Ethylhexedrone, 4-CMC, Alpha-PiHP
- Benzodiazepines: Flualprazolam, Flubromazepam, Flubromazolam, Clonazolam, Meclonazepam
- Hallucinogens: 1cP-LSD, 1P-LSD

Fentanyl analogues no longer occur to such an extent. These have been replaced by synthetic opioids such as Metonitazen, Etazen,...

Activities in the laboratory - 3

- FTIR-ATR spectrometer;
- High-performance liquid chromatograph with DAD analyzer (HPLC-DAD);
- Gas chromatograph with mass analyzer (GC-MS);
- Liquid chromatograph with ion-based mass analyzer (LC-MS-QTOF).
- Stationary Laboratory: Users can bring PAS sample to one of 9 reception points besides to mobile unit on parties;
- Upon receipt, an anonymous record of the sample is made;
- The transport of samples to NLZOH assured either by NLZOH or DrogArt;
- After qualitative and quantitative analysis, the results are provided within a few days latest – in mobile units in 30 minutes;
- Returning the result to user is done in person (DrogArt), by phone or e-mail;
- When returning the user is informed of potential risks and ways to reduce them.



Conclusions and Challenges

- Greater availability of different services all around the country– especially valuable during lock downs – Covid 1;
 - Networks in different regions and local communities;
 - Lowering the number of poisonings, overdose;
 - Better cooperation among health and social services on national and local level;
 - Increased level of social inclusion: employments, enrollments in schools, trainings, etc.
- Dilemmas among professionals: How to deal with 13–14-year-olds? Inform parents? Referrals to psychotherapy / treatment / TC? To act on the principles of harm reduction?



Piran