



“Drug Addiction Awareness on Adults Project” Video Competition Informatory Document

March, 2016

DEFINITION of DAWAP

Turkish Green Crescent - Yeşilay is planning and implementing international projects in order to contribute to the solution of drug prevalence around the World.

In order to fulfil this leadership responsibility, Green Crescent has been implemented "Drug Addiction Awareness on Adults Project" (DAWAP) sponsored by National Agency of Turkey under ERASMUS+KA2 and the Ministry of EU Affairs.

DAWAP was held to promote the importance of parents' and adults' awareness, perception and understanding about drug addiction risk that their children are facing. The project started in 2015 and will be finalized in August 2016. Within the project, in cooperation with most influential NGO's from Lithuania, Portugal, Netherlands and EURAD, it was aimed to make international field studies, personal trainings, group meetings and competitions as well.

After this date, DAWAP will be turning into a long winded program with further implementations. This Strategy Document will cover a time period of two years (2016-2018) and will provide communication strategy content for National Drug Addiction Struggling Project Strategy Document (Ulusal Uyuşturucu ile Mücadele Strateji Belgesi). Furthermore this Strategic Document from Communication will be a model document for DAWAP countries which are Lithuania, Netherlands and Portugal.

ASSESSMENT ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN DRUG USE: Research Data

- **World Drug Report UNODC-2015**

According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime –World Drug Report 2015, it is estimated that a total of 246 million people, or 1 out of 20 people between the ages of 15 and 64 years used an illicit drug in 2013. The magnitude of the world drug problem becomes more apparent when considering that more than 1 out of 10 drug users is a “problem drug user” suffering from drug use disorders or drug dependence. In other words 27 million people are problem drug users.

This places a heavy burden on public health systems in terms of the prevention, treatment and care of drug use disorders and their health consequences. Only one out of every six problem drug users in the world has access to treatment, as many countries have a large shortfall in the provision of services.

- **Turkey Drug Report (TUBIM RESEARCH) 2014**

According to TUBIM Research in 2011, life time substance use prevalence in Turkey is 2,7 %. And estimated number of users at high risk is 100.621.

In young population (school years), lifetime substance use prevalence is 1,5 %. The first experience with a substance is around 14 years on average.

According to the Report, it is seen that Turkey is facing a problem of substance abuse at a certain prevalence level. And this situation requires a focused, unique and well-planned 360 degrees strategic work against substance use.

In Turkey, legal and administrative prevention is critical as Turkey is a target country and conjuncture for illegal drug trade but environmental prevention is also important. This prevention approach should consider three areas:

- School
- Family
- Society

SUMMARY OUTPUTS OF DAWAP RESEARCH:

About DAWAP Research:

As a part of DAWAP Project DAWAP Research was conducted in Turkey, Lithuania, Netherlands and Portugal. During December 2015-January 2016 research was implemented with parents who have children 10-18 years of age. In Turkey 1500, and in Lithuania, Netherlands and Portugal 250 parents are questioned about drug addiction awareness and their reasoning and point of view about addiction and substance abuse prevalence.

Results of Lithuania:

- Lithuanian parents see addiction as a problem that requires treatment at 96.8 % and think that substance abuse is “a problem which is hard to cope with alone” at 95.2%. And they see themselves as “knowledgeable about the harmfulness of narcotic substances on health” at 95.2%.
- Lithuanian parents think that “friends play a role in starting narcotic substance use” at 91.6% and “environmental factors and copying others lead to starting drug use” at 86.4%, and “curiosity and trying new experiences are some of the reasons for drug use at 84.4%.
- Another data from the DAWAP Research is about the reasons within the family that leads to substance abuse. Parents think that “it is easier to start substance abuse if a person has not matured yet” at 78.8%, “children of parents with psychological problems or any sort of substance abuse are at greater risk” at 77.2%, and “a young person could develop substance abuse if the family has conflicts or a lack of communication” at 70%.

Results of Netherlands:

- Dutch parents see themselves as “knowledgeable about the harmfulness of narcotic substances on health” at 79.5%. They think “a problem which is hard to cope with alone” at 84%. But there is no consensus on treatment requirement. Parents see addiction as a problem that requires treatment at 55.2 %.
- Another data from the DAWAP Research is about the reasons within the family that leads to substance abuse. Parents think that “children of parents with psychological problems or any sort of substance abuse are at greater risk” at 90.3%.
- The second highest risk is seen as “curiosity and trying new experiences are some of the reasons for drug use at 89.9 %”. Dutch parents also agree “Having problematic relationship with the family is a risk at 86.2%, and “environmental factors and copying others lead to starting drug use” at 82.5%.

Results of Portugal:

- Portuguese parents think that addiction is “a problem which is hard to cope with alone” at 88.9 %. And they see themselves as “knowledgeable about the harmfulness of narcotic substances on health” at 86.5%. They also see addiction as a problem that requires treatment at 75.4 %.
- Portuguese parents believe that “friends play a role in starting narcotic substance use” at 88.5% and “curiosity and trying new experiences are some of the reasons for drug use” at 87.7% and “environmental factors and copying others lead to starting drug use” at 84.9%.
- Another data from the DAWAP Research is about the reasons within the family that leads to substance abuse. “Children of parents with psychological problems or any sort of substance abuse are at greater risk” at 81.0 %, the risk of starting drug use is higher in children with negligent families at 71.8%. And they also state that “a young person could develop substance abuse if the family has conflicts or a lack of communication” at 64.3%.

Results of Turkey:

- Turkish parents has an awareness about substance abuse at 80-85%, and they see themselves as “knowledgeable about the harmfulness of narcotic substances on health” at 92.9%. But in detailed questions about the substances, it is seen that their knowledge is limited in addictive substances. Parents think that addiction is

“a problem which is hard to cope with alone” at 93.4 %. They also see addiction as a problem that requires treatment at 87.4 %.

- Looking at the comment of Turkish parents about the reasons behind substance abuse, the highest rated answer is “curiosity and trying new experiences are some of the reasons for drug use” with 90%. And they also state that “a young person could develop substance abuse if he/she has a problematic relationship with the family at a lack of communication”, “if a person’s personality is not mature yet” and “environmental factors and copying others” at around 88%.
- With their answers, Turkish parents conclude that, families without problems and where communication with children is strong is important to prevent children from substance abuse. They agree that “Children of parents with psychological problems or any sort of substance abuse are at greater risk” at 84.4 %, and they believe that “the risk of drug use is higher in families that have gone through separation, divorce or loss of mother/father is higher at 84%. Furthermore they agree that “a young person could develop substance abuse if the family has conflicts or a lack of communication” at 82.9%.

- **Young Drug Addicts’ Perceptions on Family Relations, 2014**

The findings of the study¹ revealed that the problems young people face with their families may either trigger or increase current substance abuse. A troubled relationship with parents is also a basic determinant of such behaviors as running away from home or a tendency to commit crimes in young people.

It was observed that parents exert a high level of influence over their children both during and after adolescence, and that genuine communication with young people was found to be an important factor in their choice to refrain from substance use.

When those children and parents experience therapy or rehabilitation they say that «everything could be different if they had more love, care and communication, opportunity to spend time together among family members».

Also, lack of cultural and social adaptation to urban life diminishes self-confidence and these children feels like they have no chance to be a part of the «society».

In several research data it is easily seen that addicted children and teenagers are from «unhappy families». Definition of unhappiness varies, such as;

- Poor families

1. Young Drug Addicts’ Perceptions on Family Relations: The Case of Esenler-Bağcılar, İstanbul-The Turkish Journal on Addictions, 2014 Assoc. Prof. Ömer Miraç Yaman, Ph.D. İstanbul University Department of Social Work-

- Immigrant families trying to adopt urban life
- Leaving school early and starting work at early ages
- Small houses, crowded families
- Uneducated parents
- Unemployed fathers
- Single parent families
- Addicted/alcoholic parents
- Poor dialogue between family members
- Loneliness

SUMMARY:

- Substance and drug usage prevalence is rising among young people 14-25 in Turkey.
- Young, single, urban, university graduates are another group which are substance users in related countries.
- The substance abuse habits differ among socio-economic groups. Cannabis and volatile substances are widely used in lower economic groups and young people living in ghettos of metropolitan cities. Especially in Turkey volatile substance use is a unique problem)
- Drugs, cocaine, amphetamine, cocaine like substances are more likely to be used among people from higher socio-economic groups.
- Asking parents in DAWAP countries in DAWAP Research, it is easily seen that, parents are in expectation of «measures» & «counselling» to prevent their children from risk of exposure to drugs.
- Parents are lacking satisfactory information about the substances, addiction problems and what to do when facing the problem inside their family.
- Parents also agree that weak and undeveloped personalities are more likely to use drugs:

Agree and totally agree percentages in Lithuania 79%, in Netherlands 61%, in Portugal 63% and in Turkey 89%

- Parents who agree that children from problematic families are more likely to have substance and drug abuse problem are at a high ratio in all 4 countries:

Agree and totally agree percentages in Lithuania 51%, in Netherlands 85%, in Portugal 71%, and in Turkey 88%.