

Substance use in Central and Eastern Europe
Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Opportunities for
Intervention

Summary of baseline assessments in the Republic of Belarus and the
Russian Federation

WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of
Substance Abuse “Global Initiative”



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PREFACE

In 1997, the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) jointly initiated a project on primary prevention of substance abuse among young people with the view of mobilizing communities and developing model projects for adaptation or replication in parts of Central and Eastern Europe and the world. Problems related to substance use are now a priority concern especially among young people and are linked to and often precipitated by adverse social economic factors. To date, most proven interventions remain underused and undervalued as often they may not necessarily be appropriate for countries in transition.

Through the WHO/UNDCP Global Initiative local partners in the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation are receiving support on planning and implementing evidence-based prevention strategies. The foundation of good primary prevention initiatives depends on a well thought out strategic project plan with monitoring and evaluation components. The baseline assessments carried out by local research institutions in each participating country provide reference points for impact assessments.

To permit easier access to information for a broad reader audience, only summaries of the findings are presented. However, detailed research information can be obtained at the project web-site cited in this document. It is my sincere hope that the information presented in this document can contribute towards greater awareness and response to the problem of substance use among young people in the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation.



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