

July 2024

The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction

NEWSLETTER



From The Desk of Executive Director
Kevin P. Mulvey, PhD

Dear ICUDDR Members, what a conference!
This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to
reporting on the conference.

The Annual ICUDDR took place June 23-29, 2024, at Thessaloniki, Greece, in partnership with ISSUP Global and ISSUP Greece and their local partner, Serios. The conference was well attended and had 800 ICUDDR and ISSUP members from over 123 countries join. ICUDDR hosted 16 sessions, plus one plenary (The State of the Science). This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to giving a report of the conference.

This month's newsletter also contains information on our upcoming webinars and trainings in August. You can find more information as well as additional announcements on our website of other sessions of interest. Our partners may host these sessions, and you are welcome to join.

FAREWELL TO TWO OF OUR INTERNS

Thank you to our interns, Ms. Hannah Frank and Mr. Luis Ortiz. They will complete this year's internship with us on July 31st, 2024. They will have a few weeks before starting their next semester in their Public Health programs. We wish them much success in this next academic year! They were a great help and support this year before, during, and after the global conference.

THANK YOU, HANNAH AND LUIS!

Kevin Mulvey

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welcome! New members of the ICUDDR Family!

As of July 22nd, we have **452 Institutions** consisting of **746 Faculty Members** from Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, the United States, and Canada.

This month, we welcome one new University member from India:

- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetha University, **India**

Meet ICUDDR Staff Member: **Carmel Clancy**



Dr. Carmel Clancy, PhD, RGN, RMN, PGCertHE, FPH, ICAP III, is the current Associate Director GCCC-ICUDDR. She holds the esteemed position of Dean at the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, Middlesex University, London, UK. She earned her doctorate from St Georges Medical School, of London, UK, and is currently registered with the Nursing Midwifery Council (NMC) as a mental health and adult nurse and has over 30 years' experience in delivering nursing education at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, including curriculum development, specifically in the area of addiction; and was the course developer of the first Masters in co-morbidity

(dual diagnosis) in Europe. In 2014, with funding from Health Education England, Dr. Clancy established My Care Academy – a knowledge building community in partnership with Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust, and is currently the Project Director. Between 2020-2023 Carmel held the office of President of the International Nurses Society on Addiction (IntNSA).

Dr. Clancy was appointed as the Chair of the Research Advisory Panel (RAP) in 2022 for a new Universities UK (UUK) Task Force on Student Drug Use. This Taskforce was set up to help universities understand and address drug-use and is due to publish evidence-led sector guidance – developed with students, staff, and wider stakeholders – including recommendations that are firmly based on harm reduction, in the summer of 2024.

She has written extensively in this area and in 2017 co-chaired a Public Health England working group on the nurses' role in the treatment and recovery addiction pathways. Dr. Clancy has also served as a Member of the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)(2002 -2011) – a Standing Committee which advises the UK Government on drug issues and policies. In 2015 in recognition of her contribution to addiction practice, she was awarded a Fellowship by Distinction and entered onto the membership register for the UK Faculty of Public Health. She has provided training to addiction professionals throughout the world and is a member of The International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP) and holds credentials ICAP-III from the GCCC.

Upcoming Trainings & Events Cont...

Live Webinar

Insights to Global Addiction Education

Join us for a webinar presenting the results of the ICUDDR survey on curricular offerings of addiction degree programs. Know more about the state of substance use prevention and treatment education globally.

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

7:00 - 8:00 AM US Eastern Time

Check your time zone [here](#)



Amalie Lososová, MA, PhD

Professor, Department of Addictology,
1st Faculty of Medicine of Charles
University

[Register Here](#)

Live 2-Part Webinar

Examining Mechanisms and Conditional Processes: An Introduction to Moderation and Mediation

This 2-part webinar is an introductory course on understanding mediation and moderation. Learn about the concepts, interpretation and how to use it for your researches.

Part 1: Monday, September 2, 2024 at 8:00 am US Eastern Time

Part 2: Monday, September 16, 2024 at 8:00 am US Eastern Time

Check your time zone [here](#)

[Register Here](#)

2024 Global Conference Report



The Art of Healing

Thessaloniki, Greece

A new era in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support

The ICUDDR and ISSUP joint Global 2024 Conference was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, June 26-28. There were also many pre-conference meetings and trainings. Session recordings will be available in September.

Global Conference by the numbers....



Opening Ceremony



Chaired by Joanna Travis-Roberts & Kevin Mulvey



Maggie Nardi
Deputy Assistant Secretary, INL



Phaedon Kaloterakis
Director of ISSUP Greece



Stelios Giouzevas
Member, ISSUP Greece

2024 Global Conference Report



16 Conference Sessions



Systems Change & The Role of the University through the Lens of the ITTC Network - Part 1: Laying the Foundation

Chair: Ms. Julia Alvarado. Panel: Dr. Joy Osagiator Ariyo, Dr. Laurie Krom, & Ms. Jairat Gina Jaturapatraporn



Quality Standards for prevention - Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean (CICAD)

Chair: Prof. Diana Lesme Romero. Panel: Dr. Fernando Salazar, Dr. Silvia Morales-Chainé & Dr. Andreas Alexander Hein Willius



University ICUDDR Needs Assessment Survey for University Professionals

Chair: Prof. Tarek Gawad. Panel: Dr. Rehana Kader, Dr. Michael O Ezenwa (Dr. Samuel Dakwak), & Dr. Rania Mamdouh.



Contextual & Higher Education Challenges in the Field of Harm Reduction

Chair: Dr. Fran Calvo. Panel: Dr. Xavier Ferrer, Dr. Roberto Perez Gayo, & Dr. Jallal Toufiq



Global Developments in Addiction Studies

Chair: Prof. Michal Miovsky. Panel: Mrs. Amalie Lososová, Dr. Maria Fernandez, Ms. Elizabeth Nováková, & Dr. Anna Tsiboukli.



Special Focus: Adolescents & Emerging Adults

Chair: Ms. Hala Najm. Panel: Dr. Carmen Orte, Prof. Salman Shazad, Mrs. Malsha Muneer, Ms. Minh Nguyen, & Dr. Silvia Morales-Chainé.

2024 Global Conference Report



Sessions Continued



Systems Change & The Role of the University through the Lens of the ITTC Network - ITTC Initiatives in Vietnam, South Africa and Peru

Chair: Susan Garrett. Panel: Dr. Tang Nguyen Thu, Dr. Goodman Sibeko, Dr. Marina Piazza



Identifying, Assessing and Treating Children for Substance Use Disorder: Data and Experience from Across the Globe

Chair: Dr. Hendrée Jones. Panel: Dr. Hendrée Jones, Dr. María Carmen Sánchez de Molinas, Mr. Manish Kumar.



Advancing Global Prevention Initiatives: Standardization, Innovation, & Cultural Adaptation

Chair: Dr. Irina Pinchuk. Panel: Mrs. Renata Habinakova, Dr. Fernanada Dal Maso Camera, Dr. Zili Sloboda, Prof. Cho Hyunseob, & Dr. Fernando Salazar.



Leading Publications on DDR in Latin America & the Caribbean

Chair: Ms. Jimena Kalawski. Panel: Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, Prof. Jorge Ameth Villatoro Velazquez, & Dr. Fernando Salazar.



Challenges & Opportunities in Providing Evidence-Based Treatment for Persons in the Criminal Justice System

Chair: Dr. Roger Peters. Panel: Dr. Goodman Sibeko, Mr. Antonio Lomba, Ms. Elisa Rubini, & Mr. Joel Johnson.



From Research to Practice: Insights from Global Initiatives

Chair: Dr. Jallal Toufiq. Panel: Dr. Diep Nguyen, Dr. Stephen Asatsa, Dr. Gabriela Novotna, Dr. Anila Sadaf, & Dr. Marina Piazza.

2024 Global Conference Report



Sessions Continued



Systems Change & The Role of the University through the Lens of the ITTC Network - ITTC Initiatives in Colombia, Ukraine, & Indonesia

Chair: Dr. Sherry Larkins. Panel: Dr. Dedsy Berbesi, Dr. Irina Pinchuk, & Dr. Kristiana Siste.



Think Globally, Act Regionally: The Strategic Importance of Regional Activities

Chair: Mrs. Carly Searcy. Panel: Mr. Alfonso Abarca, Dr. Prapapun Chuchareon, Prof. Michael Ezenwa, & Ms. Hala Najm.



Multidisciplinary Treatment Approaches to Substance Use & Co-Occurring Disorders

Chair: Mr Stelios Gkiouzepas. Panel: Prof. Carolina, Mrs. Irene Tsalera, Ms. Vi Thi Tuong Vu, Mr. Quang Anh Mai, & Mr. Boro Goic.



Global Approaches in Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery: Insights from Vietnam, Peru, East Africa, and the Maldives

Chair: Dr. Rahana Kader. Panel: Mr. Duc Nguyen, Ms. Faridah Nakoma, Ms. Luhya Ismail

Plenary Session

State of the Science Across the Spectrum of Substance Use

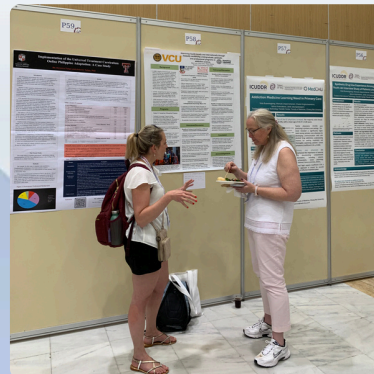
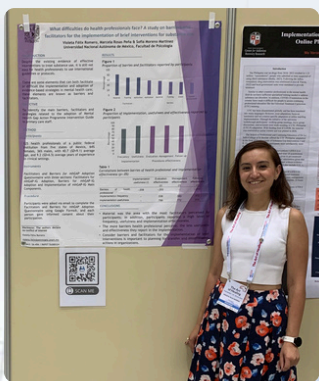
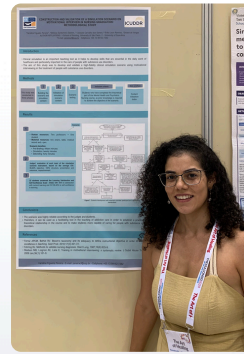
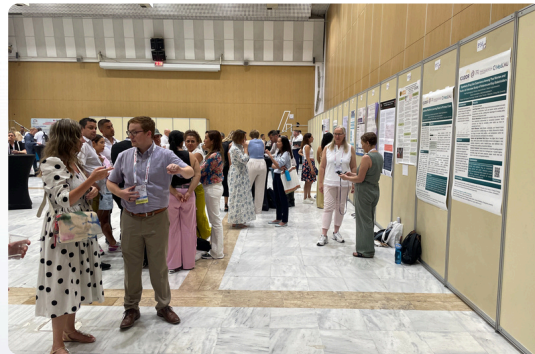
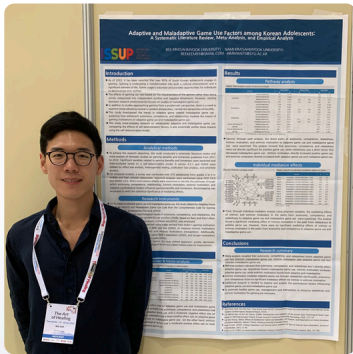
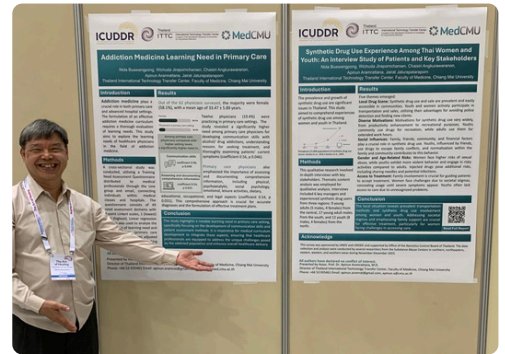
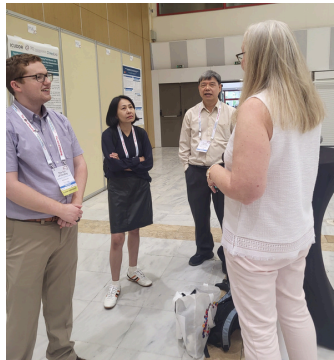
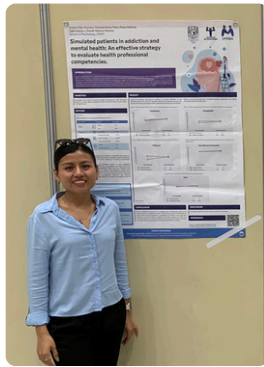
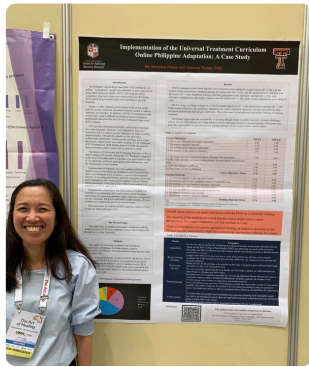
Chair: Dr. Goodman Sibeko. Panel: Dr. Nadine Harker, Dr. Zili Sloboda, Dr. Yatan Pal Singh Balhara, Mr. Michael Botticelli



2024 Global Conference Report



Poster Presentations



2024 Global Conference Report



Closing Ceremony



Closing panel with global Youth Delegates



Doros Dimosthenous

Thank you to everyone who helped support the annual ICUDDR and ISSUP joint Global Conference! We're excited to join with you again in two years!



The Utility of SMS to Support Parents in Their Parenting Journey: Case Study of the Children Immunization App (CIMA) in North West of Cameroon

Dr. Ziad El-Khatib



Children are considered the most important treasure a community can possess, as they are the promise and guarantee for its future. Investing in children's health and personality is considered the seed of the character of future society. The first five years of a child's life are crucial for brain development. Therefore, ensuring positive experiences and responsive relationships, as well as complete vaccination, would contribute to the children's development. Yet, it is estimated that less than 470 million children are living in war-related zones, which can be disruptive for families and healthcare systems. Therefore, there is a need to support parents, children, and healthcare providers in educating parents on parenting and vaccination benefits and reminding them of their children's vaccination appointments.

The Children Immunization App (CIMA) was initiated in Jordan, followed by Cameroon, Lebanon, and Rwanda to support parents during the first two years of their newborns' lives.

In this article, we discuss the project in the context of Cameroon. In the face of escalating violence in the North West region of Cameroon, the role of supportive parenting during their life transition into parenting is more crucial than ever. Leveraging technology, specifically Short Message Service (SMS), can

provide an innovative, accessible, and effective way to support parents. Drawing on resources from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). This article explores how SMS can enhance parenting skills and provide timely support.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, University of Yaounde 1, we have recruited over 1,000 families to newborns with the following objectives: 1) deliver parenting education messages using SMS on a bi-weekly basis; 2) send automated SMS reminders for the vaccination schedules; and 3) provide a visualized dashboard on the vaccination uptake. Each month of a baby's age is considered a new milestone for their brain development as well as for their immune system. Therefore, parents need to be informed about these changes so that they can adjust and understand how to support their babies. To address this need, we have designed SMS notifications to match the health education needs corresponding to each milestone in the baby's age.

The upsurge in violence in North West Cameroon has led to increased stress and uncertainty among families. Traditional support systems are disrupted, making it difficult for parents to access the guidance they need. SMS offers a direct, low-cost way to reach parents, providing them with reliable information and support.

The UNODC and UNICEF provide a wealth of evidence-based parenting tips that can be adapted for SMS delivery. For example, the UNODC's guidelines on positive parenting emphasize the importance of consistent routines and positive reinforcement, which can be effectively communicated through short, digestible messages. Similarly, UNICEF's parenting tips focus on emotional support and resilience-building, critical components during times of conflict.

Practical implementation – learning from the field:

- 1. Content curation:** Messages should be concise, relevant, and culturally sensitive. Content from UNODC and UNICEF can be tailored to address the specific challenges parents face in North West Cameroon.
- 2. Contributor engagement:** Collaboration with local stakeholders is essential to ensure the messages are well-received and impactful.
- 3. Review process:** To maintain the integrity of the information, all SMS content should be reviewed by experts.

Potentials

The provision of tips and motivational messages help parents to foster a nurturing environment for their children amidst ongoing conflict. Encouraging interaction is key to the success of the SMS program. In the future, parents should be able to respond to messages with questions or feedback, creating a two-way communication channel. This can be facilitated through partnerships with local mobile networks and community organizations. Parents have the option to opt-out at any time.

Conclusion

By utilizing SMS technology, we can provide vital support to parents in North West Cameroon during these turbulent times. Drawing on the resources of UNODC and UNICEF ensures that the content is reliable and evidence-based, while local partnerships help tailor the messages to the community's needs. This innovative approach not only supports individual families but also contributes to broader efforts in promoting stability and resilience in conflict-affected regions.

Dr. Ziad El-Khatib

Associate Professor

Department of Global Public Health,
Karolinska Institute, Vienna

UNODC; Family skills; <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/prevention/prevention-through-family-skills.html>

Ziad El-Khatib; Innovative approach for smartphone applications to share trustworthy information on parenting and family skills – the scaling of Children Immunization App (CIMA) in Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa; <https://www.issup.net/knowledge-share/resources/2022-06/innovative-approach-smartphone-applications-share-trustworthy>

Khader Y et.al.; Scaling the Children Immunization App (CIMA) to Support Child Refugees and Parents in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Social Capital Approach to Scale a Smartphone Application in Zaatari Camp, Jordan; J Epid Global Health; <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44197-021-00029-x>

July Review: Education & Trainings

Part 5 of the Pharmacology Series:

K2/Spice: Learning About Synthetic Cannabinoids

On July 15th, Andrew Kurtz gave an insightful presentation on synthetic cannabinoids, including K2 and Spice. During the presentation, he went over the basics of those drugs, described the drugs' effects, and discussed screening tools.

[If you were not able to attend, you can view the recording here](#)



Regional Activities

International Congress of Psychology in Prague

ICUDDR was invited for a special symposium for the International Congress of Psychology in Prague held July 21 – 26, 2024.

Regional representatives and board members from Africa and Europe were able to prepare and present a special symposium called: **New horizons in addiction university education participating on a global platform ICUDDR: European and African partnership.**

Many thanks to Prof. Tarek Abdelgawad, Dr. Rehana Kader, Prof. Beatrice Kathungu and Prof. Michal Miovský for their work at the International Congress.



ITTC Update

Job well done to the ITTCs at the ICUDDR conference in Greece!

Thank you to the ITTCs for their presentations at The Art of Healing Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the impactful work that ITTCs are doing globally.

The three panels focused on **“Systems Change and the Role of the University through the Lens of the ITTC Network”** with insightful presentations from the Colombia, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Ukraine, and Vietnam ITTCs.

Please join us in congratulating them on their hard work. We eagerly anticipate the outcomes of their initiatives in their countries.



Connect with the ITTC's Network Coordinating Office

The International Technology Transfer Center (ITTC) Network for Drug Demand Reduction develops and strengthens the workforce, organizations, and systems that provide substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. Based in universities and research centers, ITTCs utilize a variety of strategies to accelerate the use of scientifically-based and culturally appropriate practices.

The ITTC Network Coordinating Office based at the University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC) works in partnership with the International Consortium of Universities on Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) to unite the Centers into a mutually supportive network. Some benefits of being an ITTC are the connections to a strong network of drug demand reduction experts and the opportunity to collaborate closely with professionals around the world. The ITTC Network provides ongoing development opportunities for its members through various modalities.

www.ittcnetwork.org



ITTC

GCCC Commission Meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece

The ICUDDR-Global Centre for Credentialing & Certification (GCCC) held its Commission Meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, from June 24th to 25th, 2024 prior to the Art of Healing Conference co-hosted by ICUDDR & ISSUP.

This ninth annual commission meeting brought together commissioners from fifteen countries to discuss and advance the standards of credentialing and certification. Mr. Kevin Boyd facilitated the meeting along with Dr. Kevin Mulvey, ICUDDR Executive Director, the new ICUDDR-GCCC Associate Director Dr. Carmel Clancy and Acting Chairperson Dr. Prapapan Chuchareon from Thailand.

Key highlights of the meeting included:

- **Strategic Discussions:** Focused on informing the commissioners of the continued transition of GCCC to ICUDDR, enhancing commissioner orientation and communication, ensuring that all members are well-informed and aligned with GCCC's mission and goals.
- **Report Outs:** Featured discussion from the commissioners where each gave a report-out updating the group of the status of their country in regards to where they are on the government progression scale for credentialing.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Facilitated connections among professionals, fostering collaboration and the exchange of best practices within the field.

The meeting underscored GCCC's commitment to maintaining high standards and continuous improvement in credentialing and certification processes. The vibrant city of Thessaloniki provided a perfect backdrop for these productive discussions and engagements.

GCCC also provided the opportunity for conference participants to apply/sit for the ICAP examination on Saturday, June 29, 2024 following the conference. Six candidates sat for the examination for the levels of ICAP-Treatment Levels I, II & III and ICAP-Prevention.



Things to Share

Invitation to Publish

We invite ICUDDR members to submit their research for publication in **The Journal of Clinical Counseling and Health Psychology** (*ISSN 2833-3713, 2020; US Library of Congress*).

The ACSH administers a scientific journal and accepts submissions in various topics including substance use, psychology, sociology, demography, gerontology, human development, and related fields. The editor Dr. Wickarama is an ICUDDR member.

The journal is published biannually and collects no fees for submissions. For more information go to <https://www.s-r-i.net/journal/> and email inquiries to acsh.campus@gmail.com.

If you want your journal information to be disseminated by ICUDDR, please email felipev@icuddr.org.

SAMHSA Prevention Day 2025: Call for Abstracts is Now Open!

Abstract Submission Deadline: September 4, 11:59 p.m. ET

Submit your abstract for SAMHSA's Prevention Day (February 3, 2025):
"Telling the Prevention Story."

This national event brings together 4,000 people to advance substance use prevention.

Share your compelling story – the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from your substance use prevention strategy, policy, program, practice, or research:

- Preventing initiation of substance use
- Preventing progression of substance use
- Preventing harms associated with substance use



[Submit your Abstract here](#)

Due: September 4 @ 11:59 pm EST



DID YOU KNOW?

ICUDDR has 350+ resources in its collection of journal articles, curricula, brochures, tools, webinars and more. The list can be filtered by resource type and/or topic.

[Visit our resource webpage](#)

New Journal Article

Global Addiction University Education: a Survey of Members of International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)

ICUDDR is excited to share this recent publication written by Dr. Amalie Lososová, Carly M. Searcy, Ondřej Volf, Anna Volfová, Kevin P. Mulvey & Michal Miovský

If you would like assistance with accessing the article, please email searcy@icuddr.org.

To all who took our ICUDDR Member Survey, your valuable input made this research possible. We thank you for your participation.

[Click here to read the article](#)



Students' Experience with the Online Course in Prevention Science in Two Distinct University Settings: A Pilot Study

GABRHELÍK, R., PINCHUK, I., CHUMAK, S., PIMENOVA, N., SALAZAR, F., MIOVSKÝ, M., HORALEK, H., LUKAVSKÁ, K.

This pilot study aimed to assess students' experiences with a comprehensive online course on prevention, the Introduction to Evidence-based Prevention (INEP) online course. Charles University, Czech Republic, and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine, used a convenience sample to recruit students from different academic backgrounds. Students' perception of relevance content, course structures, and overall satisfaction were measured using a Likert scale questionnaire.

The INEP course received a high satisfaction rating from both Czech and Ukrainian university students. Positive feedback was received on accessibility, quality, and effectiveness of education and training. The courses successfully met educational needs and provided a valuable learning experience, with 82% of students encouraged to take more E-learning courses.

[Click here to read the article](#)



Do you want to join the ICUDDR Consultant Registry?

If you have expertise to share and are interested in consulting opportunities with ICUDDR, please complete our short form at:

<https://forms.gle/PqKXK1jnE2heXikKA>

Call for Teaching Manual Resources

Do you have course materials including syllabi, assignments, and worksheets that you'd be willing to share? Submit your materials for review and potential compilation into a resource manual for members by course.

Send them to info@icuddr.org

Did you publish a journal article?

**Did you publish a journal article in the field of
Prevention, Treatment, or Recovery?**

If you published an article in an addiction medicine or substance use disorder journal, please share it with us by emailing it to Info@icuddr.org.

We will help promote your work.

Connect with ICUDDR



info@icuddr.org



www.icuddr.org

