



Call for Participation

FENIQS EU: Implementation of quality standards in drug demand and harm reduction

We are calling Civil Society Organizations from the areas of prevention, treatment / social reintegration and harm reduction, to apply for a guided and supported training to implement quality standards in drug demand reduction.

Background

In Europe, the issue of quality of drug demand and harm reduction services is anchored in Article 168 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), which stipulates that **all EU policies should aim to improve public health and ensure a high level of health protection**. It is also highlighted in the EU drug policy documents: [The EU Drug Strategy 2013-2020](#) and [EU Action Plans on Drugs 2013-2016](#) and [2017-2020](#), and [EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025](#).

Achieving high quality of services is not an easy task. The process through which the improvement of quality is realised is called **quality assurance** and involves continuous **monitoring** of services; **evaluation**; **identification of challenges** in service delivery and development of interventions to mitigate them; and **monitoring of effectiveness**. In the context of drug demand reduction services, quality assurance focus on the effectiveness, that is, the degree to which applied interventions result in outcome improvement ([European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2021](#)). To support services' staff and management in improving quality in drug demand reduction, various professional organisations, international bodies (like the EU and the UN), and experts have developed, over the last years, a range of manuals, **best practice collections, guidelines, and quality standards**.

FENIQS EU: Further Enhancing the Implementation of quality standards in drug demand reduction across Europe project aims to enhance implementation of quality standards in drug prevention, treatment and harm reduction throughout the EU, with more services, organisations and countries applying quality standards in daily practice.

The training

Within the FENIQS EU project, we will train and provide guidance to nine service providers in the areas of drug prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. The 1-day training will be based on the Quality Standards Implementation Toolkit prepared within the project, and delivered in locations of participant organisations. It will provide a general introduction to quality standards, and guide service providers through the steps necessary for their implementation. It will address issues like diagnosis and needs assessment, goals of quality standards implementation, choosing the standards to be applied, evaluating the services and quality standards, communication, and sustainability. Possible challenges that may be encountered at each of the steps will be also addressed.



The training will be followed by a 12-weeks validation phase (February-April 2023), when selected organisations will field-test the Quality Standards Implementation Toolkit and assess its value and usefulness for the service providers to implement quality standards. This phase will also include regular online consultations with the project experts and guidance to facilitate the process. **We do not expect participating organisations to implement new quality standards per se but to evaluate the training and the Toolkit.** This will allow us to collect feedback for the Toolkit improvement.

The entire process involves the following steps and time/commitment requirements:

1. Successful application (selection for the project)
2. Training with selected service/intervention providers (1 day)
3. Field testing in February – April, including dedicated monthly online calls (3x1 hour, 2 days for assessing the Toolkit)
4. Focus Group Discussion at the end of the field-testing period (2 hours)

The participants' profile

The training is addressed to service providers working in the areas of drug prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. We are looking for **committed organisations** able to dedicate time and resources (as indicated above) to participate in the training and subsequent consultations, and willing and committed to assess the Toolkit and provide feedback. We are looking for organisations that **have not yet started implementing quality standards, are at the very beginning of the implementation process, or already have some experience with quality standards implementation and would like to develop it further.**

The organisations selected for the project should also be able to offer a room where the training can take place (costs related to the trainers' travel and accommodation are covered by the project).

Three organisations will be selected in treatment, harm reduction, and prevention areas, based on their commitment and availability, level of implementing quality standards (if any), and taking into consideration geographical diversity within the EU.

Staff delegated to the training and the quality standards implementation should include both the management and frontline workers who are required to speak and write English fluently.

Training dates and venue

The training sessions will be organised in January 2023 in the locations of selected service and intervention providers.

Application process

- Applications need to be sent via [Survey Monkey](#)
- Applications need to be submitted until 31st December 2022
- The final selection of participants will be made until 15 January 2023.