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United Nations
Interregional Crime and Justice
Research Institute

Annex A

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title	Italian Scientific Community on Addiction (ISCA)
Geographical Scope (<i>refers to the countries or regions where the project will be implemented</i>)	Italy, Mediterranean Countries
Duration	16 months
Total Budget	EUR 370,000.00

Partner Organisations:

Italian Ministry of Health
National Coordination Centre for NIDA Collaboration

Brief Description

This project is a follow up and consolidation of the Italian Scientific Community on Addiction 2010-2011. Its main objective is to support the work of drug abuse professionals, policy makers and researchers through a series of actions and tools: 1) the management of a clearinghouse with the publication of reviews from selected scientific literature; 2) the publishing of a specialised journal on drug addiction 3) the implementation of international collaborations for the exchange of best practices and research innovation. The activities shall be carried out through a website portal. The target countries are the Italy and the Mediterranean Countries.

The project also envisages activities in collaboration with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse.

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1. Situation Analysis

1.1 The Problem

Addiction and related phenomena constitute a major social and health concern for many Member States, with consistent financial resources employed and many millions of lives lost to fight and control its spread. Following to the 1998 UNGASS Political Declaration and its recent evaluation within the CND, European Union Member States have adopted an Action Plan on Drugs, for the period 2009-2012, which highlights the difficulties that each Member State is facing in the implementation of the objectives set in the Political Declaration, as well as a renewed effort to increase the commitment to fight addictions and related problems at all levels and through a better coordination with international organizations and bodies and based on the UN Conventions on Drugs, which are the main legal instruments to address the world drug problem.

Within this framework, the Italian Government, through its Department for Antidrug Policy at the Council of the Ministers, sought, in 2009, the collaboration of UNICRI to implement an information tool based on a website, to collect, select and diffuse the most effective, evidence-based scientific documentation and best practices on the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction and related phenomena to professionals and researchers in Italy.

Following to the approval of the National Plan to Combat Drugs of the Italian Government, in order to further assist the professional community of experts in confronting the drug problem and in implementing the plan, the Department requested UNICRI's support to continue the project in 2012. The main objective will still remain the updating of professionals working in the field, through the provision of documentation via the dedicated website.

In addition the project will try to reach out to other Mediterranean countries interested in adopting a health-oriented approach to drug dependence, by offering professionals the possibility to consider treatment as an alternative to criminal justice sanctions.

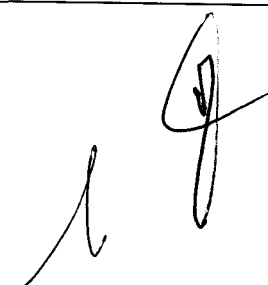
The intervention also aims to ameliorate national professional practices and to create an information platform that can become a forum for the exchange of information and experiences. The project also aims at creating collaborations with international experts, in particular with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse.

1.2 Justification

UNICRI has been involved for many years in projects which aim to ameliorate the knowledge and the sharing of information and experiences on drug abuse and related problems.

This project is part of a broader institutional communication programme of the Italian Government, aimed at providing evidence-based scientific information to professionals, experts and researchers.

UNICRI's role is essential to guarantee the international scope of the project's knowledge base and to enlarge the geographical focus of the project by reaching out to the international arena.



1.3 Target Groups

The Italian Scientific Community on Addiction portal was created to meet the professionals' request for updated and evidence-based information on national and international documentation on drugs and related problems.

Also for this project, professionals and researchers working in the field are the target groups, with the aim to become the information focal point for the Mediterranean area to improve knowledge and to share experiences on the best practices in the fight against drugs.

2. Project Description

This project is a follow up and consolidation of the Italian Scientific Community on Addiction project (2010-2011).

Its main objective is providing support to the work of drug abuse professionals, policy makers and researchers through a series of outputs: 1) the management of a clearinghouse with the publication of reviews from selected scientific literature; 2) the publishing of a specialised journal on drug addiction 3) the implementation of international collaborations for the exchange of best practices and research innovation.

The activities shall be carried out through a website portal.

The project also envisages activities in collaboration with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse.

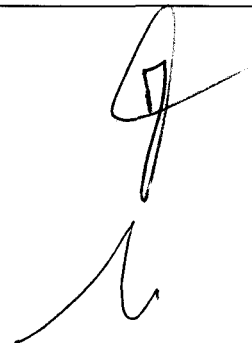
The ultimate scope of the project is to build a community network of experts to support the activity of documentation diffusion and information sharing among professionals.

3. Objectives, Activities and Outputs

3.1 Project Objective:

The Italian Scientific Community on Addiction project aims to create a community network of professionals, researchers and policy makers that can create a knowledge driven environment to facilitate the exchange of information, best practices and experiences in order to better and more efficiently translate the results of research into practice. The project's general objectives are:

- Facilitate the adoption of new modalities for accessing and sharing information and knowledge among experts and professionals working in the field, also through the use of information technology;
- Consolidate the network of scientific experts and professionals to support the activities of documentation diffusion;
- Regularly disseminate the guidance, the national and international guidelines, strategies and the most recent national and international scientific updates related to the drug problem to professionals, researchers and policy makers in the field;
- Offer evidence-based information, with the aim to promote the best professional practices also through the creation of interest groups and professional gatherings within the scientific environment;
- Promote the networking at the international level and the comparison between different national professional practices.



The project finds its inspiration and foundation in a translational vision of care for drug dependence, that goes beyond the evidence-based approach and finds its base in the integration among different disciplines such as behavioural and social sciences, neurosciences, health service management, outcome evaluation and, last but not least, bioethics.

This integrated approach aims to facilitate the dialogue among the different disciplines, by removing barriers to multi-disciplinary collaboration, with the aim to translate, in the most efficient and effective ways, the discoveries of research into practice, and drive the advancement of applied research. This aims to optimize the treatment and care of drug dependent patients, without being limited to the offer for health services, but taking into account the social, cultural and economic settings where the treatment intervention is carried out.

In order to more effectively support at the technical and scientific level the project implementation, the National Coordination Centre for NIDA Collaboration (of the Department for Drug Dependence of the Health Dept. 20 of Verona) has been identified as a collaborating centre to assist UNICRI in the implementation of the various activities and in particular in the promotion of the collaboration with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Furthermore, this national Coordination Center will provide, with the support of UNICRI, to coordinate ISCA organization and management, and general methodological and scientific aspects of its activities.

3.2 Outputs:

This project has several outputs, because of the number of general and specific objectives that it is composed of:

- The establishment of a scientific interest group, composed by professionals, researchers and policy makers working in the field;
- The weekly updating of the website Drog@news, through the production of reviews based on the selection of the international scientific literature and the consultation of bibliographical references;
- The publication of a monthly newsletter containing all the reviews prepared over one month and the selected scientific material published on the Drog@news website;
- The publication of a specialised peer-reviewed journal;
- The creation of international collaboration expert groups with the aim to exchange experiences and professional practices.

3.3 Activities:

The project activities are listed below and presented with specific indicators, which will be used to verify the completion of each activity.

1.1 To promote and generate consensus around the policy and best practices adopted by the Member States within the framework of the UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs, in order to apply the best practices and research innovation identified at the national and international level.

1.2 To update the programme.



<p>1.3 To update the website.</p> <p>1.4 To obtain a number of new registered users.</p>
<p>2.1 To collect, analyse and select articles from the international scientific literature.</p> <p>2.2 To prepare weekly reviews based on selection from the international scientific literature.</p> <p>2.3 To produce newsletters.</p> <p>2.4 To forward them to registered users.</p> <p>2.5 To increase the number of registered users.</p> <p>2.6 To manage web portal.</p>
<p>3.1 To involve experts in the preparation of the journal.</p> <p>3.2 To manage the Journal Scientific Board.</p> <p>3.3 To promote the journal via the internet.</p> <p>3.4 To identify original articles for publication on journal.</p> <p>3.5 To publish online copy of the journal.</p> <p>3.6 To diffuse the journal via the internet and to registered users.</p> <p>3.7 To update the webpages.</p>
<p>4.1 To promote and support the network of professionals</p> <p>4.2 To involve professionals</p> <p>4.3 to organize meetings</p>

3.4 Inputs:

The Department for Antidrug Policies provides for the funding and shall provide for the general line of action in collaboration with UNICRI. The Department shall also review and approve the implementation of the project through both the activity and the financial reports, which UNICRI shall provide to the Department, as indicated in the project.

UNICRI shall be responsible for the management of the funding and for the coordination of the project activities. UNICRI shall be part of the national technical and scientific working group. A UNICRI project manager will be in charge of coordinating, supervising and implementing the project activities. A team of contractors shall be responsible for preparing the information reviews. A network of experts shall be responsible of the scientific supervision of the collection and selection process of the review and for the preparation of the newsletter, a technician shall be hired as a contractor to manage the websites. UNICRI will guarantee its administrative support for the management of specific aspects of the project (administration, finance, IT services, library, communication and advocacy, human resources, and so on).

The Technical and Scientific Coordinating Working Group will be responsible for the coordination and reviewing of the regular implementation of the project activities. This group, under the supervision of the Department and UNICRI, will be in charge of monitoring the

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activities related to the implementation of the website, the coordination of the several working teams and it will be in charge of monitoring the published contents.

In order to more effectively support at the technical and scientific level the project implementation, the Department for Drug Dependence of the Health Dept. 20 of Verona has been identified as a collaborating centre to assist UNICRI and the Department for Antidrug Policies in the implementation of the various activities and in particular in the promotion and management of the collaboration with the US National Institute on Drug Abuse and (in collaboration with other Research Centres in the field of neuroscience, addiction and related pathologies) the ISCA activities.

3.5 Funding Agency: The Department shall provide for working spaces, some dedicated staff and relevant technology (computers, printers, IT services) for the implementation of the activities, as an in-kind contribution.

Output	Activity	Input	Indicators
1. To promote the scientific interest group composed by professionals working in the field	<p>1.1 to promote and generate consensus around the policy and best practices adopted by the Member States within the framework of the UN Conventions on Narcotic Drugs , in order to apply the best practices and research innovation identified at the national and international level.</p> <p>1.2 To update the programme.</p> <p>1.3 To update the website.</p> <p>1.4 To obtain a number of new registered users.</p>	UNICRI staff, collaborating centre and consultants	<p>1 webpage</p> <p>50 new affiliates</p> <p>2 advocacy activity</p>
2. Publication of a monthly newsletter containing all the reviews prepared and the selected scientific material from the DROG@NEWS information portal	<p>2.1 To collect, analyse and select articles from the international scientific literature.</p> <p>2.2 To prepare weekly reviews based on selection from the international scientific literature.</p> <p>2.3 To produce newsletters.</p> <p>2.4 To forward them to registered users.</p> <p>2.5 To increase the number of registered users.</p> <p>2.6 To manage web portal.</p>	<p>6 contractors for 16 months</p> <p>1 contractor for Library assistance/ subscriptions to scientific journals and databases</p> <p>10 experts from the Scientific Group</p>	<p>40 bibliographical sources to be monitored</p> <p>1 reviews/week to be prepared for 8 sections</p> <p>16 newsletters to be issued 2000 mailings per months</p> <p>50 new registered users</p>
3. To publish a peer-reviewed scientific journal in the	<p>3.1 To involve experts in the preparation of the journal.</p> <p>3.2 To manage the Journal Scientific Board.</p>	<p>1 consultant for 16 months</p> <p>8 experts from the</p>	2 advocacy activities

field of addiction and related phenomena.	3.3 To promote the journal via the internet. 3.4 To identify original articles for publication on journal. 3.5 To publish online copy of the journal. 3.6 To diffuse the journal via internet and to registered users. 3.7 To update the webpages.	Editorial Board	3 to 5 original articles per issue 4 issues per year 2000 mailings per month 1 webpage
4. To create and support international collaboration groups and exchange of experiences and professional practices with particular regard to the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East	4.1 To promote and support the network of professionals 4.2 To involve professionals 4.3 to organize meetings	UNICRI staff, collaborating centre and consultants	Participation to at least 3 meetings

4. Project Management Mechanisms and Structures

UNICRI shall be directly responsible for the management of the project and of its funding. UNICRI shall carry out the activities of the project and shall report to the Donor the progress of activities and the financial report within 30 days from the end of the first 8 months of activity. At the end of the project, a final report shall be forwarded to the Donor within 30 days from the end of the agreement. The finance Unit of UNICRI will support the project manager during the implementation of the project.

5. Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The Agreement signed between UNICRI and the Department contains specific instruction on reporting and evaluation.

In particular, UNICRI should provide a report on project activities after 8 months and a final report on activities and related expenses at the end of the project.

This will ensure transparency of both UNICRI's actions and financial management.

As regards to project evaluation, specific indicators have been identified during the preparation of the Agreement, which will be regularly verified by UNICRI and by the Donor upon receipt of activities reports.

6. Sustainability and Follow-up

This project is based on the reinforcement of a communication strategy that was designed and set up in the previous project and proved successful. Its sustainability shall be measured on the effectiveness of the communication strategy implemented and on the number of end-users that the project shall reach.

7. Project Budget

Class Code	Description	Budget Line
301	Post controlled by staffing table	60.000.00
304	Consultants and expert groups	66.500.00
305	Personnel related costs	120.000.00
308	Travel of staff	4.000.00
317	Communications	6.934.00
318	Library Books	20.000.00
321	Fellowships and grants	50,000.00
382	Programme support cost (13%)	42.566.42
TOTAL		370,000.00


Budget Code	Description
301: Project Implementation	Management and coordination of activities (UNICRI Personnel)
304: Scientific Community, international collaborations and Italian Journal on Addiction	Scientific Consultancies, including selection and preparation of scientific documentation
304, 308, 321: Scientific Community, international collaborations and Italian Journal on Addiction	Advocacy activities, organization and participation to meetings and events, international collaborations for sharing best practices
305: Drog@news portal, newsletters and journal preparation	Editorial assistance for the preparation of reviews from selection of international literature and preparation of drog@news newsletter.
317: Communications	Circulation, diffusion and mailing expenses
318: Library support	Acquisition of specialized periodicals and books, access to specialized databases and provision of alert services and desktop delivery
321: Fellowships and grants	Grants, administrative and secretarial support
382: PSC (13%)	Programme Support Cost

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Department for Antidrug Policies, Presidency of the Council of Ministers

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