

# Advocating for Harm Reduction in Europe - the role of a regional network

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*“Power does not reside in institutions,  
not even the state or large  
corporations. It is located in the  
networks that structure society”*

Manuel Castells

# What is a civil society network?



# Functions of Civil Society Networks

- Filter
- Amplifier
- Convenor
- Facilitator
- Community builder
- Investor/Provider

# How can networks influence the policy process?

Stage of policy process	Key ways to influence policy	How networks can help	Functions
Agenda –setting	Convince policymakers that the issue is indeed a problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Marshall evidence to enhance the credibility of the argument</li> <li>•Foster links between researchers, CSOs and policymakers</li> </ul>	<p>Amplifying</p> <p>Convening</p>
Formulation	Communicate detailed evidence to policy makers and work towards building a well informed consensus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Amplify good quality, representative evidence</li> <li>•Collaborate with policymakers</li> <li>•Bypass formal barriers to consensus</li> </ul>	<p>Amplifying</p> <p>Convening</p> <p>Facilitating</p>

Stage of policy process	Key ways to influence policy	How networks can help	Functions
Implementation	Complement government capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Enhance the sustainability and reach of the policy</li> <li>•Acts as a dynamic 'platform for action'</li> </ul>	<p>Investing and amplifying</p> <p>Amplifying, investing, convening, community building, facilitating</p>
Evaluation	Collate high quality evidence and channel it into the continuing policy cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide good quality, representative evidence</li> <li>•Link policymakers to policy end-users</li> </ul>	<p>Filtering, facilitating</p> <p>Convening, amplifying and facilitating</p>
All stages (underlying)	Capacity building for CSOs aiming to influence policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Foster communication</li> <li>•Provide support and encouragement</li> <li>•Coordinate member evaluations</li> </ul>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Community building, facilitating</p>

# Keys to success!

1. Clear Governance
2. Strength in numbers
3. Representativeness
4. Quality of evidence
5. Packaging of evidence
6. Persistence
7. Membership of key individuals
8. Making use of informal links
9. Complementing official structures
10. Good use of ICTs

# Advocating at an EU level

- Using EU law to advocate on a UK level
- Rights based approach
- Collective advocacy



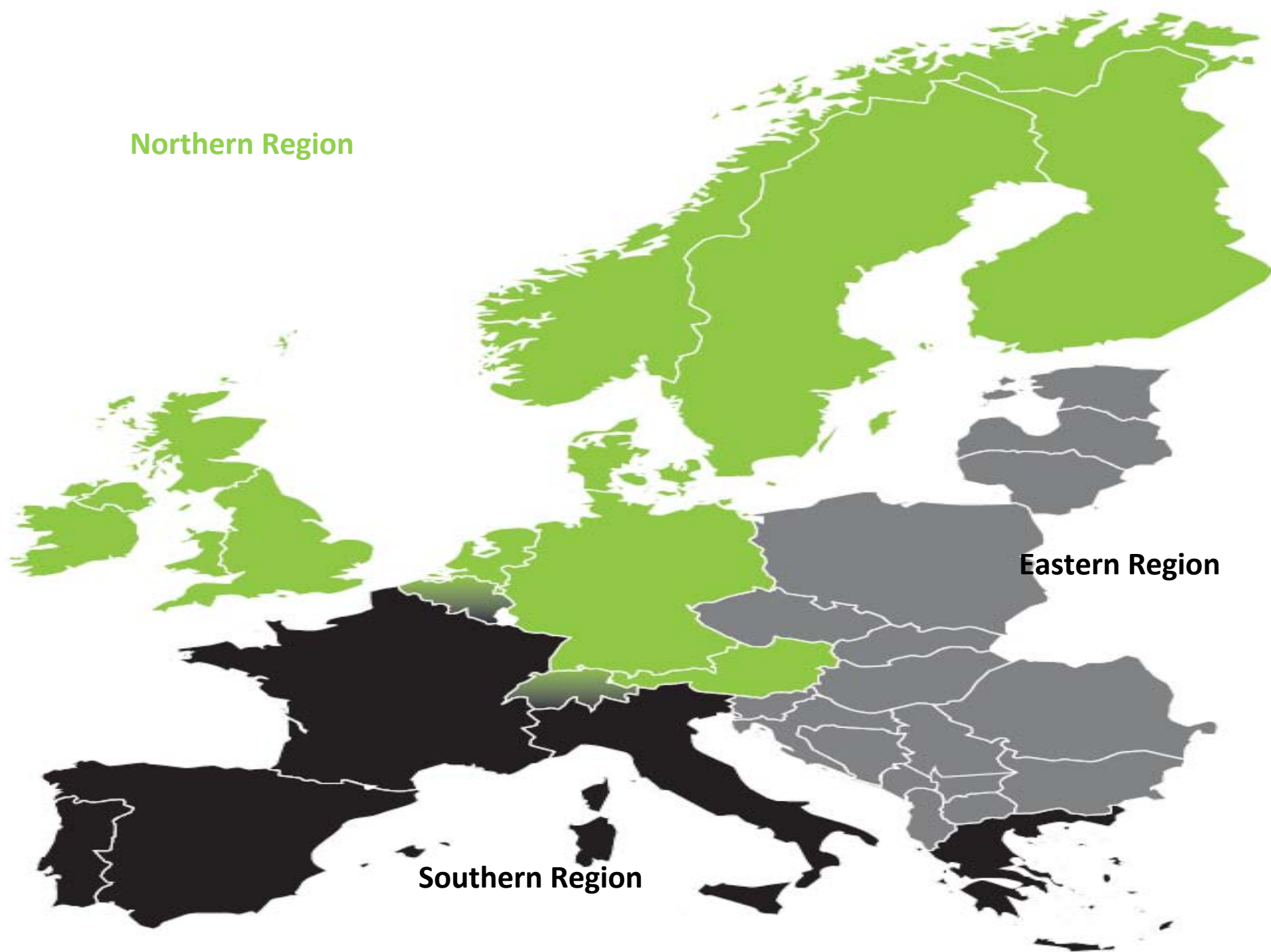
## Mission

*EuroHRN works to reduce the health and social harms related to drugs and the policy environment, by promoting the human rights and health of people who use drugs through collective advocacy, research and information exchange*



- The European Harm Reduction Network (EuroHRN) has been recently formed by ten organisations with a shared interest in advocating for and sharing knowledge on harm reduction within Europe.
- Three sub-regional networks covering North, South and Eastern Europe and managed by a coordinator based at IHRA in the UK.
- North Europe Sub-Regional Network is led by the Foundation De Regenboog Groep (the Netherlands) and Akzept (Germany).
- South Europe Sub-Regional Network is led by APDES (Portugal).
- Eastern Europe Sub-Regional Network is led by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (Lithuania).





**Northern Region**

**Eastern Region**

**Southern Region**

# EUROHRN Aims

European Harm Reduction Network

- Facilitate networking at European, sub-regional and national level.
- Advocate for harm reduction in the European region
- Map the European state of harm reduction and drug user organising in Europe
- Establish and promote models of meaningful participation of people who use drugs and their associations.



**To join**

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**Thank you!**