

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honour and a pleasure to invite you to the 13th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-Related Harm held together with 2nd International Harm Reduction Congress on Women and Drugs.

The conference's main organiser is the IHRA - International Harm Reduction Association. The event will be carried out in association with The Sound of Reflection Foundation and several of the most prominent governmental and non-governmental Slovene organisations in this field.

We greatly appreciate that the International Harm Reduction Association has bestowed on us the honour of organising a five-day interdisciplinary conference with the presentation of practice, drug policy, research and evaluation in all areas of drug use, with clear focus on the reduction of drug-related harm of legal and illegal drugs. Special emphasis will be placed on promoting harm reduction in prevention and abstinence oriented programmes.

We are delighted that so many distinguished world experts, clinicians, researchers and other professionals, members of users' organisations, and others involved in the field have already agreed to attend. We will create every opportunity for lively debate, from plenary and major meetings to small-scale workshops, and from debating sessions to round tables and forum discussions, so we really count on your participation and would be delighted to hear from you — your thoughts, comments, questions, and suggestions, which will be given proper consideration. We would like to find the best possible ways to help meet everyone's expectations and our common goals.

We have done our best to make sure that the very latest ideas and research findings are presented and published in the proceedings as well.

Slovenia's location between Europe's East and West and its diversity - a touch of the Mediterranean, the Alpine peaks and valleys with clear streams and lush forests, the Pannonian plain opening to the East - as well as its cultural heritage and the proverbial hospitality of the people, can likewise contribute appreciably to a successful acceptance and exchange of different views, and perhaps even to opening new horizons.

You may say all of this would be too much to wish for, but we believe everything is possible, if one dares to hold on to a dream and find the right people to work with. We know we can make this event a most useful, enjoyable, and memorable experience for you - so please, do give us a hand.

With best wishes and regards,

Andrej Kastelic, President of the Conference
Tatja Kostnapfel Rihtar, Director of the Conference