



**EUROPEAN ALCOHOL POLICY
CONFERENCE
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ACTION
Barcelona, 3RD-5TH April 2008**

Preventing domestic violence among drug dependents in treatment

Heinrich Geldschläger, Oriol Ginés, Álvaro Ponce

Institut for Social Rehabilitation(IReS), Spain

Lídia Segura, Claudia Fernández, Ester Valls

Programme on Substance Abuse, Health Department of Catalonia, Spain

heinrichg@wanadoo.es

In our presentation we will give a brief overview on an ongoing project to prevent domestic violence among drug dependants in treatment. The project is run by the Programme on Substance Abuse of the Health Department of Catalonia in partnership with the Institute for Social Rehabilitation, an NGO that provides services to address domestic violence, and its main goal is to build the necessary capacities in professionals of alcohol and drug treatment services to address domestic violence.

The need for building this capacity derives from the evidence of a close relationship between problematic alcohol and drug use and domestic violence that has been accumulated both in crime statistics and representative surveys and in research on populations in specialised treatment services for both problems.

Consequently, the WHO proposes that Public Health play a “central role in the prevention of intimate partner violence including addressing its relationships with alcohol use” (WHO, Intimate partner violence and alcohol fact sheet, 2006). Moreover both Spanish and Catalonian regional laws bind Public Health Departments to guarantee the training of health professionals to detect and treat domestic violence.

The main activities carried out by the project have been the following:

- o survey in the 62 alcohol and drug treatment centres in Catalonia on how domestic violence is addressed and on the specific needs for capacity building,
- o development of specific training for professionals in alcohol and drug treatment centres, based on the survey results,
- o development of guidelines for addressing domestic violence in alcohol and drug treatment centres,
- o development of a theoretical model on the relationship between alcohol and drug consumption and domestic violence.