

## Introduction

ISSUP is an international non-government membership organisation providing a focal point for the development of professional competence in the field of prevention, treatment and recovery support. Its focus is to promote high quality, evidence-based and ethical policy and practice.

Throughout the COVID period and with the reduction in "normal" opportunities for communication, learning and sharing, ISSUP has offered a range of "virtual" inputs to help maintain its contribution to the prevention, treatment and recovery support community.

## INEP Training

The Introduction to Evidence-based Prevention (INEP) was written and developed by Charles University (CUNI). INEP Plus is a training initiative from ISSUP to provide facilitators for it to become a facilitated training programme provided by ISSUP National Chapters.



### Description and Figures:

- **INEP** is a **self-led 10 session online Prevention programme** to introduce prevention to new learners
- **INEP Plus** offers trained ISSUP National Chapter **facilitators to support delivery of the INEP content provision**
- The training of facilitators was through **12 weekly 2 hour virtual meetings**
- **2 facilitators from each of 20 National Chapters**
- **Evaluation:** pre and post questionnaire plus evaluation feedback from participants
- **Next step:** National Chapter in-country facilitated courses

### Feedback:

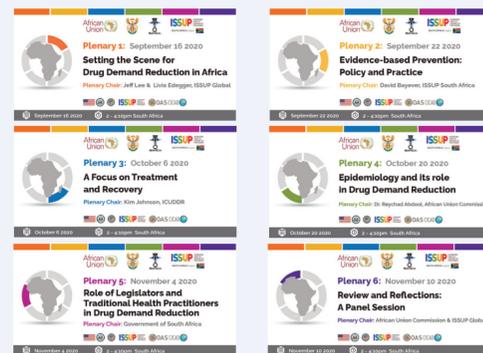
*"I am thankful to have the opportunity to attend this course which changed my point of view regarding prevention as a science."*

*"Thank you for pulling me from my comfort zone and being able to express my thoughts even with the language mistakes."*

*"The course was a great learning curve for me not only professionally but also personally."*

## Africa Conference 2020

The "Drug Demand Reduction in Africa: Prevention, Treatment and Epidemiology" Virtual Conference brought together national and international experts in the field of substance use prevention, treatment, and epidemiology.



### Description and Figures:

- **6 plenary sessions**
- **11,485 registrants**
- **5,054 attendees**
- **117 countries**
- Webinars translation: **4 languages**
- Hosted by: ISSUP South Africa
- Date: September - November 2020

### Feedback:

*"It was a great privilege for me to be part of this plenary and it was a great and educative session."*

*"A fantastic conference. Looking forward to the next ones."*

*"I have no doubt that such professional works (e.g. conferences, training events, etc.) are the ones that will bring about positive changes in behaviour, one of the required elements towards curbing drug craving and abuse."*

## ISSUP Webinars

ISSUP Webinars provide opportunities for those working in substance use prevention, treatment and recovery support to learn and develop through being in direct contact with experts.

ISSUP has worked closely with international organisations, research institutions and the ISSUP National Chapters in order to deliver a programme of webinars that showcases the latest research and practice from around the world.



### Description and Figures:

- **100 webinars** since April 2020
- **26,424 total number of attendees**
- **100 plus countries** engaged
- **Webinars delivered in 12 languages**

### Feedback:

*"Excellent presentation and very informative lessons learnt."*

*"That was a powerful session! We need more of these to create awareness as we help our society."*

*"Thanks again for your efforts bringing the best experts to a very interested community!"*



## The COVID Era Provision: Lessons Learnt



### + Benefits

- + International reach and engagement
- + Barriers to participation removed
- + Cost free
- + Range of issues addressed responding to needs
- + Focussed provision for targeted groups
- + New audiences reached
- + Training / facilitation skills communicated
- + Access to a significant amount of learning material during and post events
- + Usability of virtual platform and interpretation services
- + Collaboration with international organisations
- + Range of international experts contribute

### - Concerns

- No personal interaction
- What is the true level of engagement?
- Quantity or quality debate
- How to progress when issues opened?
- Access to support
- False claims for learning and expertise
- Lack of interactive sessions/networking
- Time limitation: Difficult to provide in-depth discussion
- Continuing education credits not available
- Adequate training and/or follow up and documentation for participants?
- Maintenance of engagement and interest in virtual provision

### Questions as we move forward



- ? Do the benefits of online "virtual" provision outweigh that of "face-to-face" teaching and learning?
- ? What is the evidence-base for best practice in training delivery and achievement?
- ? Do people learn better when working through a curriculum themselves or if led by a teacher / trainer / facilitator?
- ? Do some online formats work better than others?
- ? Where is the line to be drawn between quality and quantity of provision?