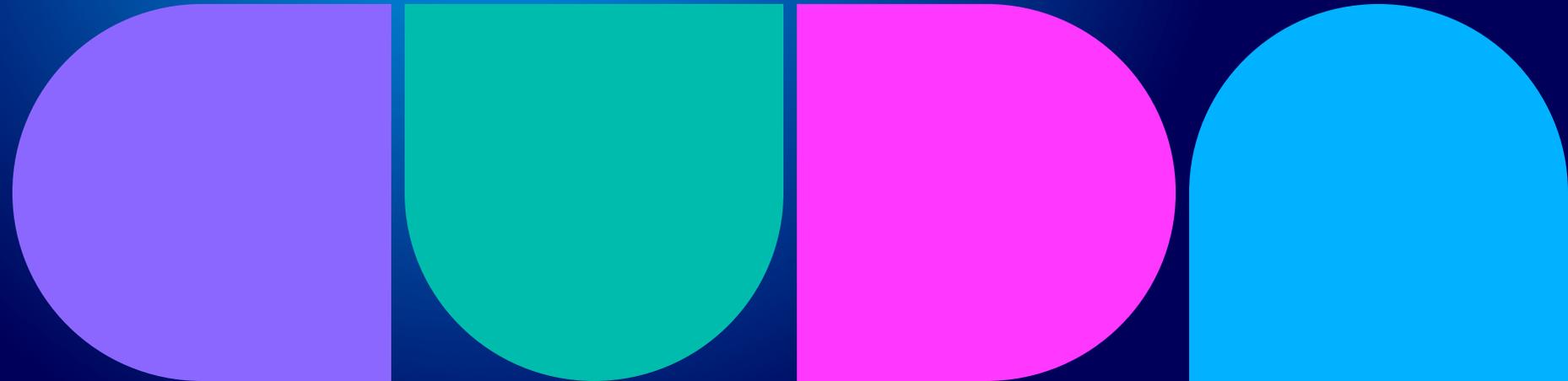


# Crime and Drug Use prevention at EUDA

*Rubén Cano, PhD. Scientific Analyst in Drug Prevention EUDA.*

**ISSUP Webinar:  
Safety Starts Early: Drug  
Use Prevention and  
Violence Prevention as  
Public Security  
Investments**

Online  
19/03/2026



# Today's content

1. European Union Drugs Agency
2. Health and Responses Sector
3. Drug use Prevention: EUDA areas of work
4. Evidence-based prevention for crime prevention
5. Take-home messages



# 1. European Union Drugs Agency



# Mission

Monitor drug trends  
Alert on emerging threats  
Share science-based knowledge  
Learn from people and the society to  
develop robust responses

EUDA – **Acting today, anticipating tomorrow.**



# Values

## Scientific Excellence

- Advancing evidence-based knowledge to underpin sound decision-making and research

## Integrity and Impartiality

- Working professionally, objectively, impartially, independently and transparently

## Customer Focus and Service Orientation

- Anticipating customers' evolving needs and producing timely and tailored material to help anticipate new threats and adopt informed policies

## Efficiency and Sustainability

- Prioritising activities that deliver value, respect cost-effectiveness and promote corporate sustainability

## Human rights and inclusivity (EU drugs strategy)

- Prioritising activities that deliver value, respect cost-effectiveness and promote corporate sustainability



## 2. Health and Social Responses Sector



# Main areas of work

Prevention and health promotion

Treatment

Harm reduction

Social Reintegration

Training and capacity building

Implementation Support

International cooperation

Monitoring

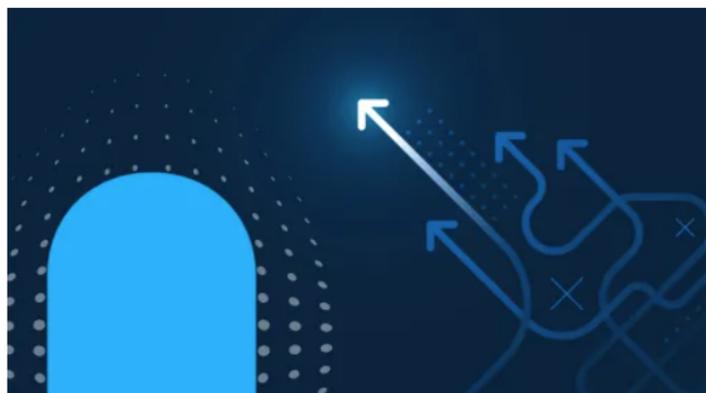
# 3. Drug use Prevention: EUDA areas of work



# Best practice portal

Data ▾ Countries ▾ Topics ▾ **Best practice ▲** Activities ▾ Publications ▾ Events ▾ News ▾ About ▾

## Best practice



The content in this section is aimed at anyone involved in planning, implementing or making decisions about health and social responses.

[Best practice →](#)

## In this section

[Evidence database](#)

[European Prevention Curriculum \(EUPC\)](#)

[Evaluations Instrument Bank \(EIB\)](#)

[Standards and guidelines](#)

[Xchange prevention registry](#)

## Quick links

[Health and social responses to drug problems: a European guide](#)

[Healthy Nightlife Toolkit \(HNT\)](#)

[List of EUPC trainers](#)

[PLATO training platform \(login required\)](#)

[Prevention toolkit](#)

[Subscribe to the 'Best practice' newsletter](#)



[https://www.euda.europa.eu/best-practice\\_en](https://www.euda.europa.eu/best-practice_en)

# Evidence database

Search Terms <input type="text"/>	Evidence rating Beneficial ▼	Desired outcome - Any - ▼
Area - Any - ▼	Substance cannabis ▼	Target group(s) or setting(s) - Any - ▼
<input type="button" value="GO"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	

This database gives you access to the latest evidence on drug-related interventions. The information is based on systematic searches is updated regularly. To get started use the search boxes below. [Click here for more information about the Evidence database \(including methods\)](#).

## List of Evidence Summaries

Title	Area	Substance	Target group(s) or setting(s)	Evidence rating
<a href="#">Ecological family-based treatments to reduce adolescent substance use</a>	Treatment	alcohol, cannabis	families, young people	Beneficial
<a href="#">Multidimensional family therapy (MDFT) on retention in treatment and to reduce use</a>	Treatment	cannabis	families, young people	Beneficial



# X-change (Prevention interventions): Targeting crime

Search for programmes

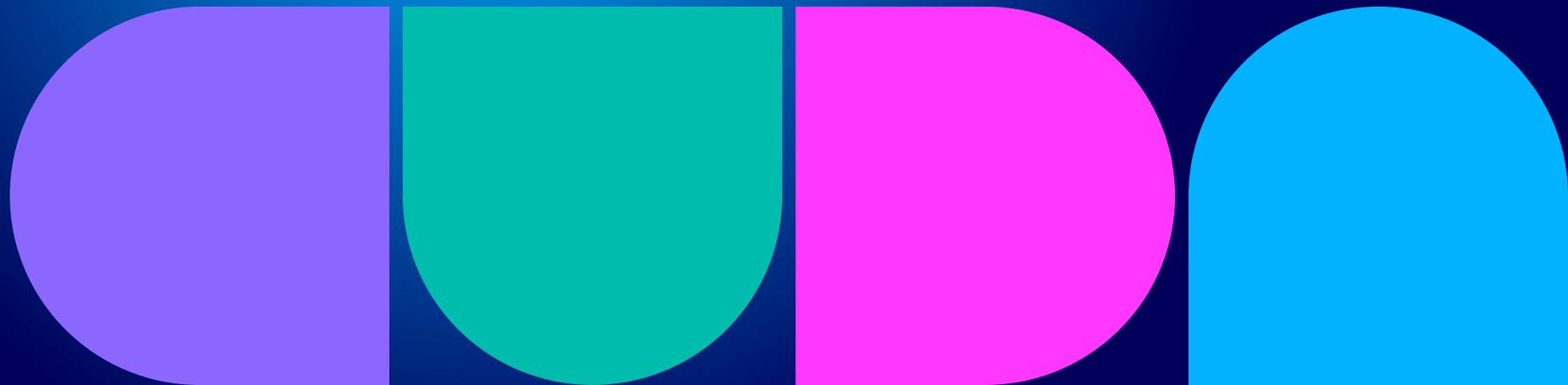
6 levels of ratings  
from beneficial to  
possible harmful

Search  By age group  By setting  By outcomes targeted  By risk factor  Country  Xchange rating

<u>Programme title</u>	Date added	European countries where evaluated	Xchange rating
<a href="#">Coping Power/Utrecht Coping Power (CPP) - an indicated programme for children with disruptive behaviour</a>	18.10.2017	Italy, Netherlands	Beneficial
<a href="#">Functional Family Therapy (FFT) - for delinquent young people and their families</a>	03.01.2023	Netherlands, Ireland, Sweden	Likely to be beneficial
<a href="#">EQUIP - A multi-component cognitive-behavioural programme designed to reduce antisocial behaviour in juvenile offenders</a>	23.10.2018	Belgium, Netherlands, Spain	Likely to be beneficial
<a href="#">Olweus Bullying Prevention Programme - a school-wide programme designed to prevent bullying amongst children</a>	23.10.2018	Ireland, Norway, United Kingdom	Likely to be beneficial



# Training on Prevention





**EUPC**

**Webinars**

**European Drugs  
Winter and  
Summer  
schools**

# European Universal Prevention Curriculum (EUPC)

- Provide decision-makers, opinion leaders, and policymakers with practical expertise and knowledge to support and carry out effective, evidence-based prevention measures across different levels of society
- Aligned with the European Drugs Strategy and the EUDA's mission
- Increasing demand and broader scope



# EUPC content

Epidemiology, substance use and why prevention is important

Language of prevention: from evidence to practice

Evidence-based approaches in prevention

The International Standards for Drug Use Prevention (UNODC/WHO) and the European Drug Prevention Quality Standards (EDPQS)

The European Minimum Quality Standards

School-, community-, workplace- and family-based prevention

Monitoring and evaluation

Media Campaigns

Advocacy, environmental prevention and nightlife interventions

Crime prevention and health promotion (future implementation)



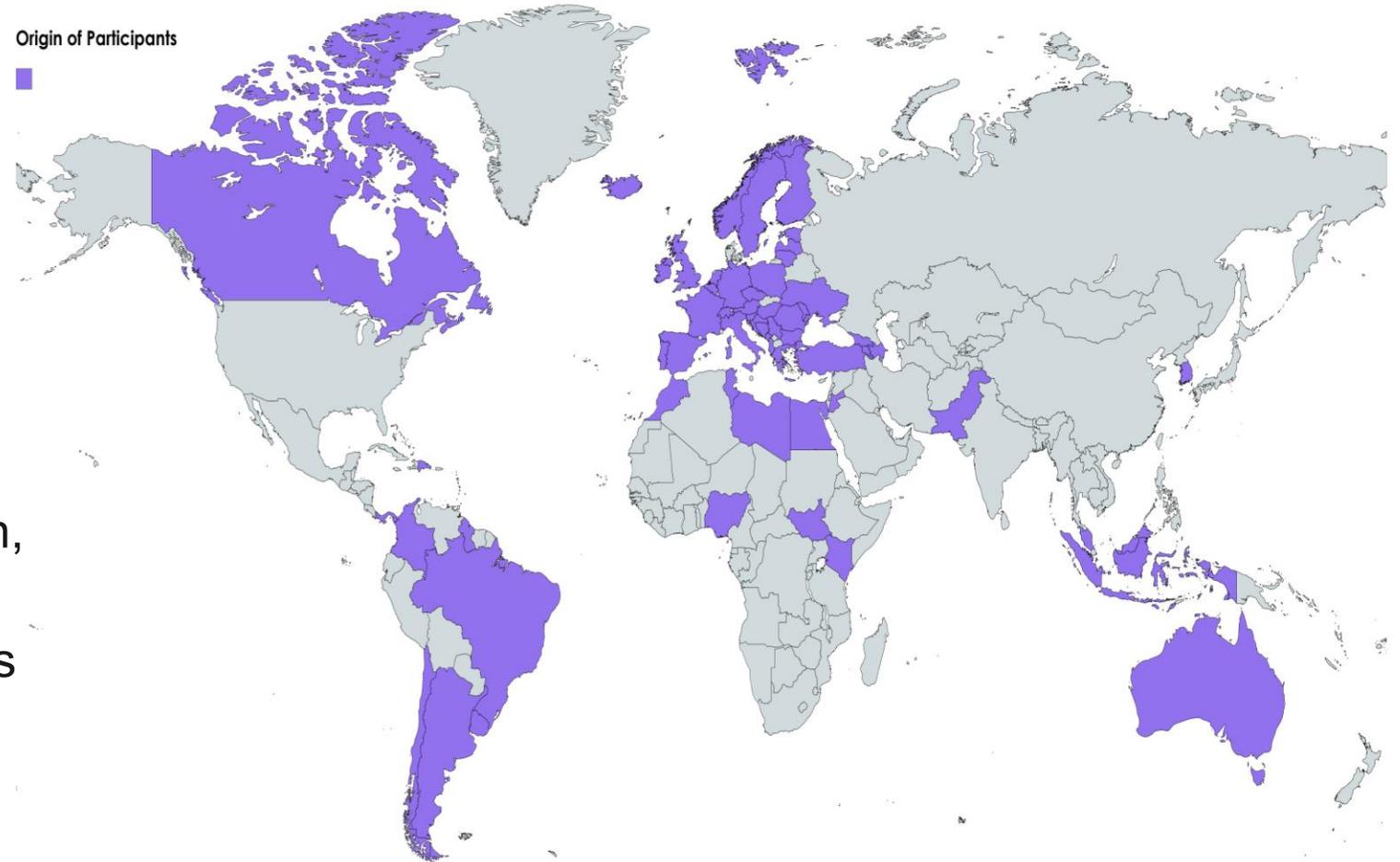
# Key figures of the EUPC

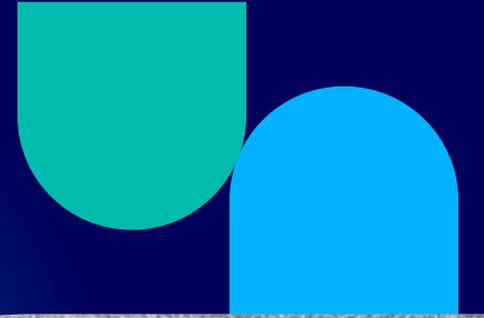


# EUPC– Basic and Advanced

## Driving change since 2021:

- ▶ > 1500 EUPC basic trainees
- ▶ 9 successful Advanced Training
- ▶ Participants representing over 65 countries
- ▶ Experts from prevention, public health, policy, education, research, and project leadership fields
- ▶ More than 100 accredited Trainers to deliver basic and advance courses at European Countries

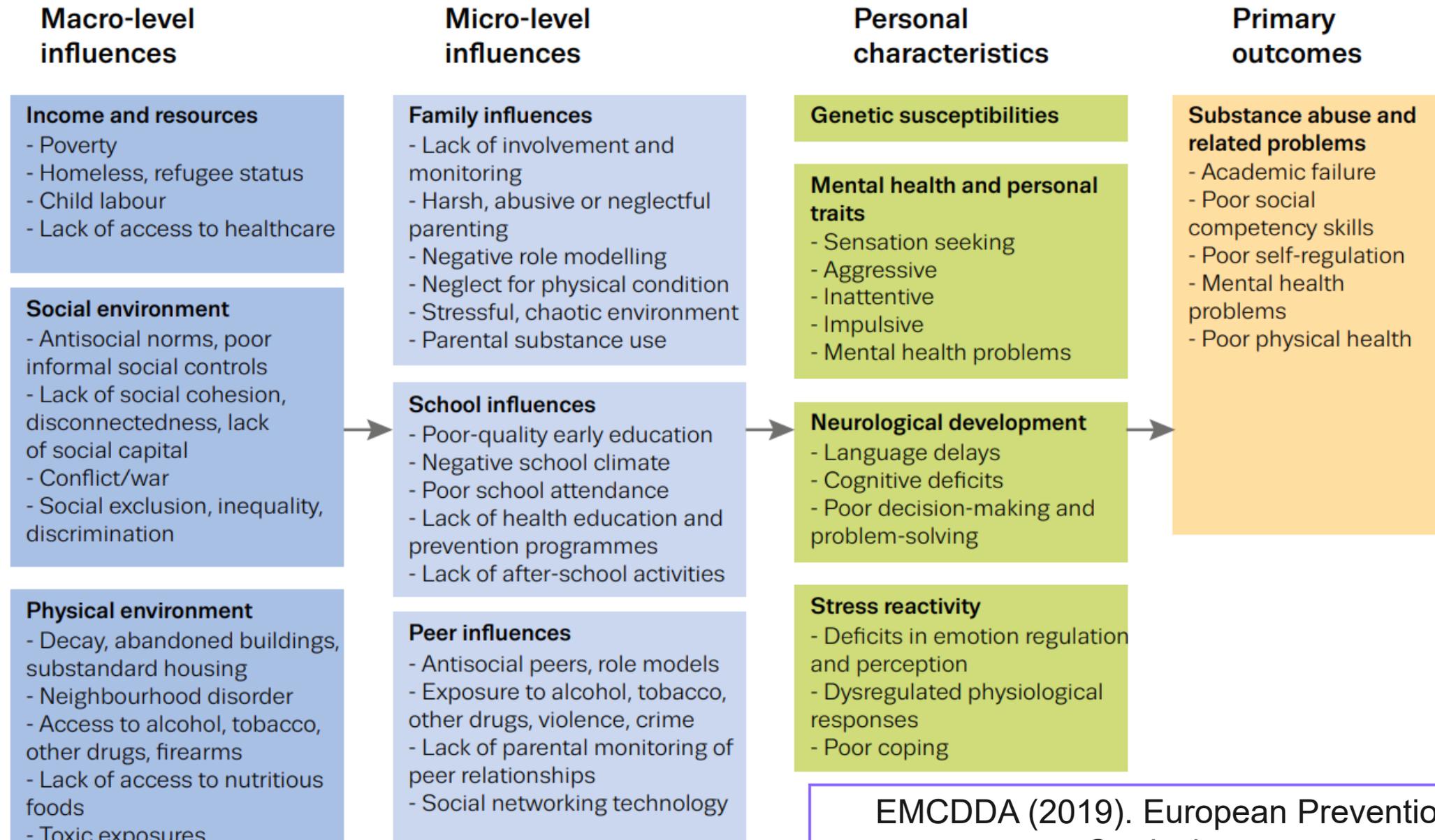




# 4. Evidence-based prevention for crime prevention



## Risk factors that can be addressed by prevention interventions



The background features a blue-tinted scene with a stream of particles or bubbles moving from left to right. On the right side, there is a large, solid purple circle that serves as a backdrop for the text.

***What science said about  
risks and protective  
factors of youth crime?***

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of young people <25**

**Outcome variable (Crime):**  
Behaviours that violate legal statutes and are subject to penalization by the judicial system

**11 strong factors**

**Five domains**

# Risk and protective factors of youth crime and level of evidence from meta-analyses

Domain	Factor	OR (95% CI)	Strength of Evidence
<b>Individual</b>	Low moral development	3.98 (3.57–4.39)	<b>Strong</b>
	Substance use	2.29 (1.58–3.01)	<b>Strong</b>
	Mental health problems	2.22 (1.97–2.46)	<b>Strong</b>
	Previous history of crime	2.03 (1.62–2.45)	<b>Strong</b>
	Gender (male)	1.50 (1.48–1.52)	Weak
	Adverse childhood experiences	1.05 (1.04–1.06)	<b>Strong</b>
<b>Family</b>	Poor attachment	1.94 (1.93–1.95)	<b>Strong</b>
	Poor parental supervision	1.85 (1.83–1.87)	<b>Strong</b>
	Maltreatment / neglect	1.34 (1.08–1.65)	<b>Strong</b>



# Risk and protective factors of youth crime and level of evidence from meta-analyses

Domain	Factor	OR (95% CI)	Strength of Evidence
<b>Social</b>	Deviant peer pressure	2.11 (2.06–2.16)	Moderate
<b>School</b>	School bullying	2.50 (2.03–3.08)	<b>Strong</b>
	Supportive school environment (protective)	0.56 (0.55–0.57)	Moderate
<b>Victim</b>	Relationship with the victim	2.78 (2.68–2.88)	Weak
	Adult victim	1.74 (1.64–1.84)	Weak
	Child victim	1.72 (1.64–1.80)	Weak
	Male victim	1.41 (1.33–1.49)	Weak



A photograph of a crowd of people, mostly wearing dark winter jackets and hoods. A large, bright pink question mark is superimposed over the center of the image, enclosed within a thin purple circular border. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with some structures.

**WHAT COULD WE DO TO  
ADDRESS THESE RISK FACTORS?**



**Applied evidence-based prevention  
to tackle youth crime**

**Family**

**Community**

**School**

# Family-based indicated prevention: Coping Power / Utrecht Coping Power (CPP/UCPP)



## Integrated approach

- Children with diagnosed Disruptive Behaviour Disorder
- Parent (15) + child (23 in group group) sessions are **combined**
- Parents observe and reinforce children's skills

## Strengthens family processes as protective factor by improving:

- Parental skills
- Stress management
- Problem solving
- Communication and discipline strategies

Image source:

[https://www.copingpower.com/parents\\_teachers.html](https://www.copingpower.com/parents_teachers.html)

Xchange link: [https://www.euda.europa.eu/best-practice/xchange/coping-powerutrecht-coping-power\\_en](https://www.euda.europa.eu/best-practice/xchange/coping-powerutrecht-coping-power_en)



# Community: Communities That Care (CTC)



**Community-based prevention system** that uses data to identify local risk and protective factors and mobilises stakeholders to implement evidence-based interventions to reduce youth problem behaviours (e.g., substance use, delinquency) and promote healthy development.



# Communities That Cares: Meta-analysis in reducing crime

**High variability** across studies.

CTC is not a single intervention but a **system that implements** different programs depending on the context, meaning results vary by setting, population, and implementation quality.

Overall, the evidence is rated as **low quality**, so conclusions should be cautious: CTC may have a **small positive effect (reduce 7 out of 100 people)**.

**Stronger and more consistent evidence is needed** to confirm its effectiveness.



# School-based prevention to reduce bullying

## Core components (multi-level)

- **School level:** survey + coordination team + supervision
- **Classroom:** clear rules + regular discussions
- **Individual:** work with bullies & victims
- **Family:** parental involvement

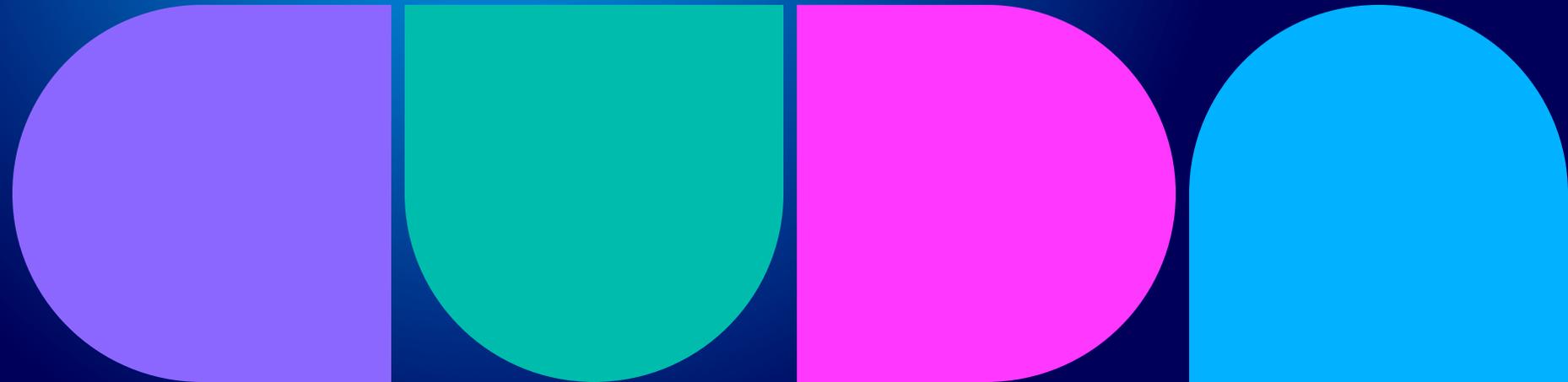
## Overall efficacy results:

- Reductions in both bullying perpetration and victimisation (15–49%)



**Xchange link:** [https://www.euda.europa.eu/best-practice/xchange/olweus-bullying-prevention-programme-school-wide-programme-designed-prevent-bullying-amongst-children\\_en](https://www.euda.europa.eu/best-practice/xchange/olweus-bullying-prevention-programme-school-wide-programme-designed-prevent-bullying-amongst-children_en)

# 5. Take-home messages





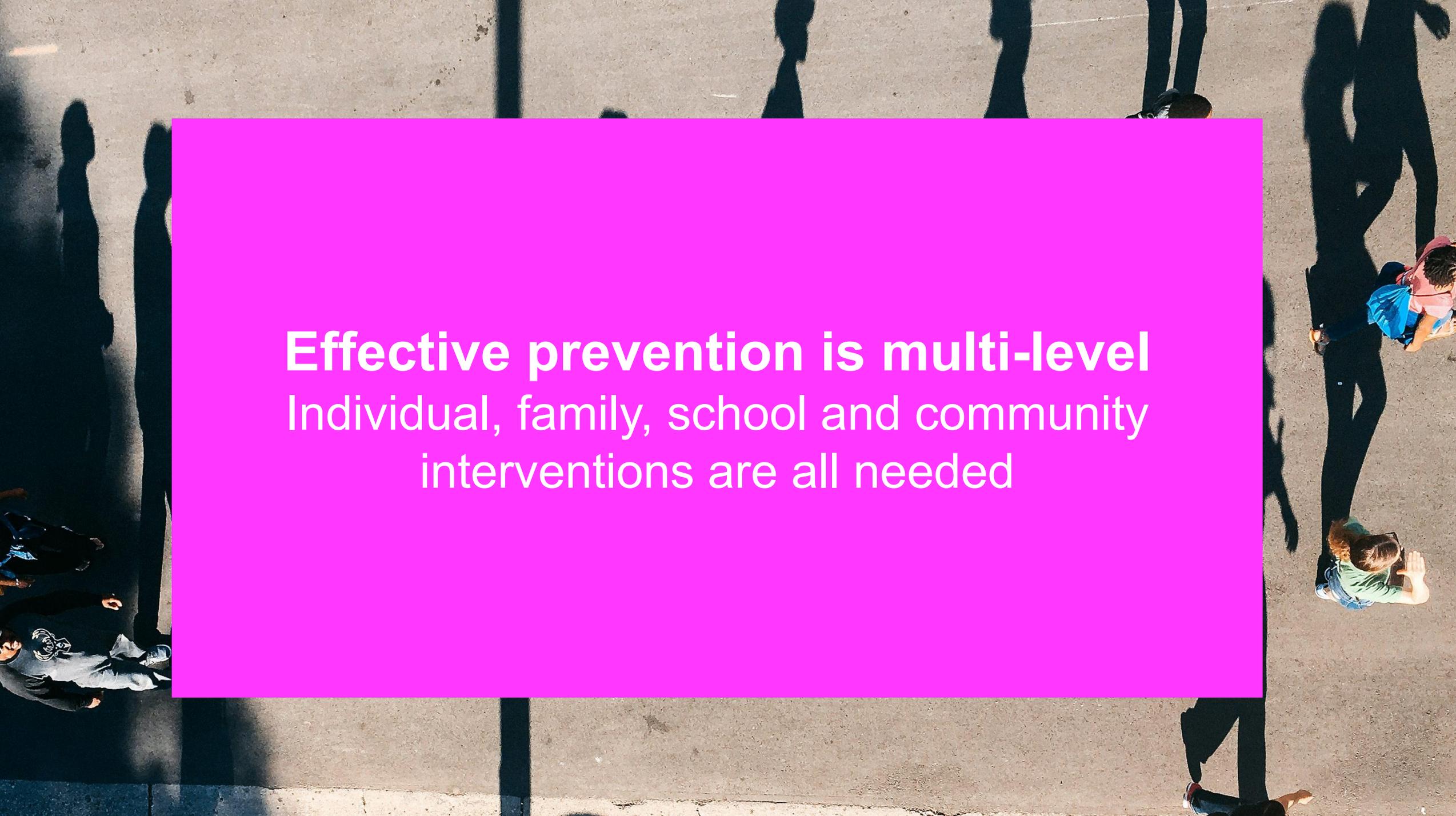
# **Drug use and violence share common risk factors**

Prevention can address both problems  
simultaneously



**Prevention is a public health investment,  
not just a criminal justice issue**

Early action reduces long-term social and health  
costs



**Effective prevention is multi-level**  
Individual, family, school and community  
interventions are all needed

An aerial photograph of a city street. The street is paved with light-colored concrete. Several people are walking on the street, and their long, dark shadows are cast across it. The shadows are cast from the top of the frame, indicating the sun is high in the sky. The people are wearing various clothing, including a blue jacket, a green shirt, and a pink top. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

# **Integrated approaches have the greatest impact**

**Combining drug and crime prevention might lead to better outcomes**



**Join EUDA  
Health and  
Social  
Responses  
newsletter**

# Thank you

Acting today, anticipating tomorrow.

Rubén Cano, PhD.; [Ruben.Cano@euda.europa.eu](mailto:Ruben.Cano@euda.europa.eu)