

Streetwork and Outreach Networking

OKANA | Lagakou Litsa, Harm Reduction Supervisor Greek Organization against Drugs





European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction



Outreach – Streetwork actions

- ✓ Streetwork and outreach actions are one of the main services provided by the Direct Access Network.
- ✓ OKANA has enhanced Streetwork and outreach actions over the past three years and modified its Streetwork activity addressed by the current needs (new substances' use, homelessness, covid, primary healthcare etc).
- √ The immediate response has set new entries on the field.





Public Health -Importance and contribution of these actions

Intensified syringes distribution to stop HIV/HCV spread among the drug users...

The results of these promising numbers will make the difference in the next few years







Streetwork 2021

✓ In 2021 OKANA achieved an increase in the distribution rate of syringes and safe use kits more than 250% and in contacts more than 86% compared to previous years

Actions	Total	
Contacts with drug users	55.689	
KIT safe inhaling use	4006	
Syringe distribution	428.116	
Condom distribution	41.719	

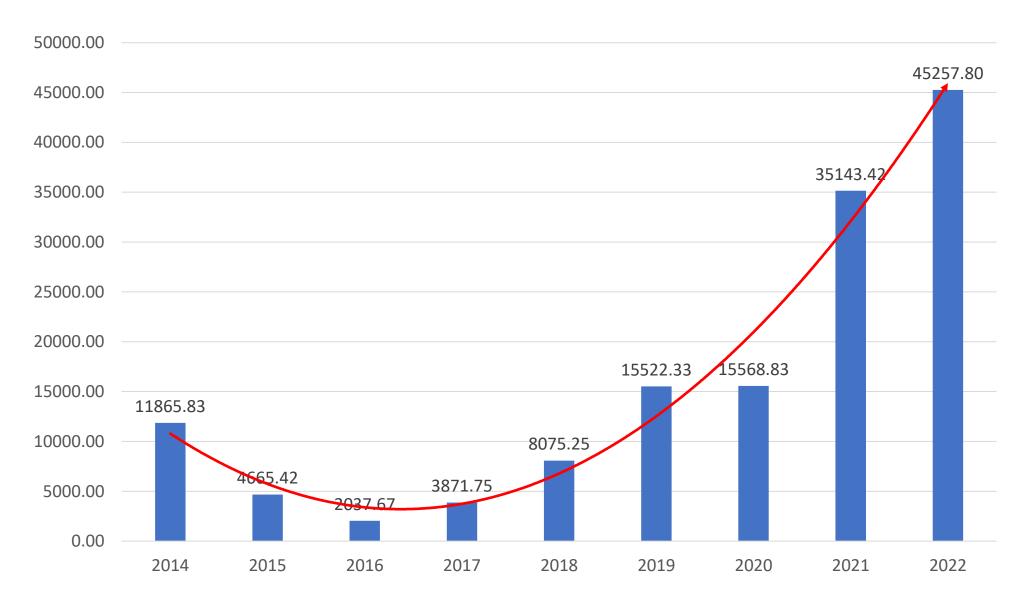
✓ In 2022 have already been distributed more than:

452.572 syringes

With this pace.... **OKANA will distribute more than 570.000 syringes by the end of the year!!!



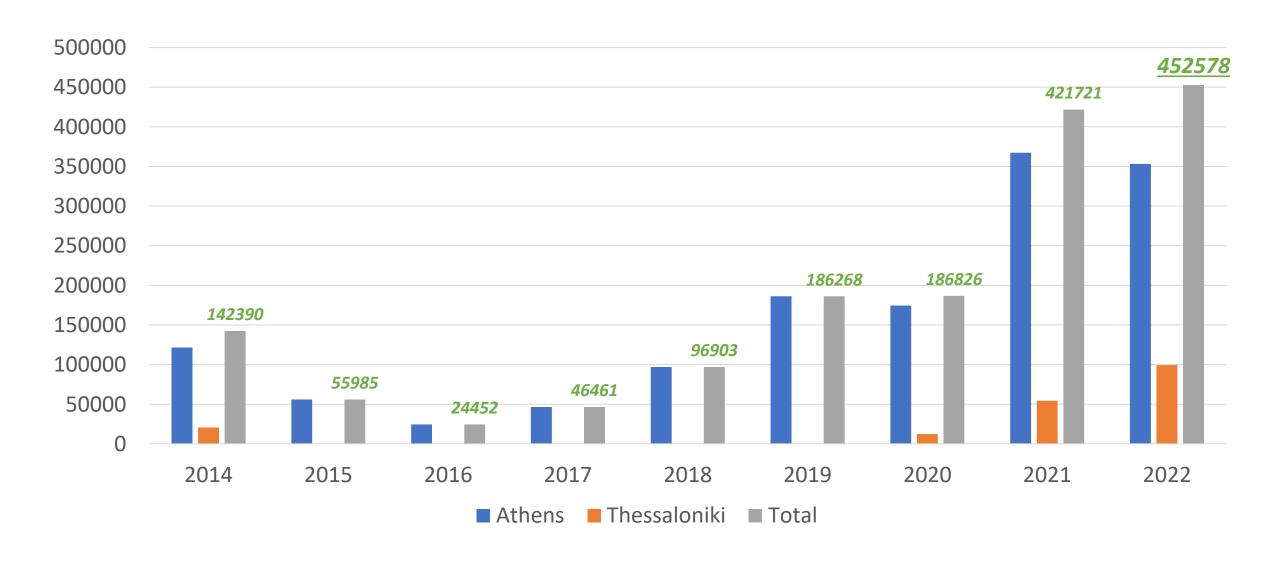
Mean number of Syringes distributed per month through the years



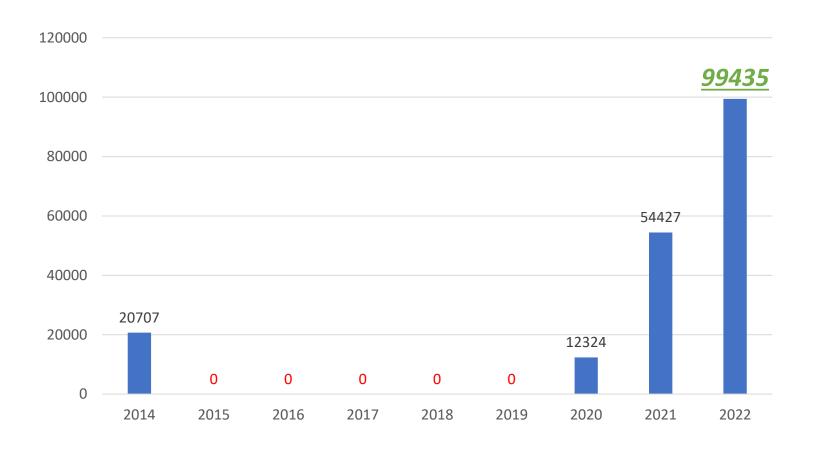




Distributions of Syringes per Year



The example of Thessaloniki









<u>New Substance:</u> <u>**shisha**</u>



- ✓ Shisha is a methamphetaminebased substance that is steadily gaining ground
- √ 66.1% of Streetwork beneficiaries
 who do shisha are foreigners
- √76% are men and 24% women
- ✓ Number of women much higher than that who use heroin

Disposable mouthpieces (smoking use kits) distributed for the first time – 7162 to date - aimed at limiting the spread of HIV/HCV communicable diseases



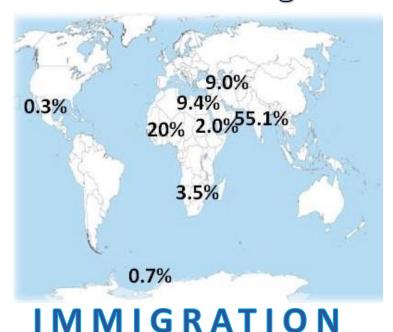


Pilot program intervention within detention centers for immigrants – Outreach actions

13.01.22 - 31.08.22

- Total number of beneficiaries: 784
- Psychological sessions: 554
- Psychiatric sessions: 286
- Group motivational sessions: 5

Countries of Origin %



Countries of Origin %

1	Egypt	2,8	16	Libya	2,4
2	Albania	2,4	17	Mali	0,3
3	Algeria	10,0	18	Morocco	2,4
4	Afghanistan	8,7	19	Bangladesh	3,8
5	Bulgaria	1,4	20	Nigeria	0,6
6	Georgia	4,9	21	Ukraine	2,0
7	Gambia	0,3	22	Pakistan	27,0
8	Ghana	0,3	23	Palestine	0,3
9	U.S.A.	0,3	24	Rwanda	1,0
10	India	0,7	25	Romania	0,7
11	Iraq	4,5	26	Russia	2,1
12	Iran	10,4	27	Syria	1,7
13	Cameroon	0,7	28	Turkey	4,2
14	Congo	0,3	29	Tunisia	2,4
15	Croatia	0,7	30	Other	0,7

Expected results for the future

Distribution more than 570.000 syringes in 2022 (exceed by far the guidelines set by WHO – 200 syringes per person)

Innovative actions within the immigrant's community in the detention centers/prisons – expected results from the pilot program

Eradicate HIV/HCV

Destigmatize active drug users

Motivate drug users to be part of the Streetwork actions





Next steps...

Motivation and participation of drug related communities in streetwork actions

5 Mobile DCR in Athens and 1 in Thessaloniki

Intervention within all the immigrant's detention centers

Motivate drug users to be part of the streetwork actions

Follow up strategies to monitor the results of streetwork actions regarding the beneficiaries entered therapy

Harm reduction starts with Streetwork actions...

- ✓ The services provided by OKANA follow the one-stop shop principle. The first step, apart from the services that each facility provides to its beneficiaries, leads to a warm humane relationship/connection, so that beneficiaries can take the next step and access the next service.
- ✓ Streetwork actions are the first step...

For example...

In Streetwork, beneficiaries receive clean syringes and condoms for safe use and protection against HIV/HCV, but they are also immediately related to the drop in centers and shelters for homeless drug users and the DCR. From these facilities they can be connected to MAVY(specially designed clinic for drug-users), therapy, psychosocial services etc





Thank you!!!

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