



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Provision of harm reduction interventions in European prisons: short overview of available services

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LX Addiction Conference – Barriers in the implementation of harm reduction interventions in European prisons. From evidence to practice



No conflict of interests



Drug related interventions in prison: evidence

Scarce evidence



Little research

- ✓ **OST**
- ✓ **Test, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases**

CHAPTER 6

Available evidence and good practice addressing drug use and related harms in prison settings

Lara Tavoschi, Linda Montanari and Dagmar Hedrich

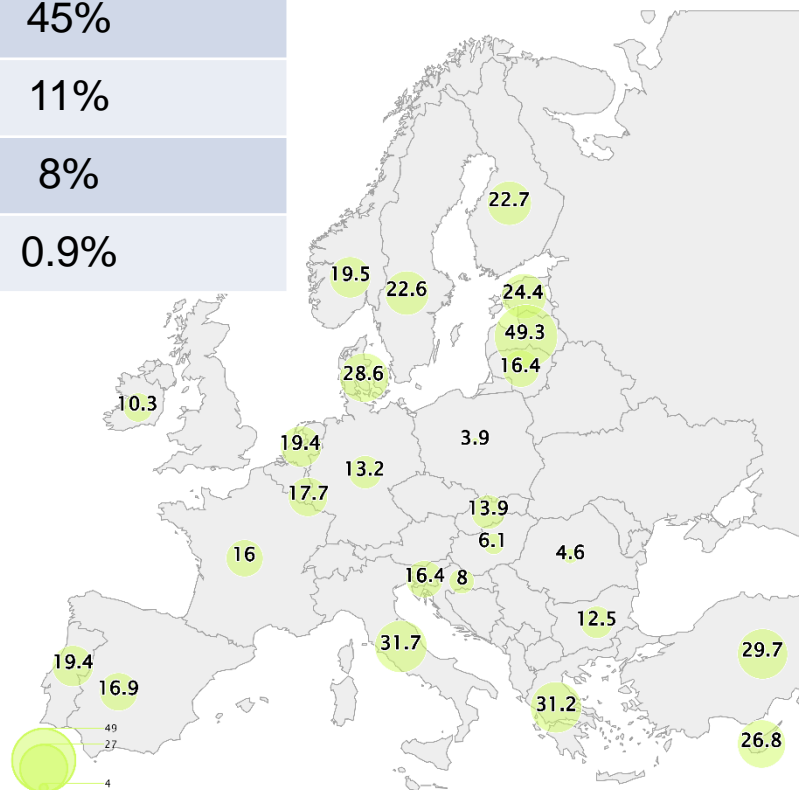


Drug and Prison in Europe

Lifetime prevalence of drug use

Drug	Max. % Prison population	Max% General population
Cannabis	87%	45%
Cocaine	75%	11%
Ampheatamines	47%	8%
Heroin	29%	0.9%

Proportion of people in prison for drug law offence

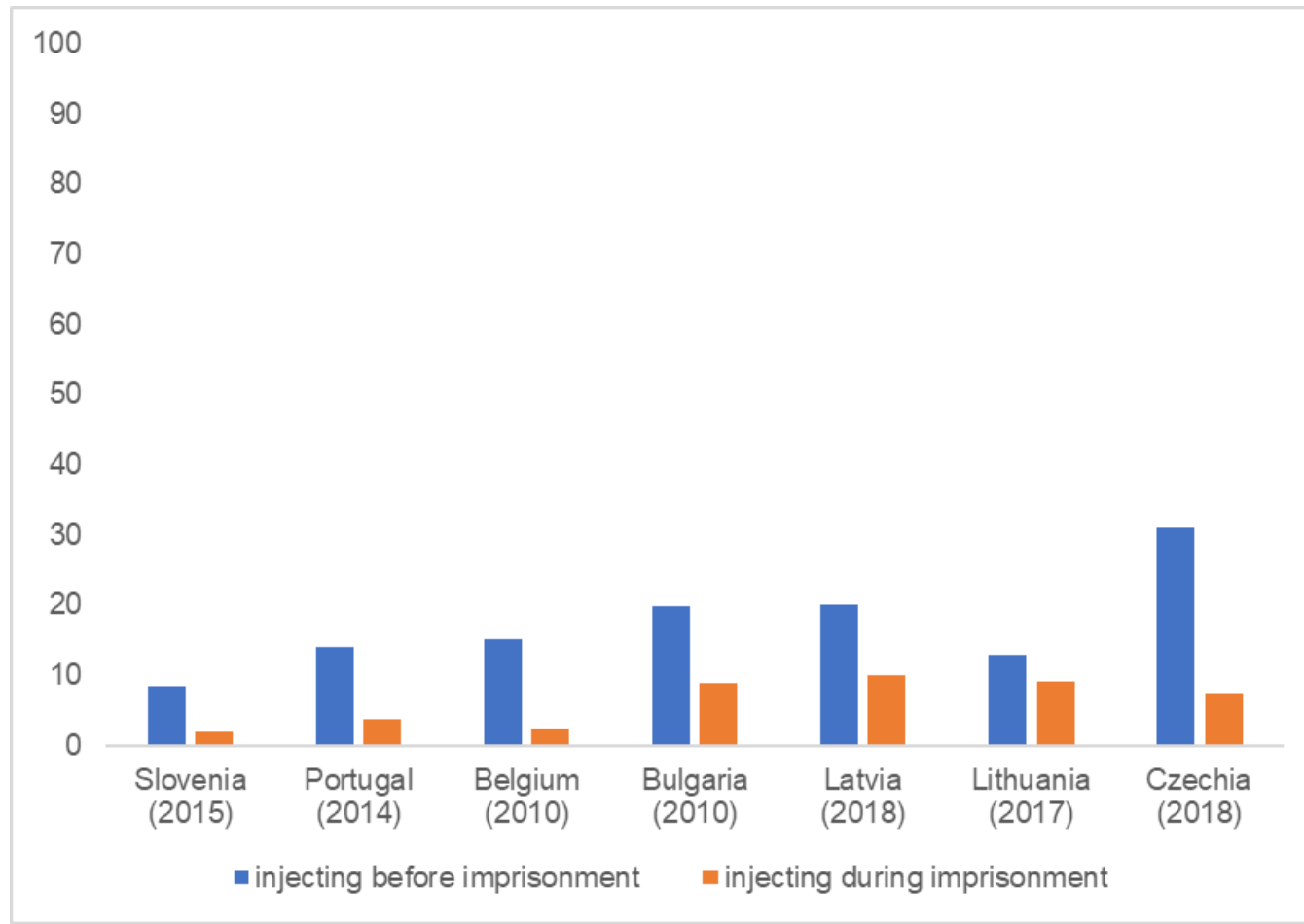


EMCDDA (data) | Highcharts (chart tool) © Natural Earth



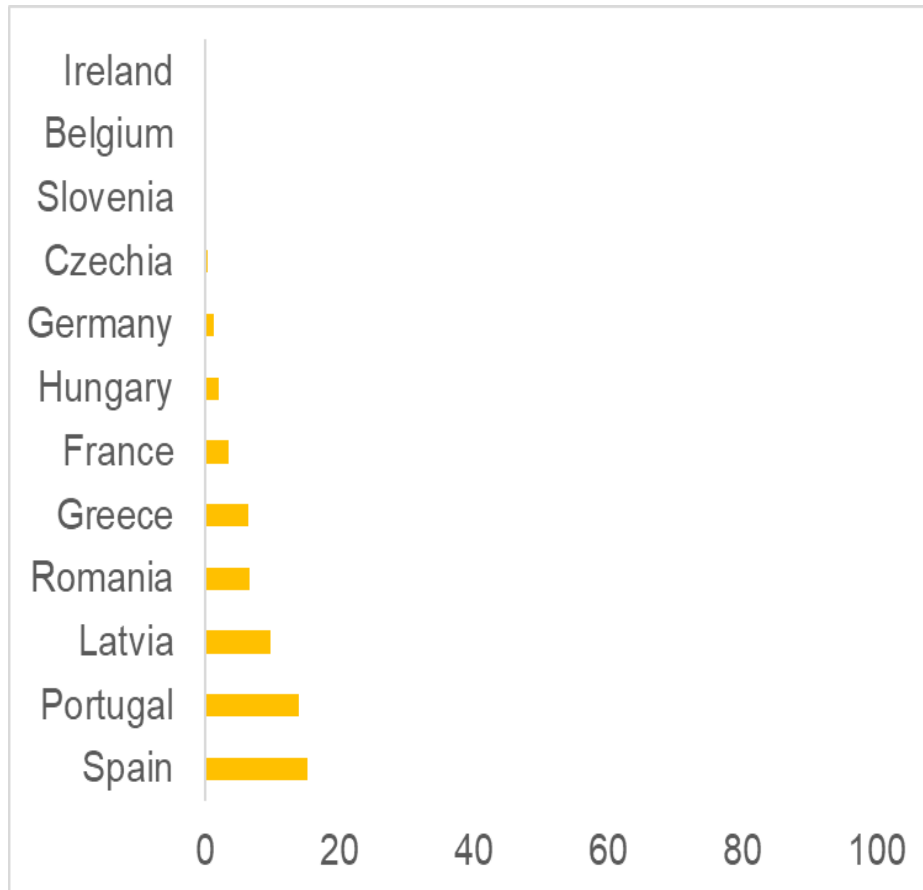
Sources: EMCDDA, FONTE data 2022; Aebi, M. F. and Tiago, M. M. (2022), Council of Europe annual penal statistics SPACE I: prison populations survey 2021, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Lifetime prevalence of drug injecting before and during imprisonment (2010-2018)

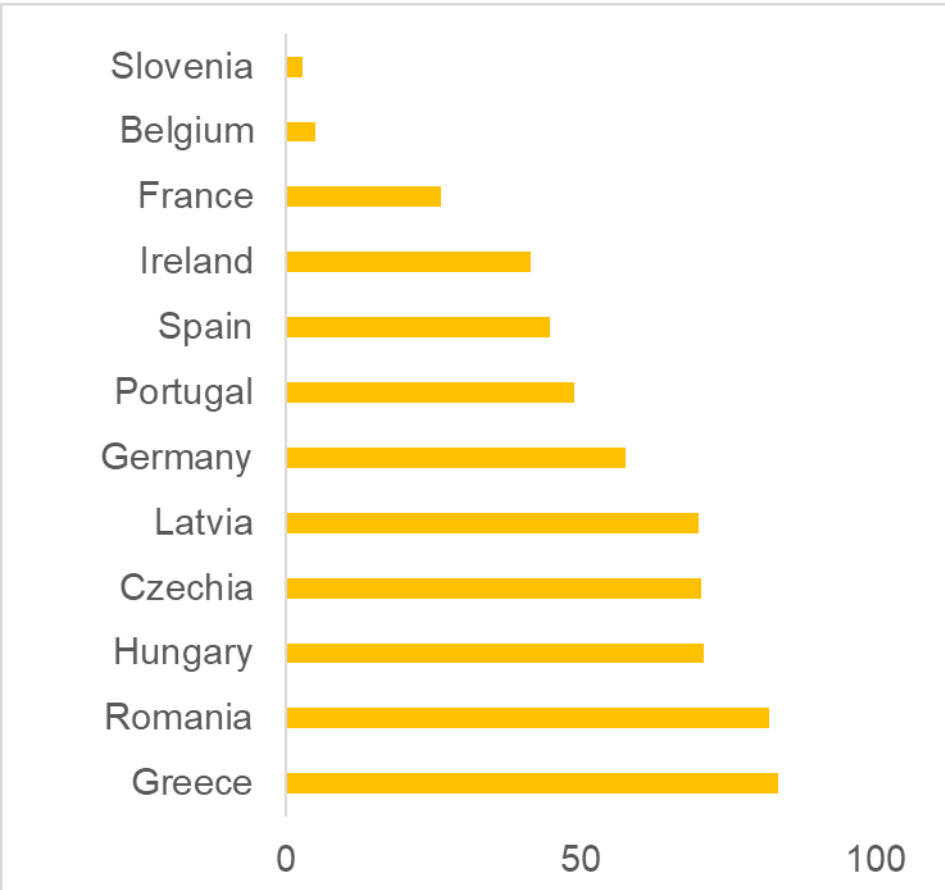


Prevalence of HIV and HCV in PWID who are in prison in some countries (2021 or most recent)

HIV (%)



HCV (%)



Mortality among people in prison

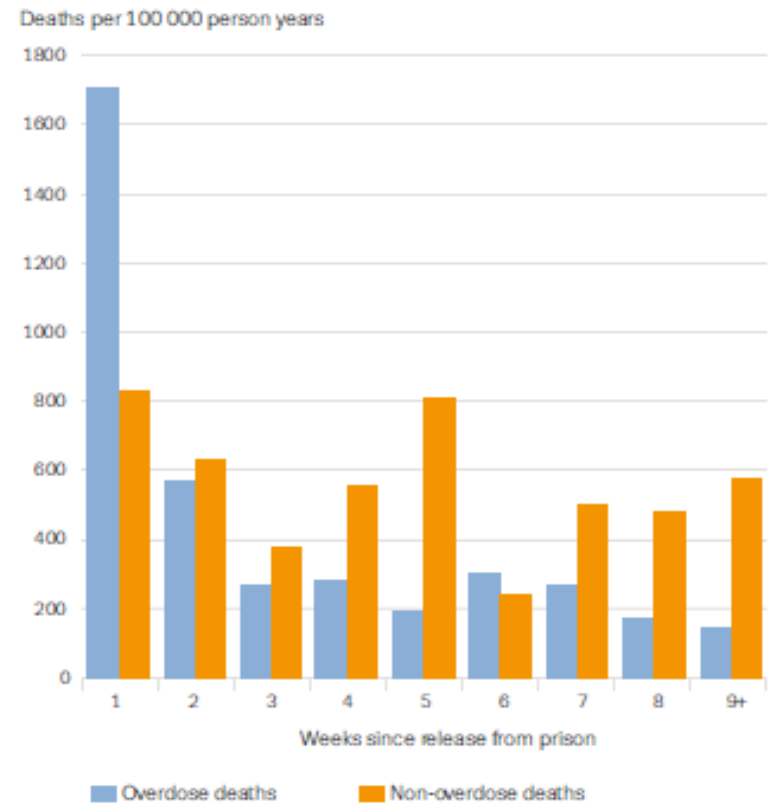
Mortality inside prison

- EU 10.5 deaths (VS 1.5) suicide
- 78% of deaths are violent deaths
1 in 10 of those violent deaths are due to

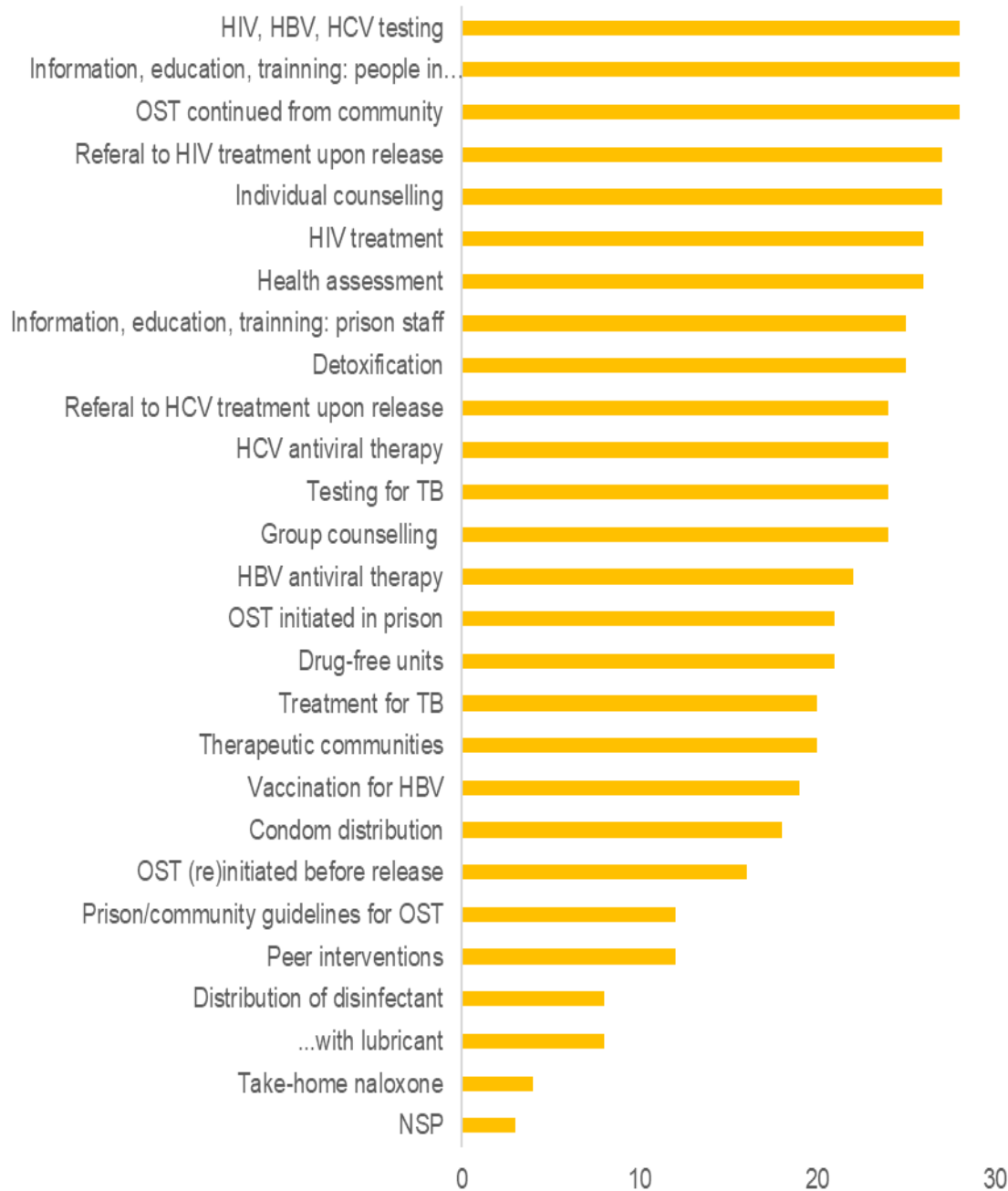


**intentional or accidental
drug overdose or
intoxication**

Mortality after prison release



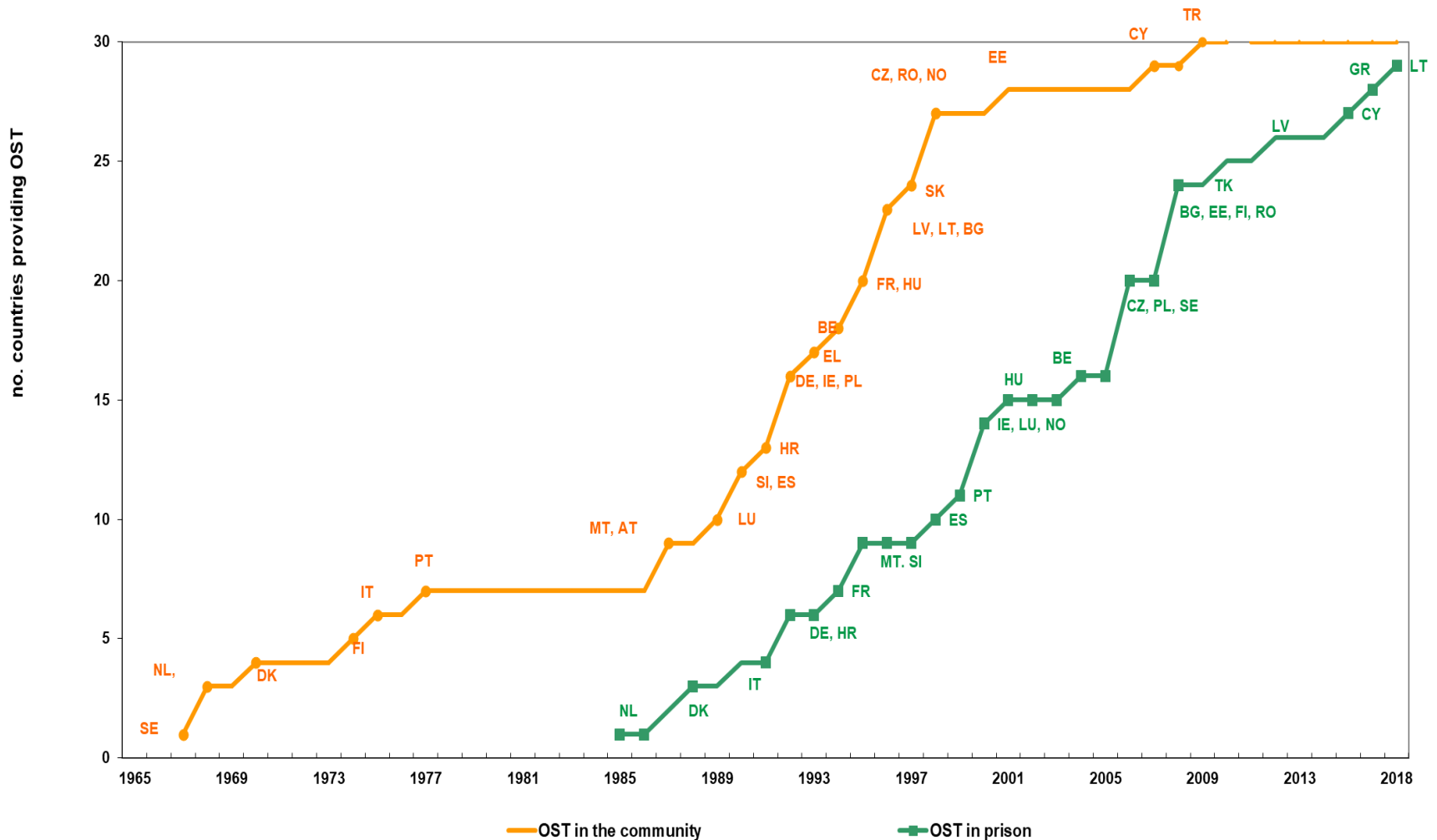
Source: Binawanger et al., 2013.



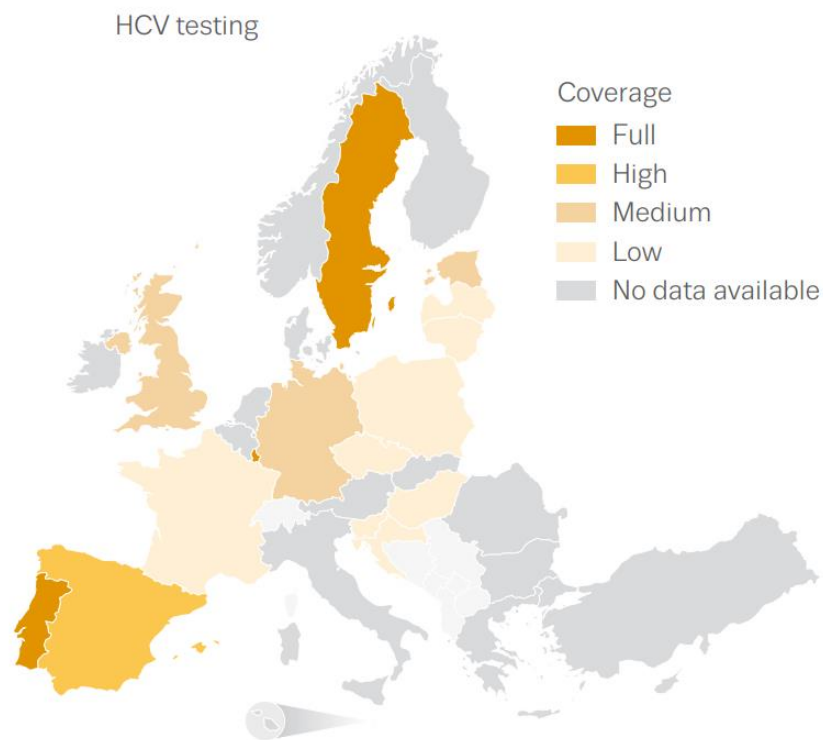
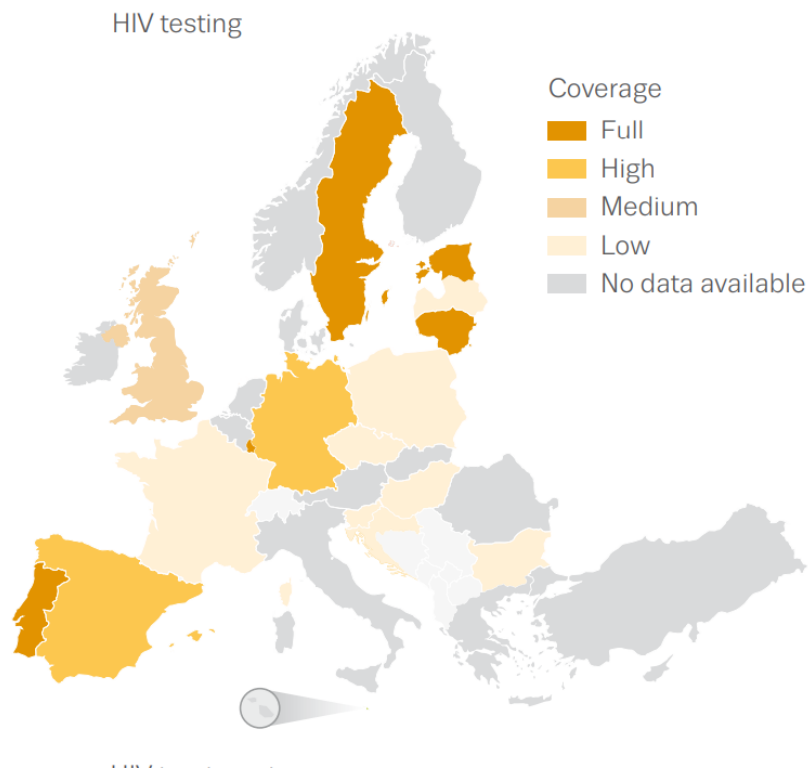
Availability of drug related interventions in prison setting (n. countries/ out of 29) (2019 or most recent year)

EMCDDA (2021), Prison and drugs in Europe: current and future challenges, Luxembourg.

OST introduction in the community and in prison (EU27, NO, TK)

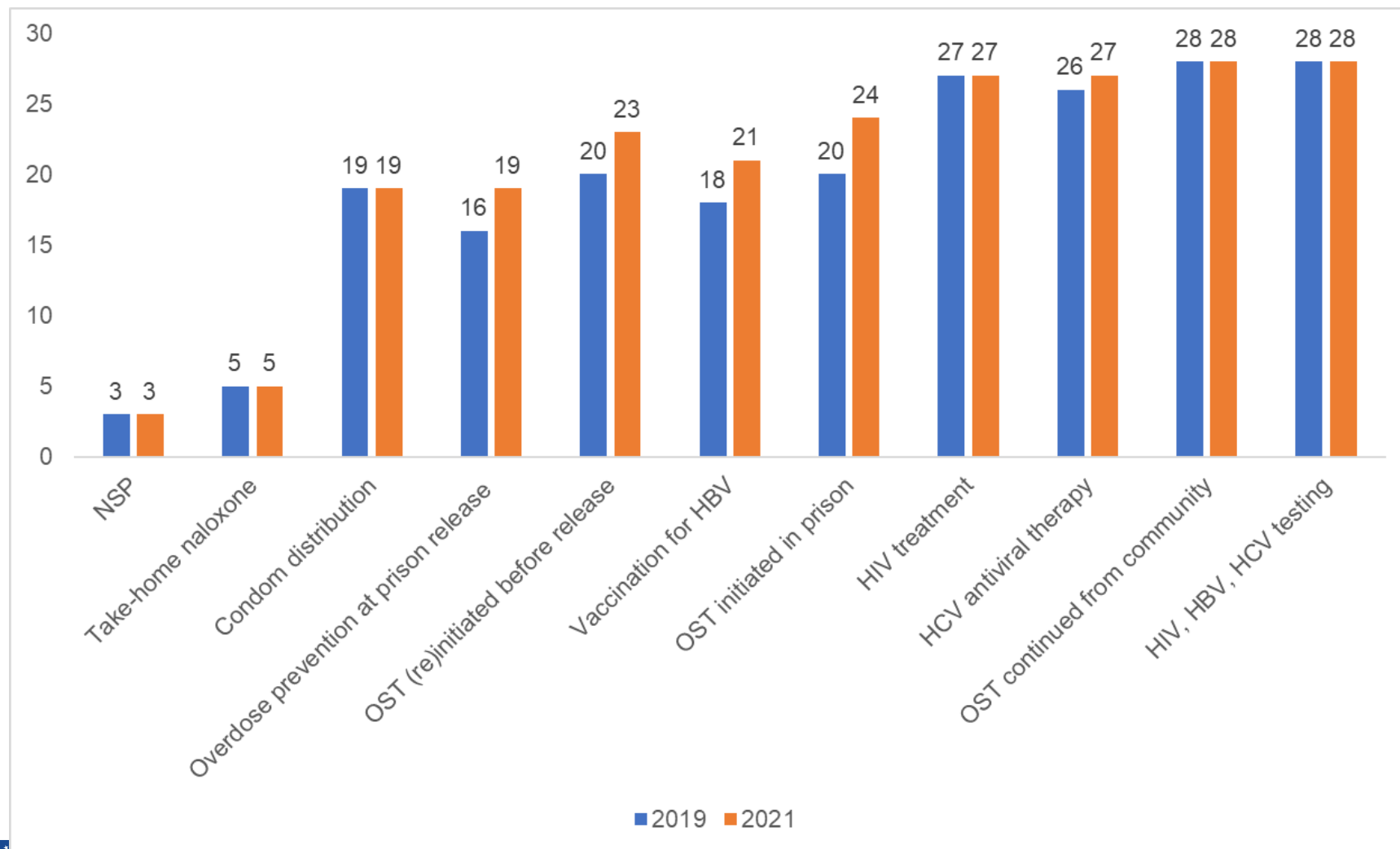


Coverage of HIV and HCV testing in prison



Changes in the availability of selected harm reduction interventions: 2019 and 2021

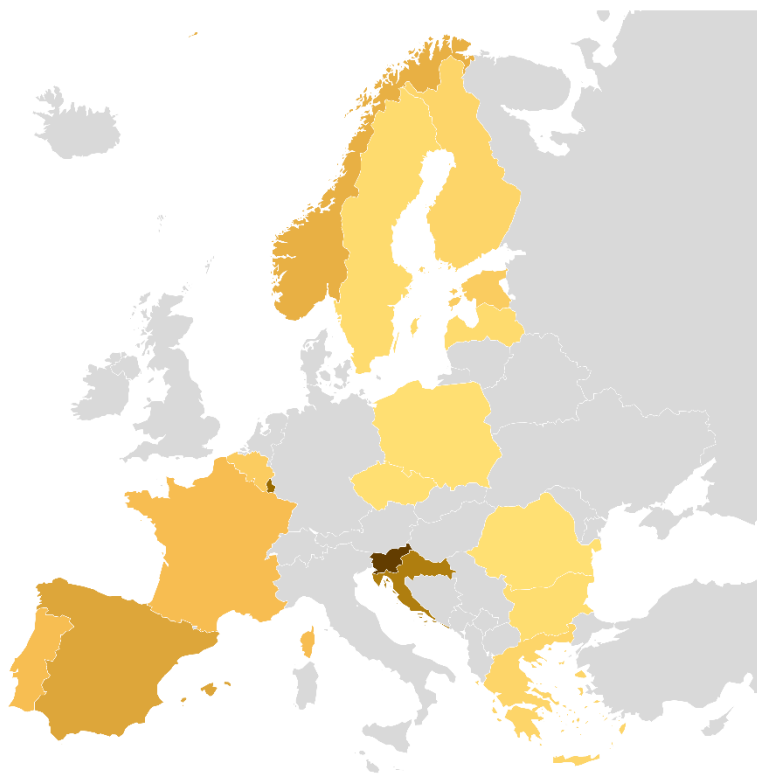
(n. of countries- 28 countries)



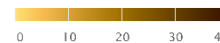
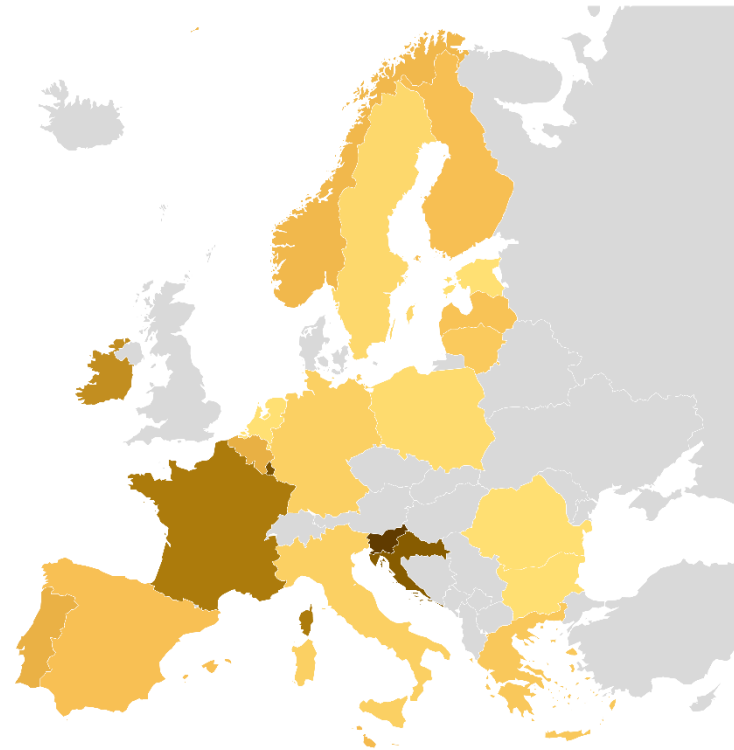
Trend in the share of prison population in OST in prison: 2017 (or most recent) - 2021 (or most recent)

2017

2021



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EMCDDA (data) | Highcharts (chart tool) © Natural Earth



Final reflections..

Issues

Delay in introduction



Speed up the process- COVID19 example

Low coverage/Lack of implementation



Set up political and practical conditions for actual implementation of interventions (i.e. models of care, training, etc.)

Scarce evidence and lack of comparable data



Improve research and monitoring with use of comparable tools

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/prison-and-drugs-in-europe_en



Thank you!

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