

# Special Event

## Shedding Light on the Science of Therapeutic Communities

Reviewing the latest evidence, sharing experiences from different fields and exploring their potential

**Tuesday 13th of March 2018**

**from 14:20 to 15:50PM Room M-7**

United Nations  
61st Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
Vienna International Center



Organized by Government of Greece, Government of Spain, Asociación Proyecto Hombre, KETHEA and UNODC:



Co-organizers:



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## Shedding Light on the Science of Therapeutic Communities

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### Program

Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) constitute a public health and security problem both in developed and developing countries. Nowadays, scientific evidence has established that SUDs are a multifactorial disorder associated with a variety of individual vulnerability conditions and social factors such as poverty, exposure to violence, crime and social exclusion. Strengthening prevention and treatment for people suffering from substance-abuse is an essential demand reduction strategy of critical public health importance.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization's International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders encourage all Member States to consider expanding the coverage and improving the quality of drug treatment programmes, interventions and policies on the basis of scientific evidence. The Standards recommend comprehensive and balanced approaches, and suggest scientific and human right based treatment modalities such as outreach working, and outpatient and residential programmes. Therapeutic Communities (TCs) are one of the most common and widely available treatment models worldwide.

This special event will focus on the latest science of TCs models in the field of drug-dependence treatment and care. Furthermore, experiences from peers and fields will be shared to complement research from qualitative perspectives, sharing an updated picture of TCs worldwide. It will also be the occasion to present and discuss innovative study designs to measure and explore the potential of an adjusting TC model.

### Speakers

- Oriol Esculies, *International Commissioner, Association Proyecto Hombre* (chairing)
- Mr. Mario Garcés, *Secretary of State for Health, Social Services and Equality, Government of Spain*
- Dr. Christina Diamantopoulou – Papoutsopoulou, *National Drug Coordinator, Government of Greece*
- Gilberto Gerra, *Chief, Drug Prevention and Health Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*
- Rowdy Yates, *President, European Federation of Therapeutic Communities*
- Fabian Chiosso, *President, Latin American Federation of Therapeutic Communities*
- Thomas Legl, *President, Euro-TC and Former President, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs*
- Wouter Vanderplasschen, *Researcher, University of Ghent, Belgium*
- Wadih Maalouf, *Coordinator of the Joint Research Project of UNODC, Association Proyecto Hombre and KETHEA, Drug Prevention and Health Branch, UNODC*
- Sushma Taylor, *President, World Federation of Therapeutic Communities*
- Phaedon Kaloterakis, *Deputy director, KETHEA*

A joint statement will be read by the Spanish soprano **Ainhoa Arteta**

There will be interpretation services English-Spanish

The event will be followed by a reception at the coffee corner (hall in front of the Press Room).