Committee : UNODC

Topic : The usage of appearance and performance enhancing drugs (APEDs) and sports: their interconnection

Country : Switzerland

Addiction is a disorder that affects both the brain and the actions of the person.When you're addicted to drugs, you can't stop yourself from using them, no matter how dangerous they are.Despite the fact that drug use should never be promoted,Switzerland was unable to deter drug users,so it began to support the ones using them however made sure to prevent them from encouraging it to others.That's how the heroin-assisted recovery scheme, which encourages their stringent drug policy, came in.

As the previous conservative abstinence-oriented politics proved unable to cope with an increasing number of users and the negative repercussions for public health and public order, Switzerland implemented a progressive national drug policy.The high profile of 'needle parks,' as well as the magnitude of the AIDS epidemic, necessitated a new strategy and national leadership.As an example of drug policy reform, to explain the goals, the procedure, and the outcomes of establishing a new treatment method of administering heroin to treatment-resistant heroin addicts.

The results were as follows:Private efforts were mostly responsible for reducing the harmful effects of continued use and preventing the proliferation of AIDS, but the 'four-pillar' drug policy quickly adopted them (including harm reduction, prevention, treatment and law enforcement).One of the advances was the medical prescription of heroin to chronic, treatment-resistant heroin users, which was focused on considerable scientific and political planning.Despite its shortcomings as an observational cohort study, detailed reporting and assessment, ample sharing of findings, adaptations based on results, and robust public dialogue helped to consolidate the new policy and heroin-assisted treatment.To transition from a scientific experiment to a normal procedure, all required steps were taken.

Based on the Swiss experience, similar policy improvements have been observed in a few other nations, such as the Netherlands and Germany, with similarly promising effects in heroin-assisted treatment.These studies used randomized controlled trials to compare intravenous heroin to oral methadone, showing the unique benefit of prescription diamorphine for opiate maintenance care.The positive effects of policy reform and the positive results of heroin-assisted treatment were gradually recognized nationally and globally, but the low awareness of current opioid issues and shifting political agendas made it difficult to continue the process of adjusting policy to new challenges.

Finally, in the traditional circumstances of a federalist nation with a long history of political consensus building, a significant shift in drug policy was successfully implemented.The scale and visibility of the opioid crisis, the emergence of the Aids epidemic, and a cautious attitude toward tolerating private efforts all helped to open the door to official policy reform.