

# Romania: reflecting on service provision in a restrictive context



**Checkpoint**  
**ARAS** NETWORK



MEMBRĂ ÎN **COALITION PLUS**

# Overview of legal environment

- Over roughly the last 3 year, Romania has not moved toward legalization or broad drug decriminalization.
- Instead, the main trend has been stricter enforcement and tougher penalties for trafficking and high-risk drugs, alongside continued political debate about prevention and treatment.
- **“2 May Law”** (named after the 2023 road accident that sparked public outrage over drug use and enforcement failures):
  - People convicted of trafficking high-risk drugs no longer eligible for suspended sentences.
  - Penalties for trafficking psychoactive substances were increased.
  - The reforms were designed to make imprisonment more likely for serious drug offenses

# Overview of legal environment

- Law No. 58/2024 and related amendments:
  - stronger anti-trafficking measures;
  - enhanced enforcement tools;
  - increased concern about synthetic drugs and psychoactive substances.
- Despite periodic public discussion about reform, Romania continues to maintain relatively strict cannabis laws:
  - Recreational cannabis remains illegal.
  - Possession for personal use remains a criminal offense.
- **Growing public debate about whether Romania should emphasize treatment and prevention more than punishment.**

# Change in National Coordinator

- FROM the **National Anti-Drug Agency (ANA)** TO the **National Agency for Policies and Coordination in the Field of Drugs and Addictions (ANPCDA/ANPCDDA)**
- **ANA** operated under Romania's Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), giving it a strong law-enforcement orientation
- **ANPCDDA** was placed under the authority of the Prime Minister
  - ANPCDDA - Public policy and national coordination.
  - Treatment, prevention, and addiction services – Ministry of Health.
- **Loss of funding**

# Chemsex in ROMANIA

- Chemsex is not a very spread phenomenon in Romania, being concentrated mostly in big cities (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara etc.).
- Most utilised chems: Amfetamins, G, Cox, K.
- Small community of people, with some “leaders” that organize parties and people move from one to another depending on preferences (young people, older people etc.), impromptu gatherings and one-on-one “chemsex”.
- Once you enter the “chemsex scene” is very hard to leave it.
- Injection of chems is very rare.

# ARAS Chemsex services

- ARAS started offering structured services on chemsex in 2023
- ToT by AAE -> Training for our staff/volunteers
- Counseling on Chemsex Harm Reducation
- Chemsex harm reduction kits

For general population and target groups

- Video on chemsex
- Information on Chemsex on Checkpoint ARAS website

# Chemsex HR kit



- Bottle with pipette – for G
- 2 plastic Straws
- 1 plastic card
- 1 post card – laminated
- 3 chewing gums
- 2 disinfectant wipes
- 2 alcohol swabs
- 6 coloured sticky dots
- condoms
- 1 card for information on HR
- 1 card with information of Checkpoint ARAS
- EXTRA: clean syringe

# Future plans

- Personalise your Chemsex kit
- Party HR Bag

# Thank you!

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