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**Vocational training in illicit drug addiction: Equipping health care practitioners with addiction treatment competences and techniques (CARE4SUD)**

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**Press release**

The CARE4SUD project is being implemented by Klaipėdos Ernesto Galvanausko profesinio mokymo centras (Lithuania) in partnership with Institut Za Raziskave In Razvoj Utrip Zavod (Slovenia), Sosu Ostjylland (Denmark), Universidade do Porto (Portugal), Direcția de Asistență Socială și Medicală, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and Institute of Social Solidarity and Wellbeing: Social Mind (Greece) and its overall objective is to ensure a higher professionalism of the healthcare work force in the illicit drug addiction field at national and European level.

Work package 3 of the project, entitled **Design and development of a competence based transnational capacity building VET curricula for health care practitioners interested in illicit drug addiction (CARE4SUD curricula)** aims to design and develop a competency based On-Line VET curriculum tailored to the needs of health care practitioners who want to expand their professional skills with interactive and challenging online methodologies, advance their competences and increase their employability opportunities.

To reach this aim, during the last months, the partners developed a CARE4SUD curriculum framework for the addiction counselling VET programme with the view to advance illicit drug addiction counselling skills related to screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment. It was designed to give a basic understanding of addiction and awareness of the effects of psychoactive drug use; practices of the most generally accepted models of treatment including motivational interviews; screening and referral to treatment and knowledge of the relationship between substance use and diverse cultures, values and lifestyles with a view to combat stigma.

During February 2025, the partners will proceed with a demonstration of the CARE4SUD addiction counselling training programme to 10 VET educators in each partner county, for its validation.

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