



Dear (editor/name/contact),

Please see below for our press release on The Art of Healing Event to be held June 24-28, 2024 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The event is organized by ISSUP, ICUDDR, the Centers for the Prevention of Addictions and the Promotion of Psychosocial Health SEIRIOS, INL and ISSUP Greece. We would like to run this as an immediate release to coincide with the opening event on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

For immediate release

**\*\* Beginning of the press release \*\***

### **The 2024 'Art of Healing: A new era in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support' International Event in Thessaloniki, Greece**

The vibrant city of Thessaloniki will host the highly anticipated "Art of Healing" Conference, an event dedicated to exploring the science and practice of Substance Use Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery support. Scheduled to take place from June 23-28 at The International Exhibition & Congress Centre of TIF-HELEXPO], this conference promises to bring together a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and enthusiasts from around the globe.

The Art of Healing Conference aims to create a platform for dialogue and collaboration among therapists, healthcare professionals, and those with lived experience. The event will feature a rich program of keynote speeches, interactive workshops, trainings, panel discussions, and poster sessions, all designed to highlight the latest therapeutic potential and workforce developments taking places in a global community of substance use professional.

This event is being organised by International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), International Society for Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP), Centers for the Prevention of Addictions and the Promotion of Psychosocial Health (SEIRIOS), and ISSUP Greece.

#### **Key Highlights:**

**Keynote Speakers/Panels:** Renowned figures in the fields of substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support will share their insights and experiences. Notable speakers include [Speaker Names and Titles].  
**Workshops and Panels:** Prior to the main conference which takes place June 26-28 participants can engage in hands-on workshops and thought-provoking training sessions that cover a wide range of topic related to the prevention, treatment and recovery support of substance use. The main conference dates June 26-28, 2024 will have at least 3 Plenaries, 32 sub-plenary sessions and over 100+ separate presentations on the state of the science in substance use.

**Poster Sessions:** The conference will also showcase posters that demonstrate the state of science around epidemiology, harm reductio, prevention, treatment and recovery support. These posters will feature works from both emerging and established methods for personal and communal healing.

**Networking Opportunities:** Attendees will have the chance to connect with like-minded individuals, fostering new partnerships and collaborations in the field of substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support

**Organizers' Statement:** This event is being organised by International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR), International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), International Society for Substance



Use Professionals (ISSUP), Centers for the Prevention of Addictions and the Promotion of Psychosocial Health (SEIRIOS), and ISSUP Greece and contributed to by a collaboration of organisations that support the development of a workforce of addiction prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support professionals.

“ISSUP is delighted to be in Europe to meet our ISSUP members and connect them with a huge range of professionalisation opportunities, we look forward to being part of the exchange of knowledge and sharing of knowhow,” said Joanna Travis-Roberts, ISSUP Global Chief Executive.

“The issue of substance use is a global issue and affects not only the individual, but the family and community. To effectively address the challenges of this area whether prevention, harm reduction, treatment or recovery we need an effective and efficient workforce. Conferences like the one here this week brings together scientists, practitioners, individual with lived experience where we can share and learn from each other, learn about the latest prevention or treatment techniques and remind ourselves of the importance of recovery and recovery support.” said Dr. Kevin Mulvey, the Executive Director, ICUDDR.

The event will be held with the support of the Colombo Plan, the Global Center for Accreditation and Certification (GCCC), the Organisation of American States, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS-CICAD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), the Drug Free America Foundation (DFAF), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Organisation Against Drugs (OKANA), and the City of Thessaloniki, among other international partner organisations.

**\*\* END \*\***



# The Art of Healing

A new era in substance use prevention,  
harm reduction, treatment and recovery support

24-28 June 2024  
Thessaloniki, Greece

ISSUP

ICUDDR

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ISSUP



## Notes to editors:

More information on the event can be found at the following link:

<https://www.issup.net/about-issup/workshops/thessaloniki-2024>

## Conference Venue:

<https://www.issup.net/about-issup/workshops/thessaloniki-2024/venue-and-travel>

## Programme:

<https://www.issup.net/about-issup/workshops/thessaloniki-2024/programme>

## Speakers:

<https://www.issup.net/about-issup/workshops/thessaloniki-2024/speakers>

## Press attendance:

Press are invited to attend the event, and attention is brought to the opening ceremony 9:00 – 10:30 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Following the opening ceremony please direct requests for individual interviews to the contacts below.

## Press contacts:

For more information, please contact:

- ISSUP Global: Joanna Travis-Roberts [joanna.travis@issup.net](mailto:joanna.travis@issup.net)
- ICUDDR: Kevin Mulvey, [mulveyk@icuddr.org](mailto:mulveyk@icuddr.org)
- ISSUP Greece & SEIRIOS: Natalia Zachartzi: [n.zachartzi@gmail.com](mailto:n.zachartzi@gmail.com)

## Follow the conversation on social media: #Thessaloniki2024

**About ISSUP Global:** The International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) was established in 2015 to connect, unite and provide expertise to the global substance use prevention, treatment and recovery support workforce. ISSUP has more than 37,000 members worldwide. [www.issup.net](http://www.issup.net)

**About ICUDDR:** The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) was established in 2016. Its purpose is to facilitate networking among universities to promote high quality education and training in the field of addiction prevention and treatment. [www.icuddr.org](http://www.icuddr.org)

**About SEIRIOS:** The Centers for the Prevention of Addictions and the Promotion of Psychosocial Health “SEIRIOS” are a non-profit organisation, Legal Entity of Private Law of the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Organization Against Drugs (OKANA) with the participation of local bodies of the city. They are governed by a 7-member board of directors. SEIRIOS, for the past 25 years, is implementing evidence based prevention interventions in the community, the family, the schools, the workplace on a local and International basis. [www.kp-seirios.gr](http://www.kp-seirios.gr)

**About INL:** The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) works to keep Americans safe at home by countering international crime, illegal drugs, and instability abroad. INL helps countries provide justice and fairness by strengthening their law enforcement, judicial and corrections systems. [www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-international-narcotics-and-law-enforcement-affairs/](http://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-civilian-security-democracy-and-human-rights/bureau-of-international-narcotics-and-law-enforcement-affairs/)

**About ISSUP Greece:** ISSUP Greece is managed by the Centres for the Prevention of Addictions and the Promotion of Psychosocial Health SEIRIOS. SEIRIOS is a non-profit organization founded by the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the Organization against Drugs - (OKANA), the Prefecture of Central Macedonia and significant associations of the city such as the Pharmaceutical Association of Thessaloniki, the Medical Association of Thessaloniki, the Dentists' Association of Thessaloniki and the Thessaloniki Bar Association. [www.issup.net/national-chapters/issup-greece](http://www.issup.net/national-chapters/issup-greece)



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Belgium



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**About World Drug Day:** The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, is marked on 26 June every year to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This year's World Drug Day campaign recognizes that effective drug policies must be rooted in science, research, full respect for human rights, compassion, and a deep understanding of the social, economic, and health implications of drug use. The theme 2024 is 'The evidence is clear: invest in prevention'

[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drugs](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drugs)