

Addictions

For the young people, the search of fake substitutes leads to many addictions such as alcohol, gambling, excessive use of internet and addiction to computer games. In fact, these fake substitutes not only fail to achieve their goal but, in the contrary they affect destructively the young people personality with devastating consequences for their health, costing many times their own lives.

In the current world of technology and the Internet, the constantly creating new, synthetic drugs, which are also trafficked through the Internet, are a major concern.

Our position on how to address this problem is based on a package of measures for prevention - treatment - social reintegration. Within this grid the upgrading of the public school is necessary. The starting point of our reasoning is: Every year, fewer and fewer young people “fall” in drugs and, on the other hand, more and more people that live in this scourge to get treatment and reintegration, targeting in the same time the emotional and intellectual cultivation of young people and the development of critical thinking..

Policy positions:

- Implementation of the National Strategy on Drugs 2013 - 2020.
- Strengthening the Cyprus National Addiction Authority in order to continue to formulate scientifically documented policies, supervise state and non-state programs, subsidize and support prevention and treatment programs.
- Creation of a centre for minors for drug treatment and expansion of the Privation Centres across Cyprus.
- Strengthen preventive and therapeutic programs as well as harm reduction programs.
- Modernize legislation so that law attention is directed to traders rather than users, including alternative penalties for users.
- Effective enforcement of tobacco control legislation in order to continue the downward trend in smoking among students.
- Eliminate stigma and social exclusion of drug addicts and develop an integrated plan of economic, psychological and social support for themselves and their families.
- Ensure high-quality and easily accessible rehabilitation and social reintegration programs.
- Promotion of further casino security access safeguards to protect the social fabric.
- Reduce the accessibility and availability of alcohol to vulnerable groups and protect the unborn child from alcohol.

- Promoting preventive measures to prevent minors from engaging in gambling and providing support and treatment to people with pathological gambling.
- Collaboration of all relevant bodies with the Ministry of Education to integrate training, prevention and tackling dependencies in schools and universities on a permanent basis. Something similar should also be done in the army.
- Strengthen the operation of the prison treatment program, covering the entire range of detoxification services (detoxification, psychological rehabilitation etc.) to cover the needs of drug addicted prisoners during their stay in prison and after they are released.
- Holistic management of the issues faced by juvenile drug addicts, since the use of addictive substances is only a symptom of their problematic situation.