

Public drug injection rooms - in Slovenia too?

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Strategies of harm reduction have been developed as a response to repressive policies toward prohibited drugs, which have not produced the desired results and, at the same time, have also had many negative effects. Instead of meeting unrealistic goals with repressive and therapeutic measures, aimed at the abstinence of drug users, these strategies have adopted a more pragmatic aim: to alleviate the harmful effects of drug use. Some harm reduction strategies have been carried out in Slovenia since the beginning of nineties, but a debate whether it is time to introduce in Slovenia also public drug injection rooms, i.e. a place where drug users would have the possibility of less stressful, less stigmatized and more hygienic injection of prohibited drugs, is gaining ground. This debate has got also criminal law aspects, because providing a place for the use of prohibited drugs is a criminal offence in Slovene criminal law. The paper proposes several possibilities for overcoming this legal obstacle, among which the author opts for the regulation of safe rooms by a special statute.

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