

## PRESS RELEASE

# The 12th International Conference on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users to Take Place in Athens, Greece, October 8-11, 2024

The 12th International Conference on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users – [INHSU 2024](#) – will convene at the Megaron International Convention Centre in Athens, Greece, from October 8-11, 2024. [Registrations are now open.](#)

Hosted by INHSU – the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users – INHSU 2024 will welcome hundreds of attendees from across the globe, spanning sectors including harm reduction, infectious diseases, civil society and drug policy.

"Greece's recent advancements in harm reduction makes Athens an ideal host city for the INHSU conference," says Emma Day, INHSU Executive Director. "With its rich history and strategic location, we believe it will provide an exceptional setting for advancing discussions and catalysing change for one of the world's most marginalised communities."

In the early 2000s, people who inject drugs in Athens faced escalating trends in hepatitis C, coupled with an HIV outbreak in 2011, amidst severe economic crisis and limited harm reduction coverage.

Responding to these crises, Athens initiated a series of harm reduction initiatives, including community-based programs to enhance linkage to HIV/HCV care, increased access to naloxone, an HCV elimination program within opioid agonist treatment programs, homeless shelters, and the introduction of drug consumption rooms.

"We are excited that Athens will host INHSU 2024," says INHSU 2024 co-conveners Vana Sypsa, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and George Kalamitsis, Hellenic Liver Patients Association "Prometheus". "Hosting this event helps to reinforce these endeavours and further enhance the health of people who use drugs in both the community and in prisons in Greece."

INHSU 2024 will feature an extensive program comprising over 100 sessions on topics such as hepatitis C, hepatitis B, HIV, harm reduction strategies, drug policy reforms, and the social determinants impacting the health of people who use drugs, including women's health.

Plenary speakers and presentations include:

- Drug Policy Reform: Evaluation of decriminalisation and regulation models - Alison Ritter, DPMP (Drug Policy Modelling Program), UNSW Sydney, Australia
- Safer supply: A critical review of different models and their impact - Thomas Kerr, The University of British Columbia, Canada
- Global Picture of Harm Reduction Programming in Prisons - Nadine Kronfli, McGill University, Canada

Preceding the conference, INHSU will host an exclusive policy day focused on increasing harm reduction globally, a community day led by INHSU's Community Committee, and a workshop facilitated by INHSU Prisons – a special interest group dedicated to eliminating hepatitis C in carceral settings.

"This conference uniquely emphasises collaborative dialogue among stakeholders dedicated to the health of people who use drugs, and this year promises to offer an even broader global perspective, with increased representation from low- and middle-income countries," concludes INHSU's Emma Day.

Registration for [INHSU 2024 is now open](#), with early bird rates available until July 28<sup>th</sup> and standard registration closing in late September. There will be no virtual or on-demand tickets available.

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For interviews, imagery, or further information, please contact INHSU Marketing and Communications Manager, Brooke Nolan, at [brooke.nolan@inhsu.org](mailto:brooke.nolan@inhsu.org).