

• European Conference on Drug-Related Violence

- This presentation was delivered at the European Conference on Drug-Related Violence on 26-27 November 2024 in Brussels. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

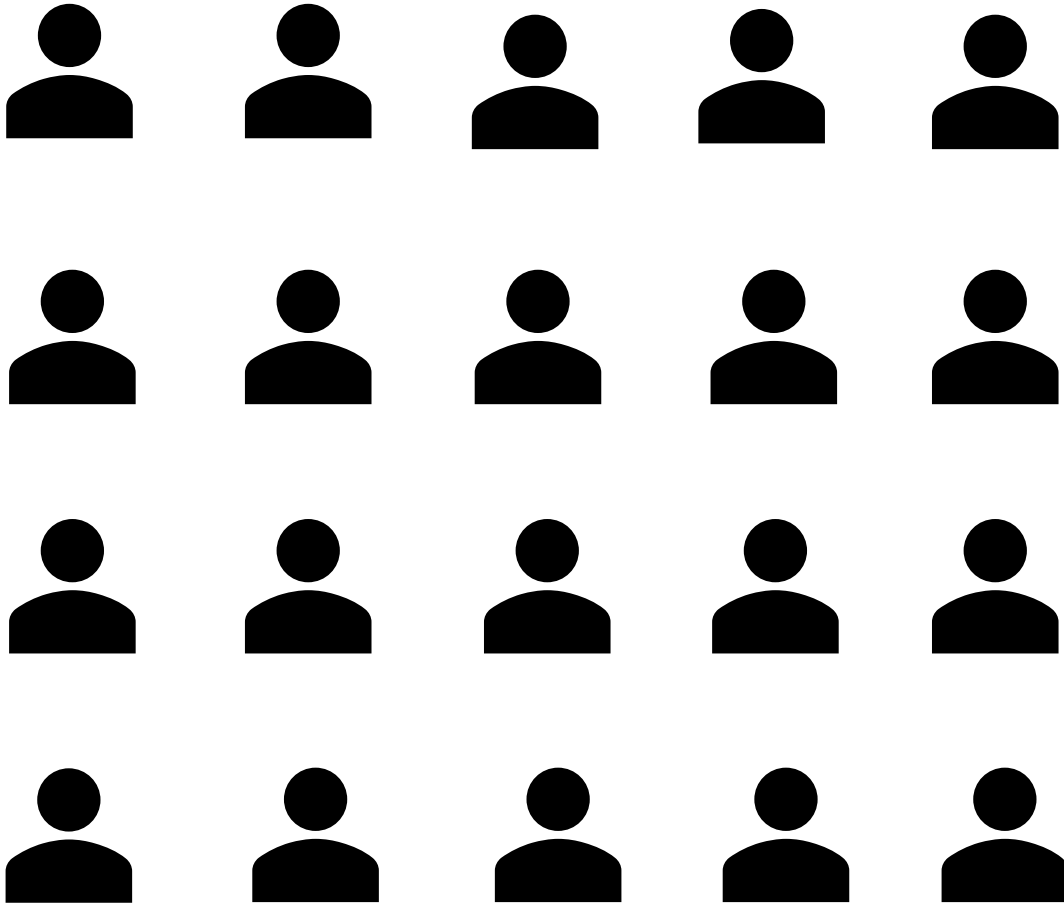
**TURNING THE TIDE:
EMPOWERING
RECOVERY AND DESISTANCE
THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTIONS**

Prof. dr. Charlotte Colman



**SHOULD EVERYONE
INVOLVED IN DRUG VIOLENCE
BE TREATED THE SAME WAY
BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM?**





**VULNERABLE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN
DRUG VIOLENCE**

**INTERPLAY BETWEEN OFFENDING AND
DRUG USE**

=

**INTERPLAY BETWEEN DESISTANCE AND
RECOVERY**

PERSONAL CAPITAL

SOCIAL CAPITAL

COMMUNITY CAPITAL

= RECOVERY AND RESISTANCE CAPITAL



RISKS

RE-OFFENDING



STRENGTHS

DESISTANCE/ RECOVERY

JUSTICE CAPITAL

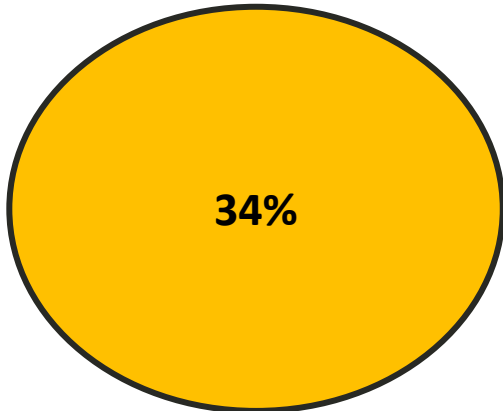
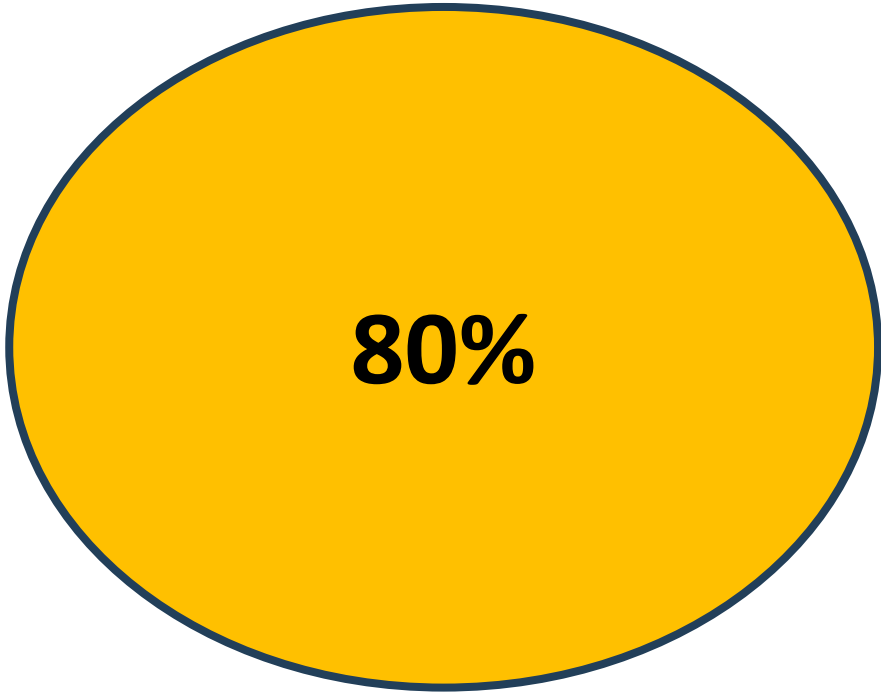


**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE IN
RECOVERY ARE PART OF THE
COMMUNITY**



**I WOULD HIRE SOMEONE IN
RECOVERY OF HEROIN USE WHEN
THAT PERSON IS SUITABLE FOR
THE JOB**





**WHEN A SOCIETY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT
PEOPLE CAN CHANGE, PEOPLE WHO USE
DRUGS AND/OR COMMIT OFFENCES ALSO STOP
BELIEVING THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE**

(Inspired by Maruna, 2001)







AN INCLUSIVE CITY HAS VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT RECOVERY AND DESISTANCE AND, THROUGH ITS EFFORTS, IT GENERATES A STRONG SENSE OF 'COLLECTIVE EFFICACY'

Picture: Ghent as one of the 29 Inclusive Cities

*"Becoming" an Inclusive City is a process that takes time
but even small steps are steps towards the right direction*

Becoming an Inclusive City is a process that takes time and even small steps, mostly focusing on making recovery visible and celebrate it in the community by raising public awareness, are steps towards the right direction.

Today, several cities across Europe and further afield have raised their interest to become an Inclusive City.

Therefore, we have designed an Inclusive Cities Action plan, consisting of the steps that you could take in translating your city into an inclusive city for people in recovery from addiction.

Step 1 Bring together an Inclusive Cities Council

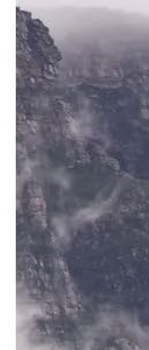
First, you bring together an Inclusive Cities council.

A core group of people who are willing to make the change happen and sign up to the goals of an inclusive city as outlined above.

This group could consist of prevention and treatment workers, policy makers, city council members, members from a scientific community, but also employers, citizens, including people in recovery. There are no requirements about the specific profile nor the size of this core group, although we believe that groups containing 3 to 4 members might be more productive and more developmentally advanced than larger groups. Also, a plan for Inclusive Cities can have more chance of acceptance and implementation with positive mindset and the buy-in of key stakeholders involved in local government in order to extend civic commitment.

This core group will focus on five actions:

First of all, the core group works out the mission of its inclusive city because every city is different. This mission is mostly



STIGMA



SOLIDARITY

ISOLATION



INCLUSION



IT IS NOT AN EASY ROAD, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE

TOGETHER

THROUGH EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES, INCLUSIVE POLICIES
AND A COMMITMENT TO COMPASSION, WE CAN NOT ONLY FACILITATE
RECOVERY AND DESISTANCE BUT ALSO BUILD SAFER, HEALTHIER
AND MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

ACT, CONNECT & TURN THE TIDE

