

**UNICEF Office in Belarus is looking for consultants or institutional contractors for the study on psychoactive substances use among youth and adolescents.**

Applicants should submit their applications in Russian or English to the attention of Nadzeya Lukina by e-mail: [nlukina@unicef.org](mailto:nlukina@unicef.org) by closing date of 27 July 2016, 18:00 to be eligible for consideration. Applications should contain the following documents:

- 1) A cover letter
- 2) P11 form
- 3) Financial proposal
- 4) Brief concept note

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

For any clarification about the positions please contact Victoria Lozuyk, phone: +375 17 210 55 89.

**Terms of Reference**

for consultants or institutional contractors on the study of psychoactive substances use among youth and adolescents

**Background:**

The use of psychoactive substances (PS) is one of the present-day social challenges that is critical for the society development. All types of PS are detrimental for human development. The irreversible effects of PS use for physical development of adolescents at the time of intensive growth are well known. PS use is also traumatic for a developing personality, as self-cognition, life values, ideals, beliefs and plans for future. As a result, a PS using adolescent develops a socially indifferent, anti-social, amoral system of behavioral motives and values.

The use of PS by adolescents and youth is a complex problem, and a rupture of a person's relations with a healthy social environment, loss of their social status is a key component of that problem. It is also important that this dependence affects both PS users and their immediate surrounding, especially their families. Medico-social consequences of PS use include violent behavior, early and high death rate among dependent people, a growing number of suicidal attempts, traffic accidents and occupational traumas. PS use is a potent argument for divorce – this reason is claimed by 65.7% of women and 42% of men. Also, a key reason for divorce is domestic violence (according to the responses of 31.3% of women and 17.7% of men), which may be a consequence of PS use.

PS use is the most widely spread cause of abandoning children and deprivation of parental rights. A key reason for orphanage rate is the use of PS by parents and, as a result, cruel treatment of children in the family, neglect their needs and interests. Consequences are the heaviest, when both parents are PS users – in such families children would either addicted to PS use, or find themselves in orphan asylums. Thus, in 2014, there were 3,110 children whose parents were deprived of their parental rights, and 2,644 persons deprived of their parental rights.

The share of children and adolescents with drug and toxic substance dependency diagnosed for the first time in life increased by 3-4 times, from 1.0 per 100,000 population aged 0-17 in 2013 to 4.5 in 2014 and from 50.2 per 100,000 population aged 18-19 to 160.3 correspondingly.<sup>1</sup> In 2015, there were more than 15,000 minor users of PS in the Republic of Belarus, with harmful effects: 571 users of non-narcotic substances; 439 users of narcotic substances; 14,816 users of alcohol with harmful effects<sup>2</sup>. However, the number of latent PS users is much higher according to the data of the National Monitoring and Prevention Center on Drug Use. The estimated number exceeds the number of officially registered PS users 8-10 times.

The most pressing issue now is the rapid spread of the synthetic cannabinoids with the brand name "spice" and increasing number of drug dependent adolescents. Spices consumption caused the death of at least 7 young people and the hospitalization of more than 1223<sup>3</sup> young people in 2014. Substance addiction, psychological and emotional burdens were the main causes of 29 committed suicide and 331 parasuicides by adolescents in 2014.

PS use is viewed as an aspect of deviant behavior and often revealed in the general context of crime, the level of which is increasing in today's society. 462 crimes were committed by drug-addicted juveniles in 2014.

The use of new psychostimulants intravenously affects the HIV situation. The most epidemiologically unfavorable situation was reported in Minsk. In the first half of 2015 407 new HIV cases were registered that is 2.8 times higher as compared to 2014 (145 cases) and 75% of them were among injecting drug users. The share of intravenous way of HIV transmission has increased by 37.8% in comparison with the first half of 2014<sup>4</sup>. The fact that the majority of infected young people are of reproductive age creates a high risk of an increase of the number of HIV positive pregnant women and newborns.

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<sup>1</sup> Children and Youth in the Republic of Belarus, Statistical book, 2015, p.76

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health, 2016

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Health, 2015

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Health, 2016

The younger is the age, the more serious are the consequences and complications, and the less likely is a young person understands the negative implications of his/her drug misuse.

The Government of Belarus has already recognized the severity of the problem and the existence of such bottlenecks as outdated legislation; stigma towards adolescents practicing risky behavior; low level of commitment and lack of professional qualification of health and education system specialists for provision of services tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable adolescents; insufficient cooperation of government institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) in outreaching young drug addicts.

Given the need to address the problem timely and proficiently the Government of Belarus requested UNICEF assistance in the carrying out of the situation analysis on Drug and Youth and the KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice) survey among young people on the use of psychoactive substances to actualize evidence base for knowledge generation and decision making including the recommendations for the development of the comprehensive preventive and psychosocial rehabilitation programmes for young drug users, their families and friends.

**Goal:** To strengthen the knowledge base on the psychoactive substances use among adolescents and youth.

**Objectives:**

- To study the main causes and drivers of the PS use;
- To study the main gaps and bottlenecks in services provision to young drug addicts;
- To study the main gaps and bottlenecks in data collection, monitoring and evaluation;
- To study knowledge, attitude and practices of adolescents and young people related to the PS use and safe behavior patterns;
- Draw up recommendations on the improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework, data collection, monitoring and analysis, strengthening professional capacities, development of the preventive and rehabilitation services for young people using PS development and NGOs engagement.

**Major tasks to be accomplished by consultants or institutional contractors:**

1. Develop the methodology of the study and tools in consultation with UNICEF including questionnaire of adolescents and young people, focus group discussions, key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders, experts and NGOs, etc.;

2. Desk review of the legislative and normative framework on youth and PS use including the analysis of administrative and criminal liability on the PS distribution and use;
3. Literature review of available data as well as publications on PS addiction with the purpose of providing an overview of the current situation, analysis of main bottlenecks and identifying key gaps in data collection;
4. Analysis:
  - of the social norms and stereotypes among general population and young people related to the PS use;
  - disease rate associated to PS use among adolescents and youth in the last 10 years;
  - PS use related crimes among minors and the trends in the last 10 years;
  - PS use related violence among peers and in a family;
  - medical, social and psychological services provision to adolescents and young people using PS;
5. Conduct the KAP survey among adolescents and young people related to the PS use;
6. Draw up conclusions and recommendations for the improvement of policies and programmes, legislative and normative framework, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and professional capacities development of service providers, NGOs engagement and development of the preventive and rehabilitation services tailored to the needs of the young people using PS;
7. Management of the round table discussion with the main stakeholders of the study findings and recommendations.

**Deliverables:**

<b>1-15 August</b>	Concept note, methodology and tools
<b>16-31 August</b>	An inception report after the desk review and literature review
<b>1 September- 15 October</b>	Analysis and KAP survey
<b>16 October-31 October</b>	Draft report
<b>1-10 December</b>	Final report with graphs, figures, tables (including summary of key findings and a PowerPoint presentation in Russian) and round table discussion

**Required qualifications:**

- Advanced university degree and/or academic background in law, public administration and/or social sector;
- Extensive experience in conducting research, studies or SitAn;

- Specialization in psychiatry and substance dependence treatment, or public health and healthcare is desirable;
- Availability of publications or academic works on the topics of prevention of PS use by adolescents and young people;
- Strong knowledge of the civil society sector and state public authorities;
- Knowledge of result-based management, as well as participatory monitoring methodologies and approaches;
- Proven experience on causality and capacity-gap analyses and gender mainstreaming in situation analyses;
- High analytical and conceptual skills and ability to work in a team;
- Fluency in Russian;
- Fluency in English (written and spoken) is an asset;

**Estimated costs and funding source:**

The consultants or institutional contractors are required to submit a brief concept note explaining the planned methodology and envisaged fees. The health insurance shall be covered personally by the consultants or institutional contractors.

**Suggested payment arrangements:**

The fee will be transferred to consultants or institutional contractors accounts as follows:

- 30% from the total amount of the contract after delivery and approval of inception report including the concept note, methodology and tools;
- 20% after analysis and KAP survey;
- 50% after delivery and approval of the final report and round table discussion.

**UNICEF supervisors:** The work of the consultants or institutional contractors will be supervised by Victoria Lozuyk, CYPHD and HIV/AIDS Specialist