Drug use is not a criminal issue, it is a health issue! Punishment is counterproductive. Policymakers have a role to play in promoting political responses to end drug use criminalization and move towards legal regulation of currently illicit substances in their nations, regions and ultimately across the globe. Portugal is an example of how cost-effective decriminalization can be in reducing drug-related deaths, overdose and HIV/AIDS among drug users. But decriminalization is not the only component within a comprehensive approach that includes the implementation of harm reduction services, while ensuring access to care across the whole cascade from prevention to diagnosis to treatment.

If harm reduction works in your neighboring country it will work in yours! Integrated harm reduction services comprise needle and syringe programs, opioid substitution therapy, text and treatment of HIV, Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis, entreatment therapy, condem programs, psychosocial, sexual and reproductive health services, education and communication, overdose management, psychosocial support, and harm reduction programs. Lessons from a community-based organization Casa da Vida Nova (Norte Vila) show clearly the impact of service integration in the reduction of hepatitis C, HIV, Tuberculosis and deaths among drug users. This is an issue to advocate for in countries like Brazil where harm reduction exists at the stage.

Harm reduction and love have a shared common denominator: they must be unconditional! If harm reduction services are introduced, they need to be focused on health determinants and based on human rights. Abuses to rights of people using drugs need to be tackled with good laws, which will ultimately decrease stigma and discrimination. Members of parliament need to guarantee that civil rights and health rights of people using drugs are safeguarded.

Community-based outreach and peer-support needs to be improved to increase the access and uptake of harm reduction services. Policies need to understand impact and value the role of peers in establishing the bridge towards the access to healthcare services, social services, and psychosocial aid for people using drugs. The recently opened mobile Drug Consumption Room in Lisbon is an example to follow that can increase the adherence to health-related services and increases autonomy of people using drugs.

People in prison used to live in the society and they will come back after their release. Go there and Solve it! And take a Micro-elimination approach. Breaking down national prisons to propose specific population, for which treatment and prevention interventions can be delivered more quickly and effectively ([4], requires a new approach at the community level and it is betrayed to people moved to outside conventional health facilities to improve the linkage to care. The challenge to strengthen harm reduction in prison settings is not unique to France. Many countries still fail to address prison health as public health.

Actions need to be based on high quality evidence. Gathering data to monitor and evaluate how far we go and whether adjustments are needed is paramount. Thus, policies must anticipate how results will be monitored, which sources will be used and whether data is available to provide decision makers with the good evidence. Providing good health information systems is central to overcome lack of data and show where we stand.

Assuring Universal Health Coverage is key to go beyond drug-users and include other key populations at high risk of being infected with hepatitis C, HIV, and TB. Do not look back at the side. The Activities Drug Users Treatment, has developed a wide range of actions that provide diagnosis, counseling and treatment to populations with high risk of infectious diseases. Some specific actions include education, as well as network and peer support in outreach strategies as these increase empowerment and reduce stigma, thus easing the access to health services. Informal citizens are more prone to end with a membership of care, thus ensuring universality of health care coverage.

By But First, Funding! Current funding models are not sustainable. Although international funding has a role to play national governments are invited to fill the gap and replenish harm reduction services. Funding has to guarantee community-based organizations do their work without prejudice of their autonomy. At international level it is important to call attention to this issue to increase allocation of budget. An example is that all members of Parliament present at the event signed the call to action: People before politics! MPs call to action on Harm reduction funding and Global Fund replenishment stating their support to sustainable funding of harm reduction.

New ways of doing partnerships: reinvention and diversification. Partnerships are key to go further as a necessary engagement and commitment towards common goals. Engaging prosecutions-supported interventions such as law enforcement assisted diversion in countries, as well as media groups and youth groups is paramount as these are opinion makers, actually sharing successful stories can have a considerable impact in people’s awareness. At a lower level, alliances like peer networks and support among drug users can help navigate among formal and informal social services. In San Francisco, the NGO Fat-Tuberculosis is working with a network of volunteers and organizations that work with people living with Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis. The NGO has a network of volunteers and organizations that work with people living with Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis. The NGO has a network of volunteers that work with drug users who are going through Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis. The NGO has a network of volunteers and organizations that work with people living with Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis. The NGO has a network of volunteers and organizations that work with people living with Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis.

Political will, political advocacy, political leadership: people’s health and safety first! Evidence for harm reduction is out there. Actually, it is no longer a matter of what exists, it is a matter of political will and leadership to propose and implement proper actions and take the lead. Local and global networks are both required.