Launch of e-learning resources
to support education and training
of the prison health workforce
jointly organized with SEICHE Center for Health and Justice
Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Public Health

Online
Date: 12 June 2024
Time: 18:00 – 19:25 CET

Scope and purpose

The World Health Organization has been engaged in the field of prison health since the inception of the Regional Office for Europe’s Health in Prisons Programme (HIPP) in 1995. Among its various areas of activities, we highlight the support to Member States in ensuring a competent workforce to provide quality health care to people deprived of liberty in the WHO European Region. This area is very important because it has been suggested that even though all public health training should aim to cover all Essential Public Health Operations (EPHOs), the way through which different schools in Europe are implementing education and training varies considerably. More importantly, progress has been slow in the last decade. Undergraduate training should be supplemented with post-graduate training specific to the area of practice, so it would seem reasonable to expect a wide offer in prison health for all those professions requiring it. However, research shows a gap in training offers available to ensure quality of care for people in prison. For example, 27 peer-reviewed studies examining United States-based academic health professions educational programs on correctional health has highlighted gaps in curricula. A recent review produced by WHO Regional Office for Europe reinforces these findings, stressing particular areas where there is a clear need for additional education and training directed at prison health practitioners.

The transatlantic partnership recently launched to address post-pandemic global health priorities and shared challenges across the Americas and the European Region, including noncommunicable diseases, shows how important inter-regional collaboration is to find common solutions. In this context, and considering the global outreach of HIPP’s activities, a partnership has been developed with the SEICHE Center for Health and Justice at the Yale School of Medicine and the Yale School of Public Health to develop education and training opportunities that may support the health workforce in improving health service delivery to people deprived of liberty.

The event aims to:

- highlight the importance of inter-regional collaboration to meet the health needs of people in prison and detention centers;
- announce the launch of an e-learning course on “Innovation in noncommunicable diseases policy and action: healthcare in prison”;
- offer insight into resources that will be available to support education and training of the prison health workforce.

The working language of the meeting will be English.