

SNCDA ACADEMY

The Slovenian NCD Alliance invites you to
an international virtual seminar (webinar) on

The brain development in adolescence and substance use in the context of prevention science, policy & practice

The seminar will take place on ZOOM platform on

Wednesday, 23rd of June 2021
from 15:00 (3pm) to 18:00 (6pm) (CEST time zone)

► The purpose and objectives of the Webinar:

In many countries (including in Slovenia) prevention professionals and other prevention programme and intervention providers often do not take into consideration the remarkable findings of developmental neuroscience in the last decades regarding **brain development during childhood and adolescence**. A dramatic growth in scientific knowledge and practical experience in this field should have significant implications in prevention policy and practice nationally and internationally. However, there are still (too) **many ineffective or even harmful interventions** in place all over the world, which are not supported by the science (including developmental neuroscience) and should not be implemented in practice and financially supported by the authorities anymore.

In many discussions among people who are involved in prevention work, many of them still believe that experimental or occasional substance use (e.g., alcohol or cannabis) has no or very little impact on physical and mental development of children and adolescents and also many believe about the effectiveness of one-off lectures and workshops (usually organised as massive events or so-called prevention days in schools and communities), scare tactics, testimonials of ex-drug users or addicts or traffic accidents victims etc. Because of those never-ending discussions and misunderstandings in prevention professional community, we decided to organise this thematic webinar and invite **three of the most relevant international speakers** to help us to **advocate for investment in evidence-based prevention** and overcome the doubts and concerns about the brain development in adolescence and substance use in the context of prevention science and practice.

► Confirmed keynote speakers:

Dr. Wilson M. Compton is Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA. Dr. Compton's responsibilities include development, implementation, and management of NIDA's research portfolio to improve the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and addiction. He has authored over 200 publications and often speaks at high-impact venues.



Dr. Diana Fishbein is at the University of North Carolina's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute where she directs the Translational Neuro-Prevention Research Program. She is also Research Faculty at Penn State University and President of the National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives (NPSC). Dr. Fishbein has published several books and over 100 research articles in the fields of developmental neuroscience, prevention, criminology, addiction, and risky behaviour.



Wadih Maalouf holds PhD in Mental Health & Drug Addiction Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Since 2010, he is a global programme coordinator in the Drug Prevention & Health Branch of UNODC HQ in Vienna, covering the topics of family skills responses in preventing drug use, crime and violence as well as life skills education responses in schools and in sport settings.



► Chair of the Webinar:

Matej Košir is Director of UTRIP (Slovenia). European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR) has awarded him with »Leading European Prevention Science Practitioner Honour« in 2017. Society for Prevention Research (SPR) has awarded him & his wife (Sanela Talić) with »International Collaborative Prevention Research Award« in 2020. He is PhD student of Prevention Science at the University of Zagreb (Croatia).



► **Organiser of the Webinar:**

The Slovenian NCD Alliance (SNCDA) is a national umbrella organization that brings together actors working in the field of prevention of chronic non-communicable diseases. SNCDA acts in the public interest and is the Slovenian representative in the global NCD Alliance. The Alliance works in the fields of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and the prevention of addiction, exercise and nutrition, mental health, and environmental health. This is achieved through active advocacy, proactive communication with various publics, quality prevention, capacity building for its members and partners, international cooperation, and constant pursuit of reducing health inequalities.

► **Programme of the Webinar:**

- 15:00** Welcome words & presentation of the webinar / speakers
- 15:15** **Dr. Wilson M. Compton**, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) (USA)
Brain Development and the Onset of Drug Use: Opportunities for Prevention
- 16:00** **Dr. Diana Fishbein**, University of North Carolina & Penn State University (USA)
Preventing Substance Use by Promoting Healthy Adolescent Brain Development
- 16:45** **Dr Wadih Maalouf**, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (Austria)
The etiological model of brain development in the context of the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and how evidence-based prevention intervention are promoted under such a model
- 17:30** Questions & answers (discussion)
- 17:50** Closing remarks

► **NO REGISTRATION FEE! Please register here.**

The ZOOM link will be sent upon registration.

The registration deadline is **Monday, 21st of June.**

For additional questions and information please contact us at **info@sncda.si.**