

Suzan Oudejans¹², Masha Spits¹²

¹ Mark Bench, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

² AIAR, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Investing in prevention

The longstanding image of the Netherlands is being a country with a tolerant drug policy. Nowadays it is also known for their evidence based addiction treatment. Starting from 1998, the treatment renovation program 'To score Results' delivers a major contribution in the professionalization of addiction treatment in the Netherlands (Schippers, Schramade & Walburg, 2002; Schippers, Nabitz & Buisman, 2010). In cooperation with the majority of the larger treatment centres and with funding from the Ministry of Health, the program resulted in approximately 30 evidence based – implemented- guidelines for the treatment of addiction (Spits & Schippers, 2011). Similar needs arose in the field of addiction *prevention*. What is the quality of the prevention interventions, and what is needed? To score Results has commissioned Mark Bench to carry out the project *Investing in prevention*.

The main questions of the project are: What is minimally needed in the Netherlands for a prevention programme for youth addiction, what is available, what is the quality, what is redundant and what is lacking?

The major difference with the treatment of addiction is the large variety of prevention products, the differences between prevention departments (in vision and in scale) and the lack of well documented products. In addition, there is neither theory nor research available on what and how much is minimally needed for the prevention of addiction. Therefore, in cooperation with experts in the area, we formulated a framework addiction prevention. The framework, combined with the available prevention interventions, guided to an overview of gaps and redundancies in the addiction prevention field. This resulted in recommendations for the further professionalization of the prevention of addiction for youth.