



INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK – EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON ADDICTION

## **Concurrent Session**

### **Education and Training in Harm Reduction Strategies and Approaches**

*Title: What do we know about needs and opportunities for training in harm reduction strategies and approaches?*

**Author: Ambros Uchtenhagen      President, Research Institute on Public Health and Addiction**

A survey on national systems and methods of continued education and training in the substance abuse field revealed major deficits in conceptual and practical aspects, and especially a deficit in dealing with harm reduction issues and their integration into preventive and therapeutic services and their activities. However, effective harm reduction needs such integration and cannot rely only on stand-alone activities.

There is little information on the training needs of staff involved in harm reduction activities, as well as of staff in preventive and therapeutic services in regard to harm reduction strategies and approaches. The results of an international survey on such training needs, and on existing opportunities how to cover these needs, will be presented.

Also, some specific training aspects will be highlighted, such as appropriate training methods including interactive electronic fora, knowledge transfer within services, support for non-specialists, and evaluation of trainings and their impact.