**Dorian’s case**

Dorian is 22 years old boy – for the last six months he is not using heroine anymore. Adding six month of methadone therapy we may say that he is clear for more than one year. During the last year he is tested negative for heroine (in two tests he resulted hashish positive).

Dorian was admitted a tour center two years ago, accompanied with one of his relatives. At that time he had some problems with his family members because of his drug abuse. He belongs to a strong family with very good moral and social values. When he was introduced at the center he was almost 20 years old having a four years career on drugs. He started with hashish and then he continued with heroine and ended by injecting it. He is intelligent, with good results in school, and because his family has good income he could manage to procure drugs. But some problems related to his drug use began to show up.

It was clear that he was forced from the family to enroll to our program – after the first he interview he admitted this fact. Before coming at the Methadone therapy he had three negative attempts of detox at the Military Hospital followed by immediate relapses. During the first interview he didn’t speak too much and it was not easy to communicate with him – he is a sort of calm and introverted person, very often hermetic and mute. He liked to listen heavy metal and other death oriented hard rock bands – it was obvious he admired that type of music – his heroes were rock stars, and he was behaving like them.

In the following months we had a long experience of therapy with him – ups and downs as he started to open up. He liked to experiment with drugs but he was not a poly drug abusers. He regularly used heroine but also hashish and benzodiazepines in order to feel a combined and a different effect. In the first period of heroine tests he resulted positive. After recurrent and failed attempts to talk to him one day he said: “yes, I’d like to talk…”.

In fact we started to talk with him; his life style, his perspective, myths populating his mind and the real facts. We made him a proposal: we will communicate but this communication will break down at that moment when the heroine testing will result positive. This was a very challenging step, but we had nothing to lose. As time passed by things started to change for better – he started to change his behavior, his friends and even he cut his hair – he swore that never will cut his hair during his life on earth. At that time we decide to hire him as a volunteer at our center. At the beginning he did whatever he was asked to – bringing cups of coffees, cleaning the rooms and so on. He repeatedly said to us that being a volunteer gives him self-confidence not to take heroine anymore.

One night one of our therapist had a phone call from Dorian, he was having a strong temptation to use drugs – he admitted to the therapist. It was a relief and a pleasure for us to hear that – in general clients admit of using heroine after taking it. The progress was a little but steady as the counseling advanced. He was a smoker too, and he was using less cigarettes per day. He was also involved in our MMT project in prison.

Ten month ago he said to us that he intends to taper the dose as he wanted to quit methadone “afterwards I’d like to resume my studies”. Some years before he was studying in Germany but he interrupted because of drug related problems. After a consultation with the Aksion Plus staff and his family members we decided to start the countdown with the methadone. A positive factor was the exploration of myths and misunderstandings with methadone – the so-called methadone dependence and other myths. Actually we trusted him a lot and eventually he quit therapy in seven weeks. In the following month he admitted having some minor problems with hashish but he did not smoke anymore, he was having only one coffee a day and started some sport activities.

At present he is negotiating with the University in Germany to begin with his interrupted studies. He is reading a lot and preparing himself for the up coming challenge…

After he was admitted at our center, three of his friends followed him, and now they are also clear of drugs. Dorian laughingly says: “myths about drugs are really dangerous…”.

Some days ago we were invited for a coffee by a Dorian’s family member – he wanted to thank all of us – tomorrow Dorian is departing to Germany to pursue his studies. Before Dorian was also sleeping on the road… Farewell, my friend - have a nice trip – life has so many pitfalls and battles that should be won – until the end of time.