

What are gender-responsive services?

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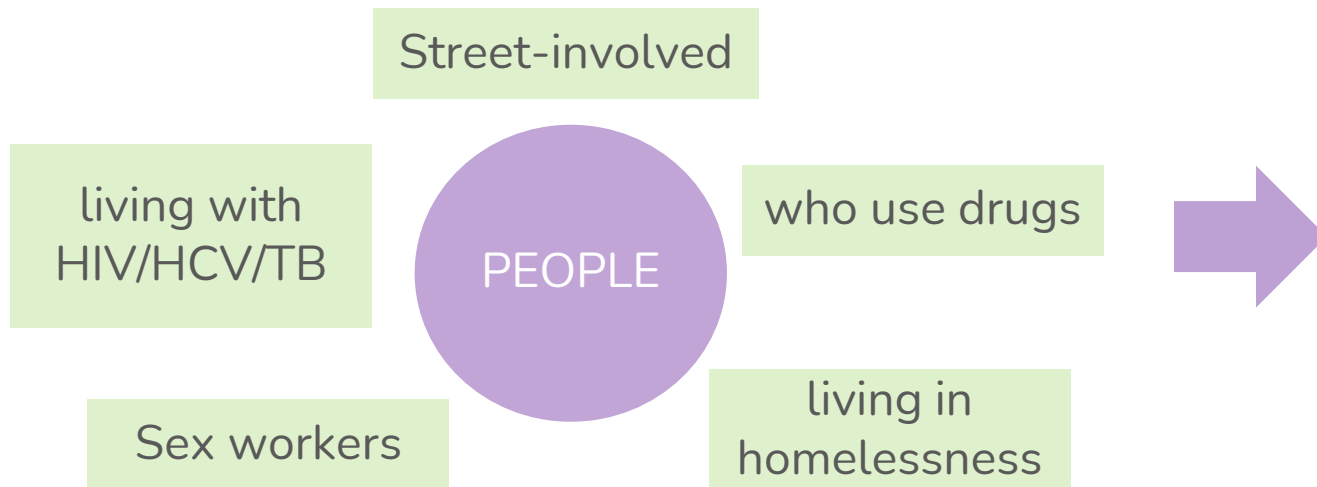
FEP and CEDH, Catholic University of Portugal

European Group on Gender and Drugs

AIM

“To increase understanding on gender transformative approaches in service provision.”

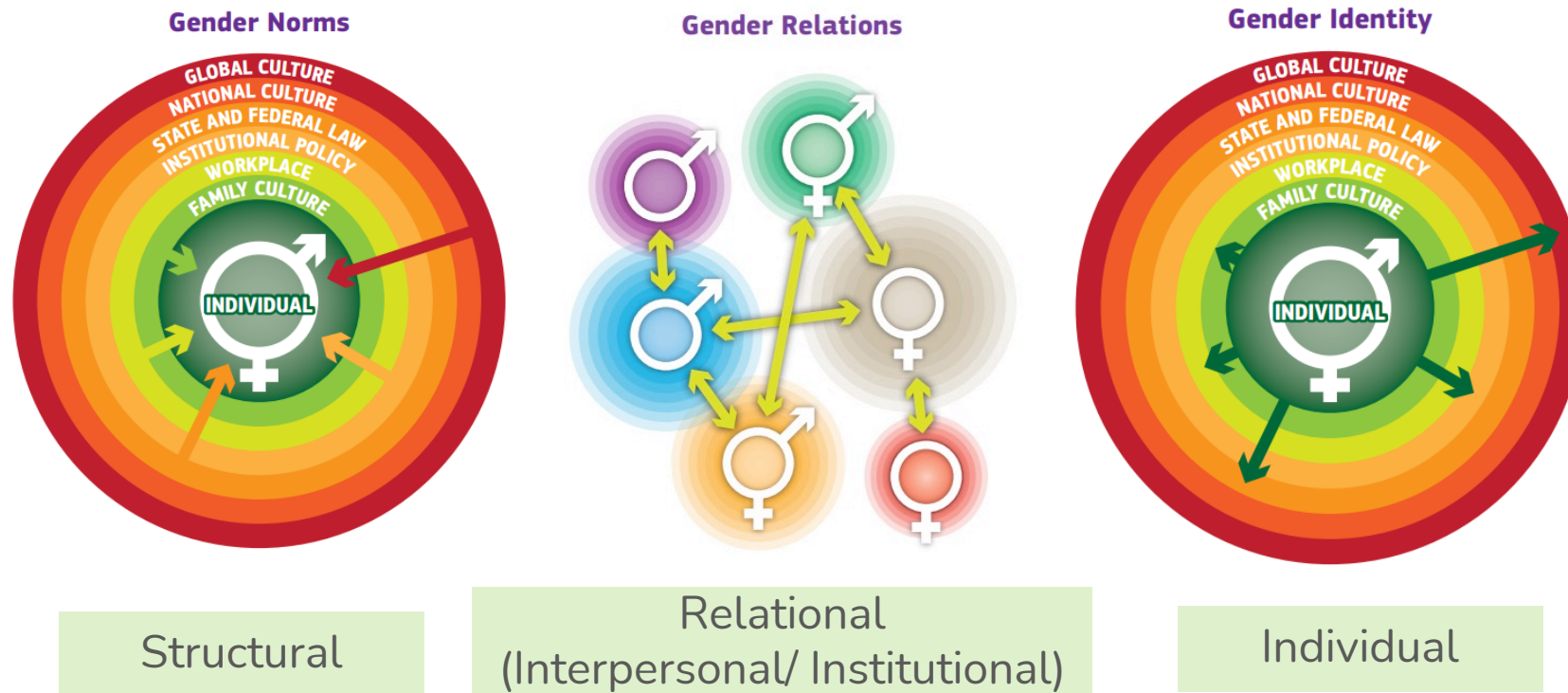
Focus on outreach and harm reduction services targeting:



Disproportionately impacted by:
Stigma
Intersectional inequalities
Vulnerabilization processes (people are not vulnerable!!!)

Underserved by conventional health and social services

WHY GENDER MATTERS

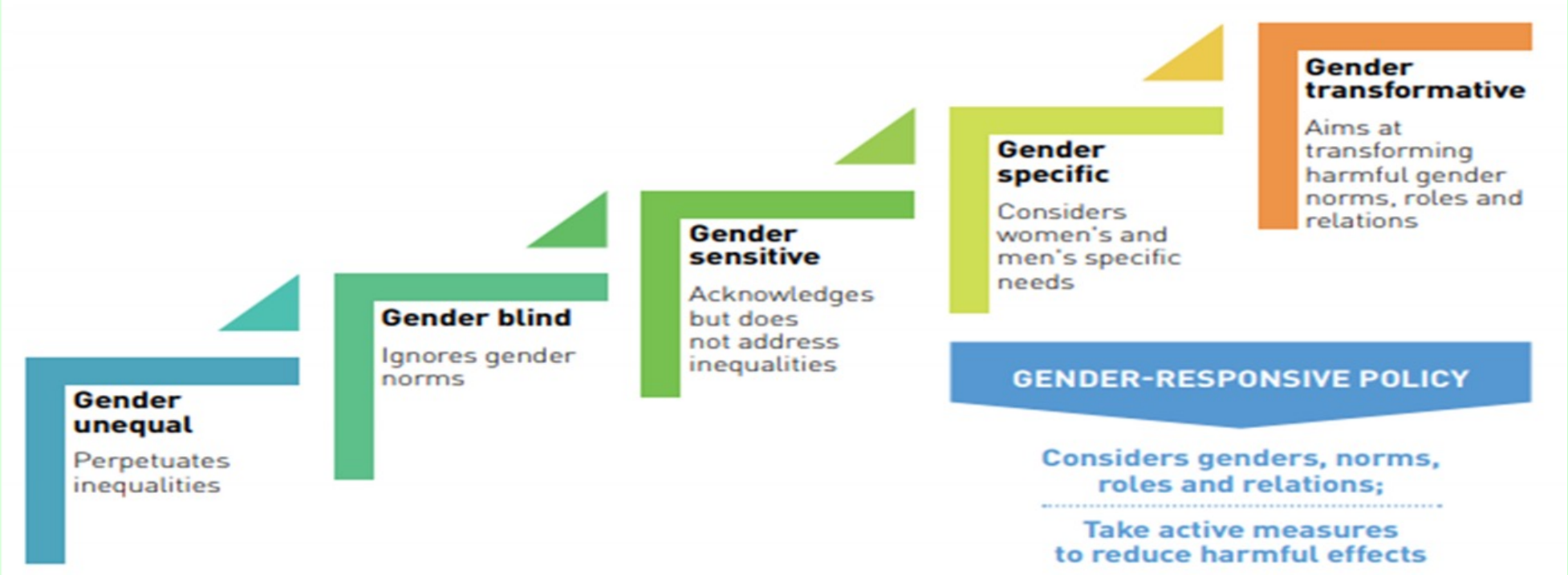


European Commission – Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (2020). *Gendered Innovations 2: How inclusive analysis contributes to research and innovation*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

WHY GENDER MATTERS

- Gender stereotypes meet drug stigma
- Patriarchy meet...
 - ...Prohibitionism
 - ...Abolitionism
 - ...Pathologization
 - ...Medicalization
- Androcentrism in health and social services

GENDER RESPONSIVENESS?



World Health Organization - Gender Responsive Assessment Scale

GENDER-RESPONSIVENESS?



Gender unequal

E.g.,

- Institutional violence against women, trans and non-binary people



Gender blind

E.g.,

- Androcentrism
- Hypercentralization in health indicators
- Universal approaches



Gender-sensitive

E.g.,

- Advocates for gender equality without implementing real measures/ protocols/ indicators to respond to the specificities of women, trans, and non-binary people in their intervention

GENDER-RESPONSIVENESS?

Gender-specific

- Creates specific spaces and/ or implement intentional activities to support women, trans and non-binary people (e.g., safe spaces, specific schedules)
- Capacitated team
- Trauma-informed approaches

Gender-transformative

- **Focused not only on promoting access to the services but also on empowering and (re)activating their citizen and political participation**
- Considers the role of oppression systems and structural inequalities in generating harm, trauma
- Criticizes the centralization in “vulnerability” and “risk” and makes visible the human resilience, and agency in survival strategies in adversity

TOWARDS GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

- Move beyond exclusively health indicators
- Gender-balanced teams & affirmative practices
- Embrace feminism & queer politics
- Language matters (HR is pro in inclusive language!)
- Include gender justice in your advocacy agenda
- Protocols & collaborative networks to support those who experience(d) GBV
- Protocols & collaborative networks to deal with perpetrators (ideally, following the principles of reparative justice)

TOWARDS GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

- We are still learning...
- Until now, most of the social innovation was based in short-term funding, organizational voluntarism, and professional activism
- We do our best by

WE NEED FUNDING!!!!

Thank you!

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Illustration by Joana Estrela
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