



Annual report 2022

MISSION

Students for Sensible Drug Policy is an international grassroots network of students and young people, led by students and young people who are advocating for policy reform on the local, national, continental and global level.

We promote youth civic engagement as a critical tool in reforming drug policy and develop leaders who advocate for change, based on justice, liberty and compassion. SSDP mobilizes and empowers young people to participate in political processes. Our members operate locally and are connected globally to reduce the harms of counterproductive policies—in particular, those that directly harm students of all ages and youth—and to represent the rights and interests of this population.

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The team



Róisín Downes '15

Executive Director (IR/AT)



Moronfolu Adeniyi '14

African Development Consultant (NG)



Iulia Vatau '19

United Nations Global Fellow (RO/EN)

The Board

Amy Romanello
Board Chair (Berlin)



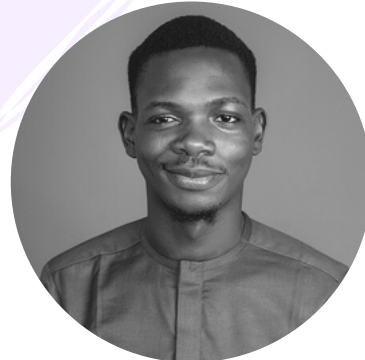
Uchenna Imo
Secretary (Nigeria)



Molly Ogbodum
Director (Nigeria)



Isaac Olushola Okungola
Director (Nigeria)



Ewelle Williams '17
Director (Liberia)



Introduction

A Milestone Year: Our First Full Year Operating Independently

2022 was a milestone year for SSDP International as it marked our first full year operating independently. This transition was a significant step in our evolution, reflecting our growth and the increasing global impact of our work. Throughout the year, we faced numerous challenges and seized exciting opportunities, all while staying true to our mission of advocating for sensible drug policies and empowering young people worldwide.

Establishing Our Independence

Becoming an independent entity required substantial organisational development and strategic planning. We started developing administrative and governance structures, ensuring that our operations were efficient and transparent. Our newly formed youth-led Board of Directors, played a crucial role in guiding the Organisation through this transformative period.

Key Achievements in 2022

Despite the complexities of operating independently for the first time, SSDP International achieved remarkable success in several areas:

1.Strengthening Our Network:

- Expanded our global presence by establishing new chapters bringing our network to 45 countries.
- Fostered stronger connections within our existing chapters, providing them with the resources and support needed to thrive.

2.Advocacy and Policy Impact:

- Played a pivotal role in drug policy reforms in various regions
- Engaged in high-level policy discussions at international forums, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

3.Education and Outreach:

- Conducted numerous workshops and training sessions to equip young advocates with the skills and knowledge to drive change in their communities.

4.Youth Empowerment Projects:

- Collaborated with Youth RISE on the EU Drug Policy Training Series for young people, amplifying the voices of young people in the drug policy movement and promoting youth-led initiatives.
- Organized regional conferences and networking events, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among youth advocates.

Navigating Challenges

Operating independently presented challenges, from securing sustainable funding to building Organisational capacity. However, our team's dedication and the unwavering support of our partners and donors continues to enable us to overcome these obstacles.

SSDP Impact

| <u>LOCAL</u> | <u>NATIONAL</u> | <u>INTERNATIONAL</u> |
|--|--|--|
| 15 University Policies Changed | 75+ Government Officials Engaged | 17 Meetings with country delegations |
| 25+ Local Policy Makers Engaged | 6 National Policies Campaigns | 16 Members spoke in international forums |
| 30+ Chapters Conducting Harm Reduction Initiatives | 37 Support. Don't Punish Events | 29 SSDPers attended the UN |

*Since 2020



SSDP Nigeria at the National Policy Dialogue 2022, Abuja

SSDP Aotearoa (NZ) following the legalisation of Drug Checking 2022, Dunedin



SSDP International at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs Thematic Session on Human Rights 2022, Vienna

Isaac Ogunkola Olushola '20 speaking at the International AIDS Conference 2022, Montreal



SSDP Gambia at the national multistakeholder meeting on Drug Law 2022, Banjul

SSDP Leeds providing drug education and harm reduction information 2022, Leeds



Funding for Strategic Development: Setting Our OKRs

In 2022, SSDP International was honoured to receive some funding dedicated to the development of our Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) for the period 2023-2025. This support has been instrumental in enabling us to strategically plan for the future, ensuring that our efforts are aligned with our mission and that we are well-equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Strategic Planning and Development

The funding facilitated a comprehensive and inclusive strategic planning process. We engaged with stakeholders across our global network, including chapter leaders, board members, partners, and young advocates, to identify key priorities and set ambitious yet achievable goals. This collaborative approach ensured that our OKRs reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of our community.

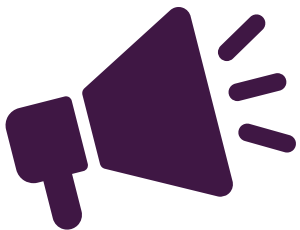
Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) for 2023-2025

Our OKRs for 2023-2025 are designed to guide our efforts and measure our progress in achieving our mission of promoting sensible drug policies and empowering young people worldwide. Key areas of focus include:

Looking Ahead

The development of our OKRs for 2023-2025 marks a critical step in SSDP International's journey. With clear objectives and measurable results, we are poised to make significant strides in advancing our mission. The funding we received has not only enabled us to plan strategically but also to invest in the tools and resources necessary to achieve our goals.

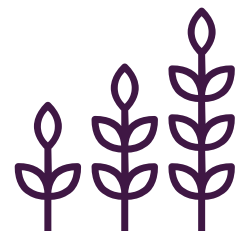
We are excited about the future and confident that our strategic plan will lead to meaningful progress in drug policy reform and youth empowerment. As we implement our OKRs, we look forward to working closely with our global network, partners, and supporters to create a world where drug policies are based on evidence, compassion, and human rights.



Policy victories



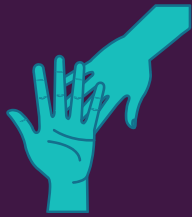
Sustainable funding



Capacity building

| ACHIEVE POLICY VICTORIES ON THE GLOBAL, NATIONAL & LOCAL LEVELS | ACCESS SUSTAINABLE MULTI-SOURCE FUNDING | BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE NETWORK |
|--|---|--|
| Champion a UN policy victory | Raise 30k from private donors annually | Establish coalition for EU grant writing |
| Build mechanism of engagement with the EU policy | Win 3 grants amounting to 90k annually | Run training series for UN, EU and African advocacy |
| Foster a space and provide a blueprint for national networks to achieve 3 national victories | Create and sign 3 MOUs with partners (new / current) to support us in accessing new funding & coalition opportunities | Support at least 1 chapter winning a grant |
| Involved in 50 local victories in 2023 | | At least 3 national committees meeting regularly |
| | | Create 3 key partnerships in both the African and European regions |

PROGRAMS



Outreach & Grassroots Support



African Advocacy & Initiatives



EU & European Advocacy



UN Advocacy



Mentorship Program



Capacity Building & Training

EU Drug Policy Training & Strategy Series

This project aimed to increase the capacity of youth-led organizations that engage in drug policy reform and to empower young people to advocate at the European Union level. Recognizing that the protection of young people is often cited as one of the primary goals of drug policies, it was deemed essential for the youth voice to be present in drug policy creation and implementation processes. Young people who use drugs were identified as a particularly vulnerable population due to their dependence on families or the government for financial stability, housing, and education. As such, it was critical that policies intended to protect youth were influenced by the insights that youth held about drug use.

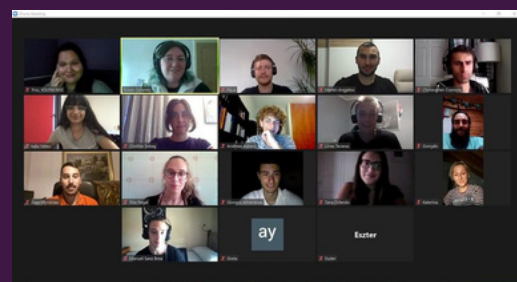
To achieve the goal of increasing the capacity of youth-led organizations and young people to engage with EU drug policy, a training series was organized. This series equipped young people with the necessary knowledge, skills, connections, and strategy to engage with the EU Drug Policy Creation process and create a youth-led dialogue around EU drug policies.

This training had the dual outcome of increasing the capacity of individuals and organizations to meaningfully engage with EU Drug Policy.

The project had four objectives:

1. **Knowledge Building:** To build a base of knowledge regarding how the EU makes decisions about drugs and the historical context of drugs in EU policy.
2. **Skills Building:** To build a base of advocacy skills tailored to the EU context.
3. **Connections:** To build connections between young people and key stakeholders in EU drug policy (i.e., EU Decision Makers, Civil Society, and Youth).
4. **Strategy Building:** To bring the youth participants together to strategize on how they would further the youth voice in EU Drug Policy.

These four objectives informed the stages of the project. Following a preparation phase, the project began with three knowledge-building workshops focused on the EU Drug Policy Creation Process, the History of EU Drug Policy, and the Current Drugs Strategy. These workshops ran between September and October 2022, and participants had the opportunity to hear firsthand how policy develops in EU institutions from Panel Representatives from EMCDDA and the Civil Society Forum.



UN Advocacy & Training Series

UN Training Series 2022

35 participants took part in the training series which included introductory sessions, civil society best practices, public speaking and networking session.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

We had a delegation of 6 people from 5 different countries. We held a side event, made a statement in the main session, participated in 3 informal dialogues and met with multiple country delegations.



Youth Advocacy

We initiated the formation of a youth working group as part of the VNGOC, participated in a Youth Consultation on Transnational Organised Crime.

Upcoming Projects 2023

- 1 Youth in Power
- 2 UN Training Series & CND
- 3 Support. Don't Punish Initiative
- 4 SSDP Africa Leader's Retreat
- 5 Pan European Youth Consortium

Support. Don't Punish Initiative: Advocacy Outreach to YPWUD in West Africa

Project Description

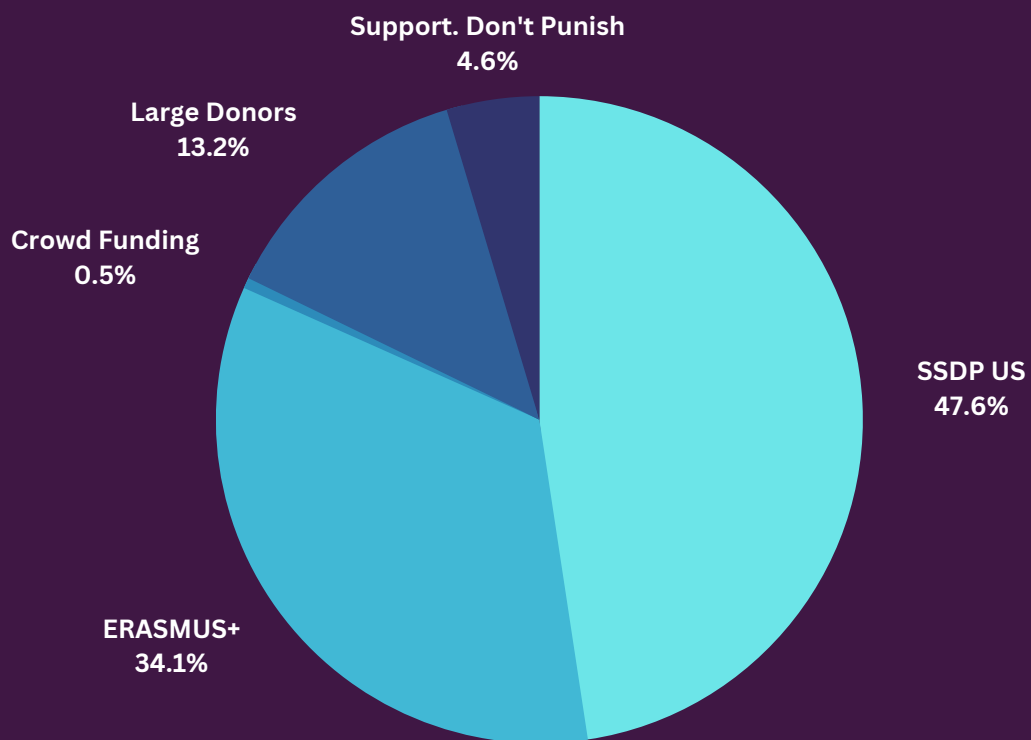
As part of the Support. Don't Punish Initiatives Grant, we have developed this project aimed at addressing two of the challenges faced by Young People who Use Drugs in low-income areas in Liberia, Ghana & Nigeria. 1. YPWUD in these regions have little, if not no, access to drug-related services, let alone youth-accessible drug services, and 2. YPWUD in this region faces extremely high barriers to accessing advocacy spaces. The project consists of direct harm reduction outreach activities and focus group discussions to collect information on the needs of this population. Furthermore, the project aims to link participants with local actors involved in drug policy reform advocacy and harm reduction services.

Progress

All three countries are prepared for activities and will be commencing them this month.



Financial overview



INCOME 2022

TOTAL INCOME = 70,429 EUR APROX

Upcoming Events

1 UN Training Series Part 2

February 1st 6pm CET

2 ERASMUS + Project Launch Event

February 2nd 6pm CET

3 UN Training Series Networking Event

Last Week of February

CHAPTER Lists

SSDP Africa

Bawku Presbyterian Nurses College
Catholic University of Bukavu
Kenyatta University
Murang'a University of Technology
SSDP Chad
SSDP Gambia
SSDP Ghana
SSDP Nigeria
SSDP Sierra Leone
SSDP Uganda
SSDP Zimbabwe
University of Education, Winneba
University of Nairobi

Arab States

NYU Abu Dhabi

Asia and Pacific

SSDP Nepal
SSDP Pakistan
SSDP Philippines

Caribbean

University of the West Indies

Europe

Cork Institute of Technology
Dublin City University
Leiden University
Maynooth University
National University of Ireland
Galway
SSDP Belarus
SSDP Berlin
SSDP Budapest
SSDP Czech Republic
SSDP Durham
SSDP France
SSDP Graz
SSDP Israel
SSDP Italy
SSDP Leeds
SSDP London
SSDP Manchester
SSDP Österreich
SSDP Tel Hai
SSDP University College London
Trinity College Dublin
United Methodist University
University College Cork
University College Dublin
University of Education, Winneba
University of Hull

South/Latin America

SSDP Brazil



SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS (PWUD): CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD