

Sperkova, Kristina

IOGT International



Kristina Sperkova has a master's degree in psychology from the Comenius University in Slovakia. Kristina can count on 20 years worth of experience working in civil society in the field of health promotion, with special focus on prevention of harm caused by alcohol, working on all levels of society. Kristina started her career in a local peer program in her hometown community in Slovakia. In 2014, she was elected International President of the global IOGT movement. Kristina served as Secretary-General of a European youth organization, where she successfully developed innovative and compelling programs, projects and campaigns to empower young people and mobilize youth organizations to promote healthy lifestyles. In this work, Kristina has earned merits in both raising funds for youth activities to promote health and well-being, as well as building a platform for political engagement of young Europeans in public health policy-making. From 2012 onwards, Kristina worked for a Swedish NGO, the IOGT-NTO movement that supports partner NGOs in Southeast Asia, East Africa, and Balkan countries, in the field of official development assistance. She worked to build civil society capacity to tackle alcohol as obstacle to development. Combining expertise from her master's degree in psychology, with her know-how in community-based work and Human Rights-based development work, Kristina has dedicated special attention to addressing the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and children. As International President of IOGT, Kristina has been representing on the highest levels the voice of more than 135 civil society organizations from communities in 56 countries worldwide. Under her leadership, IOGT International is developing innovative approaches to the prevention, and treatment and rehabilitation of alcohol-related harm – advocating for and leading the way in a comprehensive approach to tackling the global burden of alcohol harm. Kristina is a member of WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs and Mental Health. The group advised the Director-General on meaningful engagement of Civil Society before the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in September 2019. In its second term, the group's objective is to support the follow up and implementation of the outcomes of the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs, and ensure NCDs are prioritised in global health and sustainable development agendas IOGT International is the premier global network for evidence-

based policy measures and community-based interventions to prevent and reduce harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. IOGT International has 137 member organizations in 56 countries.