



# Perspectives from Portugal:

## Can Lessons from a Successful Opioid Crisis Intervention Inform U.S. Approaches?

Monday, April 10 | 7 p.m. EST | Virtual Forum: Zoom/Facebook Live

In the late 1990s, Portugal had one of the highest rates of “problematic drug use” in Europe with 1% of Portugal’s population (100,000 people) suffering mostly from opioid use disorder (OUD). Portuguese policymakers responded with reforms that kept drugs illegal — but decriminalized possession for quantities related to personal use and created a national network of structures of intervention. This shift from treating addiction as a problem of criminal justice to a problem of public health focused on harm reduction has yielded steady declines in drug use among 15- to 24-year-olds; the number of overdoses; the amount of HIV+ infection among injecting drug users; the amount of new users/drug injection overall; and stigma.

### Our Guest Speaker:



**Miguel Moniz, Ph.D.**, is an anthropologist at the Center for Research in Anthropology, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and the Executive Director of the Migrant Communities Project (New England/Portugal) a 501(c)(3) (pending) nonprofit organization that creates institutional partnerships promoting education and assisting local community problem solving. Through his research and Migrant Communities Project initiatives, including with the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence on Opioids and Overdose at Rhode Island Hospital (NIH), Dr. Moniz has worked with communities to promote evidence-based best practices that limit stigmatization of SUDs and treatment and educate the public about the benefits of policy approaches in which SUDs are handled as a healthcare issue rather than criminal offense. He is Co-PI of the project “Portuguese Police Experience with Drug Decriminalization” (Funded through NIH, NIDA and Rhode Island Hospital).

For our April Family Forum, we’ll take a closer look at Portugal’s experience ameliorating its national opioid crisis and attempt to better understand how these successes could apply to U.S. approaches. The important role of community organizations in those efforts, including immigrant civic organizations, to reduce stigma and promote education will be discussed.

Join us as we welcome guest speaker **Miguel Moniz, Ph.D.**, an anthropologist at the Center for Research in Anthropology, ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and Executive Director of the Migrant Communities Project (New England/Portugal). He is MPI of the project “Portuguese Police Experience with Drug Decriminalization” (Funded through NIH, NIDA and Rhode Island Hospital).



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