

September 15th: CHIME in practice

Photovoice

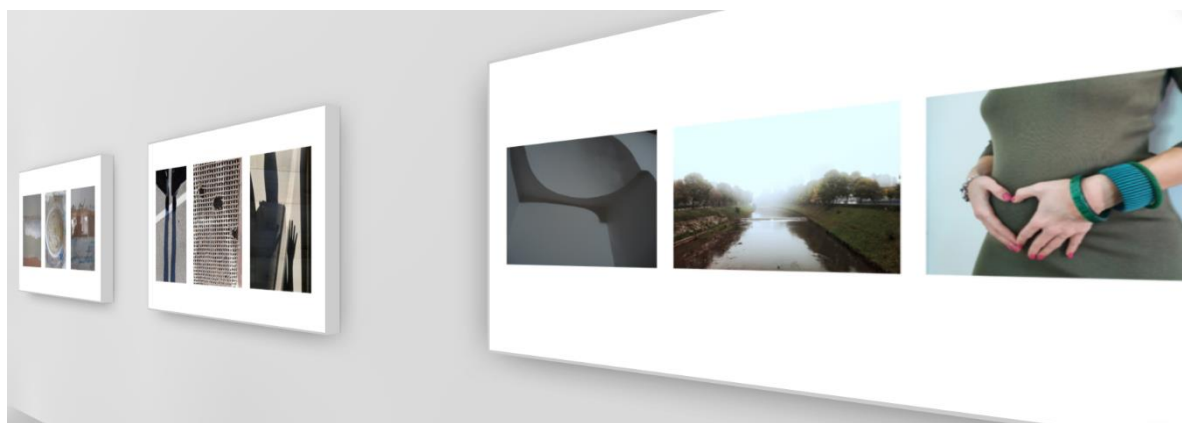
This week we would like to highlight Photovoice as a best-practice example integrating CHIME. Photovoice is a “research method that is built upon stories, participation, community, and social action” (de Mayer 2021) and was part of the international REC-PATH study. The Photovoice study was conducted by the HOGENT research centre [EQUALITY//ResearchCollective](#) (Belgium) and the NGO Celebrate Recovery (Bosnia and Herzegovina) has joined this through the partnership with RUN (Recovered Users Network). Photovoice is a participatory research method, in which people make photographs and talk about them as a way of establishing personal and social change (Wang & Burris 1994). It provides a safe environment and methods for those in recovery to share their stories, which are often seldomly heard in society while being stigmatised and marginalised from social, cultural, political, and social life.

Within the photovoice approach, all participants in the process are co-researchers and play a major role in research. The emphasis is on understanding the recovery pathways of addiction with a focus on lived experiences, through creating shared dialogues about recovery through the creation of art. It provides a dialogue on, among other, how the recovery pathways can be initiated, supported, and sustained. Through sharing the stories of lived-experiences, others are helped at the same time.

In Belgium, [a book was published](#) in which four elements were central to the recovery pathways of the participants (de Mayer 2021):

- (Re)building me
- Untangling what’s life and addiction
- Becoming (re)connected
- Enacting perspectives

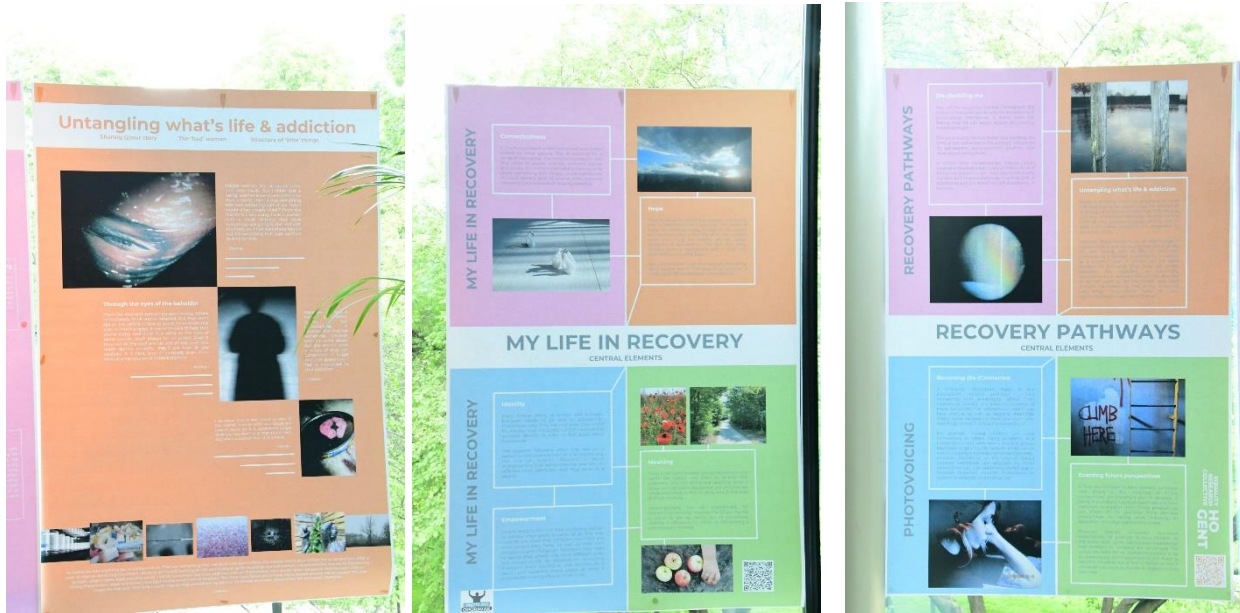
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Photovoice was part of the project ‘Choose Recovery’, and an [online exhibition](#) was created. CHIME was an output and a framework for the recovery pathways of the participants. Both researches were presented during the Sessions of the UN and the WFAD World Forum. Currently new Photovoices are being implemented across the United Kingdom and in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducting new international innovations and recovery evidence.



[Photovoice Online Exhibition](#)

Photovoice and CHIME

The elements of CHIME are well reflected in the Photovoice methodology. Participants were offered training in photography and to share their photos and experiences within the group. This not only gives a voice to personal stories of recovery, but it also forms a connection, while being part of a community where support from others is received (**C**onnect**e**dness). The process also stimulates hope-inspiring relationships and creates a belief in the possibility of recovery as stories of long-term recovery are shared (**H**ope and optimism). Photovoice also focuses on rebuilding and redefining **I**dent**i**ty while **M**eaning and perspectives are enacted. It focuses on strengths and empowers not only people in recovery but everyone involved (**E**mpowerment). Hence, Photovoice is an innovative mechanism to support people in recovery to create their own recovery evidence and share their stories using arts while helping researchers to develop innovative ways of undertaking and disseminating co-produced research.



Find the full exhibition from the World Forum on the Photovoice [here](#)