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Health & Consumers

On-line resource for alcohol and youth health projects

(The "Clearing House")

State of play

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Origins

- EAHF Task Force on Youth Specific Aspects of Alcohol
 - To examine trends and drivers in young people's drinking habits and the alcohol-related harm they suffer.
 - To examine approaches that have a potential to reduce the alcohol-related harm suffered by young people.
 - To make recommendations to the Forum.
- Recommendation in January 2009
 - Establishing a Clearing House of initiatives on alcohol and youth health.
 - Draft paper: concept and overall plan.
- EAHF Plenary in March 2009
 - Discussion and adoption of the recommendation.
- Commission services in charge of setting up the Clearing House
 - Report to Forum Plenary in November 2009

Documents available in:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm



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Objectives

- Inventory of initiatives and projects on alcohol and youth health across the EU
- To promote good practice and evaluation of effectiveness
- To support stakeholders in reducing alcohol-related harm among the young
- Establish a resource for implementing alcohol policy actions
- Possibly at a later stage:
 - Dissemination of good practice, tools & templates
 - Partner search function



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Key features

- Key characteristics of activities and effectiveness
Intervention » Monitoring » Evaluation » Results
- Structured information in easily accessible format
- Clear and objective criteria for inclusion
- Open to contributions from all interested organisations
- Intervention areas:
 - under-age drinking
 - drink-driving
 - educating and empowering on alcohol issues
 - responsible selling and serving
 - protecting from consequences of alcohol abuse by others



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Progress

- Advisory Group established, first meeting held on 15 September
- Brainstorm of approach, e.g.
 - Who are the “users” and what do they want from this initiative?
 - What key data to include about each project?
 - What kind of criteria for inclusion of projects in the database? Development of quality criteria?
- Results of brainstorm fed into a schema for on-line resource
- Prototype now exists for demonstration



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Quality Criteria

- Quality check prior to entry
 - Enter projects using known contact points
 - Only completed projects
 - Mandatory questions, e.g. whether project has been evaluated or not
 - Basic validation of projects by Commission
- Known contact points can flag their concern to the Commission about included projects
- Continue to explore an approach to scoring for projects for quality



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Next Steps

- Continue to refine internet resource
- Pilot with existing projects + future users/Advisory Group
- Further develop quality criteria
- Share proposals for name + visual identity with Advisory Group for feed back

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