



# European Alcohol and Health Forum

## **Task Force Youth-related aspects of Alcohol**

Report to the Forum Plenary

Michael Hübel – 11 March 2009



# Membership

- Alcohol Policy Youth Network
- Association of European Cancer Leagues
- Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins
- EUROCARE
- European Forum for Responsible Drinking
- European Mutual Help Network for Individuals and Families with Alcohol Related Problems
- European Public Health Alliance
- European Transport Safety Council
- European Young Persons' Network for Drug and Alcohol Health Promotion
- European Youth Forum
- Institut de Recherches Scientifiques sur les boissons alcoolisées
- Standing Committee of European Doctors
- The European Spirits Organisation
- The Brewers of Europe

Present in meetings as observers: Member States, WHO, OIV

Chaired by Commission services (Mr Michael Hübel)

# Mandate

Forum Charter, Annex 2: Main tasks:

- 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.



# Focus

“Mandate, Rules of Procedure and Work Plan” 2007:

To identify actions which have a potential for

- curbing under-age drinking
- curbing drink-driving by young people
- educating and empowering young people on alcohol issues
- promoting responsible selling and serving of alcohol for young people
- protecting young people from the consequences of alcohol abuse by others.



# Meetings

## ■ 22 November 2007

- agreement on rules of procedure, focus areas, work plan

## ■ 20-21 February 2008

- workshop to present and discuss examples of good practice

## ■ 18 September 2008

- youth involvement and protection from harm caused by others
- start of Clearing House development

## ■ 20 January 2009

- finalisation of Clearing House project

Documentation in:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol\\_forum\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm)

# Summary of main issues <sup>1/2</sup>

- ***Trends in under-age drinking*** – Action needed by economic operators, health community, MS.
- ***Social norms*** – Underage drinking and endorsement of harmful drinking should become socially unacceptable.
- ***Evidence based*** – Actions should be evaluated and build on evidence of effectiveness, also leaving room for experiments.
- ***Sustainability*** – Effective initiatives rolled out into the mainstream.



## Summary of main issues <sup>2/2</sup>

- ***Need for comprehensive approaches***, linked to overall strategy and in line with public policy.
- ***Combination of actions*** of different actors and at all levels is needed for significant reduction in harm.
- ***Youth involvement*** – Broader and more creative implementation needed.



## Conclusions & recommendations

- ***Youth involvement*** in the design, implementation and evaluation of activities should be promoted and more creative approaches used – e.g. formal consultation in Ireland.
- ***Protecting young people*** from the consequences of irresponsible alcohol use in their environment – action needed at MS level.
- Establishing a ***Clearing House*** on activities and projects on alcohol and youth health:
  - *Draft paper* for formal adoption by the Forum
  - a tool for implementing EU alcohol strategy.





# Clearing House on activities and projects on alcohol and youth health

## Objectives:

- Offer an overview of activities and projects across Europe.
- Promote good practice and develop monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness.
- Offer support to stakeholders by developing toolkits and templates.

## Key features:

- Inventory of existing initiatives
- Open to contributions from all interested organisations
- On-line database linked to EU Health Portal
- Basic information in easily accessible format
- Development of measurement and evaluation methods
- Development of template prevention programmes

## Contents of the database

- Key characteristics of projects and their effectiveness

- intervention
- monitoring
- evaluation
- results achieved

- Clear and objective criteria for inclusion
- Sufficient scope for experimental projects
- Synergy with similar initiatives (e.g. IREFREA)

## Process outline

- Advisory board: working methods, requirements for inclusion.
- MS and others to suggest projects.
- DG SANCO to set up a database and report to Forum plenary.
  - Funding for start-up available > 2011
  - Funds from MS to support Clearing House?
  - EU or national support to projects implementing template programmes at national level?
- Ideally database should be maintained by independent professional team.



# Task fulfilled?

- General agreement: Task Force is reaching a natural conclusion with Clearing House as concrete outcome.
- Clearing House could be taken forward with support from individual members.
- Continuation of Task Force not necessarily needed.

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