

EUROPEAN ALCOHOL AND HEALTH FORUM

TASK FORCE ON YOUTH-SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF ALCOHOL

4th Meeting – Tuesday, 20 January 2009

Jean Monnet Building - Room M1
rue A. de Gasperi, Luxembourg-Kirchberg

SUMMARY REPORT

- 1) Welcome, introduction of participants (see Annex 1), adoption of draft agenda, setting the scene for the meeting
 - The revised agenda was adopted and the Chair (Michael Hübel, Commission Services) apologised for the absence of the two planned speakers and the resultant shortening of the meeting.
 - The Chair summarised the work of the Task Force and highlighted the two main agenda items.

- 2) Clearing House
 - The Chair summarised the development of the Concept Paper for a ‘Clearing House’ on activities and projects related to alcohol and youth health. The current Concept Paper, circulated to members, had been taken forward by the Chair, with support from the Forum Chair Robert Madelin, following the discussion of a first draft at the September meeting.
 - The Chair reported that the Commission is committed to resource the start-up phase and run it as part of the Secretariat of the Alcohol Forum, with consultation with an advisory group and regular reporting to the plenary meetings. Further developments would be considered, subject to evaluation.
 - The Chair first invited discussion on the overall utility of the instrument, followed by response to specific sections.
 - Overall response was favourable with a positive general debate. However, concerns and suggestions were expressed in the following areas:
 - Criteria for entry, especially clarity and objectivity. The Chair confirmed that two core criteria of ‘good practice’ are ‘evidence based’ and ‘evaluated’. Some expressed concerns that some smaller projects might not be eligible on these grounds, but a suggestion was made that there could be two clearly identified strands: (i) well evaluated projects and (ii) useful projects not scientifically evaluated. Some also felt inclusion of unsuccessful projects from which lessons could be learned would be useful, although the Chair pointed out that these may be harder to identify.

- Some members highlighted concerns about accessibility for smaller projects, both for submitting entries to the inventory and in accessing information from it. Issues included language competence and time for smaller, less well resourced projects. Some felt industry funded projects might have an advantage. The Chair confirmed it was important to support entry of smaller projects which were of great interest e.g. by simple entry processes and secretariat support. Widespread promotion of Clearing House would help reach to a range of projects.
 - Members felt the entry template should include reference to project funders, including whether funds came from industry. It was agreed that this was an important area but funding might be difficult to identify.
 - Some members identified potential overlaps and positive opportunities with other initiatives. Networks such as IREFREA¹ covered some similar topic areas, but could also be encouraged to promote the Clearing House. Limited connections with the Commitments were identified.
 - Some felt that elements identified for later development should be brought forward, for example, an active notice board function. While generally supportive, some sought reassurance that a notice board aimed to facilitate identifying potential partners, rather than enforcing partnerships.
 - Much of the detailed discussion about the paper focussed on the objectives, particularly promotion of Clearing House and criteria for selection of highlighted projects. A two strand approach was again suggested to ensure inclusion of a range of project types in promotional activities. Selections would be referred to the advisory group. In addition to an annual event, suggestions included an annual publication and a regular automatic electronic newsletter. The Chair agreed that the intention was for an event to be part of the Forum rather than in parallel.
 - The Chair outlined the timescale for next stages. A report to the Forum Plenary Meeting in March will underline the positive position taken by the Task Force. As a result it will be suggested that the Forum endorses the establishment of a Clearing House. Once the Forum has agreed, a small advisory group will then be established to decide entry criteria and template areas. Members will be canvassed for involvement and some volunteered at the meeting, reflecting the diversity of the group.
 - Thanks were proposed to the Secretariat for revising the document.
- 3) Development of final report to the 4th plenary meeting of the European Alcohol and Health Forum (11 March 2009).
- The Chair reminded members that the final report made to the Plenary Meeting will incorporate reporting on activities and an overview of the Task Force. At this time, the continuation of this Task Force will be reviewed. The members of the Task Force were invited to submit ideas for the report.

¹ IREFREA is a professional European network founded in 1988 interested in the promotion and research of prevention of drug and other child and adolescent problems.

- Much of the discussion focussed on the importance of involving young people in research and activities, as demonstrated in earlier presentations. Youth involvement at all stages of interventions should also continue to be promoted, and more creative ways of involving young people should be considered.
- Members tended to agree that the Task Force was reaching a natural conclusion, with the development of the Clearing House as a concrete outcome. This could be taken forward independently of the Task Force, with support of individual members.

4) Any other business

- Copies of the ICAP-study ‘Swimming with Crocodiles. The Culture of Extreme Drinking’ were circulated as co-author, Fiona Measham, had been scheduled to present the findings, yet was unable to attend.

5) Conclusions

- The Chair confirmed the importance of the Clearing House scheme as a concrete outcome and looked forward to discussing it with the Forum, recognising the challenge to make it constructive and relevant.
- Members were reminded of the invitation to submit further points regarding the Clearing House concept paper (by the end of January) and the report to the Forum.
- The Chair thanked members for their willingness to continue their contributions and involvement in this work.

Annex 1: List of participants

ORGANISATION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
CEEV - Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins	BEADLES (for Aabad)	Jeremy
European Public Health Alliance	BELLIS	Mark
Swedish Youth Temperance Organisation	DAMBERG	Robert
CEPS – The European Spirits Organisation	FORTESCUE	Jamie
ReLeaf (European Young Person's Network for Drug and Alcohol Health promotion)	HOLVOVA (for Myllymaki)	Natalia
Institut de Recherches Scientifiques sur les boissons alcoolisées (IREB)	LEYMARIE	Nicole
EUROCARE	MC CULLOUGH-RODRIGUEZ	Nathalie
European Mutual Help Network for individuals and families with Alcohol Related Problems (EMNA)	PALMESINO	Ennio
European Forum for Responsible Drinking (EFRD)	PEDLOW	Gaye
APYN	PELOZA (for Salviano Carmo)	Jan
EUROCARE	RAPLEY (for Lauri Beekmann)	Emilie
Bacardi-Martini Limited	SEARLE	Chris
The Brewers of Europe	SPILLANE	Simon
European Youth Forum	TENG (for Prainsack)	Julie

OBSERVERS (MEMBER STATES)	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
Ministry of Health-Czech Republic	SOVINOVA	Hana
Ministry of Health-Bulgaria	VELIKOVA	Vilia

EUROPEAN COMMISSION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
DG SANCO C4	HÜBEL	Michael
DG SANCO C4	DE CONINCK	Pieter
DG SANCO C4	KAMPHAUSEN	Wilfried

SUPPORT	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
University of Stirling and Open University	MacASKILL	Susan
Ligaris	LEVESQUE	Anne
Ligaris	MESTDAG	Dominique