



FLASH REPORT
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY AND ACTION (CNAPA)
16TH PLENARY MEETING, 28-29 APRIL 2015

The 16th meeting of CNAPA was chaired by Philippe Roux, Head of the Health Determinants Unit, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety.

Reflections following the Informal Ministers of Health meeting and the discussion on EU alcohol policy

The Latvian CNAPA member informed about the discussions in and outcome of the Informal Ministers of Health meeting, in particular the need for a framework for EU action. Several Health Ministers had expressed support for a new strategy.

The Chair reiterated the opinion of the Commission, confirming that the Commission will continue its support to Member States in their efforts to reduce alcohol related harm, in building on the objectives and tools of the 2006 strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm.

Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm

The Executive Coordinator of the Joint Action presented the last developments of the Joint Action, including the finalization of several background documents, the start of a first survey among experts on low risk drinking and the finalization of the first internal evaluation report.

The possibility of a following Joint Action on alcohol related harm was discussed, and it was decided to address this also in the next CNAPA meeting.

Developments in Member States

Mr Scafato gave a presentation on behalf of the Polish CNAPA member on the Polish national program for 2016-2020 on prevention of alcohol related problems, which among other focuses on excessive availability. A Polish Action Plan is in preparation that will draw upon the WHO Global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol.

BISTAIRS project

Mr Scafato presented the final outcomes of the EU-funded project BISTAIRS that ends in April 2015. The project aims to intensify the implementation of brief interventions in relevant settings by identifying, systematising and extending good practises of brief interventions across the EU.

Among the important outcomes are recommendations to better integrate alcohol screening and brief interventions into broader health promotion programs in the work place setting.

Action Plan on Youth Drinking and Heavy Episodic Drinking – implementation and monitoring

Lars Möller (WHO) gave a presentation on the state of play on binge drinking and youth drinking in Europe and the plans for the monitoring of the Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking.

The Chair suggested having a presentation in the next meeting that will give an overview on ongoing monitoring processes and how they interlink.

Action Plan discussion point: Preventive interventions for youth living in families with alcohol and substance abuse

The Danish CNAPA member gave a presentation on the documentation of the problem and the Danish family-focused alcohol treatment as prevention for the children.

It is estimated that about 122,000 children between in the age group 0-18 grow up in families with alcohol problems. Denmark has focused on changing the routines in several sectors at municipality level to ensure that these children get the support they need.

Forthcoming OECD report on harmful alcohol use and policies

Franco Sassi (OECD) presented the forthcoming report on harmful alcohol use and policies.

Action Plan discussion point: Fiscal and pricing policies

Heather Jones (DG TAXUD) presented the ongoing study on the evaluation of Directive 92/83/EEC on the structure of excise duty applied to alcohol and alcoholic beverages, focusing in particular on denatured alcohol. She invited the CNAPA members to make contributions to the study which is assessing to which extent the Directive meets its objectives, and being carried out by Ramboll.

Next CNAPA meeting

The next CNAPA meeting will be held on 21-22 September in Lisbon, in connection to the First European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies.