

Alcohol Taxation and Pricing Policies, including Cross-Border issues and Unrecorded Alcohol Consumption

Co-hosted by the Lithuanian Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department (NTAKD), the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences and Lithuanian Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition (NTAKK)

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The 3 interlinked online workshop sessions, with the overall aim of exchanging effective policy options to reduce alcohol-related harm, will take place within the frame of the prevention strand of the [EU beating cancer plan](#) over three afternoons in June 2021. Up to **40 active participants** (and a number of observers), national policy representatives, scientific experts, and European Commission professionals working on related initiatives, will participate in each session. It is hoped that many participants will attend all 3 sessions and participate in ‘plenary’ and small-group sessions, to maximise capacity building and knowledge/perspective exchange across different countries and sectors.

The idea is to facilitate clear communication and exchange of perspectives and priorities and to establish sustainable connections, between member states and with the Commission, which can endure after the events to enhance and promote health in all policy initiatives. Outputs will include peer-reviewed scientific background documents, revised through discussions in the online events; a set of short videos introducing the evidence and on-going European initiatives and experiences; a workshop report, including recommendations for policy at the national and European levels, coming out of discussions in the sessions.

AGENDA

Session 1 –Tuesday 8th June – Alcohol Taxation and Pricing Policies – Game changers to reduce harm

/ Organized under the DEEP SEAS Contract

Time (CET)	Topic (and format)	Chair/Speaker
13:50	Participants admitted to the meeting	
14:00	Introduction - Welcome and Setting the scene - Welcome from hosting Member State - Lithuania - Frame of EU Beating Cancer Plan - Introduction to the workshop sessions and session topic	Toni Gual (chair) Arūnas Dulkys –Lithuanian Minister of Health EC hosts (DG SANTE) Hughes de la Motte (DG TAXUD)
14:20	Evidence update - Topic 1: Alcohol Taxation and Pricing Policies – recent scientific developments and key messages for policy.	Video presenters: - Colin Angus (Sheffield, UK)
14:45	Stakeholder perspectives: (possible topics to cover) - Finland – different perspectives on pricing options - Minimum Unit Price in Scotland 3 Years On - expectations & outcomes - WHO-EU initiatives on alcohol control through taxation	Video presenters: - Ismo Tuominen (FI) - Peter Rice (Scotland – UK) - Carina Ferreira Borges (WHO-EU)
15:10	10-minute break	
15:20	Summary by sub-topic expert + introducing discussions (live)	Toni Gual / Colin Angus
15:25	Breakout discussions – (small parallel groups of 8-10 people): ▪ Discussion question: <i>We have ample evidence for strong taxation and pricing policies but still weak policies in Europe? What are the barriers and how to overcome them? (3 main barriers and solutions)</i>	Moderators and rapporteurs pre-assigned to each group
16:00	Feedback to whole group – - Brief summaries by rapporteurs/moderators + Round of comments	Rapporteurs and Moderators
16:45	Wrap up by hosts and sub-topic expert	A Gual / C Angus
17:00	End of afternoon 1	

Session 2 – Friday 11th June – *Cross-border alcohol purchasing, marketing and trade*

/ Organized under the FAR SEAS Contract

Time (CET)	Topic (and format)	Chair/Speaker
13:50	Participants admitted to the meeting (instructions slide on screen)	Administrator
14:00	Introduction - Welcome back and messages from previous day: - Cross-border alcohol trade in the hosting Member State - Lithuania - Introduction to the session topic (cross-border topic links and part of unrecorded alcohol)	Toni Gual (chair) Gražina Belian (LT) - Deputy Director, NATKD Hughes de la Motte (DG TAXUD)
14:20	Evidence update - Topic 2: Key scientific messages on Cross-border alcohol purchasing, marketing and trade – scope of the European problem.	Presenter: - Nijole Goštautaitė (LT) - Thomas Karlsson (FI)
14:45	Stakeholder perspectives: (possible topics to cover) - Estonia – policy to tackle cross-border alcohol problems in the Baltics - Sweden – pandemic experiences of cross-border alcohol trade	Video presenters: - Triinu Taht (EE) - Håkan Leifman (SE)
15:10	10-minute break	
15:20	Summary by sub-topic expert + introducing discussions (live)	A Gual + N Goštautaitė + T Karlsson
15:25	Breakout discussions – (4 small parallel groups of 8-10 active discussants): ▪ Discussion question: <i>How can EU Member States be supported to collaborate across sectors and reduce problems caused by cross-border alcohol purchases and consumption?</i>	Moderators and rapporteurs pre-assigned to each group.
16:00	Feedback to whole group – - Brief summaries by rapporteurs/moderators + Round of comments	Rapporteurs and Moderators
16:45	Wrap up by hosts and topic experts	A Gual / N Goštautaitė + T Karlsson
17:00	End of afternoon 2	

Session 3 – Tuesday 15th June – *Unrecorded and illicit Alcohol* / Organized under the AIHaMBRA Project Contract

Time (CET)	Topic (and format)	Chair/Speaker
13:55	Participants admitted to the meeting	Administrator
14:00	Introduction - Welcome back and messages from previous day: - Unrecorded alcohol in the hosting Member State - Lithuania - Introduction to the session topic	Toni Gual (chair) Ramunė Kaledienė – Dean, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Hughes de la Motte (DG TAXUD)
14:20	Evidence update - Topic 3: Key lessons from recent research on unrecorded alcohol, legal and illegal – Scale and scope of production and harm.	Presenters: - Jürgen Rehm (DE/CA) - Dirk Lachenmeier (DE)
14:45	Stakeholder perspectives: (possible topics to cover) - Lithuania - effects of unrecorded alcohol on harm and mortality - Hungary – Experiences and policy to tackle unrecorded alcohol - Eastern Europe/Russia – Internet sales of unrecorded alcohol	Video presenters: - Mindaugas Štelemėkas (LT) - Zsuzsanna Elekes (HU) - Maria Neufeld (WHO-EU)
15:10	10-minute break	
15:20	Summary by sub-topic expert + introducing discussions (live)	Gual + Rehm + Lachenmeier
15:25	Breakout discussions: ▪ Discussion question: <i>What are the most promising policy measures to reduce harm from unrecorded and illicit alcohol? (3 priorities + 3 process proposals)</i>	Moderators and rapporteurs pre-assigned to each group
16:00	Feedback to whole group – - Brief summaries by rapporteurs/moderators + Round of comments	Rapporteurs and Moderators
16:45	Wrap up by hosts and sub-topic expert	A Gual / J Rehm + D Lachenmeier
17:00	End of afternoon 3	



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND DISCLAIMER

This workshop is produced under the service contracts - **DEEP SEAS** (Developing and Extending Evidence and Practice from the Standard European Alcohol Survey - www.deep-seas.eu, Contract No. 20177113), **FAR SEAS** (Fetal Alcohol Reduction and EU Knowledge Exchange after SEAS – www.far-seas.eu, Contract No. 20187106) and the **AlHaMBRA Project** (Alcohol Harm - Measuring and Building Capacity for Policy Response and Action, Contract No. 20197105). The information and views presented in the sessions are those of the speakers, and hence represent their sole responsibility. Accordingly, the information and views presented during sessions cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Health and Digital Executive Agency or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information presented during the workshop sessions.



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