



EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR SMOKING PREVENTION
RESEAU EUROPEEN POUR LA PREVENTION DU TABAGISME aisbl

Health Professionals and Smoking Cessation in a Larger Europe (Phase I)

ENSP Framework Project 2003-2004

Project Co-ordinators

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Participating Countries

Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Introduction

The project creates a network of health professionals and partnerships at country level in all Member States and also at European level to promote strategies on smoking cessation for health care providers. By exchanging best-practices between Member States and identifying effective methods of intervention against smoking, the project aims to tackle the harm done by smoking. The project aims to develop a horizontal European smoking cessation programme by identifying, assessing and developing best-practice strategies, policies and guidelines on smoking cessation for health care providers in Member State sand on European level.

Objectives

The project's objectives are as follows:

- to raise awareness among health care providers to enable them to contribute to the development and delivery of best-practice guidelines on smoking cessation;
- to create a European evidence-based assessment tool to assess the quality of the strategies, policies and guidelines on smoking cessation on country level;
- to make a registry and inventory of existing services for smoking cessation in all Member States, with an assessment of current services and identification of needs for improvement;
- to establish country-based partnerships and networks for improving and monitoring smoking cessation services;
- to create a European expert network of health care providers on smoking cessation;
- to prepare and publish a Europe-wide best-practice report on the implementation of strategies, policies and guidelines for health care providers for smoking cessation.

Tasks

The tasks are:

- to prepare the evidence-based registry and assessment tool;
- to set up country-based expert groups;
- using the tool, expert groups identify, make an inventory and prepare a report on existing strategies, policies, programmes and guidelines;
- assess the existing strategies, policies, programmes and guidelines at country level;
- set up European expert group;
- prepare project evaluation and reports.

Achievements

Development of assessment tool: based on a systematic review of existing tobacco dependence treatment literature, a comprehensive model was developed to describe the elements and conditions contributing to effective tobacco dependence treatment. The domains relating to quality, accessibility and affordability were adopted as a framework for the assessment instrument. Items were then identified for inclusion in these domains. Specific input from relevant experts was sought in three phases. In phase I a panel of three experts in quality assessment and quality improvement commented on the selection of the domains and items. In phase II, the draft instrument was examined by an expert panel. In phase III the draft instrument was examined by a European expert panel. The draft assessment tool was sent to all country partners to discuss at the kick-off meeting. The tool was completed by 15 of the 19 countries involved in the project. Updating of the assessment tool is an ongoing process, due to be completed in phase II of the project.

In each country involved in the project, a country-based partnership and network were developed with the objective of monitoring and improving smoking cessation services. The country-based network worked on finalisation of the model of the assessment tool, the content of the assessment tool, country profile and country report.

Next steps

The management of such a large formal network has proven to be quite difficult, so the aim is for the partnership network to operate more smoothly and to be more productive. The tools developed in the course of the project as bases for the database and inventory on existing services for smoking cessation in all partner countries will be updated constantly over the coming two years of the project's implementation.