



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

BMA Tobacco Control Resource Centre

ENSP Framework Project 2003-2004

Project Co-ordinator

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Participating Countries

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia,
Slovenia, Turkey.

Introduction

The Tobacco Control Resource Centre (TCRC) works in partnership with national medical associations (NMAs) throughout Europe, providing them with support to inform their members, help patients and promote effective tobacco-related policies.

As medical doctors and their professional associations have a high level of credibility relating to health, co-ordination of action and responses to policy and scientific initiatives at European level can create synergies, which has the result of creating greater impact and visibility.

The aim of the TCRC was to build on experience of working with medical associations throughout Europe, so as to better inform, engage and co-ordinate medical associations in supporting and articulating evidence-based health policies and practices on tobacco.

Objectives

The project's objectives are as follows:

- A. to produce and disseminate high-quality expert scientific reports on smoking and health, and associated press materials and activities;
- B. to develop and build capacity for tobacco control among European medical associations;
- C. to mobilise and support specialist medical journals towards better coverage of tobacco.

Results

A. Produce and disseminate high-quality expert scientific reports on smoking and health, and associated press materials and activities

An expert scientific report on the physiological effects of smoking has been written (*Smoking & Reproductive Life*).

A *Tobacco Fact File* booklet and slide-show on the FCTC has been published and widely distributed.

A review of materials available for specialist medical education on tobacco has been conducted.

A booklet outlining the evidence on smoke-free policies worldwide has been published (*Smoke-free World: Doctors' Notes on Clean Air Laws*).

The project website (www.doctorsandtobacco.org) has been reviewed and updated.

B. Develop and build capacity for tobacco control among European medical associations

In 2003-2005 the new Member States and accession countries were prioritised for additional activities, such as funding for participation in capacity-building events.

A members-only area of the project website is being developed for the exchange of ideas, information and support among network members.

A needs assessment for priority actions and capacity-building was carried out among network members, for the purpose of identifying training and support priorities for network activities.

A large network capacity-building event was held from 20-23 October hosted by the BMA in Scotland, bringing together 85 delegates from 32 states in the WHO Europe region. The meeting presented recent evidence-based developments in tobacco control and helped the delegates develop work plans for national and international activities. Synergies with other international organisations were added through collaborative agreement with WHO EURO TFI.

Network members have received resources, briefing materials on the FCTC, second-hand smoke, and smoking and sexual, reproductive and child health.

The TCRC continued to work towards the signature and ratification of the WHO FCTC, to facilitate its early entry into force.

A *Tobacco Fact File* booklet and slide show on the FCTC have been published and widely distributed and also translated into several languages.

A new initiative on tobacco and free-trade agreements was undertaken.

The TCRC participated in the WHO meeting in Geneva from 27-29 January on Health Professionals and Tobacco Control. The TCRC also participated in the development of a code of practice on tobacco control for such organisations.

C. Mobilise and support specialist medical journals towards better coverage of tobacco

Materials derived from TCRC published reports and BMJ group journals have been compiled into a publication pack for translation and publication by approved local partners.

The TCRC was involved in development of a special issue of the International Medical Students Journal on tobacco working with the European Medical Students Association (EMSA).

An independent assessment and evaluation of the project's activities has been commissioned from the CR-UK Centre for Tobacco Control Research.