



# Development and maintenance of evidence base

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## Significance of evidence base

- holistic approach on the alcohol policy problem
- for the legislation preparation
- for effective implementation
- informing/awareness of public
- evaluation of the present state
- it provides a solid base for the research
- focusing of the research into specific problems
- possibility of the evaluation of projects, measures, legislation



## Inputs for the evidence base

- collection and processing of statistical data at National Institute of Public Health:
  - designated institution that collects administrative and survey data for Slovenia
  - working following EU standards
  - part of EU statistic system
  - authorized for the collection of the data dealing with health issues
  - cooperation in HBSC, HIS, ESPAD



## Inputs for the evidence base

- research activity (projects and programs, national and EU) based on the statistical data, from which new knowledge and directions are acquired and new assumptions and hypotheses are tested
  - importance of inter-sectoral and inter-institutional connections
  - building capacity
  - need for the coordination



## Slovenian (research) projects

- Institute of Public Health:
  - “Young drivers - without alcohol safer on the road” - change of the curriculum for driving schools;
  - “Alcohol - parents can influence” - aim is to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and promote health life style;
- University Psychiatric Hospital:
  - “Characteristics of functioning of families with an addict”
  - telephone communications with patients after treatment for alcohol addiction;
- FORTOX: Association for development of forensic toxicology and other forensic sciences:
  - “Interlock in primary, secondary and tertiary prevention” (alcohol and driving)
- Anton Trstenjak Institute :
  - “Alcohol abuse among young people” - research on drinking among young people in light of anthropological knowledge on dazing and addictions
  - Prevention of drinking among young - before their maturity and independence



## Slovenian (research) projects

- Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, Chair of Family Medicine :
  - “Message in a bottle” - awareness of public and experts;
- Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law Ljubljana:
  - Tobacco, alcohol and other drugs among high-school youth;
- Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana :
  - research on Slovenian public opinion on health and health care
- Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana :
  - “Safe driving: Mastering of risks and dangerous life-styles in traffic”;
  - project “My choice” - students of 4. class of the faculty - aim is the awareness of public on risks of alcohol drinking
- DrogArt Association:
  - program “Reduce of harmful consequences of alcohol among youth - Choose yourself” - (in clubs, discotheques, parties, trips)



## Slovenian (research) projects

- the importance of qualitative research (not only quantitative) that will study the problems in detail and highlight the important phenomena
- an example of good practice is the project of prof. Ramovš from the Anton Trstenjak Institute:
  - not only quantitative, but also qualitative research
  - first focused on young people who drink - why they drink,
  - next step were young people that don't drink - why they don't drink



## EU research projects

- Slovenian institutions collaborating:
  - PHEPA - The Primary Health Care European Project on Alcohol - "Integrating health promotion interventions for hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption into primary health care professionals' daily work";
  - Improvement of Access to Treatment for People with Alcohol and Drug-related Problems;
  - ESPAD - European research on alcohol and other drugs among school youth
  - SARTRE (Social Attitudes to Road Traffic Risk in Europe)
  - "Pathways for Health Project" (PHP)



## EU research projects

- ELSA - Enforcement of national Laws and Self-regulation on Advertising and marketing of Alcohol
- Reducing harm and building capacities for children affected by parental alcohol problems in Europe
- European research network IREFREA - extensive multilayered research on hazardous behaviour of youth at night time
- Bridging the Gap
- **Building Capacity**



## EU research projects

- exchange of knowledge
- access to data
- contacts with the experts from the same area
- exchange of “good practices”
- building of coalitions



## Issues to solve

- **There is no unified data-base that would comprise statistical as well as research data (projects) and legislation from the field of alcohol policy**
  - there are many players and everyone has his own data: Ministry of Health, other ministries (transport) and governmental institutions, public health organizations, social organizations, health care institutions (psychiatric inst.), NGOs
- **There is no holistic approach on alcohol policy problem - everyone acts on its own, regarding its interests and preferences - there is no unified oriented activity in the field of alcohol policy**



## Issues to solve

- **Data and projects are not evaluated**
  - quality of data
  - evaluation of the statistical data and their valuability for the prediction of trends and for taking the appropriate steps
  - evaluation of the projects - added value gained, base for further research, valuability of the results, input-output
- **The partnership between institutions dealing with alcohol is not well established - need for closer cooperation**



## Positive changes in Slovenia

- Coordination of the **Building Capacity** project:
  - building of the capacities on local, national, EU level
  - connection on Slovenian and EU level
  - data-base for EU countries (laws, regulations, policies, institutions)
    - 5WP University of Bergen
- Slovenian Presidency of the EU - additional topic: alcohol and prevention of alcohol-related injuries
- Formation of the Alcohol policy council
- Preparation of the action plan for 2009-2010



## Positive stimulation on EU level

- WHO:
  - Declaration on Young People and Alcohol, 2001
  - The European Alcohol Action Plan, 2000-2005
  - Framework for alcohol policy in the WHO European Region, 2006
  - Executive Board of the WHO has recommended the 2008 World Health Assembly to adopt a resolution urging Member States for the preparation of a draft global strategy on harmful use of alcohol
- European Union (EU):
  - European Council Recommendation on the drinking of alcohol by young people, 2001
  - Resolution of the Council of the EU on alcohol and young, 2004
  - EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm, 2006
- DG Sanco projects
- DG Research projects - 7FW; one of the research topics is also alcohol



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