

Organization

The running of the network is entrusted to a secretariat, assisted by a Chair and an advisory group.

The secretariat and the web-site for the network is being provided by the government of Catalonia.

Areas of work

Three areas of work will be prioritized

- Dialoguing and debating
- Promoting exchange of information and experiences
- Building capacity: Advocating for alcohol policies

**For further information please contact
the APN secretariat**

Program on Substance Abuse
Public Health Agency of Catalonia
Government of Catalonia
C/Roc Boronat 81-95
08005 Barcelona (Spain)
+34 93 551 36 10
alcoholpolicynetwork@gencat.cat
web:www.alcoholpolicynetwork.eu



Alcohol Policy Network in Europe

Alcohol Policy Network in Europe

www.alcoholpolicynetwork.eu

Background

The APN emerged in the context of an EC sponsored project called Bridging the Gap and was initiated at the meeting of this project in Warsaw in 2004. Over the years the APN has grown, both in number of participants as well as in importance, functioning as a real network: a community of individuals who exchange news, share information and in some cases, cooperate on joint activities; an inspiring, knowledge-increasing, and capacity- strengthening forum for its participants.

Thus, the APN has become a powerful resource for policy making in Europe, bringing together the expertise and experience of a large group of people in leading positions in their respective constituencies in European countries for public health oriented alcohol policy making. They represent governmental as well as non-governmental agencies such as scientific institutions, public health institutions, treatment agencies, consumer organisations and various other kinds of agencies, as well as international organisations with a strong interest in public health oriented alcohol policy.

APN Scope and purpose

A European platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and opinions on public health oriented alcohol policy issues; working on behalf of its members; with a primary interest in public health and social welfare; organised on a voluntary basis without formal statutes and membership fees.

Aims and objectives

To provide and promote support for implementing healthy alcohol policies at community, regional, national and international European level. More particularly:

- To provide opportunities for people in leading positions in public health oriented policy to meet independently, exchange information, keep up to date on pertinent developments in the field at global, European country and individual community level and establish cooperative activities.
- To facilitate advocacy training on public health alcohol policies and provide assistance to countries and institutions to adapt and implement alcohol policies.
- To promote best practice and develop guidelines on the basis of knowledge and experiences gained.
- To identify gaps and needs for research in the field of alcohol policies, and promote European research co-operation.
- Cooperation and coordination with other Europe wide institutions in the field of alcohol policy making, in particular Eurocare, is essential. The launch of the new APN and its first meeting is planned with Eurocare.

APN membership

1. Membership is open to any individual or organization with demonstrated interest and / or experience in the area of alcohol policy, either from undertaking research or having implemented. policies, projects and programs in one or more settings, excluding organizations linked to or funded by the alcohol industry.
2. Membership is open to institutions, although individuals may be recognised as representing their institution's interest in alcohol policies.
3. Membership is free of charge; new admissions will be approved by the advisory group.
4. Members are committed to providing the network with information on relevant local and national alcohol policy developments.