

Reference	SIHLWA 6/6/2
Title	Provisional Programme of ALC-subgroup (08-09-2008)
Submitted by	SIHLWA ALC-subgroup Chairman
Summary / Note	This Provisional Programme includes also annotations specifying speakers, organizations and other relevant information
Requested action	Adoption

According to the “Scope and Purpose” SIHLWA-6-document, the subgroup on ALCOHOL will:

- **Innovate on collaboration** and project opportunities and ideas between ALC and other NDPHS Expert Groups and SIHLWA subgroups.
- Discuss the content of **thematic report on ALC for NDPHS Database project**.
- Update on project planning and feasibility of **Prevention of Hazardous & Harmful Use of Alcohol: Early Identification and Brief Intervention “EIBI”**. Report of the work done in Saint Petersburg after SIHLWA-5.
- Update plans and programme for **seminar on trade agreements and EU law on alcohol control, including impact on national alcohol policy considerations**.
- **Innovate on other new project opportunities** and ideas as time will allow.

A. Update on developments & upcoming events

1. **The 61st World Health Assembly** resolution on Strategies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, 24 May 2008
http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/globalstrategy/en/index.html
2. **The Clarion Declaration**. An international group of alcohol policy researchers and public health and NGO experts met in Dublin, 15-16 May 2008, to discuss the positioning of science and policy in relation to the alcohol industry. The meeting agreed that there is an inherent incompatibility between protecting the public from the harm done by alcohol and the alcohol industry’s requirement to maximize profit by promoting the sale and consumption of its products. To protect the integrity and legitimacy of alcohol research, and the reputation of academic institutions, the meeting concluded that, in the field of alcohol research, no funding relationships with the alcohol industry should be entered into.
Eurocare Newsletter May-June 2008
http://www.alkoholpolitik.ch/internat/eurocarenews1085_6.doc
3. **Conference: “Alcohol, drugs and harm to others. Victims are part of the solution”**, Tallinn, Estonia, 10 - 12 October 2008. The upcoming seminar is organised by the Nordic Alcohol and Drug Policy Network NordAN.
<http://www.nordan.org/conference2008/default.asp>
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4. **Seminar on “Implementing Brief Intervention in Welfare and Health Services in the Nordic Countries - Research Based Experience”, 22-23 May 2008, Copenhagen**.
The seminar was organised jointly by the Nordic Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (NAD) and the journal Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (NAT). The seminar was characterised by intensive discussion. Part of the presentations will be published as articles in the journal NAT.
http://www.nad.fi/pdf/briefint_programme_May.pdf
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5. Feasibility study on the use of Early Identification and Brief Intervention (EIBI) to tackle hazardous and harmful use of alcohol in the Leningrad region.

A one-year feasibility study and planning project is underway with funding from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Russian partners are: V.M. Bekhterev Psychoneurological Research Institute, the Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies, the Leningrad Regional Center of Addictions, and the Information and Analysis Center for Social and Health NGOs. The purpose of the project is to assess the feasibility of an EIBI pilot project in St Petersburg and/or the Leningrad Region and, if deemed feasible, to produce a detailed plan for a pilot project. The purpose of the pilot project would be to adapt EIBI to the circumstances in Leningrad region, to assess in practice the benefits of brief intervention and to disseminate the technique to other organisations and regions in The Russian Federation.

To involve stakeholders in the planning process, a seminar directed to health and social services professionals was organised in May, and a planning workshop in July. A provisional plan for a pilot project will be prepared and presented for comments to stakeholders in a final seminar in October. Depending on the results of the final phase of the feasibility study, an application for funding may or may not be presented by the end of the 2008.

When discussing the project plans in the previous SIHLWA meeting, the ALC subgroup recommended that:

- Special attention be given to ensuring the exchange of best practice with the European PHEPA II project, the Swedish risky drinking project and Finnish EIBI projects.
- Including a family focus (including the risk of interpersonal violence) in the EIBI project should be considered.
- It should be stressed to participants and stakeholders that, despite evidence of cost-effectiveness, EIBI alone will not solve a society's alcohol problems. Along with EIBI, a well functioning treatment system is needed for more severe problems. While EIBI helps tackle emerging problems, population-based measures are needed to prevent problems from arising in the future.

6. Alcohol issues will receive attention during the Swedish EU presidency in the latter part of 2009.

Alcohol issues at EU level have traditionally been high on the agenda during the Swedish EU Presidency. The Baltic Sea region and relations with neighbouring countries is one of the key themes of the Swedish Presidency.

B. Update on ALC-subgroup actions

1. Seminar: "Impact of international trade agreements and EU internal market legislation on national alcohol, public health and social policies".

Preparations for a seminar on the impact of trade agreements and EC law on alcohol policy are underway. The seminar will be organised **in Latvia 3-4 December 2008** jointly by the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Nordic Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (NAD), in association with SIHLWA, and possibly in co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers' office in Latvia.

The programme will consist of four parts: international trade agreements, EU law, relationships between EU law and EU policies, and public health-relevant case studies. Researchers and experts will give presentations on the logic and processes of international agreements and EU legislation that have direct bearing on the extent of political autonomy and freedom of action in the area of public health. Case studies will be presented to illustrate the implications of international trade agreements for alcohol control policies regarding cross border trade, taxation and marketing of alcoholic beverages. Besides alcohol issues, also related issues such as gambling monopolies and retailing of medicinal drugs may be addressed.

Target groups include ministries' health/social policy experts dealing with alcohol policy or related issues, EU law generalists from various ministries/departments concerned, researchers, key politicians and NGOs.

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C. ALC-subgroup's ideas and plans for 2009

1. **Thematic reports on activities and structures to implement screening and brief intervention for alcohol problems in NDPHS countries.**

In the previous SIHLWA meeting it was agreed that the ALC subgroup's contribution to the WP6 of the NDPHS database project and will consist in thematic reports focussed on brief intervention-related questions. It was considered that an inventory of what has been done in the respective countries to disseminate screening and brief intervention for alcohol problems would be of practical use to step up work at national level and to help exchange best practice. The Country Profile Questionnaire used in the PHEPA project was examined but it was considered that a free format report would be more feasible and of better use to the parties concerned. It was decided that thematic reports would be drawn up along the general lines of the PHEPA Country Profile but in a free format.

The reports would give concise descriptions of relevant activities and structures in place in NDPHS countries and direct interested parties to sources of further information. The reports were to be sent to the subgroup chairs by end-August for circulation among subgroup members. **An update or revision of plans regarding the thematic reports is needed, or else a decision to drop thematic reports from the ALC-subgroup's work plan on the grounds of unfeasibility.**

Additionally, a more general short alcohol situation analysis is needed to be placed on the NDPHS database (www.ndphs.org). It is possible that such report is already available through some other organization (e.g. WHO, NAD or someone else) and in such case an appropriate link only to this document would be needed.

2. **Creating structures to support monitoring alcohol policy issues and information exchange among NDPHS partners. What ever happened to the ALC subgroup's proposals addressed to the NDPHS secretariat?** As a result of the previous ALC subgroup meeting two proposals, included in the meeting report, were addressed to the NDPHS secretariat:

- Explore the possibility of developing thematic mailing lists and discussion groups to complement the NDPHS web site, to enable SIHLWA members to stay in contact between the meetings and to speed up dissemination of information of interest to SIHLWA.
- Explore possibilities to support NordAN (through co-operation or co-funding) regarding its proposal to extend the coverage of www.nosam.net to NDPHS countries.

It was considered that more effective dissemination of update information on alcohol policy-related developments would help the coordination and development of measures to address increasing alcohol use, notably by:

- Raising alcohol sales taxes;
- Limiting accessibility;
- Counteracting pressure on state alcohol monopolies;
- Restricting alcohol advertising;
- Introducing information about health effects on alcohol containers;
- Implementing strict drink driving policies;
- Enhancing monitoring and enforcement by the police to address alcohol-related crime and disturbance;
- Carrying out well-thought public education about alcohol;
- Implementing specific measures for young people.

3. **Themes for 2009 and beyond**

The following tentative topics for workshops/seminars/conferences arose in the ALC subgroup's previous meeting. It was decided that the initial ideas be elaborated and the feasibility of further development assessed in the next SIHLWA meeting. The overall purpose of seminars and conferences should be to make best practices more available to a wide range of stakeholders (as opposed to a small circle of experts).

• **Alcohol-related industries and prevention of alcohol-related harm: friend or foe?**

Topic for a seminar that could be organised in cooperation with the ADO subgroup. Objective: to share experiences of cooperation with the industries or of dealing with industry lobbying.

Ideas for planning the contents could be derived from the meeting on alcohol policy and the alcohol industry's role, hosted by Alcohol Action Ireland in Dublin May 2008. Organisers of the meeting also included the Nordic Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (NAD). "The Alcohol

- **Alcohol and the family.**
The effects of problem drinking on children and family life have received attention in several NDP countries. Drinking problems increase the risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of interpersonal violence. A seminar or conference could be organised to highlight the various effects, to describe working methods and services directed to families with substance use problems, and to discuss strategies for problem prevention. This topic too could be of interest to the ADO subgroup.
- **Applying the Health in All Policies approach (HiAP) to alcohol issues at national level.**
A seminar/workshop could be organised around the challenges of involving all sectors of the society in the development of public health-oriented policies on alcohol. The HiAP theme is linked with the themes of competitiveness and sustainable growth (e.g. EU's Lisbon strategy):
- **The concept of stepped care or modular treatment as an approach to holistic development of treatment services.**
This theme has a bearing on the implementation of screening and brief intervention for alcohol problems: appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services are needed for more serious problems. A related theme concerns the development of systems for matching clients with levels of care. A workshop/seminar could be organised for sharing experiences of stepped care and of systems for patient referral.

ALC Sub-group Provisional Programme 1st MEETING DAY: Tuesday 30 September 2008

(color code: Green=ALL, Grey=SIHLWA, White=SIHLWA sub-groups)

(Note: Green parts in plenary with ALL EGs. Grey parts will be in plenary for ALL SIHLWA sub-groups. Without shading –ADO sub-group)

8:30-09:00 REGISTRATION				
TIME	TOPIC	NAME OF SPEAKER	POSITION/INSTITUTE/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
09:00-10:30 PLENARY (ALL EGs)	A. Opening Welcome statements EG introductions	To be nominated	To be added	At the opening plenary expert groups provide their short statements on offers and wishes for collaboration with others. EG Fact-sheets as background documents
10:30 – 10:50 COFFEE/ TEA/ FRUIT BREAK				
10:50 – 13:00 PLENARY (SIHLWA)	1. SIHLWA Opening & administrative issues ADO, ALC & OSH all together	1) Dr. Mikko Vienonen 2) Mr. Wiking Husberg 3) Mr Kari Paaso 4) Dr Aldona Jociute 5) Ms Hanna Koppelomäki	1) NDPHS EG SIHLWA Coordinating Chair 2) OSH sub-group Chairperson 3) Alcohol sub-group Chairperson 4) Adolescents' sub-group Co-chairperson 5) SIHLWA ITA	1 - 5) Welcome by NDPHS SIHLWA EG and Introductions by sub-group chair-persons and/or co-chairpersons and SIHLWA participants Making note on the rapporteurs Coverage of the joint SIHLWA agenda (see scope & purpose of SIHLWA-6)
13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH				
14:30 - 16:00 SIHLWA Sub-groups	2. SIHLWA parallel sub-group sessions ALC	Kari Paaso & Evgeny Krupitsky Speakers to introduce the topics to be nominated ALL ALC-members participate	ALC sub-groups' Chair & Co-chair to be added see list of participants	# Nomination of chair, co-chair and rapporteur/s # See above section A(1-6): Update on developments and upcoming events.
16:00 – 16:20 COFFEE/ TEA/ FRUIT BREAK				
16:20 - 17:30 SIHLWA Sub-groups	3. SIHLWA parallel sub-group sessions ALC	continued from previous session Speakers to introduce the topics to be nominated ALL ALC-members participate	ALC sub-groups' Chair & Co-chair to be added see list of participants	# See above section B (1): Update on ALC-subgroup actions # Theme: Collaboration with other EGs: needs, proposals, ideas for concrete action from ALC group's perspective.
17:30 – 18:00 PLENARY (SIHLWA)	4. Summary of the day and feed-back for next day's round table	ADO, ALC & OSH sub-groups will report		Summary discussion
20:00 DINNER HOSTED BY Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services				

ALC 2nd DAY: Wednesday 01 October 2008

(color code: Green=ALL, Grey=SIHLWA, White=SIHLWA sub-groups)

TIME	TOPIC	NAME OF SPEAKER	POSITION/INSTITUTE/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
09:00 - 10:30 PLENARY (ALL EGs)	5. Round table discussion on the EGs collaboration needs and offers.	Facilitator to be nominated Round-table discussants representatives from: all EGs, CSR, NDPHS Secretariat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Tour de table" • General discussion
10:30 – 10:50 COFFEE/ TEA/ FRUIT BREAK				
10:50 – 13:00 start with PLENARY (SIHLWA) Continue as applicable	6. Summarize round table from SIHLWA point of view CONTINUE separately : 1. Alcohol 2. OSH 3. Adolescent Health	Facilitated by: 1) Dr. Mikko Vienonen 2) Mr. Wiking Husberg 3) Mr Kari Paaso 4) Dr Aldona Jociute 5) Ms Hanna Koppelomäki	1) NDPHS EG SIHLWA Coordinating Chair 2) OSH sub-group Chairperson 3) Alcohol sub-group Chairperson 4) Adolescents' sub-group Co-chairperson 5) SIHLWA ITA	If possible and feasible, select 1-2 other expert groups with whom SIHLWA together or one of the sub-groups separately could continue discussion
13:00-14:30 LUNCH				
14:30 - 16:00 Sub-groups SIHLWA	7. SIHLWA parallel sub-group sessions ALC separate	Facilitated by: 1) ALC-sub-group chair 2) ALC sub-group co-chair		# See above section C(1-3): ALC-subgroup's ideas and plans for 2009 # Continue elaboration of joint action ALC + others as feasible and possible.
16:00 – 17:00 PLENARY (ALL EGs)	8. Final conclusions			
17:00 Closing of the meeting (farewell coffee)				