

8EG on Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ASA EG)
Eighth working Meeting
Murmansk, Russia
3-4 April, 2014



Reference	ASA 8/2/1
Title	Strengthening and integrating alcohol and HIV Prevention and control programmes and policies
Submitted by	ITA in Coordination with the Chair
Summary / Note	This document provides information on the development of the new HIV/AIDS Programme for the Barents Region and its proposed activities related to Alcohol and HIV
Requested action	For discussion and comments

To date, while policies may encompass issues of harmful use of alcohol and HIV, the two are rarely addressed together - hence it is a significant gap area. At the same time, there is increasing interest in developing and/or strengthening national policies to address the harmful use of alcohol, along with a growing interest in non-communicable diseases. Key populations at risk of HIV transmission are of particular interest here. The partners in the development of the new HIV/AIDS Programme for the Barents Region recognize that while there are significant gaps in linkages – and in policy frameworks – this is also an ideal moment to draw lessons from existing efforts and strengthen multi-sectoral and multi- stakeholder dialogue at the national and Regional level to address the harmful use of alcohol in concert with improving HIV prevention and treatment outcomes

Harmful use of alcohol can...

- lower inhibitions and increase risk taking behaviour including having unprotected sex and becoming more vulnerable to sexual coercion and sexual violence, thereby increasing risk of HIV transmission
- cause poor adherence to HIV treatment and interruption of treatment lead to alcohol dependence which leads to further sustained alcohol use

Living with HIV can...

- lead to increased alcohol consumption as a coping mechanism for depression or stigma and discrimination

Barents HIV/AIDS Programme

Goal

To advocate for a healthy lifestyle to population, adopting safe and harmless behaviours, scaling up HIV prevention and care in population, developing effective coordination of linked prevention and care strategies for alcohol-use disorders and HIV in order to reduce the adverse impacts of HIV/AIDS on Social-economic and cultural development.

- ✚ Strengthening and integrating alcohol and HIV Prevention and control programmes and policies

Alcohol problems promote the spread of HIV, and increase illness and death in people with HIV. Strengthen support to the National Alcohol policy, decreasing drinking and the behaviours it encourages will reduce these problems. Create environment helpful to coordinated and integrated, as appropriate, prevention and treatment responses towards HIV/AIDS, and Non-communicable Disease, including the prevention responses addressing the shared risk factors

Activities:

- ▶ Assessing the capacity of national health systems to address harmful use of alcohol in the context of HIV prevention and treatment
- ▶ Identifying training and programme needs

- ▶ Engaging relevant stakeholders, in discussing issues and developing plans to address the harmful use of alcohol in the context of HIV prevention and treatment
- ▶ Training of HIV and TB programme staff on early identification and management of alcohol and other substance use disorders.
- ▶ Training of staff in programs for Alcohol and substance use on HIV Prevention and treatment
- ▶ Implementing an information campaign about the risks of drinking during the ARV treatment
- ▶ Developing models for good organization of local work on Alcohol, drugs and HIV