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Developments in Alcohol Policy and Injury Prevention Policy in WHO European Region

Building Capacity Bled, 25 September, 2007

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WHO alcohol policy documents

- ✓ First European Alcohol Action Plan, 1992
- ✓ European Charter on Alcohol, 1995
- ✓ Second European Alcohol Action Plan, 1999
- ✓ Stockholm Declaration on Young People and Alcohol, 2001
- ✓ WHO World Health Assembly resolution on health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol, 2005
- ✓ RC endorsement of the Framework for alcohol policy in the European Region, 2005

Why the new Framework

- ✓ Alcohol remains a major public health problem in the Region
- ✓ The region-wide strategy was last reviewed and updated in 1999
- ✓ Need to reflect recent knowledge, developments and challenges
- ✓ Need to integrate existing international commitments



The new Framework - main pillars

- ✓ Creates overarching frame
- ✓ Provides continuity and common platform for existing WHO documents and tools
- ✓ Proposes strong procedural structures to support the implementation (a national focus day)
- ✓ Lists the evidence-based policies
- ✓ Discusses challenges



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New structure

- Old programmes set clear targets and defined actions (and actors) to achieve these targets + follow-up report
 - Every line in 1992 EAAP still valid
- More a guide and discussion paper on good and effective policies, and on topics important for alcohol policy deliberations



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Important guidance

- ✓ Public health and trade
- ✓ How to address possible health benefits in alcohol policy formulation
- ✓ Individual drinking guidelines and recommendations
- ✓ The role of the alcohol industry in alcohol policy research, formulation and implementation
- ✓ Cultural sensitivity and regional integration
- ✓ Relation to tobacco

The follow-up process

- ✓ Triennial Framework progress report;
 - every third year together with counterparts and Collaborating centres;
 - alert the MS and show the way forward
- ✓ Triennial high-level forum on alcohol policy;
 - to discuss the report and to deliberate on challenging topics



Resolution RC55/R9 on Prevention of injuries in the European Region (2005)

- Develop national plans
- Improve national surveillance
- Strengthen national capacity
- Prioritize research in primary prevention and trauma care
- Promote good practice
- Support network of focal points for VIP
- Report on progress in 2008

There are synergies with Council Recommendation



WHO activities to support member state implementation

- Data collection and surveillance
- Network of focal persons
- Capacity building- TEACH VIP and alcohol module
- Advocacy through technical support and events
- Sharing excellence- violence and injuries alcohol policy briefings
- National policy development

Next steps

- To have a new Regional Advisor
- To set up an expert group; first meeting early 2008
- To convene a meeting of national counterparts
- To commence DG SANCO project on alcohol policy
- To integrate VIP and alcohol related harm activities