

## Annexe 1 Glossary of terms (Used in alcohol policy and related public health fields)

**Absolute alcohol** - Ethanol containing not more than 1% by mass of water. See *also*: alcohol. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Abstinence** - Refraining from drinking alcoholic beverages, whether as a matter of principle or for other reasons. Those who practise abstinence from alcohol are termed "abstainers", "total abstainers", or-in a more old-fashioned formulation-"teetotallers". The term "current abstainer", often used in population surveys, is usually defined as a person who has not drunk an alcoholic beverage in the preceding 12 months; this definition does not necessarily coincide with a respondent's self-description as an abstainer. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Abuse** - A group of terms in wide use but of varying meaning. It is a residual category, with dependence taking precedence when applicable. The term "abuse" is sometimes used disapprovingly to refer to any use at all, particularly of illicit drugs. Because of its ambiguity, the term is not used in ICD-10 (except in the case of non-dependence-producing substances-see below); harmful use and hazardous use are the equivalent terms. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Acceding country** - This is a candidate country that has met the Copenhagen criteria and has completed negotiations for joining the European Union. (European Commission 2005)

**Access to alcohol** - The means by which alcohol is obtained. Access to alcohol differs by community, ranging from no access (where alcohol is prohibited) through systems of rationing and state retail monopolies to private retail outlets which can be controlled in terms of density, days and hours of sale, and minimum legal age of purchase. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Accountability** - The result of the process which ensures that decision-makers at all levels actually carry out what they are obliged to do, and that they are made answerable for their actions. The process of setting explicit objectives and targets for health and defining the means of monitoring progress towards them has facilitated the attempt to achieve greater accountability through public disclosure or "transparency". (World Health Organization 1998)

**Acquis communautaire** - This is a French term meaning, essentially, "the EU as it is" – in other words, the rights and obligations that EU countries share. The "acquis" includes all the EU's treaties and laws, declarations and resolutions, international agreements on EU affairs and the judgments given by the Court of Justice. (European Commission 2005)

**Addiction** - Repeated use of a psychoactive substance or substances, to the extent that the user (referred to as an addict) is periodically or chronically intoxicated, shows a compulsion to take the preferred substance (or substances), has great difficulty in voluntarily ceasing or modifying substance use, and exhibits determination to obtain psychoactive substances by almost any means. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Administrative license suspension** - Drivers license is suspended administratively, without the need of a judicial process, in the event of drinking-driving. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Advertising ban** - A total or partial legal prohibition of advertising for alcoholic beverages. Partial bans may relate to a particular type of alcoholic beverage, or a type of media, or may limit broadcast advertising to certain hours of the day. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Advertising codes** - Self-regulation of advertising standards by the alcohol and/or other industries, usually by specifying the content of alcohol advertisements, and the populations exposed to it. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Alcohol** - In chemical terminology, alcohols are a large group of organic compounds derived from hydrocarbons and containing one or more hydroxyl (-OH) groups. Ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH,

ethyl alcohol) is one of this class of compounds, and is the main psychoactive ingredient in alcoholic beverages. By extension the term "alcohol" is also used to refer to alcoholic beverages. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Alcohol availability** - The overall availability of alcohol, often divided into wholesale availability and retail availability. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Alcohol control** - Any government measure that relates to the purchase, production, or trade in alcoholic beverages, regardless of the aims of such measures. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Alcohol control policy** - A set of regulations and other measures restricting or otherwise controlling the production and sale of alcoholic beverages, often administered by specific government agencies. Policy related to interventions by the state authorities in the production, trade and purchase of alcoholic beverages (alcohol controls), with particular reference to controls on availability and price. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Alcohol education programs** - Programs implemented in school settings with the aim of teaching students about the dangers of alcohol and ultimately preventing underage drinking. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Alcohol intoxication** - A more or less short-term state of functional impairment in psychological and psychomotor performance induced by the presence of alcohol in the body. (World Health Organization 1992)

**Alcohol monopoly** - A monopoly which eliminates competition in the alcohol market-place, thereby removing the profit motive. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Alcohol policy** - Measures designed to control the supply of and/or affect the demand for alcoholic beverages in a population, including education and treatment programs, alcohol control, and harm-reduction strategies. The term originated in the Scandinavian countries implying the need for a coordination of governmental efforts from a public health and/or public order perspective. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Alcohol taxes** - The part of the total cost of an alcoholic beverage paid by consumers that goes to one or another level of government. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Alcohol use disorders** - A shortened version of the term used in ICD-10—Mental and behavioural disorders associated with alcohol use. The term encompasses acute intoxication (F1x.0), harmful use (F1x.1), dependence syndrome (F1x.2), withdrawal state (F1x.3), withdrawal state with delirium (F1x.4), psychotic disorder (F1x.5) and amnesic syndrome (F1x.6). (World Health Organization 1992)

**Alcoholic beverage** - Liquid that contains alcohol (ethanol) and is intended for drinking. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Alcoholism** - A term of long-standing use and variable meaning, generally taken to refer to chronic continual drinking or periodic consumption of alcohol which is characterized by impaired control over drinking, frequent episodes of intoxication, and preoccupation with alcohol and the use of alcohol despite adverse consequences. The inexactness of the term led a 1979 WHO Expert Committee\* to disfavour it, preferring the narrower formulation of alcohol dependence syndrome as one among a wide range of alcohol-related problems. Alcoholism is not included as a diagnostic entity in ICD-10 (see dependence syndrome). (World Health Organization 2005)

\* Problems related to alcohol consumption. Report of a WHO Expert Committee. Geneva. World Health Organization, 1980 (WHO Technical Report Series, No.650).

**Alcohol-related disabilities** - All problems, illnesses and other consequences secondary to alcohol use, intoxication, or dependence that diminish an individual's capacity for physical, social, or economic activity. See *also*: alcohol-related problem. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Alcohol-related harm** - Any of the range of adverse effects of drinking alcohol experienced by the drinker or by other people. Synonymous with alcohol-related problem, alcohol problem, drinking problem. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Alcohol-related problem** - Any of the range of adverse accompaniments of drinking alcohol. It is important to note that "related" does not necessarily imply causality. Use of the term can relate either to an individual drinker or to society, and was endorsed by a 1979 WHO Expert Committee\* A 1977 WHO report had used alcohol-related disability as an equivalent term at the individual level\*\* Alcohol problem is often used as an equivalent term. (World Health Organization 2005)

\* Problems related to alcohol consumption. Report of a WHO Expert Committee. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1980 (WHO technical Report Series, No.650).

\*\*Edwards G *et al.*. Alcohol-related disabilities. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1977 (WHO Offset publication, No.32).

**Alcopops** - A form of alcoholic beverage characterized by carbonation, artificial colouring, sweetness, and sale by the 300 ml bottle. More formal names for alcopops are 'pre-mixed spirits', 'flavoured alcoholic beverages', and 'designer drinks'. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**All-cause mortality** - Number of deaths in the population resulting from all possible causes. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Applicant country** - This means a country that has applied to join the European Union. Once its application has been officially accepted, it becomes a candidate country (see below). (European Commission 2005)

**BAC/BAL** - Abbreviation for blood alcohol concentration, sometimes called BAL (blood alcohol level). This is the concentration of alcohol present in blood. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Benchmarking** - This means measuring how well one country, business, industry, etc. is performing compared to other countries, businesses, industries, and so on. The "benchmark" is the standard by which performance will be judged. Benchmarking is one of the techniques used in the "Lisbon process" (see below). (European Commission 2005)

**Binge drinking** - A pattern of heavy drinking that occurs in an extended period set aside for the purpose. In population surveys, the period is usually defined as more than one day of drinking at a time. The terms "bout drinking" and "spree drinking" are also used for the activity, and "drinking bout" for the occasion. A binge drinker or bout drinker is one who drinks predominantly in this fashion, often with intervening periods of abstinence. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Bratt rationing system** - A system of liquor control (named after a Swedish physician) incorporated into Swedish law in 1917, designed to discourage misuse of spirits by establishing individual alcohol rations for adult citizens. The system was abolished in 1955. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Brief intervention** - A treatment strategy in which structured therapy of short duration (typically 5-30 minutes) is offered with the aim of assisting an individual to cease or reduce the use of a psychoactive substance or (less commonly) to deal with other life issues. It is designed in particular for general practitioners and other primary health care workers. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Candidate country** - This means a country that has applied to join the European Union and whose application has been officially accepted. Before a candidate country can join the EU it must meet the "Copenhagen criteria". (European Commission 2005)

**Civil society** - This is the collective name for all kinds of organizations and associations that are not part of government but that represent professions, interest groups or sections of

society. It includes (for example) trade unions, employers' associations, environmental lobbies and groups representing women, farmers, people with disabilities and so on. Since these organizations have a lot of expertise in particular areas and are involved in implementing and monitoring European Union policies, the EU regularly consults civil society and wants it to become more involved in European policymaking. (European Commission 2005)

**Community action** - Specifically, action which aims to reduce alcohol-related harm by a combined approach influencing not only personal health behaviour but also the general health environment. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Community action for health** - Community action for health refers to collective efforts by communities which are directed towards increasing community control over the determinants of health, and thereby improving health. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Community mobilization** - Increasing public awareness of a particular problem and public support for policies directed at preventing the problem. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Community participation** - The active involvement of people living together in some form of social organization and cohesion in the planning, operation and control of primary health care, using local, national and other resources. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Competencies** - "Powers and responsibilities". Often used in political discussions about what powers and responsibilities should be given to EU institutions and what should be left to national, regional and local authorities. (European Commission 2005)

**Confounding factors** - Specifically, other factors that could influence the relationship between a risk factor, alcohol and an outcome measure, i.e. alcohol-related harm. Relevant confounding factors need to be taken into account when analysing the relationship between alcohol consumption and harm. For example, when analysing the relationship between alcohol consumption and breast cancer, the effect of body mass index needs to be checked. (Last 2001; modified)

**Control of production** - Specifically, controls or regulations on the actual production of alcoholic beverages. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Conventions, international drug** - International treaties concerned with the control of production and distribution of psychoactive drugs. Early treaties (General Brussels Act, 1889-90, and St Germain-en-Laye Convention of 1912) controlled liquor traffic in Africa in the colonial era. The first treaty dealing with currently-controlled substances was the Hague Convention of 1912: its provisions and those of succeeding agreements were consolidated in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961; amended by a 1972 Protocol). To this have been added the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Copenhagen criteria** - In June 1993, EU leaders meeting in Copenhagen set three criteria that any candidate country (see above) must meet before it can join the European Union. First, it must have stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for minorities. Second, it must have a functioning market economy. Third, it must take on board all the *acquis* (see above) and support the various aims of the European Union. The EU reserves the right to decide when a candidate country has met these criteria and when the EU is ready to accept the new member. (European Commission 2005)

**Council of Europe** - This is not an EU institution. It is an intergovernmental organization based in Strasbourg and it aims (amongst other things) to protect human rights, to promote Europe's cultural diversity and to combat social problems such as xenophobia and intolerance. The Council of Europe was set up in 1949 and one of its early achievements was to draw up the European Convention on Human Rights. To enable citizens to exercise their

rights under that Convention it set up the European Court of Human Rights. (European Commission 2005)

**Council of the European Union** - Formerly known as the Council of Ministers, this institution consists of government ministers from all the EU countries. The Council meets regularly to take detailed decisions and to pass European laws. (European Commission 2005)

**Counter-advertising** - Actions involving the use of advertising-styled messages about the risks and negative consequences of drinking. Counter-advertising is used to balance the effects of alcohol advertising on alcohol consumption. Such measures can take the form of print or broadcast advertisements (e.g., public service announcements) as well as product warning labels. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Density of alcohol outlets** - Number of outlets for sale of alcoholic beverages per head of population. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Dependence** - As a general term, the state of needing or depending on something or someone for support or to function or survive. As applied to alcohol and other drugs, the term implies a need for repeated doses of the drug to feel good or to avoid feeling bad. In unqualified form, dependence refers to both physical and psychological elements. Psychological or psychic dependence refers to the experience of impaired control over drinking or drug use, while physiological or physical dependence refers to tolerance and withdrawal symptoms. (World Health Organization 1992)

**Determinants of health** - The range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors which determine the health status of individuals or populations. The factors which influence health are multiple and interactive. Health promotion is fundamentally concerned with action and advocacy to address the full range of potentially modifiable determinants of health – not only those which are related to the actions of individuals, such as health behaviours and lifestyles, but also factors such as income and social status, education, employment and working conditions, access to appropriate health services, and the physical environments. These, in combination, create different living conditions which impact on health. Achieving change in these lifestyles and living conditions, which determine health status, are considered to be intermediate health outcomes. (World Health Organization 1998)

**DG** - The staff of the main EU institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament) are organized into a number of distinct departments, known as "Directorates-General" (DGs), each of which is responsible for specific tasks or policy areas. The administrative head of a DG is known as the "Director-General" (a term sometimes also abbreviated to "DG"). (European Commission 2005)

**Disability** - In the context of health experience ... any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Disability adjusted life years (DALYs)** - A composite health summary measure that combines years of life lost to premature death with years of life lost due to disability. (Last 2001; modified)

**Disorder, psychoactive substance use** - A generic term used to denote mental, physical, and behavioural conditions of clinical relevance and associated with the use of psychoactive substances. The full ICD-10 term is "mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use", covered by codes F10-F19; the third character in the code specifies the class of substances involved. The disorders include acute intoxication, harmful use, dependence syndrome, withdrawal syndrome, (with and without delirium), psychotic disorders, and amnesic syndrome. (World Health Organization 1992)

**Dose-response relationship** - Specifically, the relationship between alcohol consumption and a range of positive and negative consequences for the individual and society, including physical illnesses, accidents, violence and mortality. (Last 2001; modified)

**Drinking-driving** - The generally favoured term for the criminal action of driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol level over a specified limit. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Early intervention** - A therapeutic strategy that combines early detection of hazardous or harmful substance use and treatment of those involved. (World Health Organization 2005)

**EC** - This acronym refers either to the "European Community" or to the "European Commission". (European Commission 2005)

**Ecological measures** - Specifically, measures which influence physical access to alcohol, including enactment of a minimum legal drinking age, restrictions on hours or days of sale, and restrictions on the number, type or location of sales outlets. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Econometric methods** - Statistical methods used by economists to investigate the association between economic factors and alcohol use or alcohol-related problems. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**EEA** - This acronym refers to the **European Economic Area** – which consists of the European Union and all the EFTA countries (see below) except Switzerland. The EEA Agreement, which entered into force on 1 January 1994, enables Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to enjoy the benefits of the EU's single market without the full privileges and responsibilities of EU membership. (European Commission 2005)

**EFTA** - this is the acronym for the **European Free Trade Association** – an organization founded in 1960 to promote free trade in goods amongst its member states. There were originally seven EFTA countries: Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (UK). Finland joined in 1961, Iceland in 1970, and Liechtenstein in 1991. In 1973, the UK and Denmark left EFTA and joined the EEC (see above). They were followed by Portugal in 1986, and by Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995. Today the EFTA members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. (European Commission 2005)

**Eurobarometer** – A Commission service, set up in 1973, which measures and analyses trends in public opinion in all the member states (old and new) and in the candidate countries. Knowing what the general public thinks is important in helping the European Commission draft its legislative proposals, take decisions and evaluate its work. Eurobarometer uses both opinion polls and focus groups. Its surveys lead to the publication of around 100 reports every year. For further information, see: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm). (European Commission 2005)

**European Commission** - The politically independent institution that represents and upholds the interests of the European Union as a whole. It proposes legislation, policies and programmes of action and it is responsible for implementing the decisions of Parliament and the Council. (European Commission 2005)

**European Community** - The present name for what was originally called the "European Economic Community" (EEC): see below. (European Commission 2005)

**European Council** The meeting of heads of State and government (i.e. presidents and/or prime ministers) of all the EU countries, plus the President of the European Commission. The European Council meets, in principle, four times a year to agree overall EU policy and to review progress. It is the highest-level policy-making body in the European Union, which is why its meetings are often called "summits". (European Commission 2005)

**Excessive drinking** - Currently a non-preferred term for a pattern of drinking considered to exceed some standard of moderate drinking or acceptability. Hazardous drinking is a rough equivalent in current use. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Goal** - A general aim towards which to strive. Within the health sector WHO has defined the goal of health for all by the year 2000, which means that "as a minimum all people in all

countries should have at least such a level of health that they are capable of working productively and participating actively in the social life of the country in which they live". (World Health Organization 1998)

**Governance** - The system through which society organizes and manages the affairs of diverse sectors and partners in order to achieve its goals. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Graduated licensing** - Process by which drivers' licenses are issued with initial limitations on driving privileges. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Harm reduction** - In the context of alcohol or other drugs, describes policies or programmes that focus directly on reducing the harm resulting from the use of alcohol or drugs. The term is used particularly of policies or programmes that aim to reduce the harm without necessarily affecting the underlying drug use; examples includes needle/syringe exchanges to counteract needle-sharing among heroin users, and self-inflating airbags in automobiles to reduce injury in accidents, especially as a result of drinking-driving. Harm reduction strategies thus cover a wider range than the dichotomy of supply reduction and demand reduction. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Harmful use** - A pattern of psychoactive substance use that is causing damage to health. The damage may be physical (e.g. hepatitis following injection of drugs) or mental (e.g. depressive episodes secondary to heavy alcohol intake). Harmful use commonly, but not invariably, has adverse social consequences; social consequences in themselves, however, are not sufficient to justify a diagnosis of harmful use. (World Health Organization 1992)

**Harmonisation** - This may mean bringing national laws into line with one another, very often in order to remove national barriers that obstruct the free movement of workers, goods, services and capital. In other words, harmonisation means making sure that, on any particular issue for which the EU has responsibility, the rules laid down by the different EU countries impose similar obligations on citizens of all those countries and that they impose certain minimum obligations in each country. Harmonisation can also mean co-ordinating national technical rules so that products and services can be traded freely throughout the EU. Contrary to popular myth, this does not mean pointlessly standardising everything from the curvature of cucumbers to the colour of carrots. Often it simply means that EU countries recognise one another's safety rules. (European Commission 2005)

**Hazardous use** - A pattern of substance use that increases the risk of harmful consequences for the user. Some would limit the consequences to physical and mental health (as in harmful use); some would also include social consequences. In contrast to harmful use, hazardous use refers to patterns of use that are of public health significance despite the absence of any current disorder in the individual user. The term is used currently by WHO but is not a diagnostic term in ICD-10. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Health** - 1. A state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. 2. The reduction in mortality, morbidity and disability due to detectable disease or disorder, and an increase in the perceived level of health. The first definition, that of the WHO Constitution, expresses an ideal, which should be the goal of all health development activities. It does not, however, lend itself to objective measurement, and for working purposes a narrower definition is required. The second definition is usually used for this purpose (e.g. in health statistics). (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health competence** - Individual competence to influence factors determining health. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health development** - The process of continuous, progressive improvement of the health status of a population. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health education** - Consciously constructed opportunities for learning which are designed to facilitate changes in behaviour. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health expectancy** - Health expectancy is a population-based measure of the proportion of expected lifespan estimated to be healthful and fulfilling, or free of illness, disease and disability according to social norms and perceptions and professional standards. Examples of health expectancy indicators currently in use are disability-free life years (DFLY) and quality-adjusted life years (QALY). They focus primarily on the extent to which individuals experience a lifespan free of disability, disorders and/or chronic disease. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health gain** - An increase in the measured health of an individual or population, including length and quality of life. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health impact assessment** - An estimation of the total, direct and indirect, effects of a policy, programme, service or institution on health status and overall health and socioeconomic development. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health policy** - A set of decisions or commitments to pursue courses of action aimed at achieving defined goals and targets for improving health. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health potential** - The fullest degree of health that an individual can achieve. Health potential is determined by caring for oneself and others, by being able to make decisions and take control over one's life, and by ensuring that the society in which one lives creates conditions that allow the attainment of health by all its members. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health promotion** - The process of enabling individuals and communities to increase control over the determinants of health and thereby improve their health. An evolving concept that encompasses fostering lifestyles and other social, economic, environmental and personal factors conducive to health. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health sector** - The health sector consists of organized public and private health services (including health promotion, disease prevention, diagnostic, treatment and care services), the policies and activities of health departments and ministries, health-related nongovernmental organizations and community groups, and professional associations. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health service** - Any service which can contribute to improved health or the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of sick people and not necessarily limited to medical or health care services. Also, a formally organized system of established institutions and organizations, the multi-purpose objective of which is to cope with the various health needs and demands of the population. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health status** - A general term for the state of health of an individual, group or population measured against defined standards. The WHO health indicators provide internationally accepted standards for various aspects of health status. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Health system** - A formal structure for a defined population, whose finance, management, scope and content is defined in law and regulations, which provides for services to be delivered to people contributing to their health and health care, delivered in defined settings such as in homes, educational institutions, workplaces, public places, communities, hospitals and clinics and which may affect the physical and psychosocial environment. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Healthy public policy** - An explicit concern for health and equity in all areas of policy and an accountability for health impact. The main aim ... is to create a supportive environment to enable people to lead healthy lives. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Heavy drinking** - A pattern of drinking that exceeds some standard of moderate drinking or—more equivocally—social drinking. Heavy drinking is often defined in terms of exceeding a certain daily volume (e.g. three drinks a day) or quantity per occasion (e.g. five drinks on an occasion, at least once a week). (World Health Organization 2005)



**High-risk approach** - Usually refers to policies concerned with responses targeted at specific high-risk contexts or behaviours. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Hours and days of sale** - Days of the week and hours of the day in which it is legal to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on or off premises. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**House rules/policies** - Policies and procedures that are adopted by individual drinking establishments to guide their staff in dealing with such matters as intoxicated patrons and alcohol related problems. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Indicators** - Variables that help to measure [changes in the health situation] directly or indirectly and to assess the extent to which the objectives and targets of a programme are being attained. For the regional HFA targets, both quantitative and qualitative indicators are used. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Informal control** - Usually refers to controls on drinking or drinking behaviour made by family members, friends, colleagues or others in non-professional or non-institutional settings. They often reflect cultural or societal values. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Intergovernmental organization** - An organization which is established by intergovernmental agreement. Examples: WHO, Council of Europe, OECD, other specialized agencies of the United Nations system. (World Health Organization 1998)

**International classification of diseases and related health problems (ICD)** - The standard system used to classify, define, and report disease conditions and related health problems within health systems throughout the world. Published and revised periodically by the World Health Organization. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**International classification of function, disability, and health (ICF)** - A standard system intended for use in classifying and recording different types of disability within health systems throughout the world. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Intersectoral action** - Action in which the health sector and other relevant sectors collaborate for the achievement of a common goal, the contributions of the different sectors being closely coordinated. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Intoxication** - A condition that follows the administration of a psychoactive substance and results in disturbances in the level of consciousness, cognition, perception, judgement, affect, or behaviour, or other psychophysiological functions and responses. The disturbances are related to the acute pharmacological effects of, and learned responses to, the substance and resolve with time, with complete recovery, except where tissue damage or other complications have arisen. The term is most commonly used with regard to alcohol use: its equivalent in everyday speech is "drunkenness". Alcohol intoxication is manifested by such signs as facial flushing, slurred speech, unsteady gait, euphoria, increased activity, volubility, disorderly conduct, slowed reactions, impaired judgement and motor incoordination, insensibility, or stupefaction. Frequently, a drug is taken in order to achieve a desired degree of intoxication. The behavioural expression of a given level of intoxication is strongly influenced by cultural and personal expectations about the effects of the drug. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Investment for health** - Investment for health refers to resources which are explicitly dedicated to the production of health and health gain. They may be invested by public and private agencies, as well as by people as individuals and groups. Investment for health strategies are based on knowledge about the determinants of health and seek to gain political commitment to healthy public policies. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Legal purchase age** - The age below which people are prohibited by law from purchasing alcohol. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Liberalization** - Usually refers to a process whereby environmental or ecological controls are reduced or eliminated (e.g. reductions in taxation or elimination of restrictions on availability), while expecting greater responsibility in terms of individual choice and behaviour. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Licensed premises** - A house or building equipped with a legal permit from the governing authority for the retail sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Licensing of outlets** - Licensing of outlets authorized to sell alcoholic beverages and legal provisions setting the days and hours when sale is permitted. Some countries have divided the term into licensing for consumption on-premises or off-premises. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Lifeskills** - Those personal, social, cognitive and physical skills which enable people to control and direct their lives and to develop the capacity to live with and produce change in their environment. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Lisbon strategy** - To compete with other major world players, the EU needs a modern efficient economy. Meeting in Lisbon in March 2000, the EU's political leaders set it a new goal: to become, within a decade, "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion." The EU's leaders also agreed on a detailed strategy for achieving this goal. The "Lisbon strategy" covers such matters as research, education, training, Internet access and on-line business. It also covers reform of Europe's social protection systems, which must be made sustainable so that their benefits can be enjoyed by future generations. Every spring the European Council meets to review progress in implementing the Lisbon strategy. (European Commission 2005)

**Marketing of alcohol** - Promotion of the sale of alcohol using a variety of strategies, such as advertising on television and radio and in newspapers and journals, advertising directly to some consumer groups, sponsorship of sports and cultural activities, and giving greater visibility to alcohol in television programmes and popular songs. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Media advocacy** - Strategic use of the mass media to advance a social or public policy initiative. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Mediator** - An intervening or intermediate factor (e.g., intoxication) that occurs in a causal pathway from a risk factor (e.g., alcohol consumption) and a health (or social) problem (e.g., an accidental injury). It causes variation in the problem indicator, and variation within itself is caused by the risk factor. (Last 2001; modified)

**Member State** - The countries that belong to an international organization are its "member states". The term is also often used to mean the governments of those countries. From 1 May 2004, the member states of the European Union are Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. (European Commission 2005)

**Meta-analysis** - Statistical analyses in which data from several different studies are culled and re-analysed together; the approach is particularly useful when there is a specific question to answer and at least a few relatively strong studies that come to different conclusions. (Last 2001; modified)

**Minimum alcohol purchasing age** - The minimum age at which it becomes legal for someone to purchase alcoholic beverages. Depending on the country, it usually ranges from 16 to 21 years old. In some countries, there are different minimum ages for different beverages or circumstances of drinking. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Misuse, drug or alcohol** - Use of a substance for a purpose not consistent with legal or medical guidelines, as in the non-medical use of prescription medications. The term is

preferred by some to abuse in the belief that it is less judgmental. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Moderate drinking** - An inexact term for a pattern of drinking that is by implication contrasted with heavy drinking. It denotes drinking that is moderate in amount and does not cause problems. Sometimes, moderate drinking is also contrasted with light drinking. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Multisectoral action** - For practical purposes it is synonymous with intersectoral action, but emphasizing the contribution and accountability of a number of sectors. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Natural experiments** - The investigation of change within and in relation to its naturally occurring context, as when a policy is implemented in one community but not in a comparable community. Implies that the researcher had no influence on the occurrence of the change. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Nongovernmental organization** - A national or internationally-based organizational entity such as a citizens' group, an association, a church group or a foundation, that provides an independent and flexible counterbalance to government and the for-profit business sector. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Normative education** - Classroom lectures, discussions, and exercises designed to provide objective information (often obtained from school surveys) about the extent of alcohol and drug use in the school-age population. The extent of substance use is generally over-estimated by students. This information is thought to reduce the pressure to imitate or conform to the perceived norm. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Number of outlets** - The number of establishments selling alcoholic beverages. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Outcome** - In the field of health, the result or impact of policy measures or health interventions in terms of a change in health status or health behaviour. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Pattern of drinking** - Implies attention both to the number of drinks consumed per occasion and to the frequency, timing, and context of drinking occasions. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Per capita consumption** - The average amount of pure alcohol (usually estimated in litres) consumed during a given time period (e.g. one year), calculated by dividing the total amount of pure alcohol consumed during that time by the total number of people in the population, including children and abstainers. Adult *per capita* consumption (or per adult consumption) is the total amount of alcohol consumed divided by the number of adults, sometimes defined as persons over the age of 15. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Polluter pays principle** - The principle incorporated in laws of some countries that those producers who are responsible for pollution should pay the costs of compensation for damage and the cost of "cleaning up" the pollution afterwards. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Population-based approach** - Specifically, measures or strategies which bear on overall alcohol consumption with the aim of reducing the occurrence of alcohol-related problems. The aim is to create an environment which helps people make healthy choices and renders unhealthy choices more difficult or expensive. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Population distribution of alcohol consumption** - The way in which alcohol consumption is distributed throughout the population. Empirical studies demonstrate that distributions of alcohol consumption are strongly skewed with a long tail towards high consumption levels. The distribution is unimodal and there is no cut-off point to distinguish between lighter and heavier drinkers. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Price elastic** - The per cent change in the amount of alcohol consumed (or quantity demanded) is greater than the percent change in price. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Price elasticity of demand** - The term 'elasticity' is used by economists to describe the responsiveness of one variable to changes in another variable. Price elasticity of demand measures the responsiveness of demand for alcoholic beverages to changes in price. It involves comparing the proportional changes in price with the proportional changes in the quantity demanded. The relationship is expressed in the form of a ratio or coefficient. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Price inelastic** - The per cent change in price is more than the per cent change in the amount of alcohol consumed (or quantity demanded). (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Primary care** - The first level of care, generally provided in an ambulatory setting (as opposed to secondary and tertiary care which would normally be hospital-based). (World Health Organization 1998)

**Primary health care** - Primary health care is the central function and main focus of a country's health system, the principal vehicle for the delivery of health care, the most peripheral level in a health system stretching from the periphery to the centre, and an integral part of the social and economic development of a country. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Problem drinking** - Drinking that results in problems, individual or collective, health or social. A problem drinker is a person whose drinking has resulted in health or social problems. Formulations that avoid the labelling inherent in the term include "drinking-related problems" and "drinking problems". (World Health Organization 2005)

**Prohibition** - Policy under which the cultivation, manufacture, and/or sale (and sometimes the use) of a psychoactive drug are forbidden (although pharmaceutical sales are usually permitted). The term applies particularly to alcohol, notably (as Prohibition) in relation to the period of national interdiction of alcohol sales in the USA, 1919-1933, and in various other countries between the two World Wars. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Public good** - Good resulting from an act devoted or directed to promotion of the general welfare of the people or community as a whole. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Public health** - The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting mental and physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts. Public health may be considered as the structures and processes by which the health of populations is understood, safeguarded and promoted through the organized efforts of society. (Last 2001; modified)

**Public health advocacy** - The actions of health professionals and others with perceived authority in health to influence the decisions and actions of communities and governments which have some control over the resources which influence health. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Random breath testing** - A system whereby a random sample of drivers are stopped and given breath tests, thereby ensuring that those who are over the limit but show no immediate evidence of impaired driving will be detected, as well as those who show signs of impairment. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Randomized clinical trial** - A study design in which research participants are randomly allocated to one or more intervention conditions to determine which one would be of greatest benefit. Randomization is done to eliminate error from self-selection or other kinds of systematic bias. (Last 2001; modified)

**Rationing** - The sale of alcoholic beverages is limited to a certain amount (usually determined by government authorities) per person. The most notable example of rationing as

a way to discourage alcohol misuse is the Bratt system, a form of legal control over alcohol availability in Sweden between 1917 and 1955. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Recorded alcohol consumption** - The level of national consumption shown by records of tax and excise on alcoholic beverages and routinely collected statistics covering production, trade and consumption. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Responsible beverage service (RBS)** - An education program that trains managers of alcohol outlets and alcohol servers or sellers how to avoid illegally selling alcohol to intoxicated or underage patrons. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Responsible drinking** - A term used by some governments for the drinking of alcoholic beverages in moderation; drinking that does not lead to loss of health or other harm to the drinker or to others. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Retail availability** - Specifically, the availability of alcohol through retail outlets. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Risk factor** - Social, economic or biological status, behaviours or environments which are associated with or cause increased susceptibility to a specific disease, ill health, or injury. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Risk function** - Specifically, the relationship between the quantity of alcohol drunk and a range of physical and social consequences of drinking. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Self-regulation** - Specifically, a mechanism by which an entity, usually the alcohol beverage industry, sets codes of practice concerning the content or location of advertisements for alcohol. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Server liability** - The concept of making servers of alcoholic beverages legally liable for resulting harm. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Server training** - Training for staff of licensed establishments that sell alcoholic beverages, as a mechanism to reduce intoxication. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Social costs of alcohol** - The overall costs to any society resulting from the consumption, production and distribution of alcohol and embracing such sectors as health and welfare, industry, road traffic, law enforcement and the penal system. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Social drinking** - (1) Literally, drinking in company, as opposed to solitary drinking. (2) Often used loosely to mean a drinking pattern that is not problem drinking. (3) More prescriptively, the use of alcoholic beverages in compliance with social custom, primarily in the company of others, and then only for socially acceptable reasons and in socially acceptable ways. Social drinking is not necessarily moderate drinking. In certain South American societies, for example, individuals engage in communally approved "fiesta" drinking, often to the point of intoxication. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Social marketing** - An approach to health communications that applies standard marketing principles to 'sell' ideas, attitudes, and health behaviours. Social marketing seeks to influence social behaviours in the target audience and the general society. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Stakeholder** - Any person or organization with an interest in or affected by EU legislation and policymaking is a "stakeholder" in that process. The European Commission makes a point of consulting as wide a range of stakeholders as possible before proposing new legislation or new policy initiatives. (European Commission 2005)

**Standard drink** - A volume of beverage alcohol ( e.g. a glass of wine, a can of beer, or a mixed drink containing distilled spirits) that contains approximately the same amounts (in grams) of ethanol regardless of the type of beverage. (World Health Organization 2005)

**Strategy** - A long-term considered and comprehensive course of action that provides the framework for individual activities and events. (World Health Organization 1998)

**Subsidiarity** - The “subsidiarity principle” means that EU decisions must be taken as closely as possible to the citizen. In other words, the Union does not take action (except on matters for which it alone is responsible) unless EU action is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. (European Commission 2005)

**Supply reduction** - Specifically, policies or programmes aimed at reducing or preventing the production and distribution of alcohol. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Temperance** - A term of varying usage concerning alcohol and other drugs; originally meaning a commitment to moderation in personal drinking habits (e.g. by abstaining from drinking spirits), but after the 1840s usually meaning a personal commitment to total abstinence (the temperance pledge). After the 1850s it often implied a commitment to local, national, or global alcohol control, usually with the aim of eventual prohibition of the sale of alcoholic beverages (hence prohibitionist). (World Health Organization 2005)

**Time-series analysis** - A statistical procedure that allows inferences to be drawn from two series of repeated measurements made on the same individuals or organization over time. Where the emphasis is on understanding causal relations, the key question is how a change on one series correlates with a change on the other (with other factors controlled). (Last 2001; modified)

**Total ban on sales** - A law or regulation making the sale of all or a specific type of alcoholic beverage illegal. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Unit price elastic** - The per cent change in price is equal to the per cent change in alcohol consumed (or quantity demanded). (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Universal strategy** - A prevention strategy directed at the entire population, rather than high risk drinkers. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

**Unrecorded alcohol consumption** - Alcohol consumption which is not reflected in official statistics on alcohol consumption. (Hvalkof and Anderson 1995)

**Warning labels** - Messages printed on alcoholic beverage containers warning drinkers about the harmful effects of alcohol on health. (Babor *et al.* 2003)

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