

Alcohol policy technical visit to Latvia

Notes of the visit

Within the context of Alcohol Policy Network and Eurocare Bridging the Gap Project (2004 – 2006), Eurocare Secretary Mr. Derek Rutherford and Public Health Consultant Dr. Peter Anderson have been on an Alcohol Policy technical visit to Latvia. The visit took place on 19 October, 2005 at the State Addiction Agency.

Programme of the workshop.

1. Opening and introduction.
Dr. Astrida Stirna – director of the State Addiction Agency.
2. Report: “The Health, Social and Economic Impact of Alcohol” by dr. Peter Anderson – Public Health Consultant
 - Alcohol economy;
 - Use of alcohol in Europe; differences among European countries;
 - Alcohol consumption and unemployment;
 - Use of alcohol and health;
 - Alcohol consumption and young people;
 - Efficiency of the alcohol policy;
 - Education, communication and public awareness;
 - Drunk driving.
3. Report: “Eurocare and Alcohol Policy in the European Union”.
The Eurocare Secretary Derek Rutherford acquainted the audience with the essence of the European Project – Bridging the Gap – and main goals.
Mr. Rutherford presented the Manual to the Governmental and Nongovernmental organizations containing information on monitoring and reporting, commercial communication and various marketing strategies.
4. Discussion.
Participants from different institutions were explaining their activities on alcohol policy, as well as posed questions about the presented project and the delivered report that were of interest to them.

List of Participants to Alcohol Control Policies Workshop:

1. Dr. Astrida Stirna – director of the State Addiction Agency
2. Dr. Sarmite Skaida – vice-president of the Latvian association of professionals for drug and alcohol dependency treatment.
3. Dr. Viktors Jaksons – member of the board of the Association of Health care economics
4. Lolita Meļķe – representative of the Ministry of Health, department of Public Health
5. Daina Mežeca - representative of the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Latvia
6. Silvija Šimfa – Head of the Association of Latvian Municipalities

7. Zaiga Uzane – representative of Ministry of Finances, department of Tax Policy
8. Emilians Brokans – member of the International Club “Avante” (NGO)
9. Gatis Barzdins – member of the Association of the promotion of health education and abstinence of the Latvian University
10. Kristine Ozola – specialist of the State Addiction Agency
11. Aija Pelne – deputy director of the State Addiction Agency
12. Liga Serna – director of the department strategical planning of the Ministry of Health
13. Aldis Dudins - representative of Ministry of Welfare
14. Gita Rutina - deputy director of the department of Public Health of the Ministry of Health