

Some shared ideas
&
things to discuss in WG

In our countries...

- We have lowered average per capita consumption
- We have set up services for treatment, are receiving patients with alcohol dependence at a later stage of their addiction and are dealing with patients who have an alcohol problem and at the same time other issues

And also...

- We know there are public policies that may have an important impact in improving the problem, by changing the environment for alcohol use and decreasing consumption and harm (taxation, regulating availability, regulating driving and OH, involving general health care in screening and intervening on drinkers at risk, regulating OH marketing).

On effective prevention projects

- Evaluation of educational prevention projects is extremely difficult, and very seldom we can obtain the RCT design that seems to be considered the standard for 'evidence based' practice.
- Reasons are diverse: randomization is impossible, quasi experimental designs are the only viable option, there is contamination of controls, process is often poorly evaluated, many interventions are not enough standardized...

Further...

- We are seeing how the alcohol industry and the nightlife industry are marketing more aggressively their business, concentrating in the young
- We are witnessing an increase in alcohol binge episodes and intensive alcohol (and drug) use among the young, and we do not know whether this is a temporary issue or the gateway to permanent alcohol problems among these generations
- We know the magnitude of the alcohol and health issue is not perceived as it deserves by the public opinion, the governments, and the decision makers

3 WG

- One focusing in professionals involved in clinical practice
- One focusing in professionals involved in prevention
- One open to different visions / perspectives

Work to do by all 3 WG

- Define 3 actions / activities that should be done in our USL and are not addressed today. Try to identify things to do that may make it more likely.
- Identify 3 potential dangers and threats to the work in OH.
- If there was a 25% cut in our budget, identify one action / activity we should we preserve absolutely, and one that could be reviewed / reorganized?