



Alcohol and Health The European Union Strategy and the Alcohol Joint Action

Alcohol Prevention Day
Rome 18 April 2013
Istituto Superiore di Sanita'

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Consumers - European Commission



Hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption: a key health determinant

- ❑ 7,5% of all ill health and 195,000 early deaths per year in EU
- ❑ In 15-29 year olds: 25% of male deaths and 10% of female deaths related to alcohol
- ❑ Risk factor in some 60 acute or chronic diseases
- ❑ Monetary costs of alcohol related harm in the EU estimated at €125bn in 2003 – 1,3% of GDP
 - *health care and prevention 22bn*
 - *policing and crime 33bn*



Hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption: A European Problem

- ❑ Levels of alcohol consumption by adults have been falling, nevertheless the EU still holds world record in alcohol consumption.
- ❑ Most of the EU Member States have similar problems:
 - Underage drinking
 - Binge drinking
 - Drink - driving



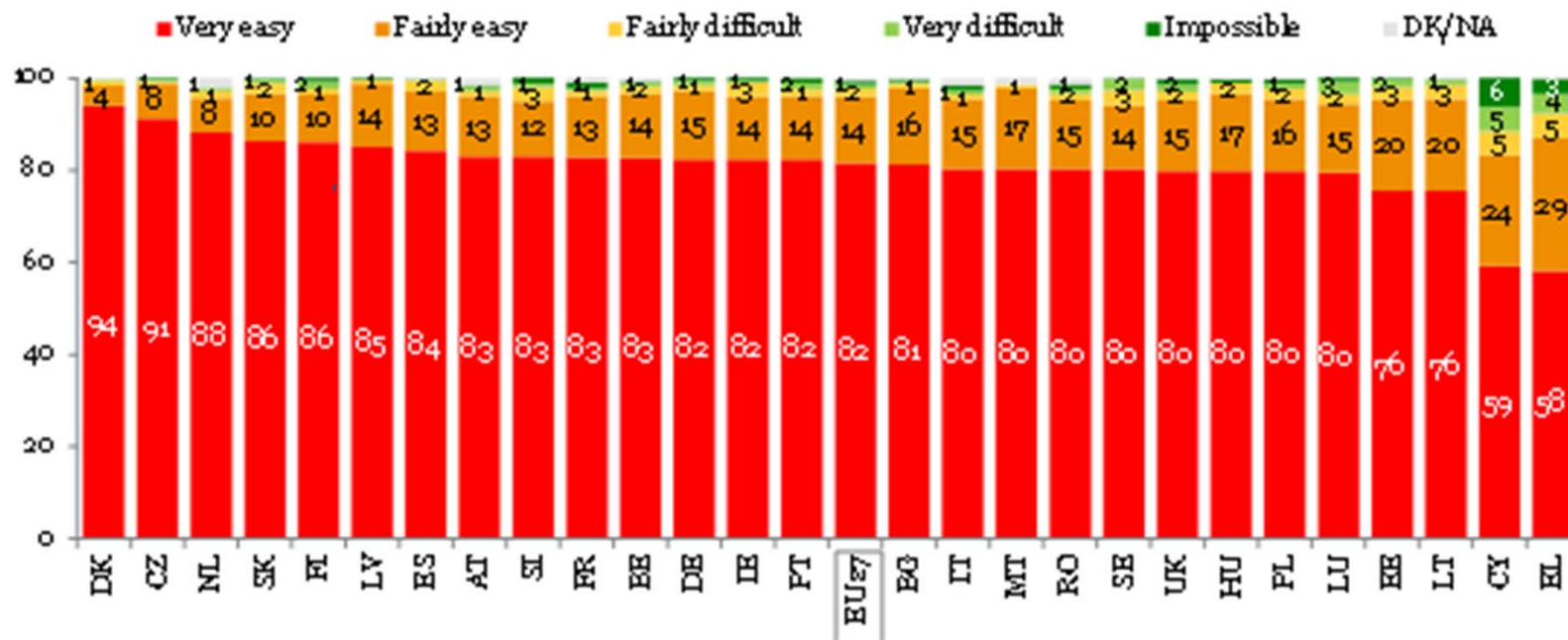


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Access to alcohol

Not a big difference
Was reported between the
various age groups

Flash Eurobarometer 330/May 2011: young people (15-24 years) have been interviewed



Q9. How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some?
Base: all respondents, % by country

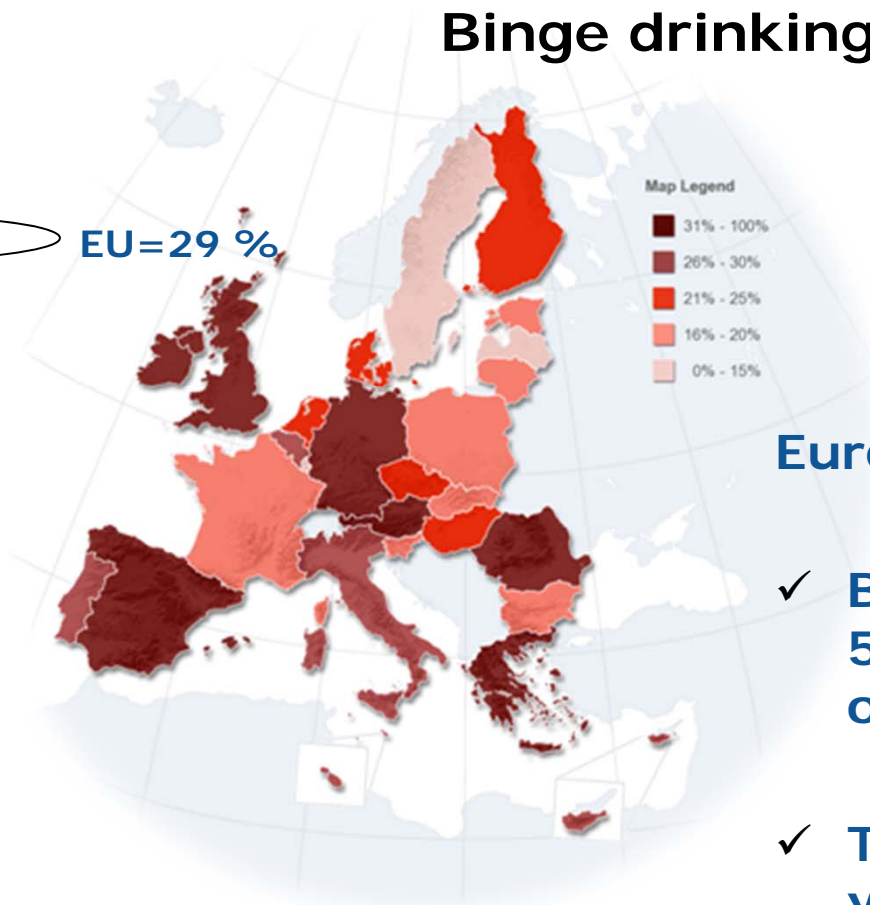


IE	44%
RO	39%
DE	36%
AT	36%
UK	34%
ES	34%
EL	34%
IT	30%
EU27	29%
PT	28%
BE	28%
CY	26%
MT	26%
HU	24%
CZ	24%
NL	23%
DK	22%
FI	22%
FR	20%
PL	19%
EE	18%
LT	18%
SI	18%
BG	18%
SK	17%
LU	14%
SE	13%
LV	11%

Question: QC1b. How often in the past 12 months have you had 5 or more drinks on one occasion?

Answers: Several times a week+Once a week

Binge drinking

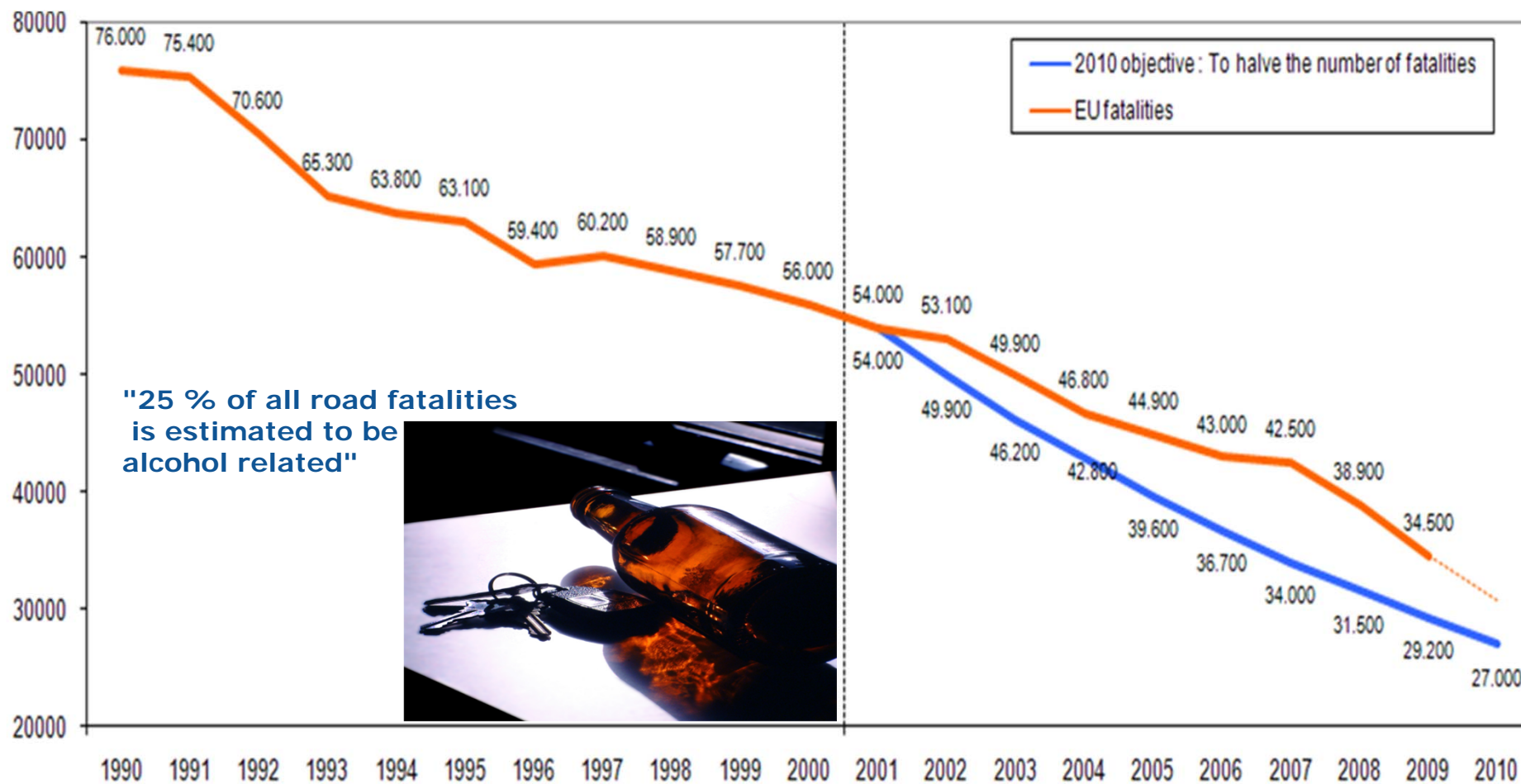


Eurobarometer 331/2010:

- ✓ Binge drinking : 5 drinks or more at least once a week
- ✓ The age group 15-24 years is most at risk of binge drinking (33%)



Evolution 1990-2010 EU- all road fatalities



Source: CARE (EU road accidents database)

THE EU STRATEGY PROCESS



Commission Communication 2006

Strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm



European Alcohol & Health Forum (EAHF) 2007:

Multi-stakeholder platform for voluntary action



1st Progress Report 2009

Convergence in MS policies; substantial number of voluntary actions in the EAHF



Council Conclusions 2009

Inviting the Commission to identify priorities for the next phase



Independent evaluation of the Strategy



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OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY



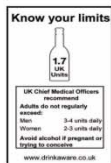
- Protect **young people, children and the unborn child**



- Reduce injuries and deaths from alcohol related road traffic accidents



- Prevent **alcohol related harm** among adults and reduce impact on **workplace**

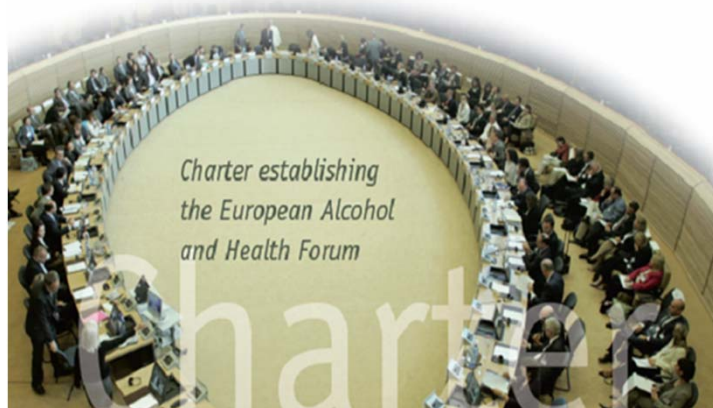


- Inform, educate and raise **awareness**

- Develop **common evidence base**

European Alcohol and Health Forum

- Plenary meetings
- Open Forum
- Task Forces
- Science Group



Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action -Member States



Work across
other policies:

- transport
- youth
- research
- employment
- taxation

Data collection:

- dedicated
committee
- cooperation with
WHO

Health
Programme:

- projects
- studies
- conferences

Alcohol Strategy – Implementation process



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EVALUATING THE IMPACT

Independent evaluation of the alcohol strategy



Alcohol Strategy evaluation main conclusions

The EU strategy has provided:

- **An EU-wide approach to address common issues: a common baseline**
- **A shared evidence base**
- **Support for Member State action**
- **Mobilisation and action by stakeholders across common objectives**



Political support

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY AND ACTION

(High Level Meeting, 31.10.2012)



- all Member States support EU work on alcohol related harm
- current priority themes are still relevant for all Member States



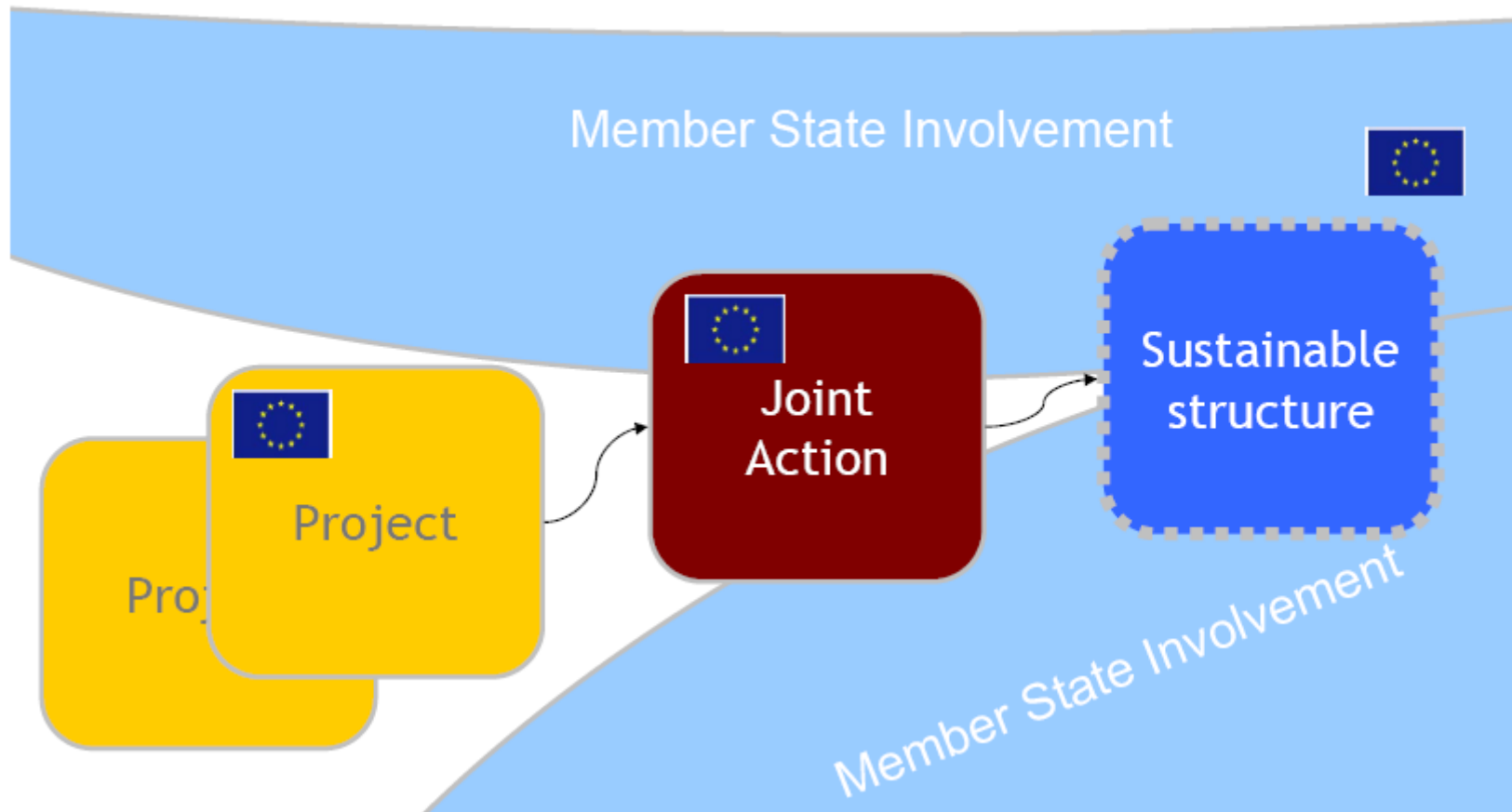
EU chronic disease reflection:

- initiated by Council Conclusions of December 2010
- aim: identify options to optimize the response to chronic diseases
- involves Commission, Member States and stakeholders

Topics:

- prevention and health promotion
- healthcare
- research
- information

Idea of a Joint Action





Forthcoming Joint action on alcohol in Health Programme work plan 2013

Incentive for the Member States to intensify cooperation and develop common approaches.

3 core working package:

- **Improving the monitoring of drinking habits and alcohol-related harm**
- **Guidelines for low-risk alcohol consumption**
- **Good practice in the provision of information to protect children and young people and to prevent alcohol-related harm among adults**

3 horizontal working package

- **Coordination, dissemination and evaluation**



Further Information



Alcohol - Policy | Public health, European Commission - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/policy/index_en.htm

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PUBLIC HEALTH

European Commission

European Commission > DG Health & Consumers > Public health > Alcohol > Policy

Search

Alcohol

Indicators Projects

http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/policy/index_en.htm

members updated
Released 31 January 2012

Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action, Brussels, 17 November 2011 - Presentations and summary report
Released 22 December 2011

Plenary Meeting of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, Brussels, 19 October 2011 - Summary report available
Released 02 December 2011

Highlights

RAYPRO RAYPRO – online Resource on Alcohol and Youth Projects for those who wish to share good practice or find good examples to build on

Related information

Alcohol related harm is a major public health concern in the EU accountable for over 7% of all ill health and early deaths. Even moderate alcohol consumption increases the long term risk of heart conditions, liver diseases and cancers and frequent consumption of large amounts can lead to dependence.

Any amount of alcohol can be dangerous during pregnancy and when driving. Young people are particularly at risk of short term effects of drunkenness, including accidents and violence, with alcohol-related deaths accounting for around 25% of all deaths in young men aged between 15 and 29.

EU Alcohol Strategy

- The **EU alcohol strategy** is designed to help national governments and other stakeholders coordinate their action to reduce alcohol related harm in the EU.
- First progress report on implementation of the EU alcohol strategy** (465 KB) (September 2009)
- The **European Union Information System on Alcohol and Health (EUSAH)** is maintained through cooperation between the European Commission and the World Health Organization.
- Country profiles**

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Thank you for your attention