



ECTC

European Conference
on Tobacco Control

2021 Online Edition

Reduction Demand for all Tobacco Product

17 - December – 2021, 13:00 CET

Location & venue:

Zoom: Link is [here](#)

Program:

Time	Subject	Presenter
13:00-13:05	Introduction	Hani Al Gouhmani
13:05-13:20	Revision of policies on tobacco and other nicotine-containing products, smoking cessation in the Russian Federation and the Eurasian Economic Union	Prof Andrey Demin
13:20-13:35	Illicit trade of Cigarettes and HTPs in Ukraine	Mr Pavlo Lavorskyi
13:35-13:50	Cigarette price increases, advertising ban, and pictorial warnings as determinants of youth smoking initiation in Poland	Prof. Łukasz Balwicki
13:50-14:05	Health or money, that's the dilemma: Opinions on increasing the taxation of tobacco products in a sample of university students from humanistic and scientific faculties	Dr Francesco Mondera
14:05-14:30	Discussion	

I. Revision of policies on tobacco and other nicotine-containing products, smoking cessation in the Russian Federation and the Eurasian Economic Union

Prof Andrey Demin

Institute for Leadership and Health Management, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University; Russian Public Health Association, Moscow, Russia

Bio:

MD Doctor of Political Sciences, Candidate of Medical Sciences, MPH, Professor, Higher School of Health Administration under I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, President of Russian Public Health Association.

Work in leading academic, research, civil service (including Administration of President of Russia) and civil society organizations focused on public health, social security, health and health care policy and politics in international perspective, global health, public health interests advocacy, civil society involvement.

Fulbright fellow, 2001. Visiting scholar at GWU, 2001, LSHTM, 2006. WHO temporary adviser, 1994, 2008

Background

Tobacco and other nicotine-containing products' (TNCP) market and legal regulation, State guarantees on smoking cessation undergo changes in the Russian Federation and the supranational Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Objective

To review recent amendments in regulation of TNCP and smoking cessation, to provide recommendations for public health protection.

Methods

Review of recent amendments of legislation of the Russian Federation and the EAEU, including the Law "On protection of health of citizens from impact of ambient tobacco smoke and the consequences of consumption of tobacco," the EAEU Technical regulation on tobacco products; the "Concept for the implementation of the State policy to counteract the consumption of tobacco and other nicotine-containing products in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2035 and the future perspective," Tax Code; the Code of Administrative Offences, the Law on Advertising, other legal documents of the Federal and regional governments and ministries, and available comments.

Results

The Government of the Russian Federation has officially adopted a single approach to regulation of TNCP. However, recent amendments of legislation and legal initiatives of supranational EAEU suggest that tobacco industry continues its efforts to secure special regulatory regime for novel

products, based on false statements on risk reduction. For example, heated tobacco is currently regulated legally as nicotine-containing product, but not as tobacco in Russia. State guarantees on tobacco cessation, awaiting implementation since adoption in 2013, have been revised as well.

Conclusions

To protect public health, it is important to promote large scale smoking cessation program, funded by the state, to reduce the number of TNCP dependent individuals. Direct foreign investment, tax privileges to TNCP industry should be eliminated. Public health, health care and consumer protection professionals should stop cooperating with tobacco industry supported organizations. EAEU should consider joining WHO FCTC to benefit health and prevent tobacco industry interference.

II. Illicit trade of Cigarettes and HTPs in Ukraine

Mr Pavlo Lavorskyi

Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine

Bio:

Pavlo is a graduate of the Kyiv School of Economics, the University of Houston and Sumy State University. Pavlo works as a Research Associate in the Kyiv School of Economics in the field of international trade. In addition, his sphere of interest includes public finances and the economic aspects of military conflicts. Pavlo participated in many projects supported by such organizations as USAID, SKL, GIZ.

Background

This study investigates the volume of illicit tobacco trade in Ukraine and focuses on traditional cigarettes and heated tobacco products. Traditionally, Ukraine is the leading origin for illicit cigarettes trafficked into the European Union (EU) market. In 2018 the illicit outflow from Ukraine to the EU was estimated at more than 4 billion cigarettes. In 2017 the Parliament of Ukraine approved the so-called “7-year plan” which affected excise taxation by the one-time increasing of the specific excise tax rate for cigarettes in 2018, followed by a gradual 20% increase every year from 2019 to 2025. Moreover, starting from January 1, 2021, the excise tax system for tobacco products included new taxation categories for heated tobacco units (HTU). These reforms have shifted a public discussion on the illicit trade from outflows to the EU to counterfeit, so-called “duty-free” production and inflows from the countries which have lower tobacco taxes. To evaluate the share of illicit tobacco trade, the survey of tobacco consumers was conducted in April 2021. Preliminary results show that the illicit market of manufactured cigarettes is 15.4% of sales, while in the case of heated tobacco products it is approximately 3.5%.

III. Cigarette price increases, advertising ban, and pictorial warnings as determinants of youth smoking initiation in Poland

Prof. Łukasz Balwicki

Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland

Bio:

Physician, public health specialist. Author of many scientific publications in the field of tobacco control, including epidemiological aspects of the use of electronic cigarettes among adolescents and the anti-tobacco law. Author of practical guides in the field of help for smoking addicts. Coordinator of many anti-tobacco programs and campaigns implemented in cooperation with employers, local governments and government administration institutions. Author and leader of anti-tobacco policy programs financed by Bloomberg Initiative grants conducted in coordination with the World Health Organization and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. He was the Deputy Director of the Social Development Department for public health at the City Hall in Gdańsk. He cooperates as an expert with WHO and The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and the National Institute of Public Health. Member of the Public Health Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. For over 10 years, he has been the head of the University Smoking Cessation Clinic. Academic tutor.

Background

There has been no study so far on the effects of cigarette price increases and other tobacco control policies on smoking behaviour among young people in Poland.

Objective: To study the determinants of cigarette smoking initiation among young people in Poland.

Methods: The study uses survival analysis techniques and data from the group of youth smoking surveys (the group includes: the 2003, 2009, and 2016 Global Youth Tobacco Surveys (GYTS) and the 2019 PolNicoYouth survey; students aged 11-18). Split-population duration models are employed.

Results: There was a correlation between cigarette prices and the hazard of smoking initiation in all models (hazard ratio from 0.86 to 0.91). Lower hazards of smoking initiation were also associated with a comprehensive advertising ban (hazard ratio from 0.69 to 0.70) and with the introduction of pictorial warnings (hazard ratio from 0.65 to 0.68). The effects of smoke-free laws were non-significant.

Conclusions: The study concludes that increased cigarette prices higher excise taxes, could decrease cigarette smoking initiation among polish adolescents. Minimizing promotional elements from cigarette packs and making the health warning more visible through packaging laws could further accelerate the decrease in smoking initiation.

IV. Health or money, that's the dilemma: Opinions on increasing the taxation of tobacco products in a sample of university students from humanistic and scientific faculties

Dr Francesco Mondera

Sapienza University, Rome Italy

Bio:

Dr. Francesco Mondera graduated in Medicine & Surgery from "La Sapienza" University of Rome in 2019. Currently, he's a resident in Public Health at the same institution.

His main fields of interest are the study of health inequalities, health promotion, tobacco control and the Third Mission of the University as a way to develop and share knowledge for the benefit of the society.

He's a member of the editorial board of "VaccinarSi", a vaccine-promoting organization held by Italian Ministry of Health and by SItI, the Italian Society of Public Health

Background

In occasion of WNTD (World No Tobacco Day) 2021, the team of UNITAB (Unit of Tobaccology of Sapienza University of Rome) ran a survey among university students to determine their smoking habits and the grade of agreement to an increase of tobacco taxation.

Methods

The survey is based on the structure of previous questionnaires that were used for WNTD 2014 and 2019, in order to compare the results. A google form was distributed among students. Analysis was focused on the question "Would you agree with a 1€ tax increase on every cigarette/tobacco pack with a prevention purpose?". We also asked for possible motivations for the answer, divided then into three categories (ethics, economics and health).

Results

We received 157 answers to the tax increase question, with 101 motivations given. 69.4% of the whole sample agreed with the proposal (57% among smokers/former smokers and 81% among non-smokers). The motivations given in order of importance were: economical (52,6% among the respondents), followed by ethical issues (32% of the sample) and health-related motivations (14%).

Conclusions

Data seem to show some grade of awareness of public health issues related to tobacco taxation among young people. However, this agreement rate appears to be in contrast with previous data collected in 2014 and 2019 campaigns, this could be due to the increased risk perception related to the covid19 pandemic or to the renewed importance of the health sector because of the pandemic emergency. The fact that the majority of students agreed with the increase of the tobacco tax proposal could be a good starting point to enforce public health intervention on this topic; however it's important to underline that the economical motivation was the most common one, which could suggest that future sensibilization campaigns should concentrate more on the economic implications of smoking.