

Collaboration between key stakeholders for the National Programme for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases



TYPE STATUS	Implemented Ongoing policy initiative	LAST UPDATE	August 2021	BULGARIA • NATIONAL Primary prevention
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PROBLEM & OBJECTIVE

PROBLEM Multiple major risk factors (tobacco use, alcohol use, unhealthy diet, low physical activity) for disease, including cancers, need to be actively addressed to improve population health.

OBJECTIVE To implement a program of activities/initiatives to reduce the impact of these major risk factors at both population and individual levels and a program of annual screening for three cancers (breast, cervical, colorectal).

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https://www.mh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2021/08/09/nacionalna-programa-preveniq-hnb-2021-2025_htc24ZU.pdf

KEY COMPONENTS / STEPS

- Coordinated by the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA), the program is a collaborative approach between the Ministry of Health, the Regional Health Inspectorates (RHIs), targeting all 28 regions within the country, and different non-governmental organizations.
- The program follows strict planned activities for addressing behavioral risk factors and performing annual screening for breast, cervical and/or colorectal cancers.
- The activities are performed by the RHIs, the NCPHA and all municipalities within the country, with the assistance of medical specialists for screening activities.
- The Programme includes timeframes for implementation and target indicators, monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

KEY CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- The collaborative activities were planned based on the experience of the Countrywide Integrated Noncommunicable Disease Intervention (CINDI) project, which ended in 2010, fully supported by the Ministry of Health.
- The National Programme for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (NPPNCDs) provides the overarching framework to tackle non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors and promote early prevention.
- Individual and population strategies are embedded within the NPPNCDs. It is funded from the national budget.

MAIN IMPACTS / ADDED VALUE

- NPPNCDs is a comprehensive programme that aims to target the whole population (also addressing school settings as well as inequality issues).
- It includes two major surveys on behavioral risk factors (2014 and 2020) which monitor and assess the progress of the programme.
- Cancer prevention campaigns within the country aim to provide more knowledge and awareness to the public as well as screening for specific cancer sites on an annual basis.
- The programme is the only nationwide campaign that performs screening activities in all 28 regions (there is no national cancer strategy/plan).

LESSONS LEARNED

- Strong intersectoral collaboration is needed
- Political commitment to obtain resources and support for effective activities is important
- Good organizational capacity and infrastructure is important
- Social support among different communities is important

REFERENCES & DOCUMENTATION

- <http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=861>
- <https://ncpha.government.bg/bg/2019-02-19-23-15-35/2014-2020>