

Multi-sectorial workshops organized by the office of smoking prevention



TYPE
STATUS

Ongoing activity since 2017

LAST
UPDATE

September 2021

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA • NATIONAL

Office of smoking prevention –
Health promotion and primary prevention

PROBLEM & OBJECTIVE

PROBLEM Rationale for implementation: better inform key stakeholders and increase their understanding of the importance of tobacco control along with gaps and barriers for implementation of these measures can contribute to adoption of the tobacco control measures aligned with the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control.

OBJECTIVE Building support for the development of a 100% smoke free law and other tobacco evidence based interventions among decision makers and professionals.

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KEY COMPONENTS / STEPS

- Mapping of policy process.
- Mapping decision makers, organizations/institutions that can advocate for tobacco control.
- Organizing roundtables and other public discussions with decision makers, implementers, and other target groups.
- Gaining media attention.

KEY CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

Workshops contributed to:

- Establishment of new partnerships and increase in a number of partners who will further work in tobacco control field.
- Identification of challenges and planning of the next steps for improvement of tobacco control.
- Identification of priority actions.
- Reducing resistance to tobacco control measures and better understanding of their benefits especially from social and economic perspective.

MAIN IMPACTS / ADDED VALUE

- Even so the main target groups were decision makers and professionals; media coverage of these events lead to better understanding of general population of importance of actions leading to smoke free environments. This is of importance due to strong correlation between social norms and policy implementation.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Multisectoral workshops are important for understanding challenges for adoption of tobacco control measures and for guidelines for facing these challenges.
- There is need for stronger focus on activities aimed at changing wrongly perceived economic benefits of tobacco.
- In addition to international data and evidence on importance of evidence based tobacco control, data from national surveys and research are helpful resources for advocacy to be used at national multisectoral workshops.
- New challenges such as heated tobacco products and emerging waterpipe tobacco use amplify the importance of continuous provision of accurate information on tobacco control best practice to decision makers, general public and health professionals.

REFERENCES & DOCUMENTATION

- One of the multisectoral workshops

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