

Working with Communities to Reduce Health Inequalities *Conference Announcement*

A project co-funded by the European Commission in the frame of the Public Health Programme 2008–13

Monday 20 September 2010
9:30am to 1pm

Room JDE51
Committee of the Regions
Rue Belliard 99-101
B-1040 Brussels

Addressing tobacco control issues affecting children and young people will be more effective when local communities and peer groups are involved.

Significant gaps remain in fully understanding the effectiveness of such interventions, as there is generally a lack of evaluation or robust evidence of impact or health outcomes.



Evidence indicates that protecting children from tobacco smoke by reducing smoking in homes is more likely to succeed where smoking is more widely banned.

There is little understanding of how community and peer group engagement methods might be transferable to different cultural contexts and where traditions of governance and public health service delivery differ.

Working with Communities to Reduce Health Inequalities is a two-year project co-ordinated by Liverpool Primary Care Trust and supported by a group of European associated partners. A network of European experts focussed their activities on protecting children and young people from tobacco through peer-to-peer interventions and local community engagement to reduce their smoking prevalence, lower their up-take of smoking and protect them from exposure to secondhand smoke.

The project's activities took place in a range of settings including schools and community centres. They all developed local partnerships to adopt innovative approaches, build on good practices and implement effective tobacco control interventions.

The final conference presents and disseminates:

- the findings from the peer-to-peer interventions in the UK, France and Latvia as well as the findings of interventions that aimed to reduce children's and young people's exposure to second-hand smoke in Italy, Romania and the UK;
- policy recommendations for European, national, regional and local decision-makers based on the conclusions of the working groups;
- a cross-cultural tool-kit arising from our work with local communities, children and young people: the tool kit is available for use by health care professionals, teachers, peer mentors, families or anyone with an interest in working with or for children and young people to prevent smoking and smoking exposure.

You are cordially invited to participate in the Working with Communities to Reduce Health Inequalities conference. We are confident that the project's policy recommendations will be a useful advocacy tool and that the tool kit will be an invaluable addition to your work with children and young people.

- Access to the conference is free of charge. However, please note that due to budget constraints, the conference organisers cannot reimburse participants' travel or accommodation costs.
- The conference will be held in English. Interpretation will not be provided.
- The conference is not open to persons or organisations working for or associated with the tobacco industry, its liaison groups or subsidiaries.
- Lunch will be provided in Atrium 5 following the conference at 13:30 where there will be a chance to network with the project group.
- Further logistical details will be provided upon registration.

Online registration is open at: www.ensp.org/node/223

The Working with Communities project involves the following European partners:

Liverpool Primary Care Trust, UK
Manchester National Health Service, UK
Office français de prévention du tabagisme (OFT), France
European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP)
Public Health Association of Latvia (LSVA)
Regione del Veneto, Italy

Romanian Network for Smoking Prevention (RPFR)
Barnardo's North-West, UK
Health Promotion Foundation, Poland
Public Health Agency of Barcelona, Spain
Czech Coalition Against Tobacco (CKPT)
Kaunas Drug Abuse Help Centre for Youth (KJNPC), Lithuania

Full details of the Working with Communities project, including all the Newsletters, are available at <http://www.ensp.org/node/57>