

Slovensko združenje za kronične nenalezljive bolezni

Član NCD Alliance



inštitut za raziskave in razvoj

Coalition of NGOs advocating for better alcohol policy - challenges & successes

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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Introduction



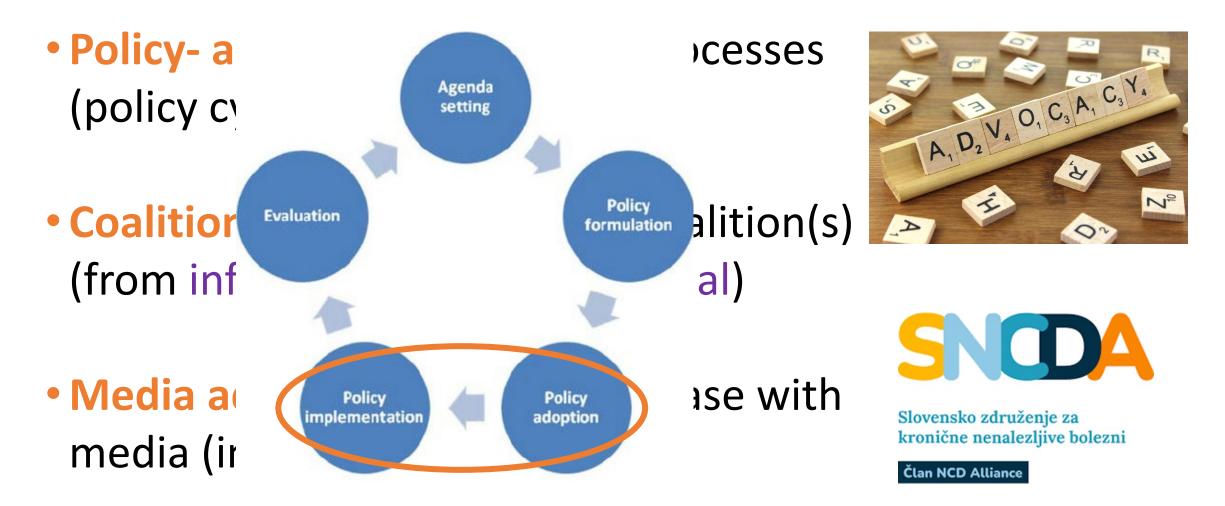
- Slovenia: wine & beer producing country (strong tradition & »culture«)
- Current alcohol law (from 2003)
- Advocacy efforts since 2006 (EU)
- Negative changes (in 2017)





Advocacy efforts in Slovenia





Advocacy efforts in Slovenia





(frcSlovensko združenje za kronične nenalezljive bolezni



SNODA

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Advocacy efforts in Slovenia



- Coalition building / effective coalition (from informal & ad-hoc to formal)
- Media advocacy / making the case with media attention (including social media)





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Negative changes in 2017



- March 2015: MP from opposition party tabled an amendment to the alcohol law:
 - to allow selling alcohol beverages at sport events (again)
 - which has been forbidden since 1998



Negative changes in 2017



 ...»surprisingly« announcement of takeover of two largest Slovenian breweries was published few months later by Heineken (October 2015)



Negative changes in 2017



- Advocacy activities by NGOs, MoH & NIPH to prevent the change in the alcohol law (March-May 2015)
- May 2015: The proposed change was rejected by the Health Committee of the National Assembly (parliament) by majority of votes ...
- BUT ... (they came back ready in 2017 & we lost)

Advocacy efforts since 2017



- No changes of alcohol policy since 2017
- Difficulties with implementation of last changes (e.g., licenses to sell alcohol at sport events, mystery shopping options etc.)
- First alcohol policy action plan in Slovenia awaits since 2021 (?) – no steps forward until today
- Not political priority yet (tobacco first?)

Advocacy efforts since 2017





Advocacy efforts since 2017





And industry is not sleeping ...





• **Campaign** (2019) against cancer (message: You should take a control in your hands & men should monitor themselves regularly & prevent cancer)



Partnership: NGO (Onkoman), Slovenian FA & Heineken (Union)

And industry is not sleeping ...





 Campaign (2020) to promote beer through hiking & mountaineering (message: Let's go to mountains for a good cause!)



Partnership:

NGOs (DNK & SOS) (domestic violence), Mountaineering Association & **Heineken (Laško)**

Initiative for a stricter legislation



 <u>Letter</u> to all responsible ministries (health, finance, infrastructure, agriculture, economy, internal affairs ...) & political parties (governmental, opposition & nonparliamentarian parties)





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Initiative for a stricter legislation



 European Framework for action on Alcohol 2022-2025 adopted at the 72nd session of the Regional Committee (WHO/Europe) (Tel Aviv, September 2022)



 Towards WHO Framework Convention on Alcohol Control (FCAC) (approach global -> national, e.g., tobacco control)



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Conclusions





- The situation in the field of alcohol in Slovenia is worrying!
- Even more during & after the COVID-19 pandemic
- No political response despite advocacy campaigns (yet)
- National action plan (MoH) political will, industry's pressure?
- Some minor (important) successes (e.g., against industry's campaigns, suggestions reflected in the action plan ...)
- To be continued ... (SNCDA funding by MoH, campaigns ...)

Thanks for attention !



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