



SHARING THE RESULTS

LOOKING HOW TO REDUCE ALCOHOL RELATED HARM

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Cofunded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union



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REDUCING ALCOHOL RELATED HARM

Key results on Harmonising Alcohol-Related Measures in European Surveys (RARHA-HARMES)

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Lisbon . 13th/14th October . 2016

Aims of RARHA-HARMES

- Collection of comparable data on alcohol consumption and related harms in member states
- Use of existing survey data
- Storage of data in a common European dataset
- Analyses of the distribution of alcohol consumption and burden of problems
 - effects of gender, age and socio-economic status (SES)



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Inclusion criteria

- Survey conducted between 2008 and 2013
- General population survey (no sub-populations)
- Nationwide data (no regional restriction)
- Age range: 15+



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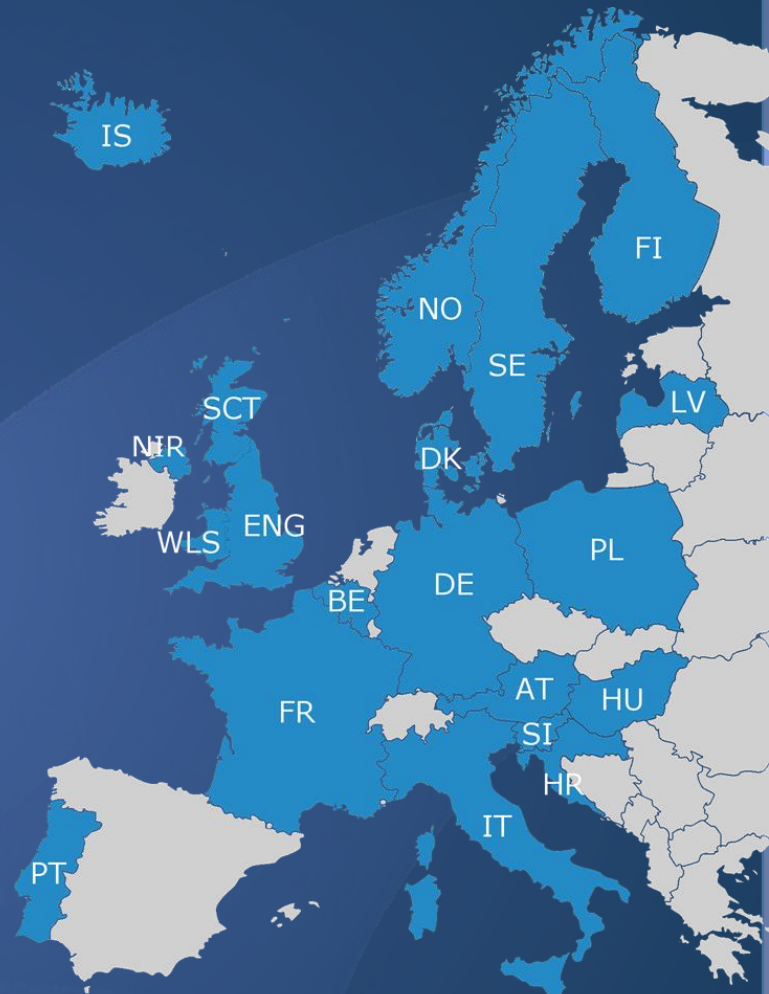
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Participating countries

Austria (1)	Belgium (1)
Croatia (1)	Denmark (3)
Finland (1)	France (1)
Germany (2)	Hungary (1)
Iceland (2)	Italy (1)
Latvia (1)	Norway (1)
Poland (1)	Portugal (1)
Slovenia (1)	Sweden (1)
England (UK) (1)	Wales (UK) (1)
Scotland (UK) (1)	Northern Ireland (UK) (1)

= 17 countries (24 surveys)



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Methodological approach

24 raw datasets

Step 1: Recoding at national level



24 recoded datasets

Step 2: Consistency checks



1 European dataset

Step 3: Weighting & analyses



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Regional patterns – Northern Europe

- Low abstention rates
- Moderate frequency of drinking
- Low (males) or high (females) drinking quantities
- High frequency of EHD
- High prevalence of problematic alcohol use



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Regional patterns – Western Europe

- Moderate abstention rates
- High frequency of drinking
- Rather high drinking quantities
- High frequency of EHD
- Moderate prevalence of problematic alcohol use



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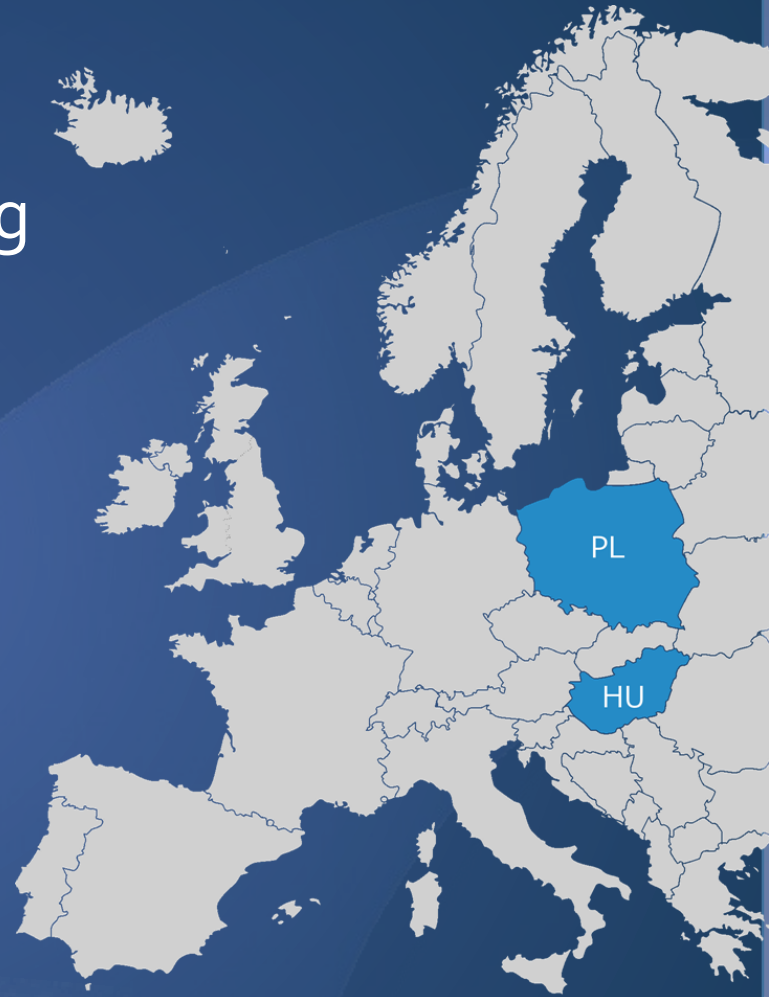
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Regional patterns – Eastern Europe

- High abstention rates
- Rather low frequency of drinking
- High (males) or low (females) drinking quantities
- Low frequency of EHD
- Moderate prevalence of problematic alcohol use



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Regional patterns – Southern Europe

- High abstention rates
- High (males) or moderate (females) frequency of drinking
- Moderate (males) or low (females) drinking quantities
- Low frequency of EHD
- Low prevalence of problematic alcohol use



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Gender effects

- The more extreme the behaviour, the higher the gender ratio
 - Abstinence < Frequency of drinking < Drinking quantity < EHD < Problematic alcohol use
- Gender differences were smallest in Western and Northern Europe and largest in Southern Europe



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Age effects

- Most pronounced for frequency of drinking and frequency of EHD
 - frequency of drinking increases with age
 - frequency of EHD decreases with age
- Most obvious in Northern and in Southern Europe



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SES effects

- Most pronounced for abstinence rates and frequency of drinking
 - abstinence is higher among low SES groups
 - frequency of drinking is higher among high SES groups
- Most obvious in Western and Northern Europe



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Lessons learned

- Most member states have an established national population survey on alcohol consumption
- Cross-national comparability depends on the specific indicator
 - good: abstinence, frequency of drinking
 - problematic: drinking quantity, EHD
- Few surveys assess problems related to alcohol consumption



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Implications

- There is a need for harmonisation when doing European comparisons
 - national peculiarities and survey histories have to be taken into account
 - a core set of model questions is useful
 - rules for transforming national questions have to be provided



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Acknowledgements

Work package leader

Jacek Moskalewicz (Poland)

RARHA-HARMES participating countries

Julian Strizek & Alfred Uhl (Austria), Lydia Gisle (Belgium), Iva Pejnović Franelić & Dijana Jerkovic (Croatia), Ola Ekholm (Denmark), Esa Österberg & Pia Mäkelä (Finland), Jean-Baptiste Richard (France), Dorottya Nagy (Hungary), Rafn Magnús Jónsson (Iceland), Silvia Ghirini (Italy), Marcis Trapencieris (Latvia), Elin K. Bye & Geir Scott Brunborg (Norway), Katarzyna Okulicz-Kozaryn (Poland), Clara Vital (Portugal), Nataša Delfar & Darja Lavtar (Slovenia), Erika Sundin & Mats Ramstedt (Sweden), John Foster (UK)

EMCDDA

Deborah Olszewski & João Matias (Portugal)



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