

Towards reducing alcohol harms

THE OSLO DECLARATION

**9th European Alcohol Policy Conference Statement
Oslo, 17th June 2022**

Conclusions and Key Messages

We, the participants,

GATHERED here in Oslo, Norway from 16th to 17th June 2022;

RECOGNISING that alcohol continues to cause more harm in Europe than any other drug, with devastating consequences for public health and social welfare;

CONCERNED that the alcohol industry continues to promote its products to new and existing consumers through many channels, including heavy alcohol users, young people and other vulnerable groups

KNOWING that scientific evidence has unequivocally established that alcohol consumption causes harms, including death, disease, injury, disability and economic hardship;

ALARMED by further increases in alcohol consumption among heavy drinkers during the covid-19 pandemic;

AWARE of the increasingly aggressive and well-funded efforts of the alcohol industry and its allies to undermine and subvert effective alcohol regulation and to normalise its consumption;

CONSIDERING governments' responsibility to protect the wellbeing of people and communities;

and

AIMING to achieve health and development for all in Europe through high-impact alcohol policy solutions;

DO HEREBY DECLARE:

1. National governments and the EU should regulate alcohol based on the WHO's evidence-based Global Alcohol Action Plan to achieve its ambitious targets by 2030
2. National governments should cooperate to implement the evidence-based WHO Best Buys and SAFER recommendations, focussed on price, availability and marketing of alcohol
3. EU level regulation should reflect public support for mandatory ingredient, nutrition declaration and warning labels on alcohol products, so empowering properly informed consumer decisions
4. National governments and the EU should make sure that health policy-making processes are protected from alcohol industry interference
5. National governments should tax alcohol products related to alcohol content. This should be index-linked and increased regularly in line with economic and health indicators
6. National governments should restrict or ban the marketing exposure of alcohol products, particularly to young people and children and other vulnerable groups
7. Governments should recognise and support the pivotal role of civil society organisations in preventing and reducing alcohol harm

Supporter organisations

International organisations

- [GAPA – Global Alcohol Policy Alliance](#)
- [IBC – International Blue Cross](#)
- [IFMSA – The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations](#)
- [Movendi International](#)
- [Oral Health Foundation](#)
- [UICC – The Union for International Cancer Control](#)

Supporter organisations

European scientific societies

- [CPME – Standing Committee of European Doctors](#)
- [EAHP – European Association of Hospital Pharmacists](#)
- [EASL – The European Association for the Study of the Liver](#)
- [EFN – European Federation of Nurses Associations](#)
- [EONS – European Oncology Nursing Society](#)
- [ERA – European Renal Association](#)
- [ESC – European Society of Cardiology](#)
- [EUFAS – European Federation of Addiction Societies](#)
- [UEG – United European Gastroenterology](#)

Supporter organisations

European umbrella NGOs

- [Alzheimer Europe](#)
- [APN – Alcohol Policy Network in Europe](#)
- [Digestive Cancers Europe](#)
- [EBC – European Brain Council](#)
- [ECDA – The European Chronic Disease Alliance](#)
- [ECL – Association of European Cancer Leagues](#)
- [ECO – European Cancer Organisation](#)
- [EHN – European Heart Network](#)
- [EIWH – European Institute of Women's Health](#)
- [ELPA – European Liver Patients' Association](#)
- [EMNA – European Mutual-Help Network for Alcohol-Related Problems](#)
- [EPHA – European Public Health Alliance](#)
- [EUCAM – European Centre for Monitoring Alcohol Marketing](#)
- [EUPHA – European Public Health Association](#)
- [Eurocare \(European Alcohol Policy Alliance\)](#)
- [GAMIAN-Europe](#)
- [International Diabetes Federation Europe](#)
- [The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe](#)
- [YHO – Youth Health Organization](#)

Supporter organisations

National/Regional organisations

Belgium

- VAD – Vlaams expertisecentrum voor alcohol

Estonia

- Eesti Karskusliit

Finland

- EHYT – Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention

France

- Association Addictions France
- S.A.F Ocean Indien

Georgia

- Georgian Health Promotion and Education Foundation
- Good Health and Wellbeing

Germany

- DHS – Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen e.V.
- DKFZ – German Cancer Research Center
- FDR+ Fachverband Drogen- und Suchthilfe e.V.
- Guttempler
- KREUZBUND
- Stiftung Deutsche Krebshilfe

Ireland

- Alcohol Action Ireland
- Alcohol Forum Ireland
- ICAAN – Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network

Italy

- SIA – Società Italiana di Alcolologia

Lithuania

- NTAKK – Lithuanian Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition

Supporter organisations

National/Regional organisations

Netherlands

- [Groningen Center for Health Law](#)
- [Intact \(Tactus\)](#)
- [STAP – Dutch Institute for Alcohol Policy](#)

Nordic Baltic Region

- [NordAN – Nordic Alcohol and Drugs Policy Network \(Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania\)](#)

Norway

- [Actis](#)
- [AV OG TIL](#)
- [FORUT](#)
- [IOGT Norway](#)
- [Kreftforeningen](#) (Norwegian Cancer Society)
- [The Norwegian Medical Association](#)

Portugal

- [Associação C.A.T.R. – Centro de Apoio, Tratamento e Recuperação](#)
- [Unidade de Alcoologia do Porto](#)

Slovenia

- [Institute for Health and Environment](#)
- [SNCDA – Slovenian NCD Alliance](#)
- [UTRIP – Institute for Research and Development](#)

South America

- [CLAS – Coalición América Saludable](#)

Spain

- [Associacio Rauxa](#)
- [FSC – Fundación Salud y Comunidad](#)
- [SOCIDROGALCOHOL](#)
- [Visual TEAF](#)

Sweden

- [IOGT-NTO Sweden](#)
- [Smart International](#)

Supporter organisations

National/Regional organisations

Switzerland

- [Addiction Switzerland](#)
- [IOGT Switzerland](#)

Turkey

- [Green Crescent Society](#)

United Kingdom

- [Alcohol Change UK](#)
- [Alcohol Focus Scotland](#)
- [Alcohol Health Alliance](#)
- [Balance](#)
- [BASL – British Association for the Study of the Liver](#)
- [Doctors in Unite](#)
- [IAS - Institute of Alcohol Studies](#)
- [Nacoa](#)
- [Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs](#)
- [SHAAP - Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems](#)

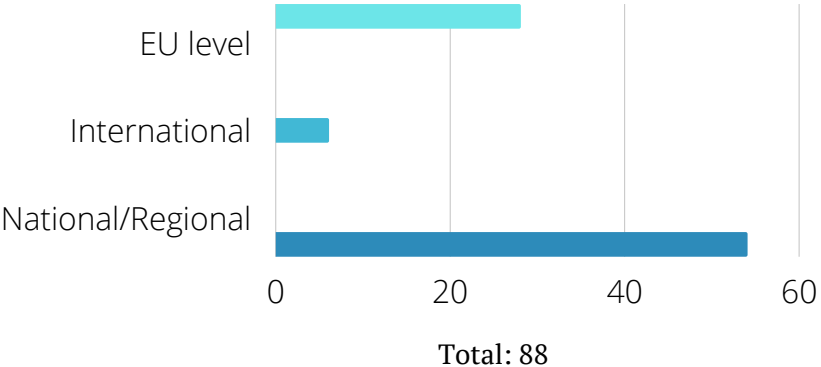
USA

- [Alcohol Justice](#)

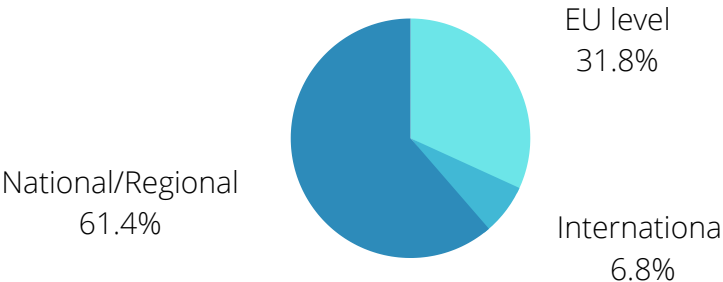


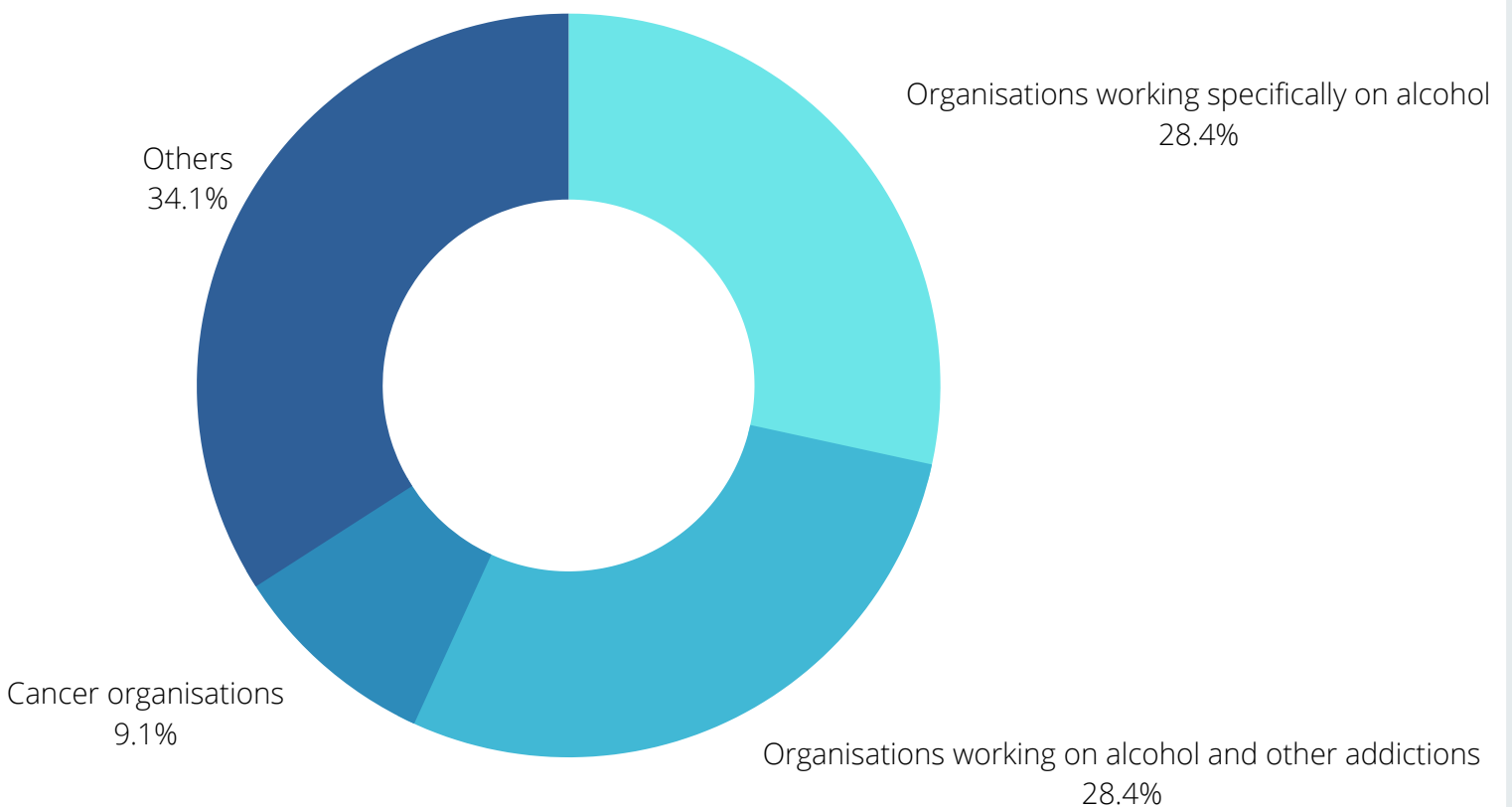
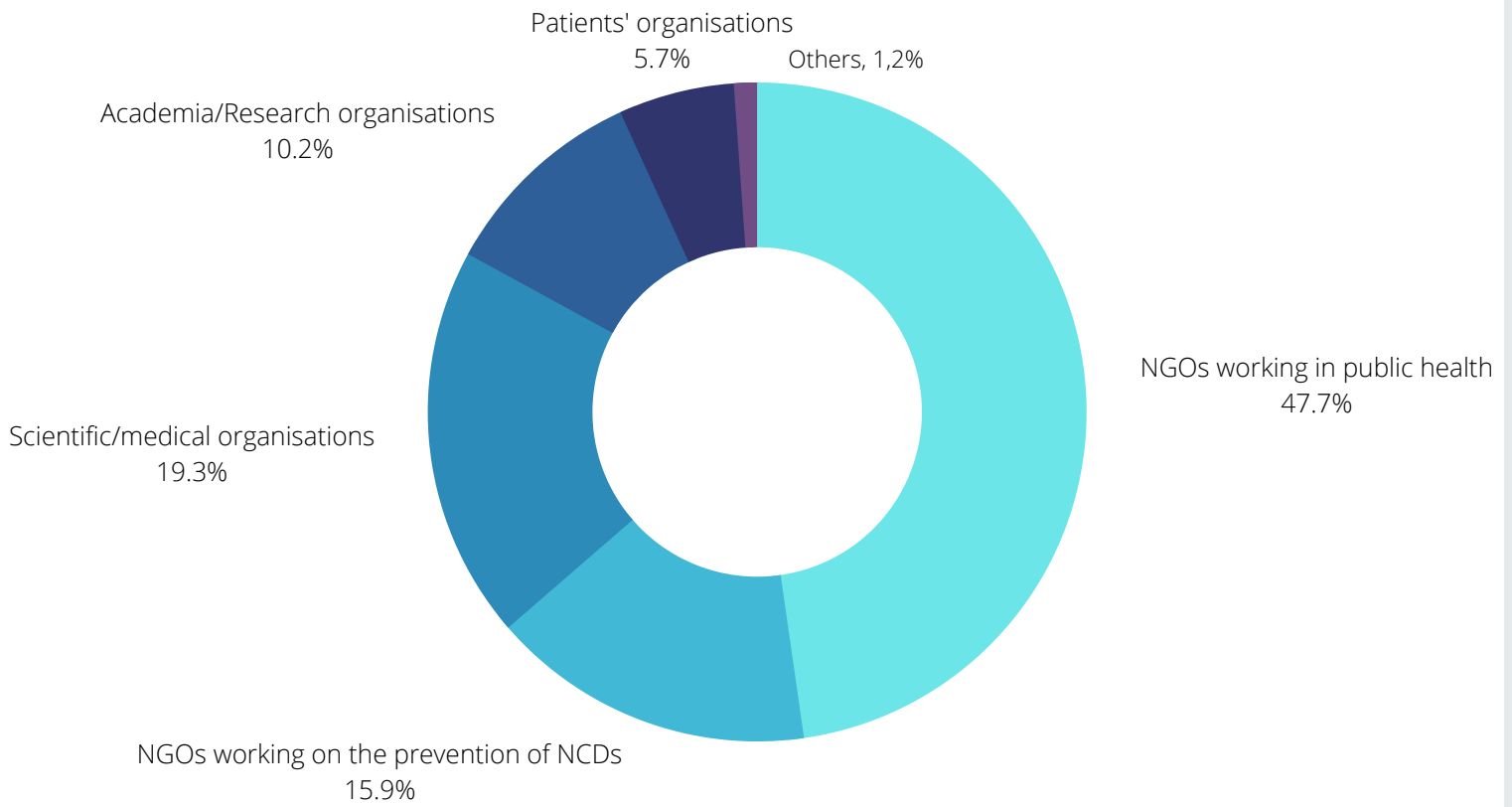
Supporter organisations

Number of organisations per sphere of action



Percentage of organisations per sphere of action





Quotes

"The Oslo Declaration is a major step forward in combating harm caused by alcohol, showing the unity and resolve of those fighting for the broad public interest."

Florence Berteletti, Eurocare



"CPME supports the Oslo Declaration because harmful use of alcohol has a major public health impact which needs to be tackled with a comprehensive prevention plan."

Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)



"Europe is the heaviest alcohol consuming region in the world. The burden of alcohol related harms to individuals, families, communities and society is enormous. Half of deaths due to liver disease are a result of alcohol.

Many individuals who develop life-threatening harms are largely unaware of the risks of alcohol consumption.

The time has come for concerted action across Europe to reduce these harms. We fully support the aspirations in the Oslo Declaration to reduce alcohol harms in an evidence-based manner."

Prof Frank Murray, EASL



"Alcohol is still one of the more predominant contributors to liver diseases. It is responsible for alcohol-related liver disease. It can worsen the fatty liver disease and hepatitis.

Alcoholic liver disease is common but can be prevented with a multidisciplinary approach led by addiction specialists, counsellors, hepatologists, dietitians and social workers."

ELPA European Liver Patients' Association



"The European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) Supports the Oslo Declaration because alcohol consumption is related to over 60 diseases and health issues. Women do not need to consume as much alcohol as men to run the same risk for certain diseases. High levels of alcohol consumption is linked to an elevated risk of conditions like acute pancreatitis, cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, liver cancer, liver cirrhosis, and various mouth and throat cancers."

The European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)



"Alcohol can have a significant impact on people's health — particularly mental health — and a global pandemic has only exacerbated the situation. European Brain Council supports the Oslo Declaration for European-level enforcement action to tackle the harms caused by alcohol abuse."

European Brain Council (EBC)



"We fully support the Oslo Declaration and believe that a more ambitious EU alcohol policy could provide a strong basis for the EU and Member States to deal with the considerable task of preventing alcohol-related cancers."

Dr. Wendy Yared, Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)



"Alcohol consumption is a risk factor in over 60 types of diseases, with nearly 30% of deaths from gastrointestinal diseases directly attributed to alcohol. The societal costs and healthcare implications of increased alcohol intake are huge. We therefore fully support the Oslo Declaration and urge for a change in approach and attitude towards alcohol consumption in Europe."

United European Gastroenterology (UEG)



"Total alcohol consumption in the European Union (EU) is more than double compared to the global level. ERA has among its main goals to promote a healthy lifestyle for all. For this reason, we support in all its points the Oslo Declaration, based on scientific evidence and aiming to improve our quality of life. United we are stronger."

ERA - European Renal Association



"The breadth and depth of support from civil society means the Oslo Declaration generates a strong message to governments throughout Europe: 'We need you to protect our people from the unregulated marketing and often poorly regulated supply of alcohol products. This situation benefits only the global producers of alcohol products, but safer regulation will enhance the wellbeing and health of your citizens'. GAPA is proud to support the Oslo Declaration."

Professor Sally Casswell, GAPA



"Alcohol consumption brings a considerable negative impact on people's health. Approximately 268,000 deaths and almost 8 million years of life lost which are attributable to alcohol consumption in the EU are related to non-communicable diseases.

ECDA supports the Oslo Declaration and calls for greater EU support in preventing alcohol consumption. It would bring significant health, economic and societal benefits, and is integral to managing and reducing the prevalence of major NCDs."

ECDA European Chronic Disease Alliance



"The majority of countries with The highest recorded rates of alcohol consumption is in Europe. In light of compelling evidence on the devastating impact of alcohol on people's health, The European Cancer Organisation calls for an integrated and coordinated approach at the European level to increase awareness of alcohol-related diseases and health risks - in particular as a risk factor for many type of cancers."

Andreas Charalambous, President European Cancer Organisation



"The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe strongly supports the Oslo Declaration's ambition to address the harm alcohol poses for public health. Alcohol consumption is one of the major risk factors for non-communicable diseases, including oral cancers. Dental care professionals can play a key role in raising awareness of alcohol-related harms through the provision of brief interventions to their patients on alcohol use."

Dr George Tsakos, The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe



"As an organisation dedicated to reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease, the European Society of Cardiology fully endorses the Oslo declaration and sees it as an important step in reducing the half a million premature cardiovascular deaths every year due to alcohol misuse"

Donna Fitzsimons, Advocacy Chair, European Society of Cardiology (ESC)



"The Oral Health Foundation is delighted to support the Oslo Declaration. As long term campaigners on Mouth Cancer awareness and action through our annual Mouth Cancer Action Month we are acutely that aware that alcohol consumption remains the cause of a third of these cancers. Only by reducing consumption through measures such as those proposed can we hope to make headway and save lives."

Oral Health Foundation



"EUFAS supports the Oslo Declaration and shares its vision and mission for a renewed effort in dealing more effectively with alcohol-related harm in Europe. Implementation of high-impact alcohol policy solutions, strategies and plans will contribute to achieving the highest possible level of health, welfare and wellbeing for all citizens and communities across European countries.

The principles of the Oslo Declaration have been, over the past decade, part of the EUFAS mission to develop and disseminate the research evidence base in supporting evidence-based public health policies, which have been delayed by the influence of vested commercial interests and alcohol industry interference."

EUFAS



"Harmful alcohol consumption is responsible for an estimated 50 000 CVD deaths in the EU.

EHN is calling for an increase of minimum excise duties on all alcoholic beverages to the highest possible level and for setting up a harmonised level of alcohol taxation across Europe for all types of alcoholic beverages. EHN also is in favour of labelling of alcohol. Therefore, EHN is supportive of the Oslo Declaration calling for reducing alcohol harm."

European Heart Network (EHN)

