

## The RARHA project: Overview and review of alcohol-related measures in 24 European surveys

Maron, J.<sup>1</sup>; Kraus, L.<sup>1,2</sup>; Piontek, D.<sup>1</sup>; RARHA working group<sup>3</sup>

1 IFT Institut für Therapieforschung, Munich, Germany

2 Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs, SoRAD, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

3 17 European partners participating in Work Package 4, Task 2 of the Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA)

**Background:** The Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA) is a 3 year collaborative multi-national project funded by the European Commission under the second EU Health Programme. As part of the project, comparable data on alcohol from surveys carried out in European countries will be gathered and stored into a common dataset.

**Aims:** The aim of this presentation is (1) to give an overview on the RARHA project, and (2) to review alcohol measures in different European surveys.

**Methods:** Inclusion criteria for national surveys were: a) Survey conducted between 2008 and 2012 in a European country, b) General population survey including information on alcohol consumption and/or alcohol-related harm (no targeted populations), c) Nationwide data (no regional surveys), d) Age range 15+. We collected 24 surveys from 17 European countries. Various types of instruments used to measure alcohol consumption (e.g. prevalence, frequency, quantity of alcohol consumption, episodic heavy drinking, drunkenness, age of onset), alcohol-related harm (e.g. DSM-IV, AUDIT, CAGE), and other alcohol-related instruments (e.g. unrecorded consumption, social consequences, context of drinking, third-party harm) were examined and contrasted concerning definition and measurement.

**Results:** The rationale and work plan of the project will be presented and preliminary results concerning alcohol measures of the included surveys will be summarized.

**Discussion:** Together with other parts of the overall project, this work will produce a baseline estimate for the monitoring of alcohol consumption and related problems in EU member states and will improve methodological conditions for comparable alcohol research in the EU.

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**Presentation type:** Review/Discussion

**Corresponding author:**

Julian Maron

[Maron@ift.de](mailto:Maron@ift.de)