

Stockholm, September 4, 2019



Concerning the future of international cooperation in alcohol policy

We call on the WHO Europe Member States for immediate, targeted and renewed joint action to tackle alcohol-related problems in our region.

The European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020 ends next year, and the WHO's Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol needs updating and renewed commitment. The Nordic Alcohol and Drug Policy Network therefore calls on all Member States to collaborate in keeping alcohol among the priority themes.

Various cross-border challenges that almost all states are facing require international collaboration and international guidelines on evidence-based policy. With open markets, growing digitalisation and [improved understanding of alcohol's effect](#), the need for the joint action is more significant than ever before.

A recent modelling study "[Global alcohol exposure between 1990 and 2017 and forecasts until 2030](#)" concluded that "global goals for reducing the harmful use of alcohol are unlikely to be achieved and known effective and cost-effective policy measures should be implemented to reduce alcohol exposure." Europe remains the biggest consumers of alcohol in the world. Our collaborative and decisive action against the harm caused by drinking should be an example to the rest of the world.

We also call for improved and closer cooperation between Member States and civil society organisations and for a strong commitment to keeping vested interests away from the alcohol policy discussion.

It is time to draw some conclusions from the 2012-2020 period. We can congratulate ourselves for several improvements in our region. But first and foremost this should be a time to regroup and continue working against the harm that alcohol consumption causes.

Yours sincerely,

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NORDAN was established in September 2000 as a network of non governmental, voluntary organizations who all worked to reduce the consumption of alcohol and other drugs and who supported a restrictive alcohol and drug policy and who did not receive contributions from the commercial alcohol industry. Acting on these principles NordAN today have grown to have 80 non-governmental, voluntary member organisations in all the eight Nordic and Baltic countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), all active in the alcohol and drug field.