

Call of Abstracts - "International conference on the E-Cigarette: patterns of use and health impacts"



Call of abstracts

"International conference on the E-Cigarette: patterns of use and health impacts" - Paris, on 5-6th December 2022

Submission form

Symposium proposal

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Background information

Type of submission

Symposium

Theme of conference

Health impact

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General population

Health impact

Perceptions, representations, beliefs

Symposium title

JATC2 (second Joint Action on Tobacco Control): strategies and expected outcomes about evaluation of use, abuse potential and health risks for e-cigarettes and other novel tobacco products in the European Union.

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Number of chairpersons

1

Chairperson 1

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Symposium proposal

Abstract of the symposium

The Tobacco Product Directive (TPD) came into force in 2016. Since then, many new products have been developed and, in some cases, the engineered products fall outside the definitions in the TPD. Among the products present on the European market, e-cigarettes also constitutes a very heterogeneous product group. Research is being performed, but many areas are still unclear and more knowledge is required typically about use, abuse potential and health risks of these emerging product categories. Regulation must remain appropriate for public health and effective to guarantee sufficient protection for populations. In the scope of the second Joint Action on Tobacco Control (JATC2), more than 20 partners from different EU member states (MSs) are working together to enhance a better understanding of the properties, health impact and regulatory implications of e-cigarettes and novel tobacco products (aim of Work package 7). This joint action has started on October 2021 and has a duration of 3 years. This symposium session aims to inform the audience about recent and ongoing research in European member state regarding the evaluation of use, abuse potential and health risks for these products. In this session, results will be presented about the differences in regulation for these products and how these aspects are considered within a specifically designed evaluation

framework including data from literature and curated information declared on the EU Common Entry Gate (CEG). In addition, we will discuss the strategies for data collection regarding products awareness, use and perceptions (e.g. health effects, addictiveness, risk / benefit). This symposium session will allow collecting thoughts, ideas and comments from the audience, international researchers or professionals working in the field of e-cigarettes and novel tobacco products, about the topics of particular interest that would require specific attention and can be considered in JATC2.

Main messages

The symposium aims to inform the audience about recent and ongoing research in EU MSs regarding the evaluation of use, abuse potential and health risks of e-cigarettes and novel tobacco products, and more specifically about perception and beliefs.

Number of presentations

3

Presentation 1

Regulation of electronic cigarettes and novel tobacco products in EU Member States: The aim of this work was to assess potential differences in implementation of the tobacco product Directive (TPD) 2014/40/EU and identify additional specific European member states (MSs) regulations for various tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and novel tobacco products such as heated tobacco products. Efforts were made to evaluate as well how emerging products such as nicotine pouches were regulated within the MSs. To gain more insight into the regulations that are applied in the EU and potential regional differences, a questionnaire was administered to regulators in 22 MSs to gather information from public health authorities about how the TPD is implemented and if further rules are applied. The results of this questionnaire will be presented. For example, some countries require approval of novel tobacco products before they can enter the market whereas others exercise a notification procedure. Other aspects that may differ between MSs include flavor bans, taxation, plain packaging, pictorial or written warnings or whether a product falls under regulations for smoking prohibition (e.g. consumption in smoke-free places). The results from this work will help to produce best practices regarding the enforcement and market surveillance, to cultivate a community of knowledge between the MSs.

Presentation 2

To evaluate the use, abuse potential and health risks of novel tobacco products and e-cigarettes: One of the key aspects for Work package 7 of the second Joint Action on Tobacco Control (JATC2) is to evaluate the use, abuse potential and health risks of e-cigarettes and novel tobacco products such as heated tobacco products. To do so, a framework was first developed based on three factors related to products toxicity, attractiveness and addictiveness. These criteria will be presented along with their constituting parameters and how they can be assessed. By applying this approach, the objective is to determine which ingredients and product properties are most relevant for the evaluation of health risks. Then, we further aim to classify e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products based on health risk profiles determined by 1) ingredients / composition; 2) emissions and 3) other properties (e.g. device related). The assessment will be based on curated information declared on a European level from the EU Common Entry Gate (CEG), completed with additional information from literature to further document substances found in emissions and other relevant product properties regarding health risk assessment. A complementary approach will be performed to enhance understanding about use, awareness, familiarity, and perceptions (e.g. regarding health effects, addictiveness, risks and benefits) of e-cigarettes and novel tobacco products for different populations in Europe. All these information will be translated into 4 scientific reports and publications about: 1) regulation of novel tobacco products and e-cigarettes in different EU MS; 2) health risk profiles for these products; 3) product use, familiarity and perceptions; 4) health impact evaluation and regulatory implications. These deliverables will result from the analysis of collected EU CEG data, the common approach for evaluation of health impact and abuse liability and the product classification. The outcomes of this work will be specifically discussed emphasizing how it can empower EU regulators in addressing challenges about emerging products.

Presentation 3

Investigations regarding e-cigarettes and novel tobacco products awareness, use and perceptions: To enhance a better understanding of the properties, health impact and regulatory implications of e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products and novel tobacco products within the EU, investigations are being performed about their awareness, use and perceptions. Specific parameters (e.g. flavors, nicotine levels) may indeed affect attractiveness or addictiveness, in particular among young people and therefore increase initiation or continued use of tobacco and related products. We aim to improve knowledge about users behaviors and abuse liability. To do so, different strategies are being deployed to collect and analyze available data about use, awareness, attitudes (including reasons of use, e.g. cessation, pleasure or possibility to use in places where smoking is forbidden), and perceptions (e.g. regarding health effects, addictiveness, risks and benefits). These include literature searches to identify representative studies and analyze if there are specific factors (e.g. socio-demographic characteristics or smoking status) influencing their consumption. For sufficiently documented topics, umbrella reviews, providing synthesis of existing reviews, will be performed. Another objective is to describe as well the ongoing research along with the involved actors. The strategies also comprise, based on findings in literature, the elaboration of a questionnaire to users that will be set out in multiple European member states (MSs) to fill in the knowledge gaps, exploiting preliminary work performed in Italy and France describing user behaviors. The results of the questionnaire will be analyzed across MSs, resulting in an overview of differences in product use, awareness and perception between MSs. The results of the literature and questionnaire will be integrated in a report on product use, familiarity and perceptions. Preliminary results will be provided starting with a specific product type: heated tobacco products. The results of this work, providing further information on why and how consumers are using these products, will help European regulators to define regulatory targets and prevent or reduce abuse potential.

Funding of symposium

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Yes

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Nonprofit Grant Funding Entity Source

No

Nonprofit Grant Funding Entity Source

No

Academic Institution Source

No

Pharmaceutical Industry Source

No

Tobacco/E-Cigarette Industry Source

No

Declaration of interest

The submitter declares that during the past 5 years have a direct nor indirect link (professional*, personal or financial**) with the tobacco and e-cigarette companies

No