

# 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

Poster & oral presentation

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## Background information

### Type of submission

Oral

### Theme of conference

Patterns of use

## Keywords

Harm reduction

Perceptions, representations, beliefs

Public health

## Abstract title

European adult smokers' perceptions of the harmfulness of e-cigarettes relative to combustible cigarettes: Findings from the France and EUREST-PLUS ITC Surveys

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## Abstract details (poster & oral)

## Background, method, results and conclusions

Background: The 2021 Cochrane review on e-cigarettes (ECs) concluded that there is moderate-certainty evidence that ECs with nicotine increase smoking quit rates compared to NRT and non-nicotine ECs. Although the long-term risks of ECs are not known, multiple reviews (e.g., US NASEM) have concluded that ECs expose users to fewer toxicants. A key determinant of smokers using ECs to quit is whether they perceive ECs to be less harmful than cigarettes. This study examined perceptions of harmfulness of ECs compared to cigarettes in France and six European (EU) countries.

Method: Data were drawn from the 2019 ITC France Survey (n=1573) and the 2018 EUREST-PLUS Surveys: Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Spain (n=4023). Current adult ( $\geq 18$  years) cigarette smokers ( $\geq$ monthly) who were aware of ECs were included in adjusted weighted regression models to estimate: (1) perceptions of the harmfulness of ECs compared to cigarettes ("less harmful"; "equally harmful"; "more harmful"; or "don't know"); (2) whether switching from cigarettes to ECs improves health ("yes"; "no effect"; "make it worse"; or "don't know").

Results: Awareness of ECs was highest in France (94%) and lowest in Poland (57%). The belief that ECs are less harmful than cigarettes was highest in France (44%), followed by Greece and Hungary (35%), Spain (30%), Germany (33%), Poland (29%) and Romania (20%). The majority of smokers in 6 of the 7 EU countries believe that ECs are at least as harmful as cigarettes, being highest in Germany and Poland (62%) and lowest in France, but still high (42%). The belief that completely switching from cigarettes to ECs improves health was highest in France (36%) and lowest in Romania (16%).

Conclusions: Many EU adult smokers hold beliefs that ECs are as harmful or more harmful than cigarettes.

## Main messages

Most smokers in 6 of the 7 EU countries, with the exception of France, believed that ECs are at least as harmful as cigarettes. These beliefs may discourage smokers to use ECs to quit smoking, thus forgoing a potentially effective quit aid.

## Type of study / research

Quantitative

## Geography of the study

Europe

## Funding of study

### Federal source

Yes

### State source

No

### 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