

SCOHRE International
Association
on Smoking Control
& Harm Reduction

for better health for all

www.SCOHRE.ORG

Who we are - SCOHRE

An International Association of independent experts on Smoking Control & Harm Reduction including scientists from all sectors: medical doctors, policy experts, behavioural experts, academics, and professionals, who will allow for open and constructive dialogue and help to come up with a new broader approach to smoking control policies.

Who we are - SCOHRE

- An International NGO according to the Belgian law (AISBL)
- Based in Brussels
- No direct or indirect funding from the tobacco industry
- Any research organization or individual or the tobacco industry may have access to publicize their findings or data to the world community through the scientific events of SCOHRE

**SCOHRE vision:
A smoke-free world and better health for all**

Smoking cessation and prevention remain the most impactful and cost-effective interventions in medicine and we will continue the hard work to raise awareness to every smoker and the public about the adverse effects of smoking. **However, where cessation repeatedly fails, switching to less harmful products expected to result in benefits for many smokers should be an option.**

SCOHRE mission: *for better health for all*

To reshape smoking control strategies to include harm reduction using alternative, lower risk, products, in addition to the traditional smoking cessation and smoking prevention measures.

Our ambition is to work for better health for all and for the benefit of smokers and their families

To establish a constructive dialogue to discuss concerns and challenges. To step up the efforts and benefit from the already existing solid expertise from harm reduction policies in many countries.

We need to step up our efforts to control smoking. Is our strategy the appropriate one?

- Eight million people die prematurely every year from smoking-related diseases, despite all efforts to control the smoking habit.
- We know the harmful health effects of smoking for decades, but still more than 1 billion people globally smoke.
- The total number of smokers is still growing.

We add to the efforts to prevent cancers by controlling smoking

- If we eliminate the use of smoking, we may even be able to avoid as much as 90% of all lung cancers.
- In the EU alone, tobacco smoking is the leading preventable cause of cancer mortality, with 27% of all cancer deaths linked to smoking.

Is smoking cessation the only way?

It is surely the absolute best way, if, and when it works.

But

There is an ongoing discussion that limiting the negative effects of smoking can be also achieved by the use of less harmful alternatives than cigarettes i.e. Tobacco Harm Reduction, for those smokers who are not willing or cannot give up smoking with currently approved methods.

Nicotine has an addictive potential, but plays a minor role in smoking related mortality

- Where cessation repeatedly fails, switching to less harmful products is expected to result in benefits for many smokers.
- Nicotine is an addictive substance. However, it is been used successfully in smoking control and smoking cessation, and it could be used in smoking harm reduction.
- In an epistemological climate where perceptions on the effects of nicotine is inconsistent with medical consensus, our purpose is to provide stakeholders with science-based and balanced information on the effects of nicotine.

Harm reduction is another option

- Harm reduction can help those who for various reasons are not able to quit smoking.
- Smokers who cannot quit should not be abandoned by tobacco control policies.
- Where cessation repeatedly fails, switching to less harmful products will have a positive effect for many smokers.
- In the last year, more regulatory authorities now consider allowing the sales of alternative potentially lower risk tobacco products with accurate information.

Tobacco harm reduction debate is still at an early stage

- More research and publications are needed to raise awareness on existing knowledge, generate more data and create more opportunities for education of health policy experts, regulators and general public, and properly explain the benefits.
- There is a need to appropriately address concerns such as continuous use of, and dependence on, nicotine as well as potential adoption of use by never smokers and youth.

Establish a constructive dialogue to discuss concerns and challenges on harm reduction

- The debate on tobacco harm reduction is still facing a lot of opposition from some of the key actors, including policy and regulatory bodies.
- There is a need to step up the efforts and benefit from the already existing evidence and solid expertise in many countries.

SCOHRE aims to

1. Raise awareness on existing knowledge, generate more data and create more opportunities for education of health policy experts, regulators and general public since the tobacco harm reduction debate is still at an early stage and more research and publications are needed.
2. Appropriately address the concerns such as continuous use of, and dependence on, nicotine as well as the potential adoption of use by never smokers and youth.
3. Drive an open and constructive dialogue to help come up with a new broader approach to smoking control policies.
4. Drive research on novel products

SCOHRE focuses on

- Scientific evidence, including sharing and publicizing the latest scientific data, identifying research gaps, independent verification of the industry data.
- Behavioural aspects
 - ✓ focus on smokers
 - ✓ what are the needs of those who want to quit smoking, as well as how to effectively help those who are not willing to quit
- Policy recommendations
- Establishing a dialogue with policy experts and regulators at international, EU and national level.

JOIN US AND ADD A COUNTRY IN OUR NETWORK!



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Brazil



Bulgaria



Canada



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for better health for all

Join SCOHRE

for smokers & their families

to reshape smoking control

for better health for ALL!

We invite you
to support SCOHRE declaration and
join the association

Please express your interest: info@scohre.org

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thank you

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