

Enhancing the effectiveness of programs and strategies to prevent smoking by adolescents: a realist evaluation comparing seven European countries - SILNE-R



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Main Objective

The ambition of SILNE-R is to learn how strategies and programs to prevent youth smoking could enhance their effectiveness by taking into account the opportunities, barriers and resources present at local levels.

Secondary Objectives

The general aims of the project are:

- to assess how recent strategies and programs to prevent youth smoking have been implemented at national, municipal and school levels, and how they have influenced smoking behavior of 16 year old adolescents in seven European countries,
- to develop and to disseminate the fine-grained evidence that is needed to support decision makers in implementing strategies to prevent youth smoking in local settings, with due attention for program costs and for inequalities in smoking.

(Preliminary) Results

In the second half of 2017 SILNE-R data collection will be completed at the level of national governments, municipalities, schools and adolescents. SILNE-R applies a realist approach, in which the identification of mechanisms and contexts lead to a better understanding of how and under which circumstances programs may influence smoking behaviour. A published realist review shows that the impact of school based policies can be enhanced by adequate implementation and embedding in continuous monitoring and adaptation cycles, so that schools can proactively deal with the cognitive and behavioral responses that lead to suboptimal or adverse outcomes.

SILNE-R researchers expect to generate the fine-grained evidence that is needed to support decision makers in implementing smoking prevention strategies that are responsive to local conditions, effective in using available resources, and inspired to reduce inequities. Such evidence-based programs will constitute a significant step forwards in tackling youth smoking now, and in preventing a persistently high burden of tobacco-related disease in the future.

Project Partners



Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands



University of Maastricht, The Netherlands



Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany



Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium



The University of Edinburgh, UK



University of Tampere, Finland



National School of Public Health, Portugal



University of Cassino, Italy



TobaccoFree Research Institute Ireland, Ireland



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