



# Tobacco Control in Development: The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

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## Aim of EU support to WHO FCTC

Fight against poverty, poverty-related diseases and other priority health problems in low and middle income countries, such as the growing challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCD)



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# FCTC and EU Development Policy

- Council Conclusions on EU role in Global Health (9505/10): NCD as one of four main global health challenges to be addressed by EU (SRH, child health, communicable diseases, NCD).
- Thematic programme "Investing in people" 2007-2013: "enhancing international technical cooperation for progress on compliance with and implementation of international commitments; strengthen partner countries' participation in and adherence to relevant international conventions, initiatives or processes".
- 2011-2013 - Mid Term Review of "Investing in people": Fight against NCD in low- and middle-income countries, including technical and financial support for the ratification and implementation of the WHO FCTC.



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## EU support to WHO FCTC initiative

- An important donor: 50% of core budget of WHO FCTC Secretariat funded by EU Member States and EU budget.
- This initiative: complementary to FCTC core budget. Total cost: EUR 7.5 mio - EU contribution: 5.2 mio (70%)
- Duration: 31/12/2011 – 30/12/2014 (36M)
- Main activities:
  - Needs assessments in 30 states party to FCTC
  - Establishment of regional knowledge and capacity-building hubs for FCTC implementation
  - Development of web-based portal to facilitate information sharing, analysis and reporting on progress in FCTC implementation.



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## FCTC: A model for Global Health Action?

- Status of Progress in FCTC implementation - Sept. 2011:
  - 174 parties (who ratified FCTC) out of 195 eligible countries.
  - 42 out of 144 parties who reported to FCTC adopted national legislation after ratifying the Convention. Of those that already had legislation at the time of ratification, 79 reported that they strengthened their legislation after ratification.
  - FCTC progress Report: average rate of implementation by parties increased by almost 10% over 2 reporting periods, from 61% to 68%

[http://apps.who.int/fctc/reporting/Progress\\_note\\_September2011.pdf](http://apps.who.int/fctc/reporting/Progress_note_September2011.pdf)
- Lancet medical journal, March 2012: Effective tobacco control is key to rapid progress in reduction of non-communicable diseases - "It is also a public health best buy".

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(11\)60615-6/fulltext#article\\_upsell](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(11)60615-6/fulltext#article_upsell)



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# FCTC implementation – Challenges

- International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health , Nov. 2011: “Despite their efforts, African countries’ FCTC implementation at national level has not matched the strong regional commitment demonstrated during the FCTC treaty negotiations: only a handful of countries meet the standards of the FCTC Article 8 and its Guidelines particularly with regards to designated smoking areas”.  
<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/8/11/4312>
- Challenges identified (in this report):
  - Remaining gaps and weaknesses in existing national legislation, preventing full compliance with FCTC requirements.
  - Lack of adequate resources and prioritisation of tobacco control
  - Weak law enforcement mechanisms and obstacles to necessary decentralisation of tobacco control measures and legislation.
  - Failure to adapt treaty provisions to local circumstances (eg. campaigns/ packaging alerts: language barriers, illiteracy rates and purchasing / consumption patterns)



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## Some recommendations from Academic Journals / reports:

- Need for developing countries to step up efforts to adopt and implement effective tobacco control legislation that is fully compliant with the FCTC.
- Prioritise resources for capacity building for drafting strong FCTC compliant legislation, research to inform policy and boost political will
- Need for decentralisation of tobacco control efforts and adaptation of treaty provisions to local circumstances and consumption patterns.



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## Questions from DEVCO

- Added value of international treaties vs. World Health Assembly Resolutions at country level?
- To what extent do governance and law enforcement weaknesses in developing countries affect treaty implementation?
- How does the FCTC approach link to national NCD control strategies being developed after the UNGASS summit 2011 on NCD?