

## Press Release

### ***RAHRA Kick - Off Meeting***

**31th January 2014, EMCDDA Conference Centre, Lisbon**

### **Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA)**

***Project coordinator:*** SICAD - *General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies, Portugal*

Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA), funded under the Second Programme of Community Action in the field of Health, is a 3 years action aiming at supporting Member States to take forward work on common priorities in line with the EU Alcohol Strategy and strengthen Member States' capacity to address and reduce the harm associated with alcohol.

Member States will be mobilised to take-up of common survey methodology to obtain comparable data for monitoring progress in reducing alcohol related harm at national and EU level and for benchmarking national developments against wider trends.

A common ground in communication on alcohol related harm will be widened, providing a guidance for policy makers on the scientific basis and policy implications of low risk drinking guidelines.

A Tool-Kit of good practice approaches in information dissemination will be developed, taking into account effectiveness, transferability, relevance, costs and usefulness.

This Joint Action intends also to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the EU citizens and to reduce costs to health systems and the wider economy.

RARHA will be coordinated by Portugal, with the participation of 32 entities from EU Member States, which will act as Associated Partners and 28 Collaborating Partners, representing 27 Member States plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. Participants are public entities, NGO's, Universities, as well as International Organisations, such as, the EMCDDA, WHO, Pompidou Group and OECD.



Previous to the Kick Off, a Management Group meeting will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, comprising the Coordination Team, the Work Package Leader's and co-leaders, who will decide on the functioning and planning of the Joint Action and will approve the Consortium Agreement. The Steering Group, comprising all the Associated Partners, will meet on 30<sup>th</sup> January, to review and confirm the decisions made by the Management Group and to assume the compromise on the implementation of the project.

The Kick Off meeting is the public presentation of the RAHRA Joint Action to all the partners, members of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA), national and international stakeholders and the press.