

The assignment of tobacco control to the Cyprus National Addictions Authority (NAAC): Progress made and future pursuits

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Presentation for the 5th
ENSP ECTC



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Conflict of interest

I hereby declare that I have NO connection with the TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTE or PHARMACEUTICAL industry, thus NO conflict of interest exists.



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Relevance

- WHO – FCTC Article 7 Non-price measures to reduce the demand for tobacco
- WHO – FCTC Article 8 Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke
- WHO – FCTC Article 12 Education, communication, training and public awareness
- The human rights dimension of tobacco control



Content

- Cyprus National Addictions Authority (NAAC)-Who are we?
- Current situation in Cyprus
- NAAC's objectives for tobacco control
- Action Taken
- Conclusions
- Information



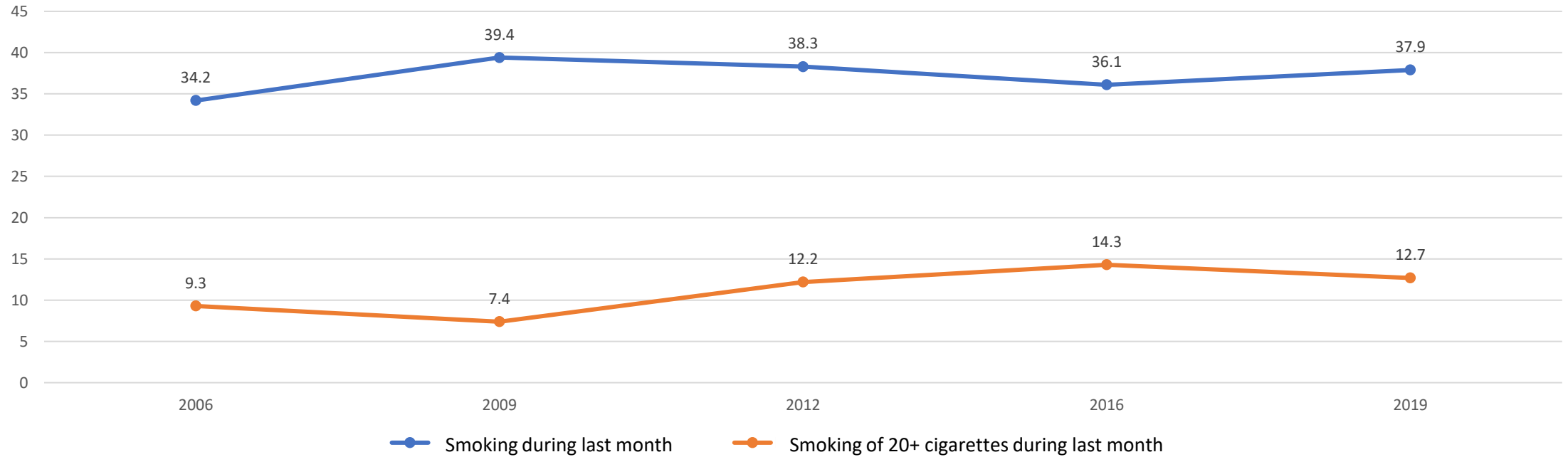
Cyprus National Addictions Authority (NAAC)-Who are we?

- The supreme coordinating body concerning licit and illicit addictive substances and pathological gambling in Cyprus.
- The assignment of tobacco control to the NAAC was made at 2017, with the legislation's amendment governing the former Anti-Drug Council, currently NAAC.



Current situation in Cyprus

Smoking (%) during last month

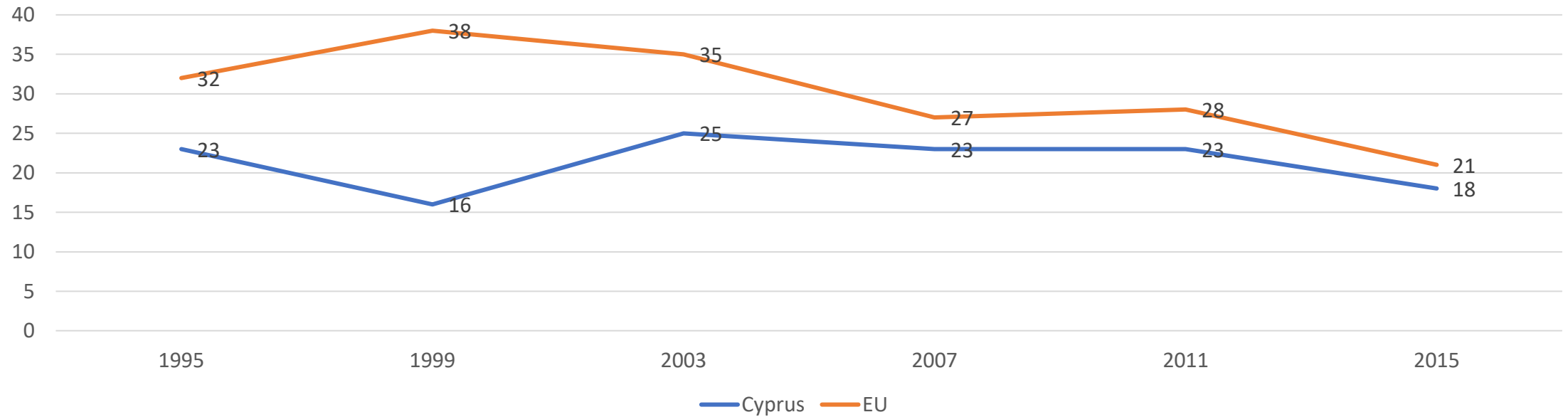


Source: NAAC (2020)



Current situation

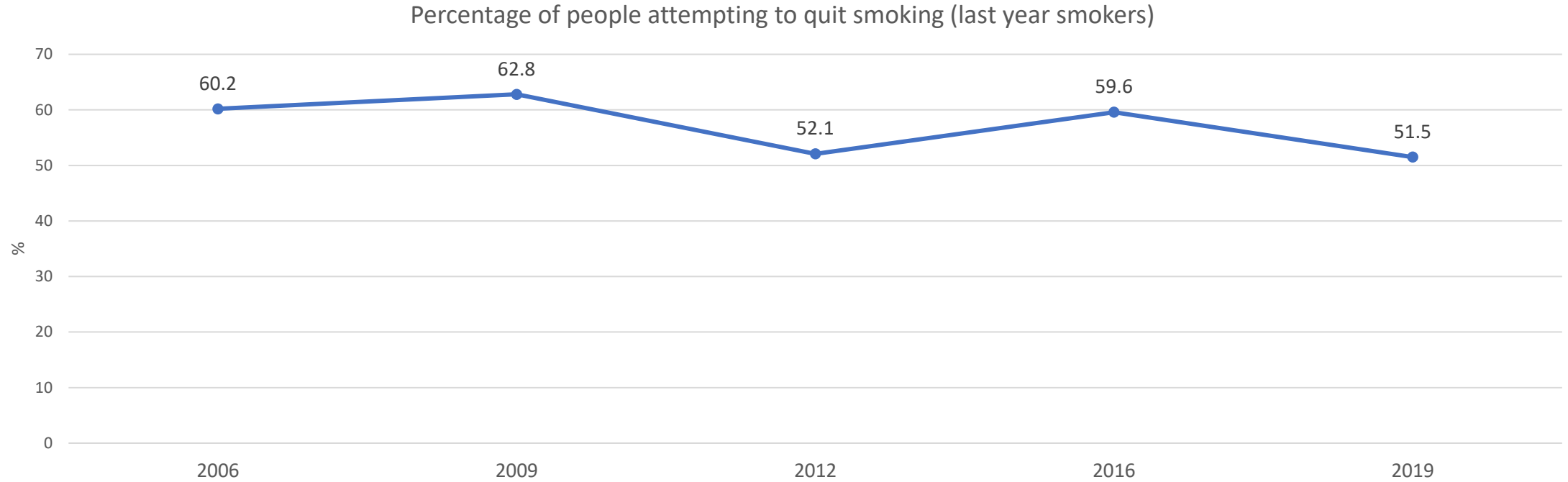
Smoking (%) among pupils during last month



Source: ESPAD (2016)



Current situation



Source: NAAC (2020)



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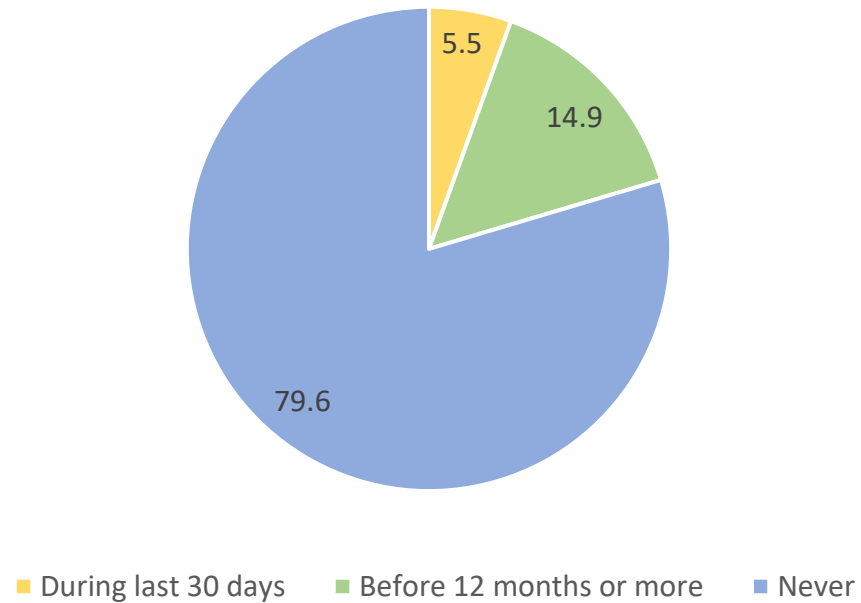
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Current situation

Use of e-cigarette (%)



Source: NAAC (2020)



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NAAC objectives for tobacco control

- Implementation of preventive actions in the general population and other specific groups.
- Amendment of the current national legislation by introducing more restrictions for smoking.
- Effective implementation of the national legislation through the active involvement of all stakeholders.
- Upgrade of the current tobacco cessation programs and the licensing of other programs, in order to create an effective network on tobacco cessation.



Action Taken

- **Implementation of preventive actions in the general population and other specific groups.**
 - The National Advisory Committee for Tobacco Control was reconstituted, under NAAC's presidency, along with Subcommittees on Control, Treatment and Research.
 - Consists of members from all stakeholders in the public and private sector as well as from NGOs.
 - Aim: The development of a multilevel national policy and strategy for smoking in Cyprus, the monitoring and documentation of the phenomenon over time, as well as the strengthening and promotion in society of the positions of the NAAC for smoking.



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Action Taken

- **Implementation of preventive actions in the general population and other specific groups.**

- The 1st National Action Plan on Tobacco Control 2018-2020 was prepared, implemented and monitored.
- As from 2021, all Action Plan's Parameters are incorporated into the National Action Plan 2021-2028, which is inclusive to all licit and illicit substances and pathological gambling addiction.

- National Action Plan's pillars:

1. Prevention
2. Treatment
3. Research
4. Supply Reduction
5. International Cooperation



Each pillar consists of specific actions that determine the NAAC's priorities



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Action Taken

- **Implementation of preventive actions in the general population and other specific groups.**
 - Launch of the SMOKE FREE CYPRUS campaign:
 - Launch as from May 2020.
 - Collaboration with SMOKE FREE GREECE campaign.
 - Distribution of printed material to elementary school pupils.
 - Collaboration all relevant stakeholders for implementation of the campaign.
 - E-Learning platform under construction.
 - Prevention Campaign held on the 31st of May 2020
 - [Video](#) and audio clips on mass media and social networks
 - Articles published to mass media newspapers
 - On-line debate with the participation of distinguished scientists and experts



Action Taken

- **Amendment of the current national legislation by introducing more restrictions for smoking**
 - The Health Protection (Smoking Control) Law of 2017 (Law 24 (I) / 2017)
 - Proposed amendments:
 - Increase of open exterior space to 60% instead of 20%,
 - Ban of smoking to public and private educational institutions and to all dining areas including bar, restaurants, cafeterias etc,
 - Additional measures for the prevention of exposure to 2nd and 3rd degree smoke,
 - Increase of fines for all related offences.



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Action Taken

- **Effective implementation of the national legislation through the active involvement of all stakeholders.**
 - Coordination of all stakeholders,
 - Design of an effective control mechanism,
 - Finalization after consultation with all parties involved,
 - Implementation of the control mechanism.



Action Taken

- **Upgrade of the current tobacco cessation programs and the licensing of other programs, in order to create an effective network on tobacco cessation.**
 - Guidelines for the treatment of tobacco dependence-based on ENSP's guidelines
 - Preparation of standards for the licensing of all tobacco cessation programs
 - Linkage with all tobacco cessation programs available.
 - Expected result: Multiple licensed therapeutic options available to people interested in tobacco cessation.



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Conclusions

- Tobacco control is a recent addition to the NAAC's responsibilities.
- Action is taken in order to create a smoke free environment that will protect non-smoker's rights.
- There is still a lot to be done concerning tobacco control.
- Vision: Creation of a protective smoke-free environment for all citizens.



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Information

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