



Introduction to the closing conference of the SILNE project

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The SILNE project

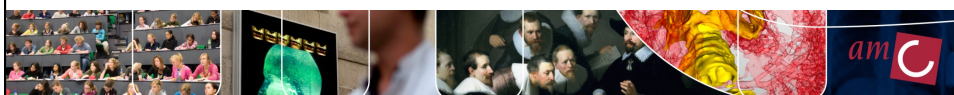
- “Smoking inequalities: learning from natural experiments”
- Partners from Lithuania, Finland, UK (Scotland), Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Spain & Portugal
- 3 years 2012-2014



Purpose of this conference



1. To present an overview of project results
2. To discuss possible lessons for tobacco control
3. To make suggestions for further work



Background



- Socioeconomic inequalities in disease and death persist in all European countries



Background

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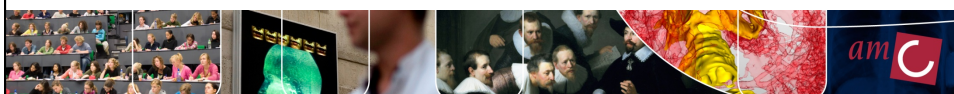
- Socioeconomic inequalities in disease and death persist in all European countries
- Inequalities in smoking contributed substantially to these inequalities

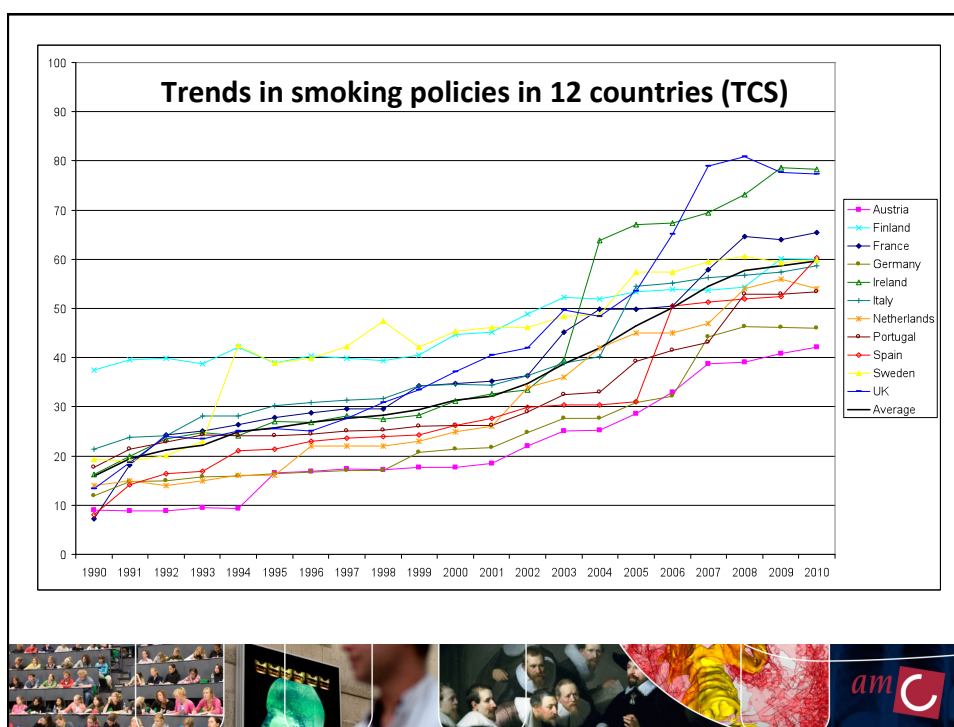


Background

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- Socioeconomic inequalities in disease and death persist in all European countries
- Inequalities in smoking contributed substantially to these inequalities
- Tobacco control policies have strongly developed in Europe in the 2000's





Key questions in the SILNE project

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1. Did recent tobacco control policies affect the prevalence of smoking in both lower and higher groups?
2. Were the effects greater in lower socioeconomic groups than in higher groups?
3. Which specific tobacco control measures in particular did have greater effects in lower groups?



Previous evidence of the literature (Amos et al)

- Many tobacco control measures had no clear effect on inequalities in smoking, or increased inequalities
- Smoking cessation services, if not effectively targeted at lower groups, are likely to increase inequalities in smoking
- There is however some consistent evidence that price/tax policies decreased inequalities



Limitation to existing literature

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- Fewer studies on European countries (except UK)
- Fewer studies on policies as developed during the 2000's
- Most studies on adults, fewer on youth smoking
- Many studies on small, non-representative populations



SILNE: learning from “natural experiments”



- Original studies on smoking inequalities in relation to national-level tobacco control policies
- Trend studies (within individual countries) and comparisons between European countries
- Focus on either smoking cessation or youth smoking
- Use of existing data, plus the creation of one new survey



SILNE: the scientific output



- Literature reviews (3 papers)
- Overviews of trends in tobacco control (2)
- Analyses of smoking cessation
 - The ITC study (6)
 - The Eurobarometer survey (3)
 - Trends in countries across Europe (8)
- Analyses of youth smoking
 - The HBSC study (5)
 - The ESPAD study (2)
 - The new SILNE survey (6)



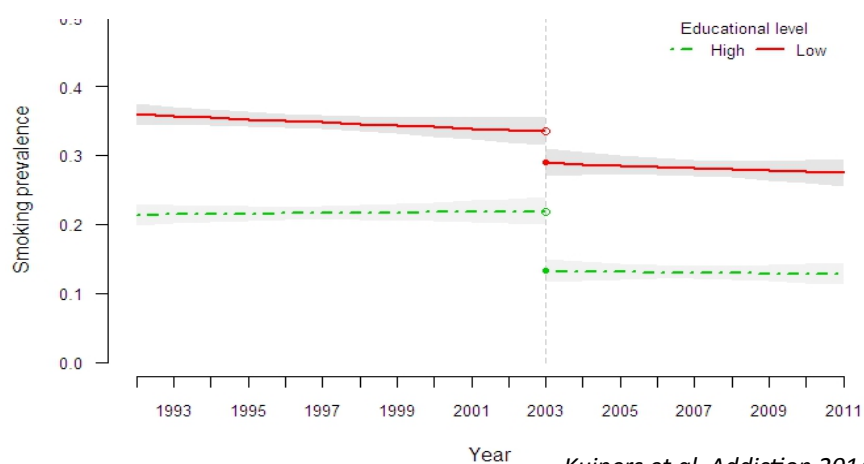
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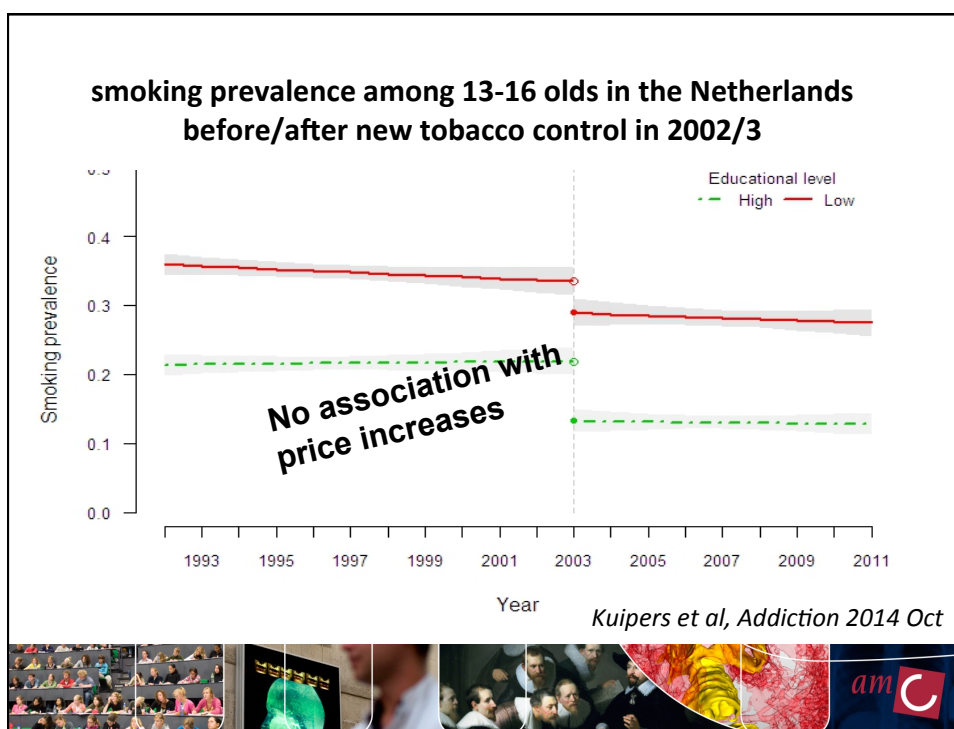


smoking prevalence among 13-16 olds in the Netherlands before/after new tobacco control in 2002/3



Kuipers et al, Addiction 2014 Oct





A set of measures with greater effect in higher groups: implications

- In its current form, this set of measures may not reduce the contribution of smoking to inequalities in health
- To be more effective in lower groups, (implementation of) these measures need to be further developed
- We may need to develop and implement extra measures that do reach lower groups more effectively

Further questions

1. Why are lower groups (not) more responsive to tobacco control measures?



Further questions

1. Why are lower groups (not) more responsive to tobacco control measures?
2. How can these measures be made (more) effective among lower groups?
 - in further implementation
 - in other countries/contexts



Further questions

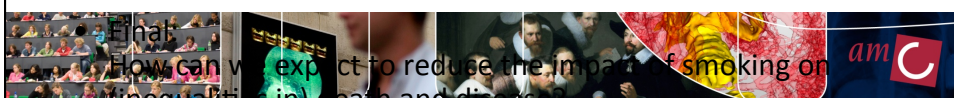
1. Why are lower groups (not) more responsive to tobacco control measures?
2. How can these measures be made (more) effective among lower groups?
 - in further implementation
 - in other countries/contexts
3. What package of measures is likely to reduce the contribution of smoking to inequalities in health?



Contents of workshop

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- Introduction
- Youth smoking
 - HBSC and ESPAD surveys
 - New survey
- Smoking cessation
 - National trend studies
 - ITC study
- Implications for practice



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End

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