

One Step Forward & Two Steps Back: Liberalization of Tobacco Use Laws in Macedonia

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Population 2 107 294 in 2013

1/3 – Skopje(capitol)

1/2 – rural regions

Macedonia:



- **Tobacco smoking in Macedonia:**
According to official data from 2013
 - **46.6% male,**
 - **26.8% female active tobacco smokers**

<http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/>

Tobacco, more than a bad habit



growing

processing



2.8% of GDP



consuming

Tobacco, more than a bad habit



- **Tobacco smoking in Macedonia:**
 - **35% working population,**
 - **8% ex smokers**
 - **25.9%-32.8% passive tobacco smoking at working place**
 - **27% high school children**

Zdraveska, Dimitrievska, Minov
2005, ERS Conress, Copenhagen

Legislative



- **The first law for protection from smoking was passed in 1995**

- 03.11.2003 _ Addiition
- 04.05.2004 _ Addiition
- 06.06.2007 _ Addiition
- 19.08.2008 _ Addiition

06.11.2008 _ Addiition

12.03.2010 _ Addiition

25.07.2011 Addiition

14.11.2013 Addiition

Smoking was forbidden in all public and indoor places in Macedonia

The first smoking ban law in the Republic of Macedonia was adopted in 1995



This law **prohibits** smoking in:

- Facilities in which educational activity is performed and facilities for stay and accommodation of childrens and students; health care and social institutions; -
- Closed and open rooms in which are held sporting events, cultural manifestations, gatherings and other public events (transport of passengers); -
- Facilities in which food is produced, prepared, served, sold or consumed; Premises where meetings are held and other premises (halls, offices, waiting rooms and corridors)
- **It is forbidden to advertise cigarettes and trademarks of cigarettes and tobacco industry on television and radio**
- .It is forbidden to sell cigars and tobacco to persons younger than 16 years
- .The cigarette manufacturer is obliged to print a message on the front of the package with warning informations that smoking is harmful to health.

2008 and 2010 , a new smoking ban law was issued with some additional amendments



- it is forbidden to advertise the tobacco products and tobacco industry in any form and place.
 - Smoking is forbidden:
 - in all indoor and outdoor areas where sport events are held
 - in all closed premises where cultural , entertainment events, gatherings and other public events are held.
 - in areas outside the business premises, intended, arranged and equipped to provide catering services that contain Accessories (roofs, walls, glass, foil, plastic or nylon sections and similar) with which the space is closed on all sides and thus becomes a closed space.
- Smoking is permitted exclusively outside the business premises (terrace, summer garden and similar) only if the area is covered and is open at least on three sides without a partition (glass, foil, plastic or nylon sections etc.) or open space that is not covered with tendons, umbrellas (and similar), which is laterally closed (outdoor discos, terraces, summer gardens, etc.).

Legislative



This regulative lowered slightly the number of smokers, but the accomplished results are far from the desired ones. A great portion of the working population do not confine to the laws.

<http://pravo.org.mk>

SMOKING AMONG MACEDONIAN WORKERS FIVE YEARS AFTER THE ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN

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Figure 1 *Distribution of current smokers by occupation*

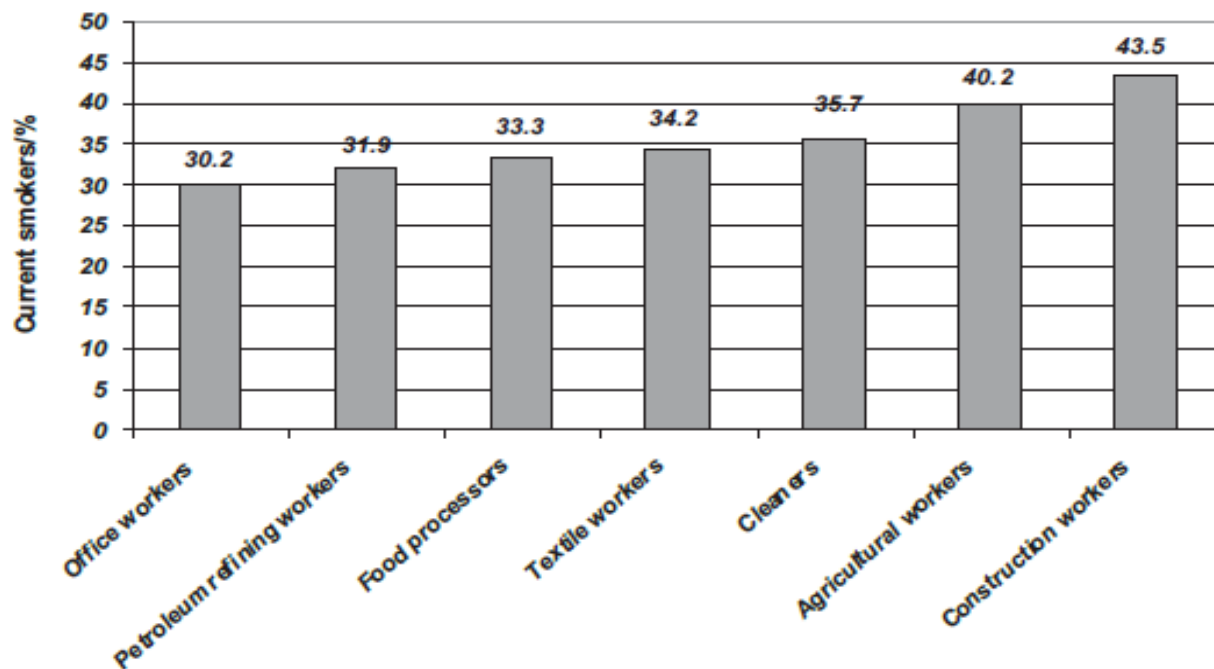
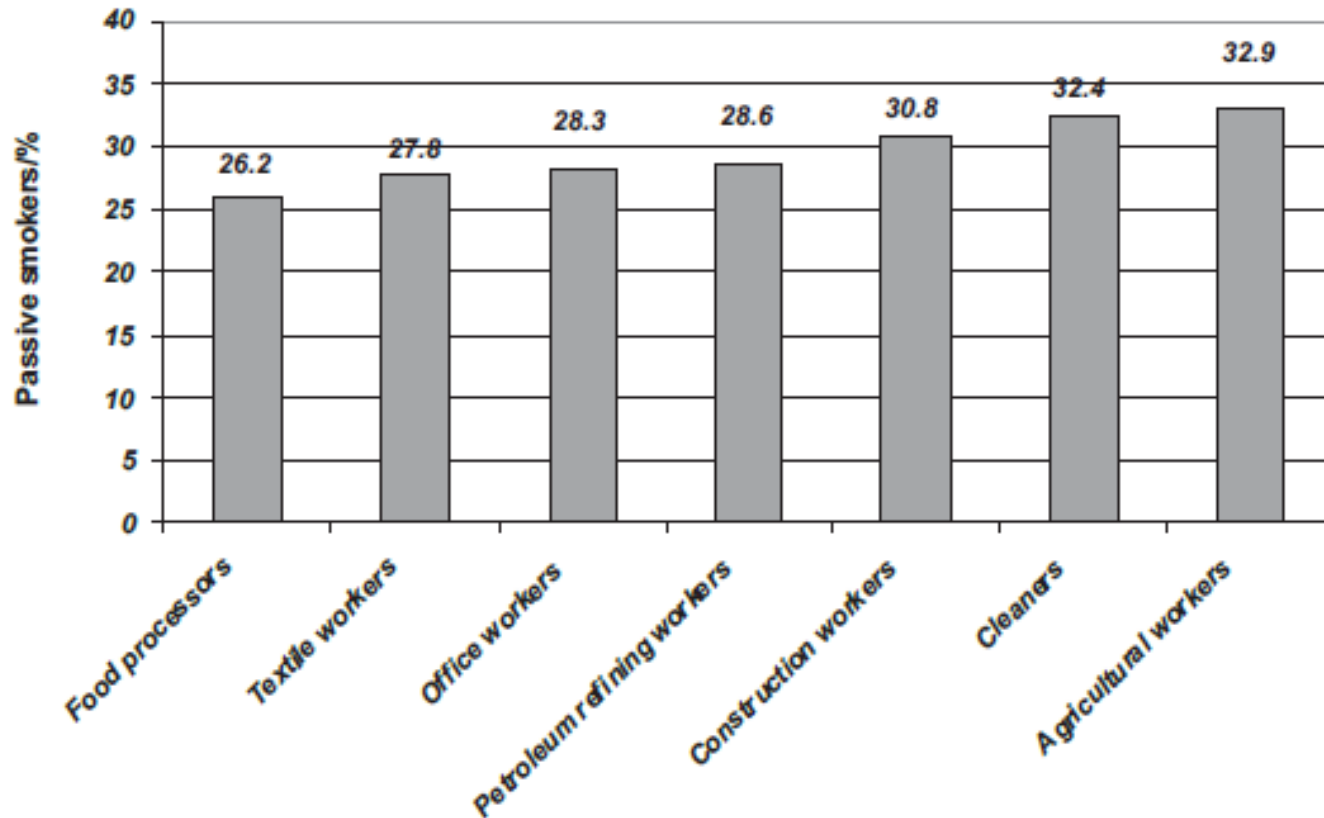


Figure 4 *Distribution of passive smokers by occupation*



is similar to its prevalence in the general Macedonian population (34.2%) (20), we can compare our results

Study 2002-2008



GLOBALNO ISTRAZIVANJE ZA UPOTREBA NA TUTUN 2008 FINALE.pdf

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Република Македонија
Министерство за здравство

CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

World Health
Organization

Институт за јавно здравје
на Република Македонија

Глобално истражување за употребата
на тутун кај младите во 2008 година (GYTS)

Hulumtim global për përdorimin e duhanit tek

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Study



- **Tobacco smoking in Macedonia:**
 - **9.8% of the pupils were active smokers at the moment of the interview**
 - **26% had a “once smoked” status**
 - **5% of them were continuous smokers (smoked every day).**

Global Youth Tobacco Survey among
the teenagers in the schools 2002-2008

Study



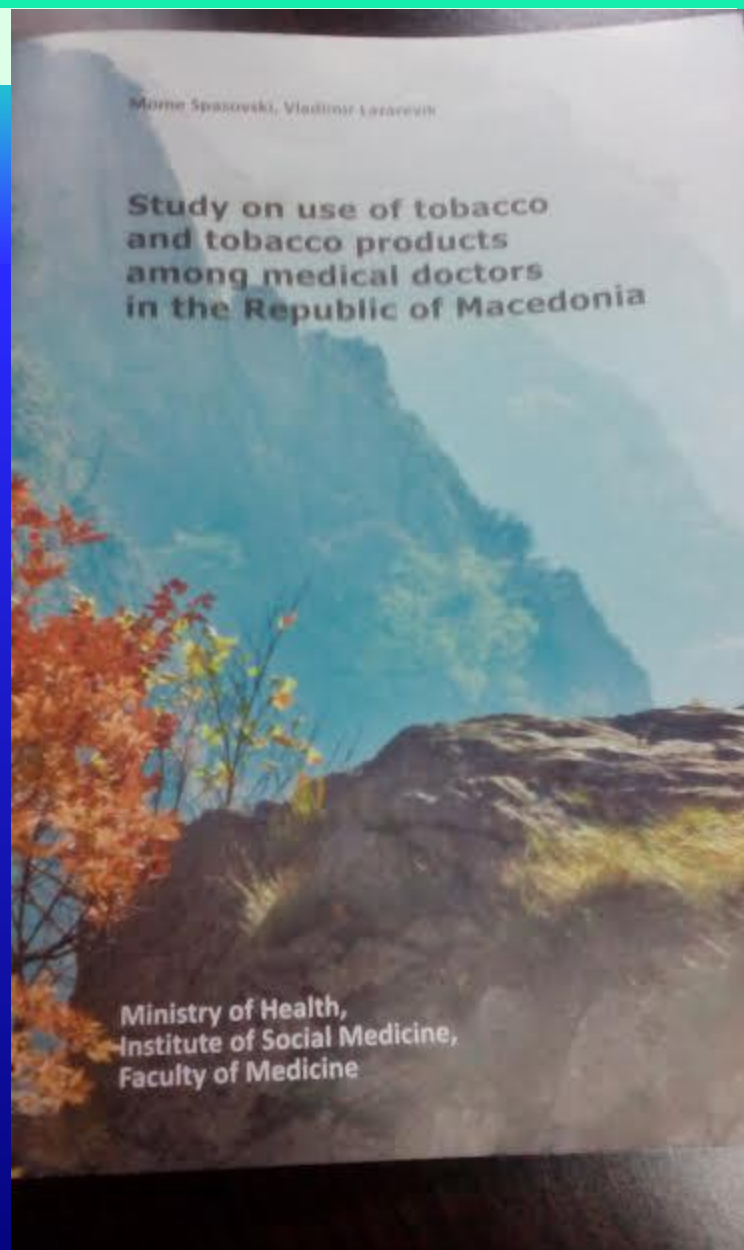
- **Tobacco smoking in Macedonia:**
 - **16.3% of the pupils started smoking under the age of 10, compared to 20% in 2002,**
 - **More than 2/3 of the pupils were exposed to tobacco smoke in their homes and 66% in public places**
 - **The opinion of 86.4% of the pupils from all regions was that smoking should be banned in all public places**

Global Youth Tobacco Survey among the teenagers in the schools 2002-2008



- Stimulated by these worrisome findings, the Institute of social medicine of Macedonia opened consultation offices for smoking cessation counseling.
- Ten offices exist throughout the country, but there is an impression that they do not have much success in their work, partly because of the lack of regular financing, organizational and staff problems, and not less importantly because of lack of professionals with targeted *education*.

Study



Study 2014



- **Tobacco smoking in Macedonia:**

- **29% of the doctors in Macedonia are “regular consumers of cigarettes” ,**
- **30% of the surveyed doctors stated that someone had smoked at their working place**
- **60% of doctors comprehended the need for special training for smoking cessation and they need more information about new techniques for quitting’**
- **90% of the doctors think that they should be role models for their patients.**
- **80% of the doctors-nonsmokers think that smoking should be banned in all public places**

Program



In order to give our contribution to the reduction of tobacco consumption in Macedonia, the last 2 years we are working on the realization of the program for education of doctors and health workers.

The project represents a partnership between the Medical faculty in Skopje and the Henry Ford Health System from Detroit, Michigan, USA.

**Collaborative development of a
continuing education program to train
healthcare providers on tobacco
cessation counseling in the Republic of
Macedonia**

Project objectives and target HCP audience

OBJECTIVES:

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE, CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MODIFIED CERTIFICATE TOBACCO TREATMENT SPECIALIST (CTTS) TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PULMONARY SPECIALISTS IN MACEDONIA TO HELP THEIR PATIENTS QUIT TOBACCO

TARGET AUDIENCE:

PULMONARY SPECIALISTS WHO WILL BE TRAINED TO DISSEMINATE THE ADAPTED INTERVENTION THROUGH THEIR NETWORKS OF OTHER PULMONOLOGISTS, PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS, AND REGIONAL PULMONARY CARE HEALTH WORKERS.

Legislative



Unfortunately, in October 2017, the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, passed an amendment, allowing smoking in outdoor spaces of the restaurants and pubs, even if they were closed with barriers from all sides.

This liberalization of the law for tobacco consumption put Macedonia two steps back in the struggle for smoking and tobacco prevention.

<http://pravo.org.mk>

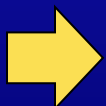
Conclusions



Still, this is but a small link in the chain of the anti-tobacco fight in the Republic of Macedonia,



I hope that in the future, the education for smoking cessation shall be included in the regular educational program of the undergraduate studies and residence and fellowship programs of the Medical faculties



All the institutions of the country shall contribute in the struggle against the evil of tobacco consumption.

THANK YOU

