

Austrian Council on Smoking and Health

(Initiative Ärzte gegen Raucherschäden – Initiative of doctors against harms from smoking)

Mission Statement

We provide independent scientific expertise regarding exposure to tobacco smoke and nicotine, the drivers and pressures acting on this status, and its impacts on the population, in particular on health. We attempt to raise awareness of its social, cultural and economic responsibility based on scientific quality. We consult with the scientific community, advise decision makers, and inform the civil society on important issues relating to the harm caused by active and passive smoking and its prevention and cure.

Members and activities

Members are mainly medical experts, supported by health professions (e.g. toxicologists) and other professions (e.g. lawyers) from in a wide range of scientific fields, which are chosen for their complementary expertise. This allows a multidisciplinary approach. We are using a variety of dissemination tools to promote our activities and to inform the public:

- Our main platform is www.aerzteinitiative.at, supplying short summaries in German and links to the original abstracts of peer reviewed articles
- Seminars with invited national and international experts as speakers
- Representation in European (ENSP, SFP) and international bodies and at international scientific conferences
- Coordination of independently funded research projects and other projects (e.g. EU-Help campaign in Austria)
- Fact sheets and guidance documents
- Press conferences
- Letters to the editors and interviews in daily newspapers and magazines

At present our work is mainly based on volunteers. In addition some unrestricted grants are acknowledged on www.aerzteinitiative.at