UNIVERZITA KARLOVA
1. lékařská fakulta

Expert opinion on the Ph.D. Thesis

Title of Thesis:	Comparision of smoking patterns of different population groups - implications for interventions
The author of the Thesis:	Biljana Kilibarda
Field of study:	**Addictology**

Author of the Expert review: Dr. Peter Degkwitz, M.A.	
Institution:	Centre of Interdisciplinary Addiction Research (ZIS) of the University of Hamburg, University Hospital Hamburg Eppendorf (UKE), Clinic for Psychiatry

Ph.D. Thesis Review

To strengthening smoking cessation intervention for specific vulnerable groups the author of the submitted thesis presents a series of secondary analyses of different surveys in Serbia. Within this thesis data from general population surveys and six surveys among selected vulnerable groups will be described and analysed, to identify factors associated with prevalence and consumption patterns. Based on the comparison and analysis of smoking patterns of the different population groups implications for interventions are discussed.

The author succeeds a deepening analysis of existing data as the first step in developing effective and tailored interventions. Implications for possible interventions are discussed on the background of evidence and in line with needs of each population group. These findings confirm knowledge and contribute to new and specific knowledge in this research area.

According to logistic regression analysis of data from different surveys an association between prevalence and consumption patterns with socioeconomic status has been worked out: the richest people had lower odds of being smoker, people with lower education status and lower perceived financial status have higher odds of being smokers. These findings are in line with other studies showing that disadvantage and lower socioeconomic status, especially education are linked with smoking status.

Data from six surveys among selected vulnerable groups reveal that smoking prevalence is significantly higher among stigmatized populations compared to general population, both among adults and youth.

The procedures of the study are reasonably developed and presented. To analyse and compare smoking prevalence and its patterns, exposure to tobacco smoke and their correlates among general population and vulnerable groups is in focus. Methods follow the aim of the comparison of smoking prevalence and its patterns is the identification of different associated factors.

The databases from three general population surveys and six surveys among selected vulnerable groups (prisoners, men having sex with men, sex workers, people living with HIV, Roma youth, institutionalized children) were precisely introduced.

The methods of secondary analysis of data of the different surveys with descriptive and explorative statistics methods are adequate to the research data. The author demonstrates her solid mastery of statistical methods.

The author has demonstrated the ability to master the international scientific literature on the topic. Chapter 1 of the thesis on epidemiology of tobacco and tobacco controls presents the theoretical background and refers to the most important and current international literature. The comprehensive knowledge of the author to the topic is reflected by the range of scientific journals, which belong to the most leading professional publications in the field of addiction and public health research on interventions for tobacco control. The resources used are representative and state of the art for these topics. The relevant theories used in addiction science, which have implications for basic understanding and provide framework for planning interventions and prevention policies are summarized in chapter 1.

The presented comprehensive bibliography (chapter 1), in the thesis as well as in the published articles (annex list of publication) allows the author an informed discussion of results (chapter 5) including the international background to determine priority needs and interventions for different population groups. Results and implications for transfer and piloting interventions are discussed in nine sections.

Main results of the thesis show, that tobacco use among adult population has its own specific characteristic and correlates such as education, occupation and employment status and use among vulnerable and stigmatized groups needs an understanding of their specific barriers to smoking cessation. So the implications of results, of associated factors for different groups and identified evidence based interventions are discussed nuanced on the background of overall findings for antismoking campaigns and other targeted interventions, that are inconsistent in many aspects.

So the author demonstrates her ability to look at the topic of epidemiology and tobacco control from a broad scientific and public health perspective. This is also attested by her contribution to previous studies and publications.

Conclusion

The presented thesis is original, theory based, the empirical material is adequately analysed and results are presented and discussed convincingly. The thesis demonstrates the author's great interest, practical experience and deep knowledge of the subject and her scientific skills.

I recommend the work for the defense

Place and date of preparation of the report

Signature of the Expert

Hamburg, 30.8.2018