EVOLUTION OF ALCOHOL POLICY IN POLISH TRANSITIONS

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SOLIDARNOSC
ALCOHOL AND SOLIDARITY

- PROHIBITION AND STRIKES – SUMMER 1980
- PREVENTING BLOODY CONFRONTATION
- PREVENTING DISCREDITATION OF EMERGING MOVEMENT
- PROHIBITIONS AS A SYMBOL
  - MORAL SUPERIORITY
  - BLAMING AUTHORITIES OF PUSHING ALCOHOL
  - PEACFUL INTENTIONS
  - SERIOUSNESS OF A SITUATION
- DEMANDING ALCOHOL RATIONING
- DEMANDING NEW ALCOHOL LAW
LAW ON UPBRINGING IN SOBRIETY AND COUNTERACTING ALCOHOLISM

• LONG NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOLIDARITY AND GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL

• COMPROMISE ON A NEW LAW REACHED PRIOR TO MARTIAL LAW

• THE LAW EVENTUALLY ADOPTED IN OCTOBER 1982
PILLARS OF THE ALCOHOL LAW

- ALCOHOL CONTROL BASED ON NORDIC MODEL STATE MONOPOLY
  - SINGLE ALCOHOL ENTERPRISE
  - NUMBER OF OUTLETS REDUCED
  - OPENING HOURS 13:00 – 6:00
  - PRICING POLICY IN FAVOUR OF FERMENTED BEVERAGES

- TREATMENT
  - COMPULSORY TREATMENT REPLACED BY OBLIGATION TO UNDERTAKE TREATMENT

- EDUCATION
RECORDED AND ESTIMATED ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

DEATHS DUE TO LIVER DISEASES AMONG MEN AGED 20-44 AND VODKA AFFORDABILITY
BIMBER
PRZYPOMINA ŚLĘPOTY
ALKOHOL ZABIJA POWOLI!
(ALCOHOL KILLS SLOWLY!)

MNIE SIE TAM NIE SPIESZY
(I AM NOT IN A HURRY)
SHOCK THERAPY TO EREDICATE REMNANTS OF SOCIALISM

• ALCOHOL MONOPOLY CEASES TO EXIST
• PRIVATISATION OF ALCOHOL ECONOMY: PRODUCTION, IMPORT, EXPORT, WHOLESALE, RETAIL NETWORKS
• ALCOHOL CONTROL SYSTEM DISMANTLED, NO RESTRICTIONS ON NUMBER OF OUTLETS AND HOURS OF OPERATION
• HIGH TIDE OF RECORDED AND UNRECORDED ALCOHOL
• ALCOHOL PRICES GO DOWN
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN POLICY PARADIGM

• ALCOHOL CONTROL TO BE REPLACED BY TREATMENT AND EDUCATION WITH STRESS ON SCHOOL BASED EDUCATION
ALCOHOL AVAILABILITY (OUTLETS PER THOUSAND INHABITANTS) AND HOSPITALISATIONS DUE TO ALCOHOL MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS

DEATHS DUE TO LIVER DISEASES AMONG MEN AGED 20-44 AND VODKA AFFORDABILITY
HOMOGENISATION OF YOUTH CULTURE; PREVALENCE OF DRINKING AMONG 15-16 AGE OLD

Figure 2a
Alcohol use during the past 12 months. All students. 2011. Percentages. (Table 9)
# Alcohol Policy Paradox

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Effective</th>
<th>Applied</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing Affordability</td>
<td>+ + + + + +</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducing Availability</td>
<td>+ + + + +</td>
<td>+/-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Interventions</td>
<td>+ + +</td>
<td>+/-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ban on Advertising</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>+ + +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Limits</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>+ + + +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>+ + + + +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>+/-0</td>
<td>+ + + + +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSION

• POLAND NUMBER ONE IN EUROPE IN FAVOUR OF LAISSEZ-FAIRE ALCOHOL POLICIES
• EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT MARKET IS NOT SUFFICIENT REGULATORY TO CONTROL ALCOHOL IMPACT ON POPULATION HEALTH
• ALCOHOL IS NOT A COMMODITY AS ANY OTHER AND REQUIRES SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:
  – DIMINISHING AFFORDABILITY
  – REDUCING AVAILABILITY
  – BAN ON ADVERTISING
  – BRIEF INTERVENTIONS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE