

Support for e-cigarette policies among smokers in seven European countries: Longitudinal findings from the 2016–18 EUREST-PLUS ITC Europe Surveys

Chung-Hall, J., Fong, G.T., Vardavas, C.I., Meng, G., Craig, L., McNeill, A., Hitchman, S.C., Fernández, E., Mons, U., Trofor, A.C., Przewoźniak, K., Zatoński, W.A., Demjén, T., Katsaounou, P.A., & Kyriakos, C.N.

Abstract

Background: The 2016 European Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) required Member States (MS) to implement new regulations for electronic cigarettes (ECs). We conducted a longitudinal study to assess changes over 2 years in smokers' support for EC policies and identify predictors of support in seven European countries after TPD implementation. **Methods:** Prospective cohort surveys were conducted among adult smokers in Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Spain and England in 2016 (n = 9547; just after TPD) and 2018 (n = 10 287; 2 years after TPD). Multivariable logistic regression models employing generalized estimating equations assessed changes in support for four EC policies, and tested for country differences and strength of key predictors of support. **Results:** Banning EC use in smoke-free places was supported by 53.1% in 2016 and 54.6% in 2018 with a significant increase in Greece (51.7–66.0%) and a decrease in Spain (60.1–48.6%). Restricting EC/e-liquid nicotine content was supported by 52.2 and 47.4% in 2016 and 2018, respectively, with a significant decrease in England (54.2–46.5%) and Romania (52.5–41.0%). An EC promotion ban was supported by 41.1 and 40.2%. A flavour ban was supported by 33.3% and 32.3% with a significant increase in Hungary (34.3–43.3%). Support was generally higher in Poland, Hungary and Greece vs. England. Support was lower among dual and EC-only users, and low-income smokers. **Conclusions:** Smokers in all countries strongly supported banning EC use in smoke-free places and restricting nicotine content after TPD implementation, with no clear trends for changes in policy support.

Recommended Citation

Chung-Hall, J., Fong, G.T., Vardavas, C.I., Meng, G., Craig, L., McNeill, A., Hitchman, S.C., Fernández, E., Mons, U., Trofor, A.C., Przewoźniak, K., Zatoński, W.A., Demjén, T., Katsaounou, P.A., Kyriakos, C.N. (2020). Support for e-cigarette policies among smokers in seven European countries: Longitudinal findings from the 2016–18 EUREST-PLUS ITC Europe Surveys. *European Journal of Public Health*, 30(Suppl 3), iii68-iii77.

Link To PDF:

https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/30/Supplement_3/iii68/5904947?guestAccessKey=005a8ddd-2f03-43f4-9360-14072a038459