

SUGAR TAXES?

Do sugar taxes change the behaviour of consumers? There is evidence on both sides but one development that is welcomed is how the taxes change the amount of sugar manufacturers add to their products, even those who market zero sugar alternatives.

The UK is the latest country to introduce a sugar tax following a long running campaign run by diabetes organisations and Parliamentary advocates.

France was one of the first countries to introduce a Soda Tax back in 2013 while Saudi Arabia became the first Gulf country to do so last year.

South Africa is due to introduce one later this year as is Thailand that has chosen to phase one in over 6 years.

PDGN Vice-President Mustafa Brahimi reports on his successful fight alongside Prof Belkhadir (president of the Moroccan League Against Diabetes) to get their Government to adopt a tax on sweetened drinks to help prevent obesity and reduce Type 2 diabetes.

If you are campaigning in your legislature for a similar measure PDGN can put you in touch with people who can help.

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WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR WDD?

World Diabetes Day (WDD) has been running annually on November 14 since 1991. It began in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by the illness.

In 2006 WDD became an official United Nations Day, and the campaign reaches a global audience of over 1 billion people in more than 160 countries. WDD aims to draw attention to the issues caused by diabetes around the world and keeping the disease in the public and political spotlight.

WDD is a good time for elected representatives to raise the importance of prevention, early diagnosis and best treatment regimes for all types of diabetes. PDGN can assist, just get in touch.

The global theme last year was women and diabetes. This led Diabetes Australia to focus on women with gestational diabetes

for WDD and working with parliamentarians encouraged their Government to make access to subsidised CGM's available to pregnant women with diabetes.

In several countries outdoor events were held to publicise diabetes. Some led by diabetes groups that invited politicians to attend, others involving decision makers from the start.

In Portugal a night time walk was organised ending in the formation of blue circle of people outside Lisbon's city hall. In Serbia people were encouraged to take part in a Marathon around Ada Lake called the Blue Circle around Ada Lake.

There is time to plan for this year's WDD with your national association or through your own efforts at publicising and advocating for people with diabetes where you are.

John Bowis OBE New Board member and Trustee

PDGN is pleased to welcome former UK Health Minister and MEP John Bowis OBE to the Board and as a Trustee of PDGN's charitable arm. John has a most impressive CV of successful health advocacy in the UK and EU. President: Health First Europe; Vice-President, European Health Forum Gastein; Chair Health Advisory Board, GSK; Adviser to FIPRA, Policy Action and Hanover; Board Member: TBVI, Global Initiative on Psychiatry, European Men's Health Forum, European Health Academy, European Institute of Health, Sane, Mental Disability Advocacy Centre and Maastricht University European Health Faculty; Patron Fund for Epilepsy; Vice President Diabetes UK; Ambassador National Aids trust and Alzheimer's Society.

IMPACT

The European arm of the International Diabetes Federation - IDF Europe - is transforming the ExPAND project into a new initiative called IMPACT. Hopefully the ExPAND toolkit that is a very useful resource for advocates will continue to be available on the IDF website.

IMPACT hopes to get the support of policy makers at a European level to tackle issues linked to diabetes prevention and management.



NEWS IN BRIEF

USA - News from the Senate Diabetes Caucus - [http://observer-me.com/2018/01/25/a-policy-change-that-will-improve-the-lives-of-millions-with-diabetes/](http://observer.me.com/2018/01/25/a-policy-change-that-will-improve-the-lives-of-millions-with-diabetes/)

India - UK consultant Dr Partha Kar wonders: 'Will the digital age bring about a change in diabetes care in India?'
<https://www.telegraphindia.com/science/on-a-sweet-note-192483>

United Kingdom - URL:
<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/Professionals/News-updates/APPG-for-diabetes-report-on-the-future-of-inpatient-Diabetes-Care>

Malaysia - Obesity among Asia-Pacific kids a growing health crisis
<http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2018/04/09/researchers-obesity-among-asia-pacific-kids-a-growing-health-crisis/>

France - The French Federation of Diabetics have conducted a national online consultation via <https://egdiabete.federationdesdiabetiques.org/> hoping results will help to influence decision makers.

What's Your News?

Do you have a story to share, question to ask, good advice to pass on?

We want to hear from you to make our network the first place you look to help your advocacy for diabetes. Just contact: info@pdgn.co.uk

Follow PDGN on Twitter for the latest news: [@PDGN_diabetes](https://twitter.com/PDGN_diabetes)

PDGN NEWS

- After a long bureaucratic exchange PDGN has achieved Charitable Registration in the UK.
- PDGN is now planning to hold the postponed 2018 Forum in Malta next February. Further news and details to follow.
- Several national Diabetes Associations have joined PDGN as Associate Members for a small fee commensurate with their size. Has yours? If not please encourage them to do so by contacting: info@pdgn.co.uk
- Membership is also open to other Member Organisations that share PDGN's aims and objectives to support advocates and advocacy of diabetes and its co-morbidities.
- New Members - Please ask your colleagues to join PDGN. There is no membership fee for elected representatives and all they need to do is request a membership form via info@PDGN.co.uk

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