DHS Commitment

Commitment summary
The commitment "Support capacity and competence building" refers to the Commissions priority theme “Inform, educate and raise awareness on the impact of harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption”. By publishing a Fact Sheet Series on alcohol related problems and effective interventions to solve them, DHS will contribute to building capacity and competence among professionals in the fields of addiction, youth and health promotion, and to inform the general public and the target group of young people.

Background of the commitment
Illicit drugs have been the focus of public interest and policy activity for many years in Germany. For a long time, policies to prevent or reduce alcohol associated harms had been advanced mainly by organizations pursuing an abstinence approach. DHS as an NGO representing all charitable associations and their organisations active in the field of outpatient counselling and treatment, in-patient care and self-help wants to answer an increasing demand of information about alcohol related problems and how to tackle them.

Description
DHS will prepare and publish a Fact Sheet Series on:
- Alcohol and Young People
- Binge Drinking
- Alcohol and Advertising
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
The fact sheets are directed primarily to professionals working in health promotion, alcohol and drug prevention and youth work. Furthermore they are intended to inform the general public, particularly young people. Different interventions to meet the problems will be described. The fact sheets will be disseminated via the DHS website. An attached feed-back questionnaire will help to evaluate the acceptance, scope and extent of support of the deliverables.

Objectives
1. Inform and raise awareness among health and drug professionals and young people in Germany of the impact of alcohol consumption on health, especially on health of under-age drinkers and of the unborn child. This is important because professionals and political leaders in Germany have focused for a long time on illicite drugs and underestimated the harm done by alcohol.
2. Build capacity. Prevention in Germany is mostly based on educational programmes. Disseminating examples of effective interventions develops the skills of people involved in prevention.
3. Broaden the base of sectors and institutions involved in prevention providing sound data and analysis

Relevance
The publication of a fact sheet series helps spreading information about the impact of harmful and hazardous drinking to key persons and to the targeted population of young people. Thereby relevant associations and organisations are supported, and capacity and competence are built.