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Barriers and facilitators for the implementation of gambling prevention

In the field of gambling studies, empirical research on the barriers and facilitators for public prevention policies has been scarce. Public policy studies have shown that implementers on different organizational positions impact policy implementation. In this presentation the barriers and facilitators for the implementation of an integrated national policy of addiction prevention, as seen from the positions of managers, prevention specialists and frontline workers, are presented on the basis of a qualitative study. The results show that the managers were structurally oriented in their thinking and emphasized local structures as facilitators. All groups saw prevention as underfunded and undervalued. The specialists were most focused on the official structures in which they operated and regarded the functioning of the structures as a key facilitator. The frontline workers underlined that their position was facilitator in itself, offering a unique viewpoint to the localities and to the lives of their clients. A key finding was also the normalcy of gambling that both the specialist and frontline workers regarded as a major barrier. The results that studying the policy implementation context is important: it makes it possible to understand social and cultural factors that can function as barriers or facilitators.