Fostering Global Participation in an International Organization

Kathryn Stewart
President, International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS)
ICADTS is an independent nonprofit body whose only goal is to reduce mortality and morbidity brought about by misuse of alcohol and drugs by operators of vehicles in all modes of transport.
- About 200 members
- About 30 countries
What makes ICADTS unique and useful?

- Synthesis of different disciplines: psychology, medicine, toxicology, policy, law enforcement, engineering, etc.
- Historical perspective over decades: first meeting in 1950
- Ability to share information from country to country – learning from each other and promoting the adoption of effective strategies internationally.
ICADTS Activities

- Triennial international meetings: approximately 300 participants from 30 countries
- Periodic regional meetings
- Expert working groups
- Newsletter
- Twice a year Executive Board meetings
Challenges

- Small budget
- All-volunteer participants/officers
- Need to engage more different countries
- Need to engage more young researchers
- Hard to get people to attend international meetings
- Need to keep people engaged outside of meetings
Small Budget
Strategies: Budget

- Engage volunteer participation: Executive Board; committee chairs

- Solicit financial and in-kind contributions and sponsorship: Sponsorship of conferences; stipends for some participants; distribution of newsletter

- Leverage ICADTS funding for larger efforts: Worked with World Bank to fund projects in low income countries
Volunteer Participation
Strategies: Volunteer participation

- Remains a challenge
- Can find individuals who are willing to pitch in
- Doesn’t always translate into timely and thorough efforts: Everybody has a “real” job
- Try to encourage the “right” people and recognize efforts
- Trying to widen volunteer participation: More work getting done; better engagement
Volunteer “Traps”

- “It’s easier to just do it myself.”
- Some people volunteer but don’t follow through.
Engaging More Countries
Strategies: Engaging more countries

- Locate triennial and regional meetings in more, different places
  - Conference last year in Brazil
  - Regional conferences in Eastern Europe

- Working group on low and middle income countries

- Stipends for attendees from low and middle income countries
More Young Researchers
Young Researchers: Strategies

- Establishment of Working Groups
- Stipends for young researchers to come to conferences
- Special sessions for young researchers
- Need more mentoring!
More Young Researchers
Getting people to attend international meetings
Stipends for young researchers, LMIC participants. Stipends small but can be used for leverage

Regional meetings – provides more opportunities and gets more people engaged

Still a challenge!

Need to introduce more electronic communication: Webinars, electronic participation
Ongoing Engagement
Ongoing Engagement: Strategies

- Working Groups
- Newsletter
- Need more: Mentoring? Outreach to policy makers?
Conclusions

- Small, low budget organization faces challenges

- Our mission is important!

- Trying to apply creativity and effort to challenges

- Success can come from combination of *structural changes* and *individual effort*
Make sure ICADTS:

- Has a positive impact on safety
- Has a broad impact globally
- Has a vibrant future

www.icadtsinternational.com
Thank you!