
ABSTRACT

The audit indicated that the alcohol control exercised by the National Product Control Agency for Welfare and Health and the state provincial offices is proper with regard to basic functions. Special attention should be paid to developing control when the licensing of premises and shops is shifted to the state provincial offices at the beginning of 2005, however.

Alcohol control has not been given very much attention in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health's strategic plan, although the situation has changed somewhat as a result of the national alcohol programme for 2004-2007. Result management in the area of alcohol control has been considered something of a formality. The preconditions for result management will improve when the licensing of premises and shops has been shifted to the state provincial offices and the National Product Control Agency for Welfare and Health focuses on guidance and expert tasks.

Efforts have been made to develop alcohol control means. From the viewpoint of guidance it is problematic that the effectiveness of different means has not been evaluated. Nor have any real evaluations been made of the effectiveness of alcohol control in general. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health should make sure that the effectiveness of different means and of alcohol control as a whole is evaluated and compared and that different means are used in the best possible way to achieve objectives.

There are considerable differences between the state provincial offices with regard to costs in proportion to the number of licence holders as well as cost covering. The ministry should investigate to what extent differences between the state provincial offices in alcohol control resources and performances and in cost covering are due to activities and to what extent they are due to differences in cost accounting. These differences should be taken into consideration when the licensing of premises and shops is shifted to the state provincial offices.

The audit was conducted with the help of a structured audit model developed by the State Audit Office.