European Health Strategy Health 2020 and Agenda 2030 as the enablers for workers’ health protection

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Presentation layout

• Overview of the human and economic work related burden

• SDGs as the joint platform for health for all at all ages (Goals 3 and 8)- No one left behind in workers’ health protection; WHO Resolutions; European Health 2020 Strategy

• Working in partnerships for better workers’ health (WHO Collaborating Centres, BSN, SEENWH)

• Future prospects and challenges in workers’ health protection
Human and economic burden of occupational diseases is substantial

- Globally, more than 2.3 million people die each year from occupational accidents or work-related diseases (300,000 in Europe).
- Globally, around 4% of annual GDP is lost as a result of occupational diseases and accidents (5% in Europe).

Global burden of disease attributable to occupational risk factors, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational risks</th>
<th>Deaths (thousands)</th>
<th>DALYs (thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>717 (641 to 801)</td>
<td>55 352 (44 589 to 67 890)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational carcinogens</td>
<td>304 (263 to 341)</td>
<td>5 803 (5 076 to 6 526)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational PM, gases, fumes</td>
<td>205 (164 to 251)</td>
<td>8 802 (7 012 to 10 740)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational injuries</td>
<td>159 (127 to 206)</td>
<td>9 947 (7 886 to 12 927)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational asthmagens</td>
<td>52 (42 to 70)</td>
<td>2 771 (2 227 to 3 521)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational noise</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7 119 (4 549 to 10 329)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational ergonomic factors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21 109 (14 206 to 29 304)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global, all-age, all-cause, for both sexes combined

Burden of occupational diseases and injuries in WHO European Region

Unhealthy working conditions contribute to 1.6% of the burden of disease in the Region.

The major occupational risks:
- injuries (32% of the occupational burden of disease)
- noise (21%)
- carcinogens (16%)
- airborne particulate matter (27%)
- ergonomic hazards (4%)

## Burden of disease attributable to occupational risk factors in WHO European Region, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factors for injuries</th>
<th>Deaths (in thousands)</th>
<th>DALYs (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Low and middle income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational risk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk factors for injuries</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcinogens</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airborne particulates</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ergonomic stressors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WHO, 2009 Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks
Global megatrends - implications for workers’ health

- Growing informal economy
- Changing relations at work – no workers-employer contract
- Agriculture
- Outsourcing, subcontracting
- Family business
- Child labour
- Informal workers
- Migrant workers

Source: EEA, 2015 The European environment - state and outlook 2015
‘Human health is a precondition for, and an outcome, and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development’
### End poverty in all its forms everywhere

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Indicators¹</th>
<th>Public health interventions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable</td>
<td>1.3.1. Percentage of the population covered by social protection floors/systems disaggregated by sex, and distinguishing children, unemployed, old age, persons with disabilities, pregnant women/newborns, work injury victims, poor and vulnerable</td>
<td>Early detection and case management of occupational diseases and injuries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ UN Economic and Social Council, Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

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| 3.4 by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote **mental health** and wellbeing. | 3.4.1 Mortality of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease | • Substitute occupational carcinogens  
• Dust control  
• Improve work organization  
• Prevent and manage stress  
• Workplace health promotion  
• Smoke free workplaces |
| 3.8 achieve **universal health coverage** (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all. | t.b.d. | • Build capacities of primary care to deliver essential interventions for workers' health  
• Scale up coverage with basic and specialized occupational health services  
• Provide health coverage to all workers, including in the informal sector |
| 3.9 by 2030 substantially reduce the number of **deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals** and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination. | 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to hazardous, chemicals, water and soil pollution and contamination | • Safe management of chemicals at the workplace  
• Pesticide safety |
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

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| 8.7 take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and **elimination of the worst forms of child labour**, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers | 8.7.1 Percentage and number of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour, by sex and age group | • Detection and prevention of hazardous child labour  
| | | • Prohibition of hazardous child labour |
| | |  
| 8.8 protect labour rights and **promote safe and secure working environments** of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment | 8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status | • Regulations and enforcement for occupational safety and health  
| | | • Hazard mitigation and substitution  
| | | • Engineering and administrative controls  
| | | • Health education of workers  
| | | • Personal protection  
| | | • Health surveillance |
Resolution 60.26 WHA: Workers' Health: Global Plan of Action (GPA) 2008-2017

- Devise and implement policy instruments on workers' health
- Protect and promote health at the workplace
- Improve the performance and access to occupational health services
- Provide and communicate evidence for action and practice
- Incorporate workers’ health into other policies
Health approach promoted by WHO

**Occupational Health**
- Labour contract
- Only at the workplace
- Employer’s responsibility
- Only work-related health issues
- Negotiation between workers and employers

**Workers Health**
- All workers
- Beyond the workplace
- Responsibility of everybody
- All health determinants
- Health protection not subject to collective negotiation
- Other stakeholders: health and environment authorities, insurance
The baseline in GPA implementation, EURO: policy instruments

Policy framework present in 79%

Elements included:

• Established inter-sectorial cooperation - 84%
• Strengthening the role of ministry of health - 53%
• Funding for workers’ health - 55%

The baseline in GPA implementation, EURO: policy instruments

Main actors involved:
- Ministries of labour - 95%
- Ministries of health - 87%
- Occupational health professionals - 66%
- Academia - 63%
- Workers’ compensation - 58%
- Ministries of environment - 53%

The baseline in GPA implementation, EURO: policy instruments

Aspects covered:

- Occupational health (97%) & safety 92%
- Workplace health promotion - 92%
- Chemical safety - 79%
- Environmental health - 66%
- Mental health - 82%
- NCD prevention at the workplace - 79%
- Prevention of communicable diseases at the workplace - 58%

The baseline in GPA implementation, EURO: national profiles

25% of countries did not develop profiles

Aspects addressed:

- Occupational accidents and diseases statistics - 100%
- Occupational health and safety legislative framework - 91%
- Other health polices/programmes related to workers' health - 51%
- Incorporation of workers' health in other non-health policies - 40%
- Statistics of communicable and NCDs among workers - 23%
- Prevalence of individual risk factors among workers - 26%

Non-communicable diseases and the workplace

• Protect and promote health at the workplace

• NCDs account for at least 86% of all deaths in the WHO European Region

• The workplace is a suitable setting for public health interventions to tackle non-communicable diseases and health inequalities

• With health, well-being and economic benefits
Incorporation of workers’ health into other policies

Relevant environmental policies and initiatives:

- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
- Multilateral environmental agreements: Rotterdam, Basel, Stockholm, and Minamata conventions
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Sectoral policies for branches with highest health risks
Regional framework: Health 2020

• Health as a human right
• Health and well-being essential for economic social development
• Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to equitable improvement in health
• Shared priorities and collaboration with other sectors
• The importance of community and individual resilience and empowerment

… a regional mechanism to incorporate workers’ health into other policies
Health 2020 - four priority areas

- Invest in health through a life-course approach and empower citizens
- Tackle Europe’s major disease burdens of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Strengthen people-centred health systems and public health capacity, including emergencies
- Create supportive environments and resilient communities
Future prospects and challenges in workers’ health protection

Opportunities for workers’ health

• Green jobs - healthy, safe and decent
• Full cost pricing - include social (health) externalities in the price of energy and products
• Green technologies - prevention through design
• Sustainable production and consumption - workers’ health and well-being as a measure of business sustainability
• Key sectors - renewable energy, green construction, public transport, waste management
Thank you for your kind attention

http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health