

7th Hot Topic, the role of Rural GPs in incorporation of Occupational Health in Primary Health Care. Analysis of the responses received.

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Before introducing the data analysis, it's necessary to remind that the risk of bias in this survey is relevant due to the small number of feedbacks (only 30 answers).

The 18 Countries involved are grouped according to the number of answers received:

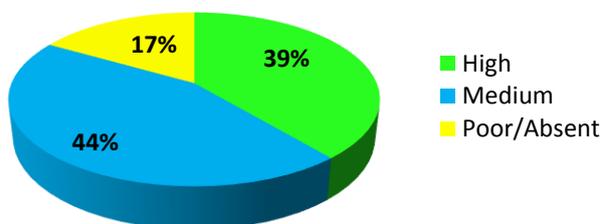
- Hungary: 8 answers
- Poland: 4 answers
- Slovenia - United Kingdom: 2 answers
- Australia - Austria - Croatia - France - Finland - Greece - Italy - Netherlands - Norway Portugal - Romania- Spain - Slovakia - Sweden: 1 answer

Responders from Countries that mainly join our survey show a good level of awareness regarding the topic and, agreeing to answers we received, a willingness to participate to formative events, seminars and courses on Occupational Health and Safety.

The main results obtained from the elaboration of the answer are reported.

QUESTION 1: Please describe in few words the levels of awareness you have regarding occupational disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment and where did you collect this knowledge.

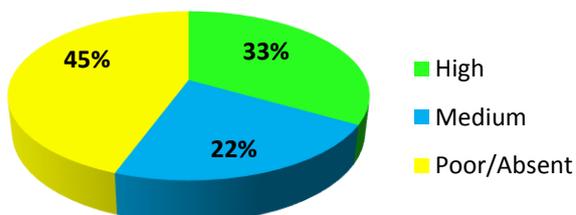
Level of knowledge of OH



High	AU, AT, HR, HU, NL, SE, UK
Medium	GR, IT, NO, PL, PT, SK, ES, SI
Poor/Absent	FR, FI, RO

QUESTION 2: Have you ever dealt (voluntary or not) as provider of occupational health care? Please describe shortly your experience with details regarding to whom (enterprises, farms, plantations, etc...).

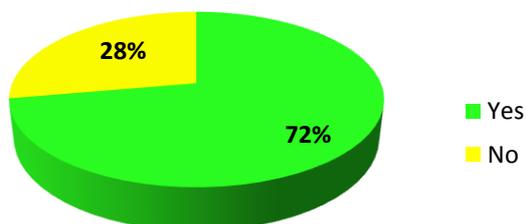
Experience level of OH



High	AU, AT, HU, NO, UK, SE
Medium	HR, FR, NL, SK
Poor/Absent	FI, GR, IT, PL, PT, RO, ES, SI

QUESTION 3: It is estimated that at least 50% of workers, even in fully industrialized countries, is not provided with the needed health surveillance at the workplace. Do you think that, in order to work toward the full coverage indicated as an objective by WHO, GPs might add in their set of activities also some specific occupational health tasks such as, for example, visiting workplaces to provide recommendations for improving working conditions; collaborating at health education for workers; taking work history; reporting occupational diseases; doing preventive medical check-ups of workers; perform functional assessment of fitness for work, etc.

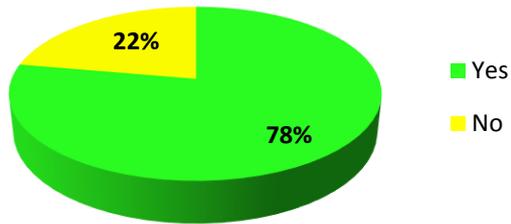
Adding OH tasks in GPs' set of activities



Yes	AU, AT, HR, FI, GR, HU, IT, NL, NO, PT, RO, ES, UK
No	FR, PL, SI, SK, SE

QUESTION 4: Do you think it might be useful adding OH in the GPs Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programs?

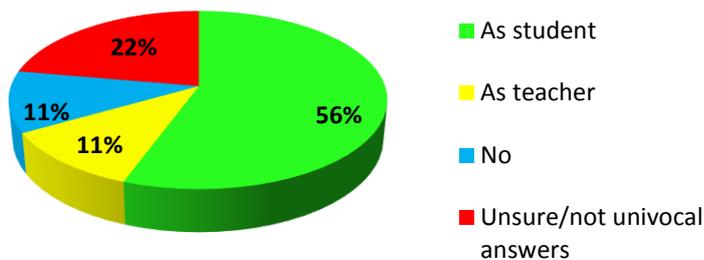
Usefulness of adding OH in CPD Programs



Yes	SI, UK, AU, AT, HR, FR, GR, IT, NL, NO, PT, RO, ES, SK
No	FI, HU, PL, SE

QUESTION 5: Would you be willing to participate in CPD as student or teacher?

Preference to participate in a OH CPD course as student or teacher



As student	AU, AT, GR, HU, IT, NL, NO, PT, ES, UK
As teacher	HR, FR
No	PL, SE
Unsure / not univocal answers	SI, SK, FI, RO

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overall our survey results suggest that the level on knowledge on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Occupational Disease is quite good, indeed representatives of 7 Countries show a good level and other 8 exponents of other Countries an average level of awareness regarding the topic.

The attractiveness of the theme is remarkable: 12 Countries out of 18 are interested to participate to training courses and negative feedbacks mainly belong to Countries in which the activity is not provided

with economic support or where the education to Occupational Health is already part of the Public Health Service.

Answers to the third question are interesting in order to create a future intervention on the territory: 13 out of 18 Countries give positive feedbacks suggesting that, to ensure the coverage of essential health services expected by WHO, GPs must be able to reach a minimum level of knowledge on Occupational Health so as to add in their set of activities also specific Occupational Health tasks.

In conclusions, we think that this survey has already provided very interesting results. However, we also think that it has still left open some problems, deserving attention and possibly a further small survey.

The objective is to collect a more reliable view of the relationship between Occupational Health and Primary Health Care at the international level and to define future strategies to reach the highest levels of coverage of workers, to reduce the underreporting of occupational diseases and to promote prevention at the workplace at any level.