

**Task Force 4:
Raise mainstreaming OSH into education on the policy agenda**

Report on ENETOSH strategic activities at national level in the Republic Croatia

After the last ENETOSH meeting held in Bilbao, in March 2019, we can briefly report regarding the recent activities in integrating health and safety in the education and education processes at the national level.

I. The activities of the experimental program “Model of Croatian Dual Education” continue as planned. The new vocational curriculum has been adopted which aligns the goals of the educational processes with the needs of world of work and the economy, focusing on:

- developing the competencies needed to successfully integrate into the world of work,
- developing innovation, creativity and critical thinking,
- developing awareness of the importance of working safely
- developing teamwork and cooperation,
- improving working methods in teaching.

A legislative framework concerning dual education model has been prepared, which also includes harmonization with the relevant provisions of other regulations.

- An operational team was formed of representatives of the Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, the Ministry of Labor and the Pension System, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health to complete the implementation activities. The Ministry of Science and Education team monitors the results of the experimental implementation and evaluates the implementation of new vocational curriculum.

II. Within the Project of promoting health and safety at work in hospital activities, educational activities have been organized. The aim of this Project is to raise awareness at health risks in the workplace and, through informing and educating, to achieve a higher level of safety and health protection of health professionals.

Education in the Clinical Hospital Center Zagreb began in June this year. The education is conducted by a team consisting of a doctor of occupational medicine specialist, psychologist and occupational health expert with the presence of experts from the Croatian Health Insurance Fund.

Health professionals are educated about acute effects of noxiousness, hazards and risks at the workplace and informed about the incident related procedures.

As part of education, health care workers are referred to the obligation to use work equipment and to carry out personal protection measures, with emphasis of the importance of wearing the right working footwear.

Attention is also devoted to the topic of handling patients in a safe manner and also the exercises are presented for employees who are working in the forcible position of the body, such as the work of laboratory staff, sitting computer work etc.

The education also covers topic of the most frequent stressors by health professionals, as well as the so-called „burnout“ phenomenon. An overview of some of the most effective stress-relief methods is presented using examples. For healthcare professionals a flyer has been provided with procedures for emergency situations.

III. Within the Croatian Presidency of the European Union in 2020, priorities and initiatives have been defined which, among the others, include the development of educational activities related to enhancing well-being in the workplace and in the school environment.

Recognizing the fact that, according to EU OSHA data, workers in Europe most commonly cite two problems as major causes of health problems: psychosocial risks and musculoskeletal disorders, the focus of future activities within the Croatian Presidency will also be on strengthening educational activities in order to prevent these health risks and disorders, as well as to adopt healthy living habits.

Under this topic Croatian Presidency has to offer examples of good practice and interventions aiming improvement of health and well-being in working and learning environment.