Occupational Health Nursing in EU- OHNs: Frontliners in OH services

Tziaferi Styliani
President FOHNEU
Ass. Professor
University of Peloponnese Greece
Founded on March 21st 1993 in the United Kingdom

Registered on June 27th 1996 in Brussels

Non profit making organisation

Membership open to all OHN Associations or OHN Groups within the European Union

OHN Associations or groups in non EU States may obtain observer status

Represents the largest single group of professionals in the field of occupational health
Occupational Health Nursing (OHN) Definition/Aims

Occupational Health Nursing aims at securing the health, safety and well-being of the workforce. This is achieved through assessing, monitoring and promoting the health status of the workers, and developing strategies to improve the working conditions and the total environment.

- to contribute to the total health, safety and well-being of the European working population
- to raise the profile of Occupational Health Nursing within the European Union
- to promote training, education and standards of professional qualifications and practice
- to encourage research into areas of Occupational Health practice, education and management with publication of the results
- to maintain an open dialogue with the EU organisations responsible for health and safety, public health and EU nursing authorities
FOHNEU continues as Official Partner to the Campaign 2014-2015

AIMS TO collaboration by ACTIVE participation in future OSHA’s studies focusing on occupational diseases and health services sector’s hazards
Past observational FOHNEU’s studies


OHN Status in EU Member States 2005-2012 Final Results (Staun J., 2012)

Psychosocial risks and nursing-Literature review (Tziaferi S., 2014)

✓ INTERVENTION STUDIES:
HORIZON2020 FOHNEU’s proposal to be submitted…
Undergraduate education (Tarragona, 2012) (1)

- Undergraduate nursing education still diverse although there is a tendency to upgrade at university degree level

- 12 countries have included OH in undergraduate nursing education and two as an option in community/public health

- Content and length of study as well as clinical practice vary and are not comparable
Post-graduate/specialized education (2)

- Specialized education has developed since 2004

- 11 countries reported that already have specialized education for OHNs, mostly at postgraduate diploma level and two more plan to start soon

- Two countries have only multidisciplinary MSc in OH&S

- Possibilities for MSc/PhD also exist in some countries

- There are also four countries that have included OH as part of other specialisations, such as community/public health nursing
OHN specialization (3)

- Length of study has increased significantly since 2004 and varies from 6 months to 2 years full time.
- In most countries practice in the field accounts for 50% of the time.
- Content is wide (next slide) but in most programs the Core Curriculum content is included.
In all programs are included:

- Health promotion and health education
- Prevention policies at the workplace
- Environmental surveillance and health protection
- Emergency care at the workplace
In almost all programs are included:

- Health assessment and surveillance
- Occupational Epidemiology
- Organisation and Administration of OH Services
- Risk assessment methodology
### Barriers to perform/participate in research (6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>country</th>
<th>barrier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>professional recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>OHNs do not have tradition in performing independent research but many participate in research projects. Some OHNs do not have enough knowledge how to search for financial support to perform research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>varied resources and levels of collaboration with others in the multidisciplinary team place research out of reach of many OHNs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>funding, experience, support, competition with OHPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>lack of research experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>funding and time constraints, lack of resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>financial resources and media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>lack of knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>financial, time, legal permission, training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>support from employers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions (7)

- There are positive changes from previous FOHNEU surveys
  - in undergraduate education
  - in postgraduate education
- The FOHNEU CC is being taken into account in most countries
- The practiced role of OHNs is linked to education
- The future of OHN education & research seems positive although there are problems in some countries
Highlights of Achievements

✦ Core Curriculum for OH Nursing (3rd edition, 2014)
A model for the roles of the occupational health nurse based on a previous model by Rossi & Heikkinen (1990) consists of five stages of development of OHN:

1. The Basic Role
2. The Specialist Role
3. The Collaborative Role
4. The Unique Role
5. The Leadership Role

✦ Collaboration with WHO on the Occupational Health Nurse document

✦ Project HOHNEU 2004-2007
Development of Master degree level program in Occupational Health Nursing, using the FOHNEU curriculum framework and delivered in home country

✦ Adaption of Hanasaari Conceptual Model
H&S management: top issue in the agenda (61% of enterprises, EU-28)

- Worker participation and use of experts (EU-28) in:
  - 68%: nurses working with physicians
  - 63%: scientists in H&S
  - 58%: specialists in accident prevention
  - 16%: psychologists

- In 58% of enterprises (EU-28):
  There is a worker representative of H&S (mainly in Health & Education sector)
Interdisciplinary team work

OHNs

* Are not assistants of occupational physicians but equal members of an inter-disciplinary team. They are directly close to workers, contributing to
  - health promotion
  - implementation of safety culture,
  - inducing stress management &
  - smoothing out working pressures

* work together with OP & SE, with HRM

* initiate employee assistance programs

* liaison or connect to other specialists, like psychologists etc, whenever necessary

6th Croatian OH Congress 1-4/10/2015 Sibenik, Croatia-Tziaferi S. President FOHNEU

Highlights from the National Updates on our Website (www.fohneu.org)

* Belgium
* Denmark
* Finland
* France
* Greece
* Ireland
* The Netherlands
* Sweden
* Germany

6th Croatian OH Congress 1-4/10/2015 Sibenik, Croatia-Tziaferi S.
President FOHNEU
National updates (1)

Belgium (≈280 nurses)
BeFOHN/ VVVB - Vlaamse Vereniging voor Verpleegkundigen in de Bedrijfsgesondheidszorg Organisation of nurses working in occupational health in Flanders-Belgium
AFISTEB (Association Francophone des infirmiers de sante au travail en Belgique) (Association of French speaking OHNs in Belgium)

Croatia (≈ 30)
Croatian Nurses Association- (within group)

Denmark (≈ 70)
FaSA-Fagligt Selskab for Arbejdsmiljøsygeplejersker i Danmark

Finland (≈ 1860)
FAOHN-Finnish Association of Occupational health Nurses

France (≈ 370)
GIT- Groupement des infirmier(e)s de sante au travail
**Germany** (<100)
VAF e.V.- the Society of Specialist Employees in Occupational Medicine

**Greece** (≈ 80 nurses and health visitors)
National Nurses Association (within group)

**Ireland** (<100 & ≈ 175)
INMO-Irish Nurses and midwife organisation
OHNAI- Occupational Health Nurses Association of Ireland

**Portugal** (≈50)
Portuguese OH Nurses Association
ANET - Associação Nacional dos Enfermeiros do Trabalho
National updates (3)

Spain (≈210 & ≈200)
AET - Asociacion de Especialista en Enfermeria del Trabaj
FEDEET- Federación Española De Enfermería del Trabajo

Slovenia (≈230)
National Nurses Association (within group)

Sweden (≈700)
Swedish Association of Occupational Health Nurses

The Netherlands (≈ 140)
V&VN-Verpleegkundigen & Verzorgenden Nederland
New challenges!

Communication skills with workers and their families

Communication with administration

Organization skills

Psychosocial risks (stress) / Ageing workforce

Research, recording data & statistics (HORIZON2020)
The 6th International FOHNEU Congress will be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands 16th - 18th March 2016
“New Occupational Health Horizons”

New deadline for abstracts: 15th October 2015

Visit the congress website for more

http://fohneucongress2016.com/

6th Croatian OH Congress 1-4/10/2015 Sibenik, Croatia-Tziaferi S. President FOHNEU
Thank you for your attention

Federation of Occupational Health Nurses within the European Union