

PROJECTS

Focus on alcohol consumption in the workplace

Alcohol consumption is the third illness and mortality factor in Europe, after smoking and high blood pressure.

The EU is the region with the highest alcohol consumption in the world.

The alcohol consumption is, in some cases, a chronic illness.

Peter Anderson, Lars Møller and Gauden Galea (ed.): "Alcohol in the European Union: Consumption, Harm and Policy Approaches", WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2011

The EWA Project: European Workplaces and Alcohol (Mars 2011-September 2013),

Grant no. 2009 12 24, financed by the EU Public Health Programme 2008 – 2013

The EWA (European Workplaces and Alcohol) project addresses the issue of alcohol consumption and its effects on the workplace and aims at promoting healthy workplaces in the EU. The project reunites a consortium of more than 17 European organizations, under the coordination of the Health Department of the Government of Catalonia – the Programme on Substance Abuse. Under this project, the Romtens Foundation leads

the internal evaluation package and is an active participant and contributor to all the other activities projected.

Comprehensive design

The project design is comprehensive, thus including research, practical interventions and strategic components. In regards to **research**, the partners in the consortium have documented two national best practice cases in regards to workplaces and alcohol policies and programmes. Furthermore, the research component is complemented by **on-the-field interventions**, which include pilot innovative interventions in selected workplaces from 12 countries, each partner participating in this activity engaging at least 750 employees from at least 5 different workplaces. And finally, **the strategic work** in the project consists of developing a tool kit for practical guidelines and resources for engaging in alcohol-focused interventions and also drafting a set of policy recommendations.

Workplace pilot interventions and audit of employees` alcohol consumption levels in 12 EU countries: the Romanian case

At the moment, the pilot interventions are being implemented and Romtens Foundation has already engaged with 5 companies from Timiș county – in the Western development region of Romania. Medium-sized and both, privately and partially publically held, the companies` profile is quite diverse,

dealing with manufacturing, sewage and water providing services, electronics, waste disposal and recycling, or the automotive industry.

Additionally, in the 5 companies, an education and information campaign will be implemented, which will include a seminar organized for 20 employees at a time, covering approximately 800 employees in all the companies. Plus, 2 managers from each company will participate together in a training course on Workplace Health Promotion, thus facilitating also a cross-sector exchange of experience amongst managers. The companies will also undergo a policy audit, composed of an in-depth interview and an organization questionnaire, while the impact of the education and information campaigns will be assessed through a questionnaire, sampled before and after the interventions on selected employees.

The results of the interventions and of the policy audits will be put together in a master cross-country analysis that will serve as a basis for further recommendations.

For further information:

<https://sites.google.com/site/europeanworkplaceandalcohol/home> (only available in English)

<http://www.romtens.ro/page.php?idp=223> (only available in Romanian)

office@romtens.ro

Focus on Romanian
rural workers and
employers

In 2010, 38.1% of the Romanian employees from rural areas worked for an enterprise, 36.1% were self-employed or members of an agricultural society and 25.1% were engaged in activities of subsistence agriculture.

In 2009, 152 individual agriculture workers` accidents took place, 19% being deadly.

Every 3.5 seconds, a person dies in the EU following a work accident.

The National Institute of Statistics, Romania; Eurostat

The PSCR project: “Developing human resources in rural communities” (July 2010-June 2013),

Project ID POSDRU/83/5.2/58325

The PSCR project aims at introducing the concepts of *workplace health promotion*, *community development* and *partnerships for health* within 19 communes (rural localities comprised of several villages) from Romania. As such, the project comprises activities of **local needs assessment**, through qualitative and quantitative methods; **information campaigns** in regards to the rural workforce and the labour market; **health fairs**, promoting workplace health promotion, healthy lifestyles and offering free of charge basic health screening tests; **individual orientation and counselling sessions** for unemployed people; two sets of **trainings for**

managers and employees from the selected rural areas and 3 innovative **guidelines** for the national context, developed together with the international experts: (1) *WHP in Rural Areas*; (2) *Working in Partnerships* and (3) *Health and Wellbeing: Influencing factors and policy considerations*.

Regional workshops: engaging cross-sector stakeholders in enhancing WHP culture and practice

Submitted for debate in 3 regional workshops that reunited public health, labour and development policies` professionals from the regional and local administration and service providers, the three guidelines were therefore assessed as to their suitability and applicability to the Romanian national context. They were also acknowledged as being innovative for the national context and the final revision will take into account the feedback received from the Romanian professionals in the field. The workshops were held on the **26th of April, 2012** (“Promoting and Developing Healthy Workplaces in the Rural Environment”), the **23rd of May, 2012** (“Health and Wellbeing: influencing factors”), and **28th of June, 2012** (“Working in partnerships to promote health”).

Work-centred approach to development: trainings for managers and employees from Romanian rural communities

Moreover, the project includes also two sets of trainings designed for managers and employees from rural environments and which are currently implemented in the 19 communities included in the project.

Although the training course for managers is focused on project management and includes an extensive case study on workplace health promotion, the training for employees is however more centred on WHP and health and safety at work, the project taking thus a bottom-up approach in order to empower employees in overseeing and understanding the importance of prevention. As such, the training for employees includes in-depth modules on **workplace organization** - which introduces information on **health and safety at work** and the formal legal framework; **risk factors in rural workplaces**; signalling in health and safety at work and protection equipment and **occupational hygiene**. The lecturers include general practitioners and experts in public health, health and safety at work experts and project management experts.

The project is coordinated by the Romtens Foundation, in partnerships with Belfast Healthy Cities, Northern Ireland, SC. DAD Expertise SRL, Alba-Iulia, SC Cardinal Jobs SRL – Pitești and the C.I.D.I.E.D.D. Association – Brăila. The PSCR project “Developing human resources in rural communities” is co-financed by the European Social Fund, the Operational Sectoral Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013 “Investing in people!”, project ID POSDRU/83/5.2/58325.

For further information:

www.pscr.romtens.ro (only available in Romanian)

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EVENT – SUMMER SCHOOL (upcoming)

29th-31st of August, 2013, Timișoara, Romania: The 13th Summer School of the European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine (EASOM) – *Workplace Health Promotion*

This year, Romtens Foundation and the Clinic of Occupational Diseases, Timișoara, have started organizing the 13th Summer School of the EASOM, which will take place in Timișoara, Romania, between the 29th and the 31st of August, 2013. The announced theme of the summer school is *Workplace Health Promotion* and, as such, the agenda of the event will revolve around it.

Romanian and European professionals in the field will introduce the participants to concepts and components of occupational medicine and WHP, corroborated with practical group work, specific examples and field trips to Romanian companies implementing WHP programs and projects.

More specifically, throughout the three days of the event, the participants will get an insight into the Romanian occupational medicine teaching system, WHP past and future practices in Romania, the fundamentals and economics of WHP and OSH, communication and evaluation within WHP projects, as well as training and e-learning on WHP. The summer school will also introduce the participants to the Romtens-lead CPSLM and VPSLM projects, which dealt with workplace health promotion in the Centre and Western development regions of Romania.

Students, professors, managers and other WHP and OSH professionals can attend the summer school, which already counts amongst its lecturers on the participation of Prof. Dr. Marc de Greef (Prevent asbl Belgium), Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Masanotti (Università degli Studi di Perugia), Dr. Pauline Ginney (international expert), with many others left to be confirmed. Also, the agenda of the event is still in drafting.

For further information on registration fees and procedures, you can contact: office@romtens.ro

For further information on EASOM: <http://www.easom.org/> (available only in English)

EVENT - SEMINAR (upcoming)

27th of November, 2012, Bucharest: “The European Social Fund and its role in supporting public health projects – the European experience”

Romtens Foundation and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) will organize on November 27th, 2012, “The European Social Fund and its role in supporting public health projects – the European experience” seminar, which will focus on the ESF and its contribution to public health projects within the EU.

The main objective of the seminar is to introduce NGOs and other social actors, as well as relevant national authorities, to the FSE-related experience of other countries and regions, and further their understanding of the FSE and the EU.

To this end, the event's lecturers will give an overview on ESF and the Romanian experience, so far, best practices from other countries, ESF for 2014-2020, with group discussions on improving the absorption level in Romania. EU Commission, Romanian professionals and EPHA experts stand amongst the lecturers.

Furthermore, the main target group of the seminar consists of various Romanian authorities who are responsible of managing the ESF at a national level, as well as professionals from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Employment, Family and Social Protection, researchers, social actors, union representatives, and other interested stakeholders.

The event will take place in Bucharest, Romania, at the Hotel Ramada Majestic, Calea Victoriei nr. 38-40, "I. L. Caragiale" conference room, from 9:30 until 17:00. You can register until the 10th of November at bogdan.barna@romtens.ro

EVENT - SEMINAR (past)

24th of September, 2012, Timișoara, Romania: The EMUTOM project final seminar: "Class and e-learning in occupational medicine for undergraduate students"

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babeș", Timișoara, hosted on September the 24th, 2012, the final seminar of the EMUTOM project (the European Module for Undergraduate Teaching of Occupational Medicine), bringing together leading European practitioners and scholars in occupational medicine theory and practice.

The seminar resumed and focused on the main theme of the EMUTOM project: e-learning for undergraduates of occupational medicine.

Among the themes addressed during the seminar, were cross-national teaching in occupational medicine, evidence-based approach to e-learning in higher education programmes and overview on the European undergraduate curricula in occupational medicine. The participants addressed in workgroups two followings: (1) *How could you use the module in your university?* and (2) *Do you have examples for assignments relating to your country?*. They also resumed later for discussions in the plenary sessions.

Moreover, during the seminar, Prof. Dr. L. Braeckman, from Belgium, made a general presentation of the EMUTOM project. The project documented and collected online high-quality resources for students and professors of occupational medicine, promoting a common approach across Europe in regards to educating students in the field, and encouraging medical students to consider occupational medicine as

a career. It developed as a project submitted for funding from the Erasmus Programme under the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union, starting in October 2010, with a two years lifespan.

Also, the project was an initiative developed by the consortium partners within the European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine (EASOM) summer schools of 2008 and 2009 –“Teaching evidence-based occupational medicine” and respectively, “The workplace as a teaching environment”. The consortium behind it reunites the Ghent University, Belgium, the University Hospital Centre of Rouen, France, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babeş”, Timișoara, Romania, the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and the Coronel Institute, from the Netherlands.

Consequently, the platform built within the project can be accessed free of charge at this link: <http://www.emutom.eu/> (available only in English)

For further information: office@romtens.ro