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Strengthening the Occupational Health Expertise and Scientific Performance of Public Health Institution of Turkey



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Presentation trainings

A 1.1 and B 1.1 ptt 2

second plenary presentation
on day 1 of training A and B

A and B trainings

See also the training scheme of
the week A or B

A training

Training in the development of
a scientific study on workers health
surveillance

Content A training

- What is the question? Background data in society. Motivation for the study.
- What is already known in Turkish literature, in other international publications? PubMed search.
- Population? Men, women, migrants, age groups, pregnancy, workers with a medical condition? Personal protective equipment and other preventive measures implemented? Education and training; supervision?
- What is the main study objective; what are a few more specific objectives (= questions)?
- Is the focus on *many (occupational) diseases* related to one branch or occupation?
- Or on *one occupational disease*, related to one occupation?

Population and Methods

- How to select reliable measurement methods
- What is the final target population
 - all welders in metal industry in Turkey, several diseases
 - all workers in Turkey, focusing on work-related eye injuries
- What is the study population
 - 100 *welders* in 10 small scale metal companies in Istanbul: interviews, medical examinations
 - all *patients* at emergency departments of hospitals in five towns in one region in Turkey, focusing on eye injuries (2007- 2016), searching for occupations and causes

Discussion with scientists

- about what they do
- how they design a study
- what are problems and solutions?
- how the results are disseminated



Ethical and practical issues

- Ethics, quality , finances and other issues

The end product is a protocol (design) for a scientific study



B training

Training in the development of a
realistic SMART diagnosis and
surveillance program

Kind of surveillance programs/systems and background of the problem



- Objectives of a workers health surveillance program: for the workers & companies, or for national information purposes, or for both?
- Overview of information resources mainly in Turkey (branch data, register of mesothelioma diagnosis, national reports/articles, statistical data, cases reported in newspapers, data from websites, hospital records, social media). Numbers of workers involved, where exactly, sociodemographic data, details on production processes, protective or other preventive measures in place, willingness to accept a health surveillance, position of workers and employers and their interests
- What is the objective (objectives) of the proposed surveillance program?

Methods and population

- How to design your surveillance?
- What methods to use in practice?
- What is the target population (all nurses in elderly homes in Turkey) - what is the population in reality (all nurses who are member of one regional professional association of nurses)
- What are the diseases that you are looking at?
burnout, dermatitis, musculoskeletal complaints, infectious diseases caused by patient contacts, lung cancer...?



Hazards and risks at the work place

- What are hazards and risks?
- How can you measure these?
- What is the relation in practice between causes (risks) and effects? What are important factors that have a positive or negative impact on the occurrence of a specific disease (or accident)?
- Are small companies different from large ones? Solutions?

Collaboration

- And finances, and time constraints
- A risk profile of the project?

**The end product is a proposal for
a concrete workers' health
surveillance program**

Practical issues

- Without collaboration, coalitions and communication: no chance, no large and sustainable effect
- How to get collaboration and with whom?

Success with the trainings

