AGROSH+, training occupational medicine physicians and occupational health and safety experts involved in agricultural sector

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5. Work Research Centre (WRC), Dublin, Ireland
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Project’s title and acronym

- “OSH+ for the European Agriculture sector – Stimulating growth in rural areas through capacity building for providers (and beneficiaries) of occupational medicine and OSH services”
General information about AGROSH+ project (2/2)

Project Partners

- **P1 - ROMTENS Foundation** – applicant organization – ROMANIA;
- **P2 - PROLEPSIS** - Institute of Preventive Medicine Environmental and Occupational Health – GREECE;
- **P3 - FCBZR** - Foundation "Center for Safety and Health at Work“ – BULGARIA;
- **P4 - UMFVBT** - Victor Babeş University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara – ROMANIA;
- **P5 - WRC** - Work Research Centre Ireland Ltd – IRELAND;
Context

- In all 4 project partner’s countries agriculture is a key sector;

- Romtens Foundation performed a thorough analysis at country level in 5 countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland and Spain);

- agriculture occupies the 4th place (out of 22 NACE categories analyzed) in terms of number of both non-fatal and fatal accidents*;

- agriculture occupies the 4th position within the economic sectors producing sick leaves in EU-28 countries*;

- there is a stringent need of specific knowledge articulated as training packages for those OSH experts and occupational medicine physicians providing services to the agriculture sector;

*According to the 2012 data of EUROSTAT/ESAW for EU-28
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Objectives

The general objective: To enhance the knowledge and expertise of those OSH experts (safety engineers and occupational medicine doctors) who are in charge with providing OSH services (occupational safety & occupational health) to enterprises working within the agriculture sector (multiple sub-sectors comprised).

Specific objectives:

1. To assess the Training Needs of specialists (safety experts & occupational physicians) providing OSH services & Occupational medicine services to the agriculture sector.

2. To enhance the level of expertise (increasing their knowledge, skills, and attitude) for a number of 57 specialists (27 OSH experts & 30 Occ. Med. physicians).

3. To increase the level of information for a community of 100 OSH experts & Occupational and physicians (but also other interested parties) active in the agriculture sector.

4. To enhance partners’ institutional capacity (in terms of training in the fields of OSH & Occ. Med.) so as to further impact VET (vocational education and training) and education systems in accommodating changes of their curricula and contents related to the envisaged fields.
Innovation

Innovative aspects:

- Domains (OSH and Occ. Med.) and the economic sector in which we would like to experiment namely agriculture.

- Involvement (in the practical part of the training) of 6 rural companies which will be illustrative for the 6 sub-sectors of agriculture pursued during the training course.

- Blended training course, namely a combination of a face-to-face & e-learning training course.

- Involvement of European networks: ENETOSH (ROMTENS Foundation & FCBZR Bulgaria), ENWHP (ROMTENS Foundation & WRC), EASOM (UMFVBT Timisoara)

Complementarity:

- This project continues two large Romanian ESF funded projects "Development of HR in Rural Communities" (ID 58325) and "Development of HR in Rural Communities-PSCR2" (ID126095). Under these projects Romtens Foundation has trained 176 managers and employees from rural companies in becoming either Inspectors in OSH (40 hrs. training course) or specialists in OSH (80 hrs. training course).
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Main pillars

A. Transnational Meetings
B. Intellectual Outputs
C. Learning / Teaching / Training Activities
D. Multiplier Events

ICOH SYMPOSIA EDUCATION IN OSH, EMERGING TRENDS AND UNMET NEEDS, 26-28 OCTOBER, 2017, ZAGREB, CROATIA
A. Transnational Meetings

There are 5 Project Meetings

- M1 (Bucharest/Romania) - November 2016;
- M2 (Athens/Greece) – May 2017 & C2 - "2nd Joint Staff Training-Testing Course 2";
- M3 (Timisoara/Romania) – November 2017;
- M4 (Sofia/Bulgaria) – February 2018 & C1 - "1st Joint Staff Training-Testing Course 1";
- M5 (Dublin / Ireland) - May 2018 & ICOH AGROSH+ presentation;
B. Intellectual Outputs = Tangible Results

1. Course 1 Training Curriculum & Accreditation Dossier - Safety Experts
2. Course 2 Training Curriculum & Accreditation Dossier - Occupational Physicians
3. Course 1 Training Materials - Safety Experts
4. Course 2 Training Materials - Occupational Physicians
5. E-learning platform
6. Guideline for OSH practice within the Agriculture sector
C. Learning / Teaching / Training activities: The Innovative approach

- The project proposes a tiered process (2 steps involved) for each of the two training courses:

  **1st Step**

  Each partner will attend the two Joint Staff Training events. These events have been designed for joint work and collaborative testing of the training materials. The participation in the testing events is a reflection of one of the most important elements of the project design, joint authorship and joint responsibility for the two new products Course 1 and Course 2.

  **2nd Step**

  Partners will implement both of the training courses, for which the training materials were tested in step 1. Each of the two training courses is a blended training course, with both face-to-face and e-learning activities performed by the trainees.

  Romtens Foundation, FCBZR Bulgaria, and WRC Ireland will implement Course 1 designed for Safety Experts.

  Romtens Foundation, UMFVBT Romania and PROLEPSIS Greece will implement Course 2 designed for Occupational Medicine Physicians.
This training course represents the implementation of the Course 1-OSH for Agriculture, a training course which has been previously tested during the C1 event. The training course is going to be organized in Bucharest, under the coordination of ROMTENS Foundation.

The training course will have two stages, an e-learning stage spanning over a period of 20 days and a face-to-face stage over a period of 10 days. 18th – 30th June 2018.

14 Trainees: 
- 10 ROMTENS Foundation
- 2 FCBZR
- 2 WRC

Lecturers: 3 staff members (Romtens) who attended the C1 training event.

Accreditations: from National Authority for Qualifications and EUROPASS Mobility Certificates.

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This training course represents the implementation of the Course 2-Occupational Medicine for Agriculture, a training course which has been previously tested during the C2 event. The training course is going to be organized in Bucharest, under the joint coordination of ROMTENS Foundation and UMFVBT Timisoara.

The training course will have two stages, an e-learning stage spanning over a period of 20 days and a face-to-face stage over a period of 6 days from 20th – 26th November 2017.

16 Trainees:
- 10 - ROMTENS Foundation
- 2 - UMVFBT
- 2 - Prolepsis

Lecturers: 3 staff members (Romtens) who attended the C2 training event

Accreditations: UEMS-EACCME - Continuous Medical Education (CME) credits and EUROPASS Mobility Certificates.
E-learning platform

- The e-learning platform will be hosted on the AGROSH+ website (www.agrosh.ro);

- It will be used during the project in the learning activities (as already mentioned), but it will also be available after the project completion for users to access the information and develop their knowledge in the Occupational Safety & Health domain;

- Trainees will have access to: the modules developed during the project, PowerPoint presentations, quizzes for each module, videos, glossary and final assignment.
Guideline for OSH practice within the Agriculture sector

- There is a strong need for a comprehensive manual/book, addressing OSH in Agriculture, which should enclose information on different aspects and topics which are now not gathered and articulated in a single source;

- The Guideline for OSH practice within the Agriculture sector will include various aspects/data of interest in a structured manner, but it will also benefit of the international expertise and share information from different contexts and different experiences.
D. Multiplier Events

- there are 4 Multiplier Events - one for each country (in Romania only Romtens);
- Aim: to disseminate the main results of the project:
  - “Course 1 Training Materials- OSH for Agriculture“;
  - “Course 2 Training Materials- Occupational Medicine for Agriculture“;
  - ”Guideline for OSH practice within the Agriculture sector“;
- Each organization will organize an event for twenty (20) participants - Occupational Medicine Physicians/ Safety Experts, who are providing their services also for companies active in the agriculture sector.
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Occupational Physicians Course

- Few OM services cover agricultural sector in project countries
- OM specialists have no sufficient knowledge and practical experience in agriculture
- Specific occupational risks conduct at specific health problems and work accidents
- Kirkpatrick four stages evaluation approach is applied
- Peer review of course materials (OM expert analyze, peer-review instruments)
Occupational Physicians Course – Modules (1)

- Agriculture and Work, Occupational Health, Workplace Health Promotion, Occupational Medicine
- Economic sub-sectors within agriculture (raising cattle, raising sheep, cereals farms, fish farming, seafood farming, etc. – there are 15 identified according to the Romanian NACE system classifying economic sectors)
- Professional Risks - Risk Assessment in Agriculture
- Work related accidents in Agriculture
- Occupational diseases in Agriculture – statistics in the countries of the project
- Diseases of the skin for employees working in Agriculture
- Respiratory diseases for employees working in Agriculture
- Cardiovascular diseases for employees working in Agriculture
Occupational Physicians Course - Modules (2)

- Extreme temperatures in Agriculture – health problems
- Infectious diseases for employees working in Agriculture
- Musculoskeletal diseases for employees working in Agriculture
- Mental Health disorders for employees working in Agriculture
- Diseases of the eyes and ENT (ear-nose-throat) for employees working in Agriculture
- Chemical substances & Poisoning & Toxicology in Agriculture
- Occupational cancer – practical aspects
- Vulnerable groups working in agriculture (seasonal workers, part time workers, women, child labor, self-supporting households & farming, etc.)