Expert Advisory Board (EAB) – Bulgaria, Ministry of Health

Global UV Project

REPORT

5th International Advisory Committee Meeting
WHO, Geneva, 1st -2nd June 2016

I. General research activities in Bulgaria related to UV health

Ongoing projects
“Study, analyses and assessment of results of UVA and UVB sun protection in new developed cosmetics products for children and adults”

Funds: National budget: National Centre of Public Health and Analyses

Objective: Evaluation of the protection of cosmetic products by applying of a standard physical method of measurement – evaluation of the transmitted UV radiation emitted by source with standard characteristics of emission.

Scientific publications:
They are presented here in Chapter IV. New Public Information Activities

II. New Policies and Legislation regarding UV exposure

1. The first national meeting of the Bulgarian Expert Advisory Board (developed on the basis of the formal Bulgarian National Programme Committee) has been held in November 2015. The main topic of the meeting was “Present state of the legal framework and control of non-ionizing radiation in Bulgaria”.

The main discussed areas were the followings:
- New aspects of WHO policy in the field of NIR health and safety
- IAC meeting in May 2015: presentations of the participants at the International EMF Project, WHO
- Present state of the legislation concerning UV radiation exposure and risk assessment in Bulgaria
- European legislation in the field of protection against UV radiation emitted by solaria. International survey of the legislation in the field of UV protection, WHO
- Activities of the Bulgarian Expert Advisory Board.

More than 50 people attended the meeting: the deputy minister of health (the main health inspector of Bulgaria), representatives of the Health Inspectorates, municipalities,
telecommunication and construction companies, specialists, of course member of the Bulgarian EAB.

Some of the results achieved after discussion concerning optical (UV) radiation were the followings:
- The Bulgarian EAB to inform the Bulgarian Accreditation Body about the standards for evaluation of UV radiation published by international organizations as IEC, CENELC, ICNIRP and others, and to require these methods to be authorized for using by the control bodies in Bulgaria
- Organizing of training courses for employers and Occupational health services on topic “Minimal requirements for safe use of artificial sources of optical radiation”, based on Ordinance No.5, 2010 (Directive 2006/25/EC)
- Working group to be created to prepare a procedure for control of the NIR exposure by solaria; for this working group the industry should be invited to attend
- Training course in the field of measurement for minimum 10 Health Inspectorate to be organized.

III. Areas of public concern and national responses

The team of the Bulgarian EAB visited the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) for exchange of experience in the field of NIR protection and policy. The team presented data of measurements around base stations of mobile communication in Bulgaria; problems with the implementation of Directive 2013/35/EC and Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC; risk communication analyses; new areas of national responses.

Problems with practical use of the Directive 2006/25/EC have been discussed. The main problem in Bulgaria is that the control bodies don’t have competence for applying this Directive in practice. That is the reason workers and patients in most of the cosmetic centers, also occupations with sources of optical radiation (lasers in medical practice, physiotherapy, industry) to be exposed to high level of radiation without good protection.

NRPA and Bulgarian EAB adopted a programme for future collaboration between the two countries and teams in the field of research and practice concerning NIR health and safety.

IV. New public information activities:
1. News and publications in newspapers and websites

A paper in the Bulgarian journal "Social medicine" was published that describes the project activities and achievements related to the participation of the management team in workshops in Norway:

Israel M. Pl. Dimitrov, V. Zaryabova, J. Arnaudov - Team of NCPHA participated in workshops at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency, Social Medicine, issue 2, 2015, Current Information.

On the website of the National Centre of Public Health and Analyses, in category "News", electronic message was published associated with the visit of the management team in Norway with the following headline:

Team from the NCPHA participates in workshops in Norway Institute of Public Health and the Norwegian Radiation Protection Agency.
2. Furthermore, several *scientific publications* were published in international scientific journals and books (monographs). They are cited below:


3. *Training courses* in the field of NIR sources, health risk, legislation, measurements, risk communication, implementation of the precautionary principle have been conducted to control laboratories, regional inspections, also students.

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