

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

Global UV Project

REPORT

8th International Advisory Committee Meeting WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, 27th – 28nd May 2019 (for the period June 2018 – May 2019)

I. General research activities in Bulgaria related to UV health

Ongoing projects

Project: *Training in the field of the European legislation for protection of workers exposed to non-ionizing radiation: electromagnetic fields, optical, laser radiation*

Funds: “Working conditions Fund” belonging to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Research team: National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA); Expert Advisory Board on non-ionizing radiation protection

Finished: November 2018

Overall objective: Training of managers and specialists in the Regional Health Inspectorates in the requirements of Directive 35/2013/EC and Directive 2006/25/EC transposed in Bulgaria as Ordinance No.RD 07-5, State gazette 95, 2017, and as Ordinance No.5, State gazette 49, 2010.

“New data and analyses of results for UVA and UVB sun protection in cosmetic products for children and adults”

Funds: National budget: National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)

Research team: Physical Factors Department, Chemical substances and mixtures and food contact materials Department at NCPHA

Duration: 2018- 2019

Objective: within the project evaluation of the UV protection of newly developed cosmetic products for children and adults is performed. The assessment of sun protection is made by applying of physical *in vitro* method. New sunscreen products (23 creams, lotions, body oils, etc.) were tested to check the declared sun protection factor from the manufacturer. If necessary, recommendations for changes of the prescription are made to achieve the needed protection.

Scientific forums and publications:

There were three publications in Bulgarian language on results of study of newly developed cosmetic products with UV protection in the reported period.

II. New Policies and Legislation regarding UV exposure

The directors of the Regional Health Inspectorates (the control bodies of the Ministry of Health) had been trained in the field of the new legislation concerning non-ionizing radiation.

The main discussed areas in the field of optical radiation were the followings:

- Artificial sources of optical radiation and their application;
- Optical radiation hazards determination at the working environment
- Acute and Chronic effects of optical radiation exposure
- Biological criteria for establishing exposure limits
- Exposure limit values for non-coherent and laser radiation;
- Laser safety;
- Factors taken into account when assessing optical risks at work place;
- Problems of control of the optical radiation exposure in working places, etc..

All 28 managers of all Regional Health Inspectorates participated in the course, and their knowledge had been tested after the training.

The expected result from the training is better understanding and implementation of nonionizing radiation legislation.

There is still no national legislation for general public health protection with regard to exposure from artificial sources of UV radiation.

II. New public information activities:

WHO Brochure ‘Artificial Tanning devices. Public health interventions to manage sunbeds’ has been translated in Bulgarian language. Now it is at stage of technical editing for printing. We expect hard copy to be printed in several months. The electronic copy will be made available on the webpage of the National Centre of Public Health and Analyses and the Ministry of Health.

It will serve as a basis for activating the process for a development of legislation for public health protection on using tanning devices.

Forecasts for UVI index are provided by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. UVI information is published and/or presented in different informational media.

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