

WHO Global UV Project IAC meeting Germany - National Report 2017

1 Sunbed legislation

Germany prohibit people under the age of 18 from using sunbeds by law (since 2009), and had strictly regulated the operation of sunbeds through a ordinance (since 2012). It could be observed that the age limitation may well drive more under-age clients to unsupervised sunbeds¹. Reports of the German Federal states who are responsible for monitoring the sunbed operation according to the statutory decree, as well as the forum contributions of sunbed operators and representatives of the sunbed industry show that compliance with the regulations can exclusively be enforced by means of elaborate controls which take into account all the details of the legal regulations and which also take place on a regular and comprehensive basis. This is associated with a high personnel and time effort, and thus with a high financial expenditure. Since 2012, in some cases legislation has resulted in several operators deciding to cease offering sunbed services.

2 UV Protection Alliance

The interdisciplinary Alliance² published 2017 its position paper "Prevention of Adverse Health Effects of the Sun - Structural Prevention in the City and in the Countryside" (English version soon available). With this, the Alliance pursues the aim to establish nationwide structural prevention measures like sun shading or adapting daily routines or workflows to the respective UV exposure. All those who are outdoors should be given the opportunity to avoid high UV exposure and also - as far as this is feasible with measures that minimize exposure to UV radiation – heat stress. With this paper, the UV Protection Alliance reaches out to relevant decision-makers, including ministries and authorities at the federal and state level, social insurance carriers, trade unions, employer's liability insurance associations, employers' organizations, providers of public facilities, organizations that provide or coordinate education, as well as to the media. Activities are started. The first expert workshop took place in Mai 2017 with specifying more concrete the necessary measures for establishing architectural UV protection modules.

3 Adaptation to the health effects of climate change

High temperatures, heat waves, and thus increased sunny days with more possibilities for UV overexposure lead increasingly to health problems – also in Germany. In support of the German Federal States and municipal administrations, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Ad Hoc Working Group on "Health adaptation to the effects of climate change" has worked out recommendations for the development of heat action plans to protect human – also with respect to UV exposure. For example, outdoor heat protective measures like tree planting can also be used as effective UV protection.

¹ Diehl K, Bock C, Greinert R, Breitbart E, Schneider S. Use of sunbeds by minors despite a legal regulation: extent, characteristics, and reasons. J Public Health. 2013; 21:427–33.

² www.bfs.de/EN/topics/opt/uv/protection/alliance/alliance_node.html