General research activities in your country related to UV health

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) contribute to several research projects where UV monitoring data and modelling of UV radiation and exposure are needed, particularly research projects related to skin cancers, light sensitive diseases and connected to climate reports. Projects include cost-benefit analyses of melanoma and different measures to reduce incidence and mortality, exposure modelling and epidemiologic studies.

From 3-4 November 2016, 45 European experts met in Bergen (Norway) at the 8th international workshop of the European Society of Skin Cancer Prevention (EUROSkin) which took place together with the annual meeting for the Norwegian Society for Photobiology and Photomedicine (NOFFOF). An NRPA employee hold the position of presidency for this period and organized the workshop. This constellation enabled a lively discussion between experts of photobiology, coming from the lab, with epidemiologists and public health professionals dealing with primary and secondary prevention of skin cancer. Topics covered identification of biomarkers, importance of combining behavioral changes and structural prevention, effectiveness of skin cancer screening and new communication concepts in skin cancer prevention. A short summary of the workshop were submitted to Oncology News (www.oncologynews.biz), and following a long tradition, EUROSKIN summarized the scientific outcome of the workshop as specific recommendations, published on the EUROSKIN website (www.euroskin.eu).

New policies and legislations regarding UV exposure

Cosmetic use of sunbeds has been regulated in Norway since 1983. Right from the beginning it has been technical requirements and requirements for a warning poster (a given content, but voluntary design) in an easily visible position on the premises. In recent years, several administrative requirements have been added:

- 18 years age limit – from July 2012
- Requirement to inform each customer about relevant risk factors (mandatory brochure made by the authority) – from January 2015
- Mandatory knowledge test for person responsible for solariums and employees in contact with customers – from January 2016
- Requirement for age control system (not a requirement for staffing, but requirement for a technical system) – from January 2017
- Mandatory to use warning poster designed by the authority – from January 2017

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) is the responsible authority for the sunbed regulation in Norway, but inspection authority is delegated to municipal authorities.

Areas of public concern and national responses

NRPA is for 2017-2018 given the assignment from the Ministry of Health and Care Services to form a national strategy to reduce skin cancer incidence and mortality. The working group, led by NRPA, consists of leading authorities and institutions with means and instruments to support the work. Volunteer organizations and NGOs will also be engaged.

The Nordic radiation protection authorities published in April 2017 a joint statement “Outdoor environments for children must offer sun protected areas”, aimed to advice
municipal administrations, urban planners and those responsible for children in pre-schools, schools and outdoor recreational settings to incorporate measures that improve sun protection for children.

The Norwegian Cancer Society and NRPA perform a survey of sun habits and attitudes about every second year, the last in 2016, divided in one for the general population (age 18+; 1147 respondents) and one for the younger age group (15-24 years; 1035 respondents). From both surveys, we see a tendency to decreased number of sunburns and use of sunbeds, and we see that most Norwegians still protect themselves using sunscreen.

**New public information activities**

Every year, prior to Easter holiday, schools’ summer vacation and days with high UV intensities, NRPA in collaboration with the Norwegian Cancer Society, Norwegian Meteorological Institute and Norwegian Institute for Air Research publish joint press releases regarding UV situation and sun protection.

Euromelanoma was carried out in Norway 21 May 2017, for the fourth year in a row, and as a collaboration between the Norwegian Cancer Society and the Norwegian Society of Dermatology and Venerology. Skin cancer checking is offered, companioned by public information on skin cancer in general.

16 June 2017,

Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority