

## **SWEDEN**

### **Report on UV activities June 2016 – May 2017**

#### **General research activities in your country related to UV health**

No general research activities have been performed in Sweden during this period.

#### **New policies and legislations regarding UV exposure**

In March of 2017 the Swedish Government decided on legislation concerning an age limit for the public using tanning facilities. It will be illegal to offer sunbeds to people younger than 18 years of age. The age ban will come into force by the 1st of September 2018. The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority will during 2017 revise the current regulation concerning sunbeds.

Sweden has 16 environmental objectives where one of these objectives are called A safe Radiation Environment. Within the scope of some of these environmental objectives there are a few suggestions on how the relevant authorities can cooperate in order to improve the outdoor environment for children, where the exposure for UV-radiation will be one of the aspects.

#### **Areas of public concern and national responses**

Since 2005, the authority has performed an annual survey of sun habits and attitudes sent to 2000 people between ages of 18 and 74 in Sweden. During 2016 this survey was revised with the purpose of making some of the questions more simple to understand from a technical and cognitive point of view. This revision has made, and will make, the interpretation of the results easier and more reliable. In general the results from the 2016 survey are more or less the same as the older surveys when it comes to attitudes and sun safety behaviour. However, there seem to be an indication of a higher use of sun safety measures as well as a decrease of sunbed use and the number of burns caused by sunbeds.

#### **New public information activities**

A joint statement from the Nordic radiation protection authorities were made during the spring of 2017. The statement addressed the importance of sun protected areas in outdoor environments. The Nordic radiation protection authorities advised 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

***Swedish Radiation Safety Authority***