

Report from the MODERNET meeting in Prague (20-21/10/2016)

This year MODERNET meeting with the title: "Occupational and environmental diseases; from nano-problem to big data" took place in Prague. The meeting gathered MODERNET members from all over the world. Beside the rich scientific and social program, two meetings of MODERNET members were also held during the conference. The main topics discussed in the meetings were: 1) Overview of MODERNET members and financial situation; 2) Current activities and future plans of MODERNET; 3) Organisation of the next MODERNET meeting; 4) Composition of the steering group and roles.

Overview of MODERNET members and financial situation

Firstly, Annet Lenderink (AMC Coronel Institute Occupational Health) presented **past events** organised by or involving MODERNET. Among other, some of the significant events were the opening of the bank account at KBC Leuven (6/11/2015), as well as donation from surplus of the COST Action 1002IS MODERNET of the AMC (19/11/2015). Beside these events on the financial plan, MODERNET participated in a number of scientific meeting and conferences. Some of them are the SIMLII conference in Milano (25-27/11/2015), conference in Amsterdam on European Conference on Carcinogens: "Preventing work-related cancer" (4/2016), 34th conference de Médecine et Santé au Travail Paris (23/6/2016). In addition, MODERNET session was held at the EPICOH conference in Barcelona (7/9/2016), as well as at the ISES conference 2016 (session on detecting NERs) (12/10/2016). Furthermore, several new members joined the MODERNET group recently and currently there are 48 **registered members**. The members are informed on MODERNET activities, they receive the Newsletters, and have a reduction on fee for conferences. Finally, Annet presented the budget of MODERNET for the year 2016. This was followed by a discussion on further **financial possibilities**, especially potential application for the next COST Action (7/12/2016).

Current activities and future plans of MODERNET

Lode Godderis (KU Leuven) presented **current scientific collaborations** involving MODERNET. This includes collaboration with EU-OSHA on work-related diseases, namely three reviews of research, policy and practice on rehabilitation and return-to-work after cancer, work-related diseases caused by biological agents and sentinel and alert systems in OSH. Also, MODERNET is currently involved in the projects regarding the evolution of burnout in the EU and vibration-related diseases. In addition, possibilities for collaboration with European Commission were discussed as well the impact of EU legislation on the work of MODERNET. **Future research ideas and plans** were also considered, mainly focusing on Horizon 2020. Participants agreed to form the core group of people that would focus on the Horizon 2020 program for the next year (Vincent Bonnetterre, Annet Lenderink, and Henk van der Molen). There are two calls that are of special interest for MODERNET: the call on Big Data and Human Exposome. These calls will be followed up by Lode Godderis. Claudio Colosio will lead the group focusing on the Public Health topics. Pierluigi Cocco will join this group in order to include sleeping disorders as a potential topic of interest. Beside the Horizon 2020, additional possibilities include call for tenders VT/2016/027 concerning: Multiple Framework Contracts for the provision of services related to the implementation of Better Regulation Guidelines (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission): partner and country experts: PPMI Group, UAB (Vilnius).

Organisation of the next MODERNET meeting

Another discussed item was the organisation of **the next MODERNET meeting**. There was a suggestion to organise the next MODERNET meeting together with the EPICOH meeting at the end of august 2017. This could be organised in a form of a joint morning session and a separate afternoon

session of MODERNET. In general, comments of the other MODERNET members were supportive. General concern was on the costs of the meeting that could be rather high due to the location of the meeting (Edinburg, Scotland). Tim Driscoll will lead the organisation of the next meeting. Alternative locations are Slovakia (possibilities for integration with Congress of occupational medicine) and Germany (Berlin or Dresden).

Composition of the steering group and roles

Finally, we considered division of the tasks within MODERNET members.

There was an agreement on forming the **group for nanoparticles** within the MODERNET. This group will be coordinated by Daniela Pelclova. Participants were encouraged to think about the potential legislative support for activities of this group. Participants also expressed their concerns on the quality of performed research on nanoparticles. For instance, one of the obstacle when performing research on nanoparticles is a limited number of exposed workers in the studies. There was an idea on the possibility of developing guidelines/protocol that would determine standards for performing research on exposure and health effects of nanoparticles. In addition, it is of high importance to perform adequate exposure evaluation and monitor early effects of nanoparticles. Moreover, participants pointed out the importance of the link between description of nanoparticles and their definition as well as identification of features of nanoparticles that are important for their toxic effects. These concerns could be further elaborated within the nanoparticles group.

Other members also took over responsibility for certain tasks. Delphine Rieutort agreed to take over the secretary position. Regarding the **newsletter**, there was a suggestion to create a sequence of countries that would be responsible for a specific newsletter edition. The idea was supported by the other members. It was agreed that three newsletters should be produced each year. Chiara Foresti was chosen as a coordinator who would make a list of countries and take care of the important dates regarding the newsletter. We also discussed the possibilities to make MODERNET more trending. There were several suggestions. For instance, MODERNET-related topics could be included in the **OSH wiki**. Jill Stocks agreed to take responsibility for this task. Furthermore, popularisation can be encouraged via different social media, such as Twitter. The already existing means of popularisation (website, newsletter) should be further improved and upgraded.

Moreover, participants were invited to think about the ideas for a better campaign pledge for the *EU-OSHA campaign on healthy workers of all ages*. It was agreed that the text will be circulated so that people could send their ideas and suggestions.