

Scientific Report: COST Action IS1002 – Management Committee meeting and meeting of Working Groups 1 to 4, Leuven, Belgium, 12th to 14th of June 2012.

The third meeting of the cost-modernet management committee and associated working groups was organised by the KULeuven, Department of Occupational, Environmental and Insurance Medicine, Belgium. The local organiser was Professor Lode Godderis, occupational physician and STSM coordinator of the COST action.

Day 1 started with a business meeting of the International Commission on Occupational Health, Scientific Commission on Occupational Medicine (ICOH). In this meeting the shared interest in the early detection of occupational diseases and trends was expressed and practical arrangements were made on the dissemination of results of the COST-Modernet actions on the upcoming events organised by (ICOH-OM). This meeting was followed by a Core Group (CG) meeting (attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair, STMS coordinator and leaders of the 4 COST workgroups) to prepare the Management Committee (MC) meeting. During the CG and MC meeting were discussed: the detailed program of the Leuven meeting, further actions to meet the objectives of the COST action and more specifically on how to ensure a balance in division of labour and commitment of all COST representatives. In addition during the MC meeting COST status and progress was discussed.

Day 2 started with two lectures given by 2 invited speakers: Prof. Dr. Geert Verbeke (Biostatistics KULeuven, Belgium) on the analysis of trends and Prof. Dr. Malcolm Sim (Monash University, Australia) on the challenges and opportunities of modern work-related diseases. The rest of the day was reserved for parallel working group meetings of the 4 COST working groups: with two main topics: “How to meet our objectives and to provide measurable outcome” and “Presentation of the progression made by each country”. In between the working group session an additional MC meeting was scheduled on the FP7 call 2013 on Work Programme in the area of Health research.

Topics discussed by Working Group 1 ‘Improvement of quality of data collection in occupational diseases’ included a Cochrane review on reducing the underreporting of occupational disease, differences in occupational diseases classification system among different countries and quality in collecting literature data on occupational diseases. Working group 2 reported the following progression on the ‘Application of new techniques and methods for analysis of trends in ODs’: Consensus on best practice on analysing change in incidence, Illustrate the impact of an intervention using surveillance data by working out 3 cases and extend trends analyses to as many countries. Working Group 3 ‘New techniques for tracing newly occurring occupational diseases’ suggested worked out a dual approach: a qualitative by developing a EU sentinel clinical watch and reporting system and a quantitative on the application of methods for systematic data analysis (Data mining, GIS,...). Working Group 4 ‘Dissemination and implementation of new knowledge on occupational diseases’ discussed the status and possible improvements of the website and social media business. A survey tool to gather information for other Cost Project WGs was developed. The day was ended by a plenary session on “Recent research and new concepts”.

Day 3 started with the presentation of the outcome of the parallel meetings to the plenary session by the work group leaders and during the plenary session results on research on

detecting occupational diseases and health effects were presented by various members. The Leuven meeting was closed by a final MC meeting in which a working plan for the FP7 call was presented and in which it was agreed that the next meeting of the management committee would be in Italy (place and date to be confirmed), November, 2012.