

Application of new techniques and methods for analysis  
of trends in occupational diseases

**WORKING GROUP 2 REPORT**

**COST Meeting**

**Amsterdam 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

## WG 2: Attendees

France:

Christophe Paris

Italy:

Chiara Somaruga

Netherlands:

Henk Van der Molen

Teake Pal

UK:

Raymond Agius (Leader)

## WG 2: Application of new techniques and methods for analysis of trends in occupational diseases

1. Consensus on best practice for establishing true change in population risk over time.
2. Extend the trend analyses performed in the UK to other member countries.
3. Consensus on the most appropriate methods for tracking change in incidence for each country.
4. Three case studies overall where the impact of an intervention to prevent a specific problem is assessed through temporal changes in surveillance data.

# Experience with the topics above and already executed research

- Multi-level-modelling of trends data (published papers by McNamee, Carder, Agius et al in UK)
- Three case studies in progress in the UK where the impact of an intervention to prevent a specific problem is assessed through temporal changes in surveillance data
  - Latex asthma
  - CrVI dermatitis
  - Glutaraldehyde asthma
- Other countries e.g.
  - France (work in progress) – C. Paris et al (work related asthma trends), L. Bensefa et al (work related dermatitis trends)
  - Netherlands - ? NIHL
  - Italy ? But recent new system ...(but compensation data may be difficult / different for this purpose because of national variation)

# Possibilities for additional funding

- EU: ...Framework programme - To discuss ? Systematic review needed in relation to Modernet collaboration
- France: ANSES 'appel' ? In 2012 (French team but can have other countries) Max €200k P.A.
- Italy: Social Insurance Institute (INAIL)
- Netherlands: ? Ministry of Social Affairs, possibly others – interest in prevention (evaluation of intervention) not trends *per se*
- UK: Health & Safety Executive, Charities e.g. COLT, BOHRF

NB: Seek funding again for trends in exposure

# Available capacities and expertise of the participating centres concerning the topics

- France:
  - strong statistical expertise in various methods for measuring trends in work related ill health (time series vs ZINB, vs internal logistic regression) etc as applied to RNV3P ? Other databases
- UK:
  - Multi-level-modelling of trends data, & other methods
  - Case studies of the impact of an intervention assessed through temporal changes in surveillance data (as applied to THOR)
- Netherlands:
  - Application to special groups of physicians to be explored
- Italy:
  - Milan database relates to occupational health in agricultural workers
  - ? Bologna – musculoskeletal disorders
- Sharing / Seeding of methods in other countries

# Expected publications on the topic

**NB: Pre-COST / Non-COST (Modernet) e.g.**

Three case studies in progress in the UK where the impact of an intervention to prevent a specific problem is assessed through temporal changes in surveillance data, besides trends methodology

In France: methodologic paper (accepted) and papers on work-related asthma and on dermatitis are in progress

Meta-analyses – using identical methods on different databases

## **COST publications:**

Consensus on:

- Best practice for establishing true change in population risk over time.
- The most appropriate methods for tracking change in incidence for each country. (each COST country to be invited to contribute)



# Options for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM's)

- Short-Term Scientific Missions - These Missions (Inter-laboratory Exchange Visits) aim at strengthening the existing COST Actions by allowing scientists to go to an institution or laboratory in another COST country to foster collaboration, to learn a new technique or to take measurements using instruments and/or methods not available in their own institution/laboratory. They are particularly intended for Early Stage Researchers.
- France <->
- UK <->
- ? Joint hosting
- Other countries: ... ?



# Communication on the activities of WG 2: Application of new techniques and methods for analysis of trends in occupational diseases

- Consensus documents
  - Peer reviewed literature as far as possible
  - On the web too
- Other information on web
  - Questions and answers ( provided we are satisfied with the quality)
- Conferences

**NB: links with WG4 essential**

# SUMMARY / ACTION PLAN for WG 2: Application of new techniques and methods for analysis of trends in occupational diseases

- See earlier slides for details
- Other matters agreed at today's meeting:
  - A two tier approach might arise by necessity rather than by choice
  - 1<sup>st</sup> consensus document draft planned by circulation between today's WG2 attendees before next meeting.
  - Then circulated to all COST participants for comments
- ? Next meeting in Manchester: 30<sup>th</sup> November / 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011
  - (but EPICOH had been suggested in the last meeting)
  - Video-conferencing as a possibility
- Other

## WG 2:

# Application of new techniques and methods for analysis of trends in occupational diseases

Dank u wel

Vragen als u blijft

