State of the Art report

Results of surveys and literature review for:
A. infectious diseases
B. chemical and radiological events
C. fishing vessels
D. core capacities training needs
E. inland navigation

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Work Package Leader: Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain and Univeritätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf

EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action
The impact on maritime transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases
Joint Action financed: EU Public Health Programme 2008-2013 Years: 2013-2016 (5 months) Total cost: € 2.571.346
Subsidy from EC: 1.765.947. Leader Organization: University of Thessaly (UTH), Greece

OBJECTIVES

To describe:
A. Evidence for chemical, biological and radiological events on ships or at ports.
B. Characteristics of authorities responsible for responding to radiological and chemical events.
C. Practices & legal framework related to radiological and chemical events.
D. Hygiene standards & inspection practices related to fishing vessels.
E. Training needs related to core capacities under IHR* 2005 at ports.
F. Practices & responsibilities of port health authorities along inland waterways.

* International Health Regulations. World Health Organization 2005

RESULTS

Part A. Infectious diseases

Communicable diseases outbreaks

Food and Waterborne diseases outbreaks

Respiratory diseases outbreaks

Vaccine preventable diseases outbreaks

Part B. Radiological and chemical events

Radiological events according to the type of ship. N=13

Chemical events according to the type of ship. N=94

Radiological events according to the place of occurrence. N=13

Chemical events according to the place of occurrence. N=94

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Partners: 32 partners from 24 EU/MS, European and International Institutions, shipping Industry. Advisory Board: DG SANT, CHAFEA, CDC, WMO, CDC-VSP. Associated partners: Regional Health Inspectorate-Varna, Bulgaria/Regional Health Inspection-Budapest, Bulgaria/Hamburg Port Health Center, Germany/Robert Koch-Institute, Germany/National School of Public Health, Greece/Directorate of Health, Centre for Health Security and Communication Disease, Ireland/Health Service Executive, Ireland/Ministry of Health, Italy/Klaipeda Public Health Center, Lithuania/National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia/Institute De Salud Carlos III, Spain/Public Health England, Centre for Radiation Chemical and Environmental Hazards, United Kingdom/Academic and Teaching Hospital, United Kingdom/Ministry of Health, Austria/Federal Public Service of Health, Belgium/Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Croatia/Ministry of Health, Cyprus/Centre of Maritime Health and Society, University of Southern Denmark/Health Board, Estonia/Ministry of Labour, Employment and Health, France/Minister for Health, the Elderly and Community Care, Malta/Municipal Health Services Rotterdam, Netherlands/National Institute for Health and the Environment, Netherlands/Norwegian Directorate of Health, Norway/Ministry of Health, Portugal/Medical University of Gdansk, Poland/Ministry of Health, Romania/Ministry of Health, Russia/Ministry of Health, Spain/Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
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C. Fishing vessels
D. Core capacities training needs
E. Inland navigation

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RESULTS

Part A. Infectious diseases
- Most frequently published outbreaks on ships were due to food and waterborne diseases, mainly norovirus transmitted from person to person.
- Highest lethality was due to Legionella.
- Norovirus and Legionnaires’ disease reported more often on cruise ships than in other type of ships.
- Tuberculosis was not reported on cruise ships or ferries.
- Vaccine preventable diseases mainly on crew from cruise ships.

Part B. Radiological and chemical events on ships or at ports
- No published radiological public health events affecting people on ships or at ports in recent years.
- Chemical events published occurred in cargo and fishing vessels.

Part C. Fishing vessels
- Most of the countries do not perform regular inspections.
- Almost 60% of the respondents report fishing vessels to the competent authority.

Part D. Core capacities
- Personnel working at ports mentioned specific training needs. Mainly training needs on:
  - Public health risks on microbiological, radiological and chemical agents.
  - Proceedings to report to competent authority at port.
  - Proceedings to communicate with other authorities.
  - Quarantine of suspected travellers.

Part E. Inland waterways
- Development of international hygiene and sanitation guidelines for inland navigation vessels.
- Need for standardized training of European port health inspectors.
- Need for an improved exchange of information between port health authorities.

SUMMARY

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