

“WORKERS’ HEALTH: GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION”- IN WHO EUROPEAN REGION

Dr Elizabet Paunovic,
WHO European Centre for
Environment and Health



What is the starting point?

“The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being”.

WHO Constitution



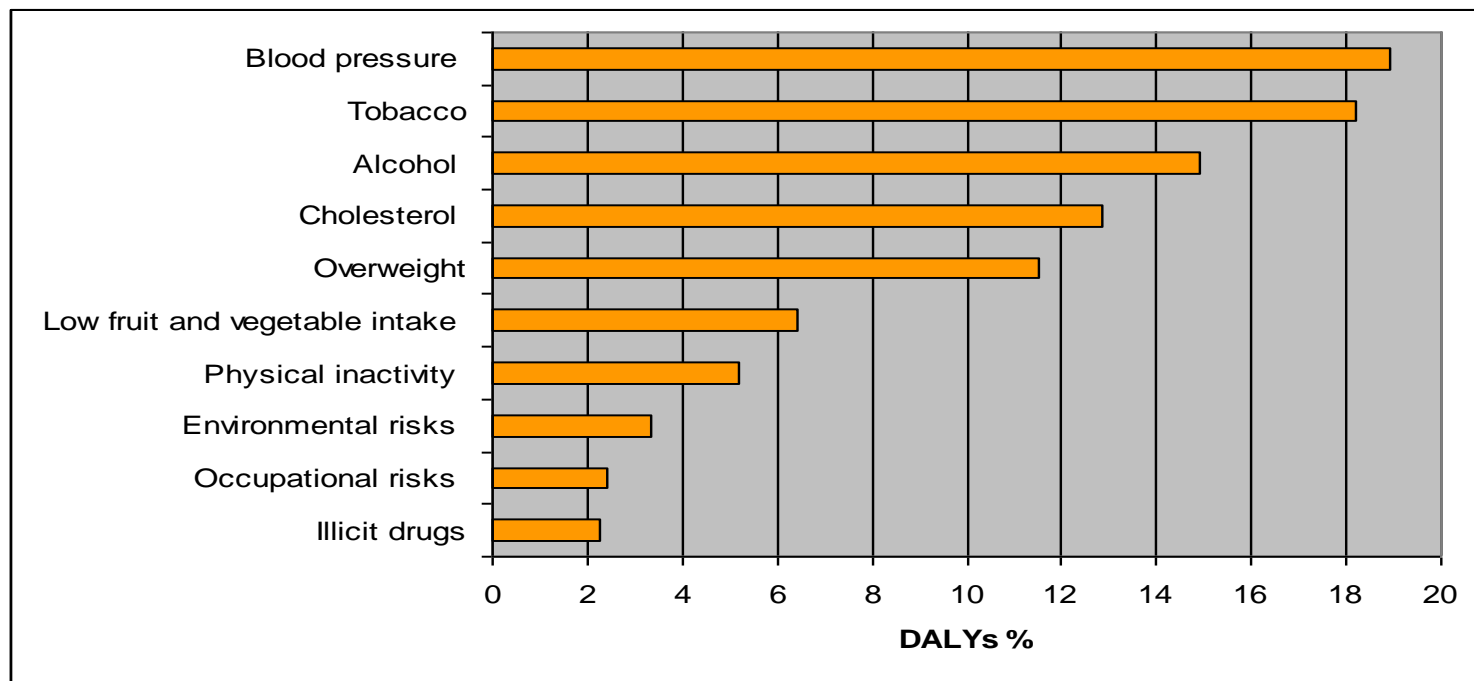
Outline of the Presentation



- Burden of occupational diseases and injuries in WHO European Region
- Regional disparities in health
- WHO response under the global occupational health specific legal framework for action
- Health 2020 as the new framework for action on improving health in WHO European Region and the place of occupational health
- Concluding remarks

Burden of occupational diseases and injuries in WHO European Region

Fig. 1. Burden of disease due to major risk factors in the European Region



Source: WHO (2004) http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/cra/en/index.html

Burden of occupational diseases and injuries in WHO European Region

Comparison of occupational burden of diseases to other factors in the European region (unit: thousand DALYs)

<i>Risk factor</i>	<i>DALYs in the European region</i>
Selected occupational risks	2483
Occupational injuries	1000
Carcinogens	443
Airborne particulates	409
Ergonomic stressors	97
Noise	634
Urban air pollution	859
Illicit drug use	2332
High Blood Pressure	19349
Alcohol	15261
Tobacco	18613

Source: WHO (2004). http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/cra/en/index.html

Attributable fraction of work-related NCDs

- In WHO European Region:
 - 6-14% of lung cancer (32 400) and virtually all mesothelioma (7 000) due to occupational exposure (Driscoll T, et al. 2005)
 - 42 % of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease due to occupational and environmental factors (WHO. 2006)

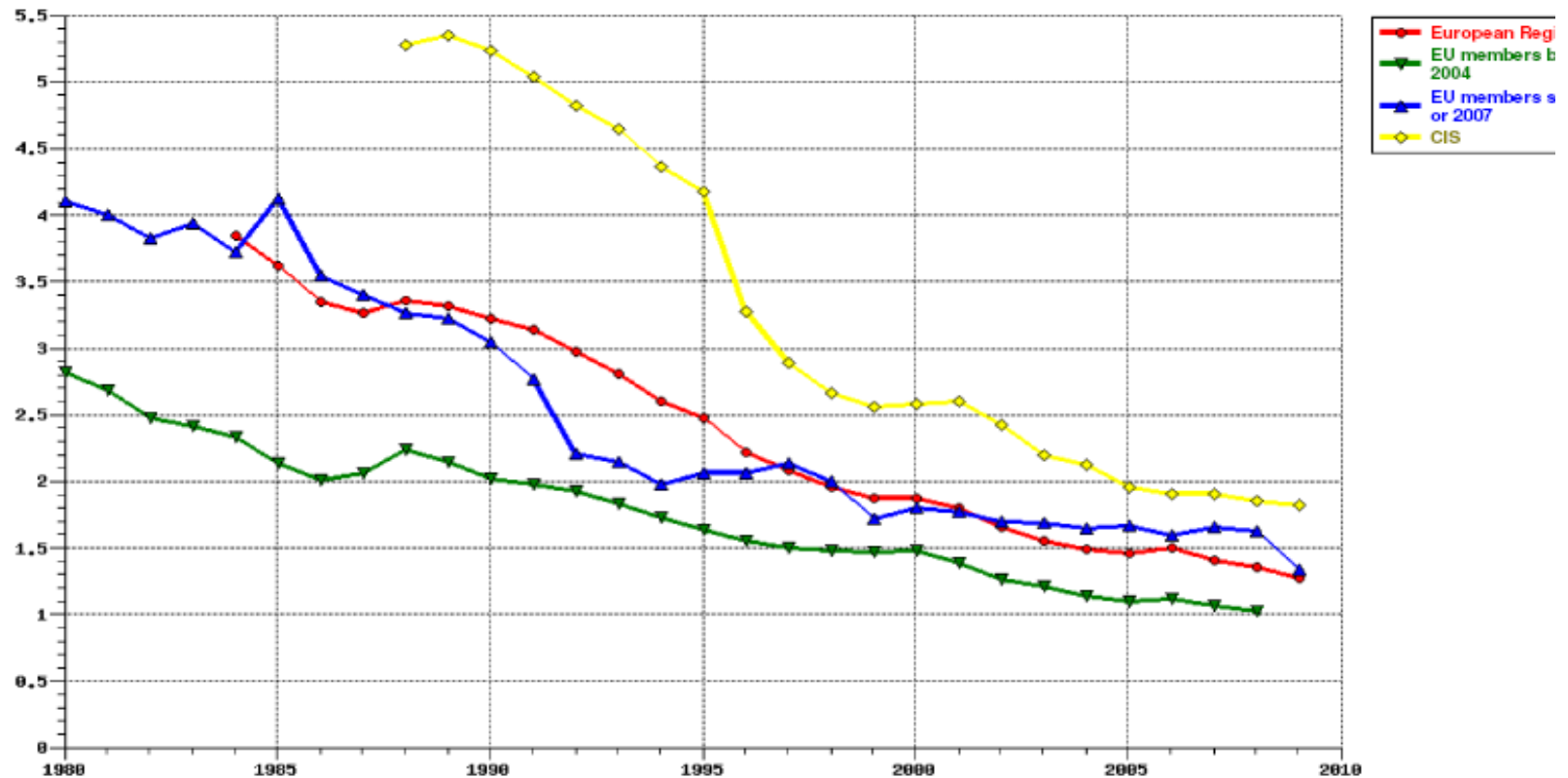
There is a huge variation between the countries and WHO regions

Key facts on occupational cancer

- Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, with 12.7 million new cases and 7.6 million deaths in 2008.
- Globally, 19% of all cancers are attributable to the environment, including work setting resulting in 1.3 million deaths each year.
- WHO has classified 107 agents, mixtures, and exposure situations as carcinogenic to humans.
- External environmental causes of cancer are factors in the environment that increase risk of cancer such as air pollution, UV radiation and indoor radon.
- Every tenth lung cancer death is closely related to risks in the workplace.
- Lung cancer, mesothelioma, and bladder cancer are among the most common types of occupational cancers.

Regional disparities in health

Deaths due to work-related accidents per 100000



Source: WHO/Europe, European HFA Database, January 2011

Health approach promoted by WHO

Occupational Health

- Labour Contract
- Employer's responsibility
 - Only at the workplace
 - Only work-related health issues
- Negotiation between workers and employers

Workers Health

- All workers
 - Beyond the workplace
- Responsibility of everybody
 - All health determinants
- Other stakeholders: insurance, health and environment authorities
- Health protection not subject to collective negotiation

Global framework

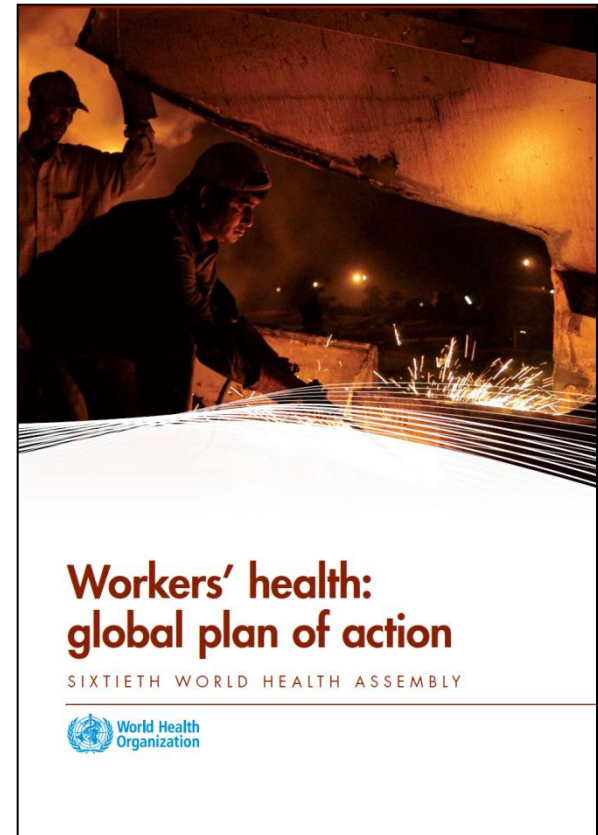


- Alma Ata Declaration - *bringing health care as close as possible to where people live and work*
- WHO Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All – WHA 49 (1996)
- WSSD (2002) Plan of Implementation: strengthening WHO programme on occupational health and linking it to public health
- Resolution 60. 26 “Workers’ Health: Global Plan of Action”
- Regional efforts
 - EURO Environment and Health Ministerial Conferences

60th World Health Assembly, 2007

Resolution 60.26 "Workers' Health: Global Plan of Action"

- Devise national plans of action on workers' health
- Work towards full coverage of all workers with essential interventions and basic services for prevention
- Strengthen core institutional and human resource capacities
- Incorporate workers' health in other national and sectoral policies
- Stimulate reintegration of sick and injured workers



Implementation

- **Government leadership with participation of employers and workers**
- **Adaptation to national specificities and priorities**
- **WHO support for implementation:**
 - partnerships – ILO, organizations of employers, trade unions, civil society and private sector
 - standard setting, guidance, contribution to adoption and implementation of international labour conventions
 - articulating policy options for national agendas
 - technical support for specific needs and building core capacities
 - monitoring and addressing trends
- **Review and monitoring**
 - national and international indicators of achievement
 - reporting to WHA in 2013 and 2018



Ministerial Parma Declaration



“ We are committed to act on the key environment and health challenges of our time. These include:..... the burden of noncommunicable diseases, in particular to the extent that it can be reduced through adequate policies in areas such as urban development, transport, food safety and nutrition, and living and working environment.....”

”.... In particular, unless we have already done so, we will develop by 2015 national programmes for elimination of asbestos-related diseases in collaboration with WHO and ILO. “

Source :http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/78608/E93618.pdf

Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being

“What makes societies prosper and flourish also makes people healthy – policies that recognize this have more impact. Fair access to education, decent work, housing and income all support health. Health contributes to increased productivity, a more efficient workforce, healthier ageing, and less expenditure on sickness and social benefits and fewer lost tax revenues.”



Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being



Countries, regions and cities setting common objectives and joint investment between health and other sectors can significantly improve health and well-being. Priority areas include: preschool education, educational performance, employment and working conditions, social protection and reducing poverty.

The Health 2020 policy is based on priority areas for policy action:



- investing in health through a life-course approach and empowering people;
- tackling the Region's major health challenges of noncommunicable and communicable diseases;
- strengthening people-centred health systems, public health capacity and emergency preparedness, surveillance and response;
- creating resilient communities and supportive environments.

Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being

Health promotion programmes based on principles of engagement and empowerment offer real benefits.



.....promoting healthy workplaces.....

European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2012–2016

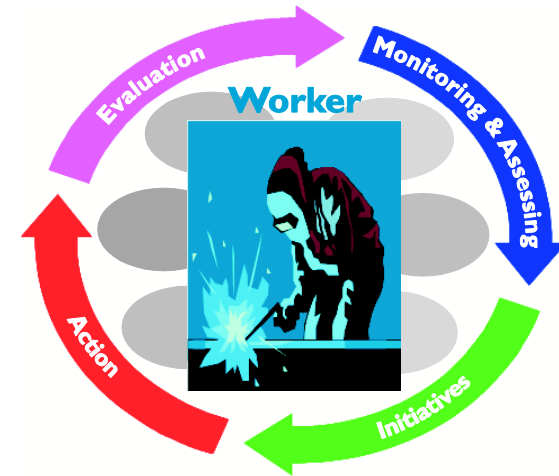
Creating resilient communities and supportive environments



Building resilience is a key factor in protecting and promoting health and well-being at both the individual and community levels. People's health chances are closely linked to the conditions in which they are born, grow, work and age. Systematically assessing the health effects of a rapidly changing environment – especially related to technology, work, energy production and urbanization – is essential and must be followed by action to ensure positive benefits to health.

Mainstreaming occupational health into the public health – essential public health operations

- Surveillance of population health and well being
- Monitoring and response to health hazards
- Health protection including environmental and occupational health
- Health promotion
- Disease prevention including early detection
- Assuring: governance, public health workforce, infrastructures and financing, advocacy and social mobilization and research for competent policy development



Concluding remarks-what can be done at the national level under the presented framework?

- Policies – development of national action plans for workers' health and for the elimination of asbestos related diseases
- Occupational health services as the main infrastructure – primary health care, basic occupational health services, national centres of excellence
- Interventions at the workplace – healthy workplaces and health promotion (chemicals, radiation, HIV, TB, NCD prevention etc.)
- Cancer prevention and control – national action plans including actions to address occupational cancer,
- Evidence for action – indicators, ICD11 , establishment of cancer registers and occupational diseases registers for prioritization and follow up
- Workers' health in other policies – green economies, climate change, SAICM, extractive industries (e.g. mining)

Thank you for your attention!

