

# Occupational Health Nursing in the European Union



FEDERATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION



S. Tziaferi  
President FOHNEU  
Assistant Professor in Community Nursing  
Dep. of Nursing  
University of Peloponnese

# Occupational Health (OH)

*Occupational health has been described as the 'promotion and maintenance of physical and mental well-being of all staff', by concentrating on the provision of a safe and healthy workplace where the welfare of staff is a major factor*

- Risk assessment
- Risk management
- Prevention
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Reinsertion after injury or illness
- Health promotion

# Occupational Health Nursing (OHN)

*Occupational Health Nursing aims at securing the health, safety and well-being of the workforce. This is achieved through assessing, monitoring and promoting the health status of the workers, and developing strategies to improve the working conditions and the total environment*

([www.fohneu.org](http://www.fohneu.org))





# Europe and the EU

28 members

## Framework Directive

- European Directives
- European Guidelines
- European Standards



# FOHNEU

**The Federation of Occupational Health Nurses within the European Union** is a nonprofit making organization. The Federation was founded on March 21st 1993 in the United Kingdom.

FOHNEU was registered on June 27th 1996 in Brussels, Belgium. Registration No. 14230-96





# Aims...

1. To contribute to the total health, safety and well-being of the European working population
2. To raise the profile of Occupational Health Nursing within the European Union
3. To promote European training, education and standards for professional qualifications
4. To encourage research into areas of occupational health practice, education, management and service provision with appropriate dissemination and publication of results
5. To maintain an open dialogue with the EU organizations responsible for health and safety, public health and EU nursing authorities

# Members / representatives / delegates







## **National Representatives**

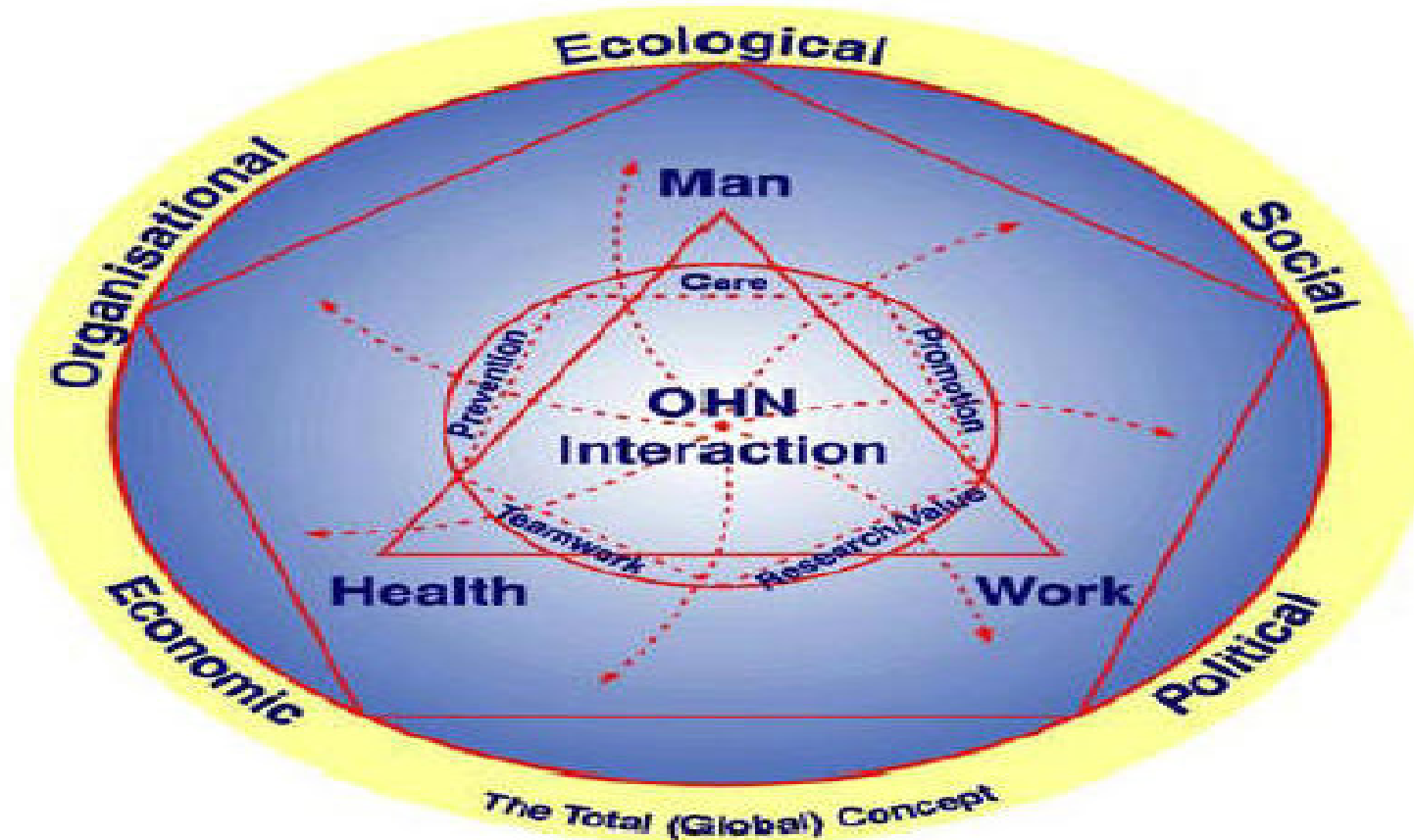
FOHNEU collective membership shall be open to all Occupational Health Nurse, (OHN), Associations or OHN Groups within the European Union. Each Association or Group shall be entitled to send two (2) delegates to the FOHNEU Board Meetings.

## **Observer States**



# Hanasaari Model

## The Hanasaari Conceptual Model for Occupational Health Nursing



The Hanasaari model, Alston et al., 1988

# Core Curriculum

The work and interaction of an OHN

- Planning an OH service
- Administration and organizations
- Health promotion
- Evaluation and development of an OHS

- to find out the conditions under which OHNs are educated and practice within EU,
- as well as the extent to which the Core Curriculum developed by FOHNEU has been implemented so far, and
- compare findings with previous surveys conducted by FOHNEU





# Education and Research of Occupational Health Nursing in the European Union – Survey results 2012 (P. Sourtzi et al, 2012)

## Method:

- Questionnaire based on an existing one (Sourtzi 1992, FOHNEU 2004) with new information based on board members suggestions.
- Sent by e-mail to all FOHNEU members, official and observers.
- Completed questionnaires were also received electronically

# Undergraduate education

- ✓ Undergraduate nursing education still diverse although there is a tendency to upgrade at university degree level
- ✓ 12 countries have included OH in undergraduate nursing education and two as an option in community/public health
- ✓ Content and length of study as well as clinical practice vary and are not comparable



# Post-graduate/specialized education

- ✓ Specialized education has developed since 2004
- ✓ 11 countries reported that already have specialized education for OHNs, mostly at postgraduate diploma level and two more plan to start soon
- ✓ Two countries have only multidisciplinary MSc in OH&S
- ✓ Possibilities for MSc/PhD also exist in some countries
- ✓ There are also four countries that have included OH as part of other specialisations, such as community/public health nursing

# OHN specialization

- Length of study has increased significantly since 2004 and varies from 6 months to 2 years full time.
- In most countries practice in the field accounts for 50% of the time.
- Content is wide (next slide) but in most programs the Core Curriculum content is included



# OHN specialization content I

In all programs are included:

- Health promotion and health education
- Prevention policies at the workplace
- Environmental surveillance and health protection
- Emergency care at the workplace

# OHN specialization content II

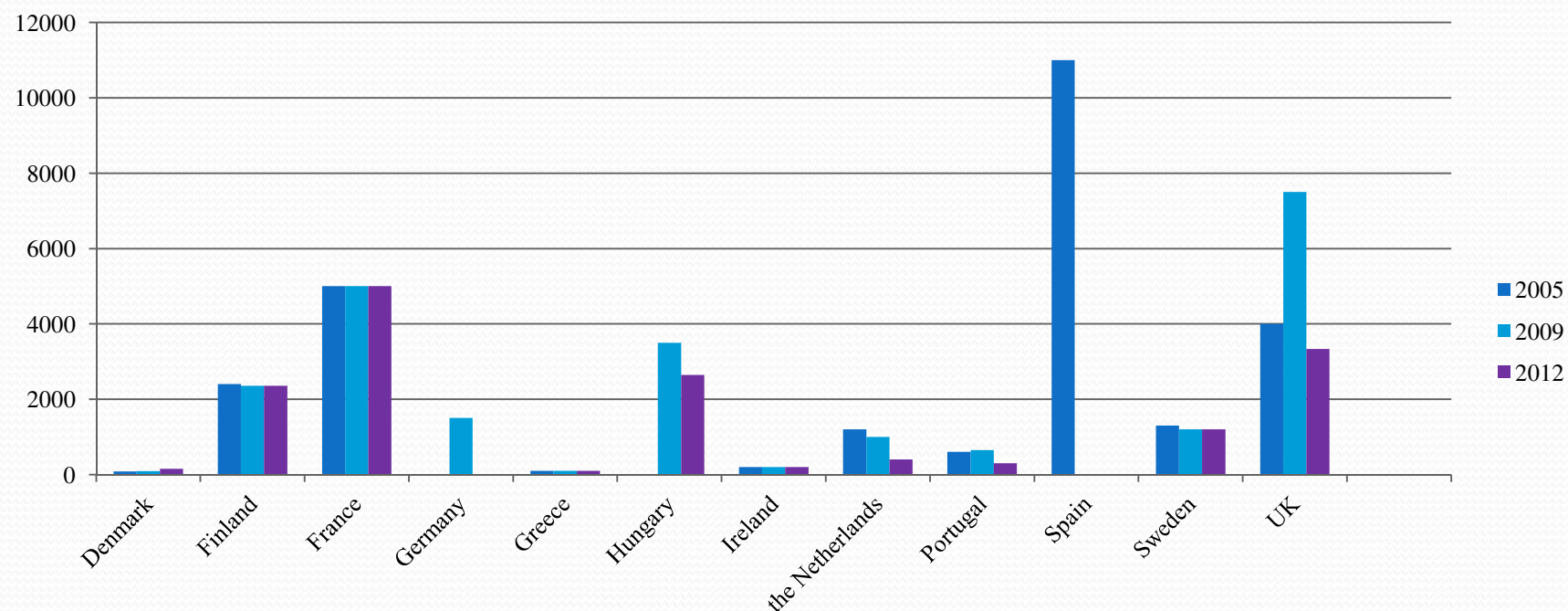
**In almost all programs are included:**

- Health assessment and surveillance
- Occupational Epidemiology
- Organisation and Administration of OH Services
- Risk assessment methodology



# OHN Status in EU Member States 2005-2012 Final Results (J. Staun, 2012)

## Approx. number of OHNurses in country



Year	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	the Netherlands	Portugal	Romania	Spain	Sweden	UK
2005	850	80	2400	5000	N/I	100	N/I	200	1200	600	N/I	11000	1300	4000
2009	N/I	95	2355	5000	1500	100	3500	200	1000	650	N/I	N/I	1200	7500
2012	800	150	2355	5000	N/I	100	2646	200	400	300	N/I	N/I	1200	3332

# Barriers to perform/participate in research

country	barrier
Belgium	professional recognition
Denmark	OHNs do not have tradition in performing independent research but many participate in research projects. Some OHNs do not have enough <b>knowledge</b> how to search for financial support to perform research
France	varied resources and levels of collaboration with others in the multidisciplinary team place research out of reach of many OHNs
Greece	<b>funding</b> , <b>experience</b> , support, competition with OHPs
Hungary	lack of research <b>experience</b>
Ireland	<b>funding</b> and time constraints, lack of resources
Spain	<b>financial resources</b> and media
Sweden	lack of <b>knowledge</b>
Turkey	<b>financial</b> , time, legal permission, <b>training</b>
UK	support from employers



# Conclusions

- There are positive changes from previous FOHNEU surveys
  - in undergraduate education
  - in postgraduate education
- The FOHNEU CC is being taken into account in most countries
- The practiced role of OHNs is linked to education
- The future of OHN education & research seems positive although there are problems in some countries

# Latest News-Dusseldorf 2014

## **Highlights from the National Updates ([www.fohneu.org](http://www.fohneu.org))**

- Belgium
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden



# Official Partner of EU OSHA's Campaigns

Official Partner to the Campaign 2012-2013

FOHNEU continues as Official Partner to the Campaign 2013-2014





# EU-OSHA, 2012

Europe changes

Variety in each member state

Holistic common approach



# EU-OSHA, 2012

New hazards

New forms of work organization

New industrial sectors

New careers

New influences into health of employers & employees



# Barriers to confront new risks

Country	Barriers in confronting them
Belgium	recognition of the profession
Denmark	lack of knowledge and managerial experience & documentation, constant and fast changes
Finland	
France	lack of training and available resources
Germany	
Greece	reduced funding , lack of professional support, unclear prof. rights, inadequate legislation
Hungary	lack of information
Ireland	lack of resources, budget constrains, lack of legal requirements obliging them to deal with the risk, lack of training
Slovenia	
Spain	lack of resources and expertise to address and treat
Sweden	
Turkey	lack of support by mgt and colleagues
UK	recognition of the profession



# EU-OSHA, 2012

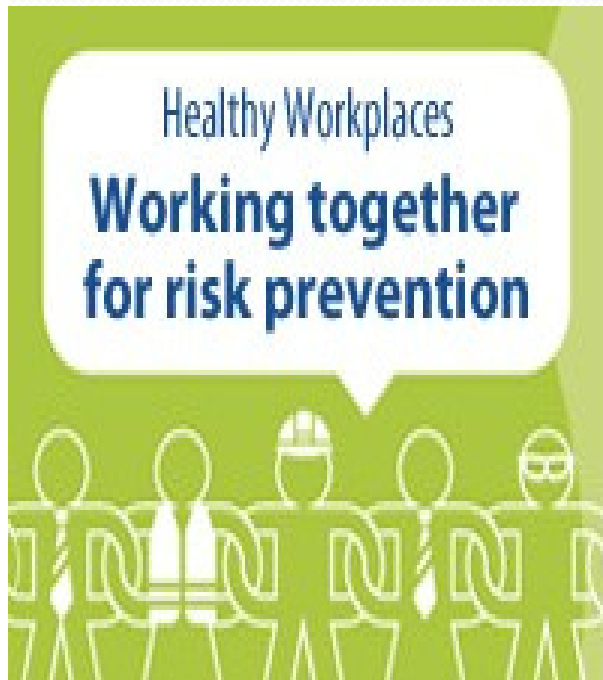
Law

Lack of surveillance

SMEs

Worker's participation

Leadership Management



# EU OSHA - Bilbao, 2013

- World's largest occupational safety and health campaign closes following a record level of involvement
- Together with EU-OSHA's Europe-wide network of focal points, a record number of official campaign partners – 87 companies and organizations – took part in the campaign, which has been running since April 2012 and has encouraged employees and managers to work together to manage risks in the workplace
- The event also offered a preview of EU-OSHA's 2014–15 campaign, 'Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress', which will be launched in spring 2014. The campaign will continue the collaborative theme and apply it to managing work-related stress and psychosocial risks, the second most reported OSH problem in Europe





# New challenges!

Communication skills for employee and family

Communication with management

Organization skills

Research

Recording and statistics

Occupational hygiene for old and emerging risks (physical, chemical, ergonomic)

Psychology–work related stress

Occupational traffic accidents



[www.fohneu.org](http://www.fohneu.org)

Thank you for listening!



¡Muchas Gracias!

