



Discussion results: Monitoring of diseases and exposure resulting from exposures to biological agents

**Workshop on work-related diseases from exposure to biological agents,
10 October 2017, Amsterdam**



Do you see the same challenges in your country as those identified in the review?

- Yes, but depends on the background/experience of people what information is shared.
- Also differences between member states
- Some countries have data, methods; other countries have a lack of data and method

Any examples from your country, including on diseases and exposures not covered here and other approaches?

Are there any diseases that were not mentioned but should be addressed?

- **Underreporting of diseases and lack of data on exposure.**
- **Some countries have different registration systems -> needlestick injuries are not reported in occupational disease systems but in occupational accident systems.**

Is there a lack of data on exposure?
If yes, from your point of view, how could this be addressed?

- **Yes, difficult to get standardized methods.**
- **Large range in exposure levels, variability in the quality of exposure.**

Would more systematic monitoring be helpful to target prevention? What could be done to ensure that, incl. at EU and international level? Any diseases or exposures that you regard as a priority?

- **Monitoring is very difficult and needs to be performed harmonized over the different countries.**
- **Need for harmonization of definition and classification.**

Is there a need to improve cooperation between countries? If yes, how to improve?
Could anything be done at EU/international level?

- **Yes, share data concerning exposure and disease. Especially in emerging sectors.**
- **Tools not only for monitoring exposure and disease but also for the risk assessment (job exposure matrix)**

Is there a need or benefit to cooperate with other policy areas, e.g. public health?

What would be the actions?

- **Yes, link with public health. Occupational experts have the knowledge about the exposure, public health have the experience regarding sentinel systems for infectious or chronic diseases -> need to share knowledge, methods, tools etc.**

Who are the actors in this topical area and what could be their role?

- **General Practitioners important to include in the system because there is a lack off occupational health actors/professionals.**
- **Interdisciplinary approach is needed for biological agents and related diseases. Important because of the complexity of biological agents at the workplace today.**