Information and Networking in Occupational Health and Safety
Finland as an example

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Outline
• Finland – FIOH
• Information systems on OH&S
• Information sources
• Networking – why?
  − Networks as a system
  − Examples of OH&S networks
• Concluding remarks

FIOH in brief
• Founded in 1945
• One FIOH with six Regional Offices
• Staff 750
• Budget – 80%-20%, currently ~ 58% from the State budget, ~42% through own income
• Multidisciplinary
• Four functions: research, information dissemination, training, advisory services
• National institute – independent, semi-governmental with own legislation
• Subordinate to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
• Tripartite Board of Directors (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Ministry of Education, Employers, Trade Unions, Federation of the Self-employed Farmers)
Information systems on OH&S

Knowledge Management Systems (KMS)

Harvesting and organizing
- Storage
  - Data warehouse
  - Registries
  - Org. memory
- Management
  - Information systems
  - Data management
  - Support systems
- Applying & utilizing
- Use and application
- Information training
- Learning

Discovery & harvesting
- Organizing & describing
- Use and application

Application & utilization
- Storage
  - Data warehouse
  - Registries
  - Org. memory
- Data management
- Support systems

Information
- Training
- Learning

Indicating numeric, visualized, qualitative profiles
- Policy making
- Strategy planning
- Operat. planning
- Follow-up & evaluation

Source: Modified from J. Rantanen 2001

Information Activities of a National Institute of Occupational Health

Processes
- Production and compilation of new information
- Increasing awareness
- Dissemination of info to various target groups
- Transferring info into knowledge and skills
- Changing work with the help of knowledge

Functions
- Research
- Information
- Education and training
- Services, incl. laboratories

Collaborative partners
- Research Centres
- NGOs (networks)
- ILO (CC, CIB)
- EU networks
- Regional networks
- OH&S/OSHA networks
- Trade union networks
- Media, social media
- Universities
- Schools
- Training institutions
- Workplaces
- Employers
- Workers
- OHPs, Hygienists, OHNs, Inspectors
- Information Services, incl. laboratories

Information Systems on OH&S – Traditional indicators

Total accidents and fatal accidents at the Finnish workplaces 1976-2003

The Zero Accident Forum in Finland since 2003

- Voluntary-based safety network coordinated by FIOH and supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- Currently more than 280 member organizations across the country
- Employing more than 300,000 persons (equals to 10% of the Finnish working population)
- The Forum covers 44 various economic branches – e.g. industry, construction, mining, logistics, financing, research, hospitals and municipalities

Source: Markku Aaltonen 2011
Recognized and suspected occupational diseases 1964–2009
(cases of years 2003-2004 are not available)

A comprehensive approach - Profiles

Information needs for healthy workplaces – National Profile on OH&S

Occupational health and safety system

Laws and regulations

Major laws on occupational safety and health
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (738/2002)
- Act on Occupational Safety and Health Enforcement and Cooperation on Workplace Safety and Health (64/2006)
- Act on Occupational Health Services (1383/2001)

Legislation on occupational accidents and occupational diseases
- Act on Accident Insurance (608/1948; 681/2005)
- Act on Occupational Diseases (1343/1988; 1317/2002)

Ratification of ILO Conventions

- C81 Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (and its Protocol) 20:01:1950 ratified
- C161 Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 27:04:1987 ratified
- C162 Asbestos Convention, 1986 20:06:1988 ratified
- C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 17:01:2000 ratified
- C184 Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 21:02:2003 ratified

A total of 82 Conventions ratified
Sources of information on Finnish OSH situation

- OHS in 2004, 2007
- Work Ability in Finland

Profiles and indicators

Country profiles produced in collaboration with WHO/EURO, WHO/HQ and ILO
22 country profiles from Europe


Coverage of OHS, % of employees

Models for OH service provision

Coverage %

Prevalence of physical work load factors

Country Profiles on OSH and Workers’ Health in Finland

Preparation – a learning and cooperation process
OSH Profile of Finland

Information Sources in Occupational Health

Cochrane Occupational Health Field, http://osh.cochrane.org/

Scientific journals, SJWEH as an example

Peer-reviewed scientific journals – a scientific community network

Need for practical information materials

Networks as a system
Why networking?

**Practical aspects**
- Exchange of information
- Full utilization of results
- Division of labour
- Quality assurance

**Economic aspects**
- Ensuring the competitiveness
- Avoiding duplication of work
- Utilizing synergism
- Pressures from EU to work in consortia
- Obtaining financial support

**Social aspects**
- Need of human beings to belong to a group
- Need to work towards joint goals
- Importance of being part of the scientific community

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Traditional practically-oriented networks

- **Centred network**
- **Loose network**

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Current networks in OH&S

- Peer-to-peer
- Voluntary participation
- Facilitator needed
- Equal
- Information-oriented
- Learning from others
- Trust
- Win-win-win-situation

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Social Network Analysis

- Social network analysis seeks to understand networks and their participants and has two main focuses: the actors and the relationships between them in a specific social context

- Social network analysis software (SNA software) facilitates quantitative or qualitative analysis of social networks, by describing features of a network, either through numerical or visual representation.


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Receiving information, advice or support regarding OHS-related issues at least monthly

- Source: R. Nikkilä 2004

Centrality - which organizations are considered important by others regarding OHS-related issues?

- Source: R. Nikkilä 2004
Examples on networks in OH&S

WHO CCs in Occupational Health

Global Plan of Action for Workers’ Health, 2008–2017 WHA60.26

Endorsed by the World Health Assembly May 2007 by all Member States

Ten-year action plan 2008-2017 - Reporting back to WHA in 2013

ILO CIS Network

ILO-CIS Centres Network was founded in 1959
- a joint endeavour of the ILO, the International Social Security Association (ISSA), the European Coal and Steel Community (one of the predecessors of the European Union) and OSH institutions in 11 European countries.
- It consists now of 152 National, Regional and Collaborating Centres in the ILO Member countries.

International Commission on Occupational Health, ICOH

- 35 Scientific Committees form the backbone of ICOH
- ICOH member can belong to 3 SCs
- ICOH SC Spectrum wide, e.g.:
  - Toxicology
  - Occupational Medicine
  - Cardiology
  - Shift Work and Working Times
  - Health Services Research and Evaluation in OH
  - Education and Training in OH
  - OH and Development

International Commission on Occupational Health, ICOH

ICOH National/Area Secretaries

61 ICOH National Secretaries www.icohweb.org
ICOH NSs that replied to the Questionnaire

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Finland
- France
- FYRO Macedonia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Korea
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Montenegro
- Nepal
- Norway
- Peru
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia
- South Africa
- Sweden
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Netherlands
- Turkey
- Uganda
- USA
- Vietnam

45 countries, representing 2/3 of the world labour force

ICOH Survey: Future priorities

- Coverage of OHS
- Integrating OHS with PHC
- More attention to SSEs and the informal sector
- Developing personnel resources for OHS
- Enforcing legislation
- Developing curricula in OHS
- Psychosocial disorders
- Establishing a NIOH in the country
- Strengthening National OSH authority
- Developing National OSH Policy
- Establishing Information System in OH
- Carrying out preventive interventions

Message to ICOH Scientific Committees

FIOH International Networking

Concluding remarks

Actions needed to improve OH&S

1. International instruments
   - ILO, WHO

2. International guidelines
   - ICOH, WHO, ILO

3. National policy & programme
   - National Government & NIOH

4. Training of trainers
   - NIOH, Universities

5. Piloting
   - NIOH

6. Evaluating
   - External evaluations

7. Training
   - NIOH, Professional bodies, NGOs

8. Scaling up, also to SMEs
   - National Government

Concluding comments on information, knowledge sharing and networking in OH&S

Practical aspects
- Evidence-based information needed – ICT as a support
- Importance of human face-to-face networks
- Actors in OH&S can fully utilize research results
- Division of labour speeds up productive work

Social aspects
- With fragmenting work life a growing need to belong to networks - receiving information and sharing experiences
- Utilising the WHO CG Network and ILO-CIS Network
- Utilising the two ICOH Networks: SCs and National Secretaries
- Work life more demanding than ever - need for effectiveness
- Support from network colleagues

Economic aspects
- EU and other funding agencies pushed us to work in consortia
- Demand for cost-savings everywhere