



European Biosafety Summit

Caring for those who care for us

Coach House, Dublin Castle Wednesday, 1st June 2011

Implementation of the Council Directive 2010/32/EU of 10 May 2010 in the national legislation of Bulgaria

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BAHPN

- **established in 2003** as a non-governmental organization of nurses, midwives and the other allied health professionals;
- **2005** - The Bulgarian Parliament accepted the **First Law** for the professional organization of the registered nurses, midwives and the allied health professionals



Membership

Bulgarian Association of health Professionals in nursing is a member of the:

- **ICN**
- **EFN**
- **EFNNMA and WHO**





Main purposes of BAHPN

- To represent our members, to express and to protect our rights, interests, our citizen and professional position related to the legislation, labor, education, qualification and specialization, life-style and social insurance;
- To rise the professional and the social status of our members and to help them with their full realization not only in Republic of Bulgaria, but also in EU;



Main purposes of BAHPN

- To follow the achievements of WHO and the modern science and to work in cooperation with other citizen and professional organizations in Bulgaria and abroad;
- To increase the level of the professional qualification and specialization;



Main purposes of BAHPN

- To guarantee good practice at keeping the ethic norms.
- To realize projects for promotion and prophylactics of definite diseases at regional and national level.



Decision making

BAHPN became an important partner in decision making in the health sector at all levels – local, regional and national.





Decision making



**We represent the bigger part of
the health workforce.**



Our partners

- the Parliament Health Commission
- The Ministry of health
- the Bulgarian Physicians' union
- the Health trade unions
- the Municipality Organization
- the nationally represented Patients' organizations





Council Directive 2010/32

A great challenge to BAHPN

- **We fully understand**, that the nurses, midwives and the allied health professionals are at risk of injury from all medical “sharps” (including needle-sticks);
- **Our voice must be heard** – the legislation must be changed to protect the healthcare workers at risk and to achieve the safest possible working environment



Council Directive 2010/32

A great challenge to BAHPN

- **We recognize** that the injuries, caused by the needles and the other sharp instruments are the most common and serious risks to the healthcare workers;
- **It is our duty** to organize the CPD courses in additional training for the healthcare workers in risk assessment and protection, concerning the needle sticks injuries and blood infections.



Activities

1. We reviewed the existing Regulation **Act of the Ministry of health**, which regulates the measures for hospital infections protection and the sharps' injury protection. It needs to be **replaced from a new modern document**.
2. We organized **“round table”** with all social partners.



Activities

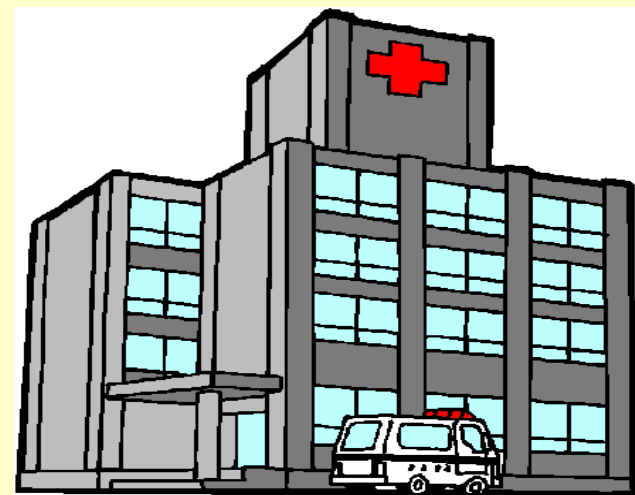
3. We realized that **there is not a national representative research** on sharps injuries.
4. We know that **there is not a national system to report the cases** of sharps injuries.

People are afraid to report the case of sharp injury.



Activities

- We examined the real situation in the real working environment in 3 health settings:
 - **in the University hospital**
 - **in the multifunctional municipality hospital**
 - **in an outpatient center**





To implement the Council Directive 32/2010 EU in the Bulgarian legislation:

1. We must reach **an integrated approach** at national level between the social partners, resulting in a new Act of the Parliament;
2. We must **establish policies** in risk assessment, risk prevention, training, information, awareness raising, monitoring, response and follow up procedures;





To implement the Council Directive 32/2010 EU in the Bulgarian legislation:

- **The unnecessary use of sharps should be eliminated** by changes in practice, based on the results of the risk assessment;
- Safe procedures – **implementing safe procedures** for using and disposing of sharp medical instruments and contaminated waste.



To implement the Council Directive 32/2010 EU in the Bulgarian legislation:

- Engineering control – providing safety engineering devices.



- Obligatory use of Protective equipment – gloves, masks, gowns, etc.



To implement the Council Directive 32/2010 EU in the Bulgarian legislation:

- **Provision by the employers of safer needle devices and sharps containers to the workplace, combined with training and safer working practices**
- **Promoting a “no blame” culture.** Incident reporting should focus on systemic factors rather than individual mistakes.



Possible problems:

- **Lack of finance.**
- **Lack of capacity in project building and management.**
- **Rapid reforms in the health care sector, resulting in undertaking the risk of sharps injury.**



Our hope

- We hope, that using the international experience, the best European practices in risk assessment and protection from sharps injuries and with the help of the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds, Bulgaria will address the challenge to implement in the national legislation the Council Directive 2010/32/EU by May 2013, as required.



**Thank you for your kind
attention!**

