
STUDIES ON PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT THE OCCUPATIONAL RISK ON CANCER

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Objectives: Electronic Trans-European Network (TEN) programmes, conducted in European Union countries aim to diminish differences in life quality among participating countries. To improve life quality they want to implement some informational services/portals to provide easy access to important information.

Methods: The example of such project is EWS (EuroWorkSafe) – a website which aims to inform about cancer risk in working environment and its prevention. As research conducted in Western Europe has shown, very often the ordinary citizen is not aware of all the risk he is exposed to. The EuroWorkSafe data metabase is divided into categories helpful to intuitive and easy navigation for the ordinary User. The EWS portal is containing carefully chosen and crucial for his topic complex information about cancer risk in working environment, procedures or regulations protecting from the health hazard. That should be helpful to those under increased risk of cancer. The aim of our part of the project was to estimate the concern about the issue and needs for accessibility to such metabase for the educated public in Poland. The preliminary study investigated the level of the cancer risk awareness in a very special group of academic society. The fields of interest were directed to those young people, who, on one hand, should in a couple of years become persons responsible for health protection of other people in their work places. On the other hand that group, in general, should be privileged by no limited access to computer information sources. The first investigated group consisted of 520 students from nine universities in the area of Central and Southern Poland.

Results: Our studies have shown among others that female students appeared more interested in the issue of occupational cancer risk, than males. More than fifty percents of responding to the questionnaire were persons who would accept an occupational risk in their work places. Few more percentage would accept such a job under conditions of getting more knowledge about prevention. More than 80 % of students were interested in enlarging their knowledge

in the field of occupational cancer, and more than 91% of responders expressed the need for the access to the portal like: <http://www.euroworksafe.eu>.