HORIZON 2020
SPREADING EXCELLENCE AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION

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on behalf of the ESPrIT Team

Ghent University, Central & Eastern European R&I Cooperation Day, 14 June 2018
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

Strengthening the Occupational Health Expertise and Scientific Performance of Public Health Institute of Turkey

Partners

VU medisch centrum

GHENT UNIVERSITY

TNO innovation for life
Twinning

“building a potential for networking for excellence through knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice between research institutions of lower performing countries and leading partners”
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

- Submitted to the EU Commission on 7 May 2015 with ID No 692188
- Scored 14 out of 15 points and listed in top 20 among 540 projects
- The only one project granted in Turkey in 2015
- Fully granted with the budget of 1,112,071 EURO
- 3 years duration: 01.01.2016 - 31.12.2018
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’
Secret ingredients for success
Case Study ‘ESPriT’

1. Identify the needs and strategic objectives

- PHIT is part of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and has to protect public health by running primary health care services and conducting research to underpin national health policies.

- Broad area: primary health care, chronical diseases; ensuring healthy mother and childhood; and occupational health and safety (OHS).
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

1. Identify the needs and strategic objectives

   – June 2012 : new OHS act. Need of employers and workers to receive assistance and expert support in assessing and improving their working conditions

   – Due to the lack of a structured research program and trained experts and scientists, the responsibilities of PHIT-OHS cannot be met optimally
## Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

Underreporting of occupational diseases (ODs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of employees*</td>
<td>Number of accepted ODs</td>
<td>Number of deaths from ODs</td>
<td>Number of employees*</td>
<td>Number of accepted ODs</td>
<td>Number of deaths from ODs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3726,5</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>10030,8</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>3809,3</td>
<td>2046</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>11030,9</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3811,5</td>
<td>2310</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>11939,6</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3797,8</td>
<td>3231</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>12484,1</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* thousands
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

• Identify the needs and strategic objectives of the Ministry of Health
  
  – Increase the number of occupational health and safety services
  – Further qualify PHIT staff on occupational health and research (at national and provincial level)
  – Increase the frequency of diagnosed occupational diseases
Case Study ‘ESPriT’

- Find the right partner: looking for old friends and new ones

  PHIT

  TNO (NL, Leiden)

  Turkish business plan

FERROSH project (2014)
- Funding: Dutch Matra Programme
- Partners: PHIT, Turkish metal sector and TNO (NL)
- Workers in the metal sector were trained in OHS
- It was chosen as “project” of the year
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

• Find the right partner: looking for old friends and new ones

TNO  VUmc  UGent

EMUTOM project (2010-2012)
– Funding: Erasmus LLP
– Partners: BE, NL, FR, RO, Sb
– Undergraduate medical students were trained in OHS
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

• Meetings
  – Amsterdam and Brussels, November 2014
  – Representatives from PHIT with liaison officers and researchers of TNO and VUmc or UGent

• Workshops
  – March and April 2015 in TNO, Leiden
  – Liaison officers and researchers from TNO, VUmc, UGent and representatives from PHIT
  – Brainstorming : Work Packages

• Writing proposal
  – April - May 2015
  – Liaison officers and researchers from TNO, VUmc, UGent and “writer” paid by PHIT
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

• General aim

Measurable and significant improvement of the overall scientific and innovation capacity of the Public Health Institution of Turkey (PHIT) in the research field of occupational health and surveillance on occupational diseases
Case Study ‘ESPrIT’

WP1 Exchange & cooperation

WP2 Scientific capacity building

WP3 ICD+ Innovation
WP4 Scientific excellence
WP5 Reach out

WP6 Project management
Case Study ‘ESPriT’

• Methods
  – Trainings
  – Exchange visits
  – Workshops
  – Co-authoring
  – Dissemination and outreach activities
  – Networking
Results so far

• Website http://www.esprit-ohs.eu/en/
• Kick-off meeting: February 2016, Ankara
• Training programme
• Three exchange visits (5 persons: 2 weeks NL and 2 weeks BE)
• Co-organizing international congress in Turkey: March 2017
• Active participation in (inter)national congresses
  – Posters and oral presentations
• Scientific research protocols, collection of data and first draft of 3 English publications
• Reporting
Trainings in the ESPrIT project

- a training programme of 5 modules: adult learning
- circa 40 participants
  - mixed target group of OHS professionals
  - coming from the PHIT in Ankara and Community Health Centers from other cities
Trainings in the ESPrIT project

- Train OHS professionals who might act as multipliers and regional leaders and research in Turkey
- Learning material in Turkish and English - free available under creative commons licence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESPrIT Project Trainings</th>
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<tr>
<td>19-23 September 2016 (5 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Training on Occupational Health and Occu</td>
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<tr>
<td>pational Diseases / 45 Trainees</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October - 4 November 2016 (5 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training on Scientific Research Skills and Methodolo</td>
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<tr>
<td>gies 23 trainees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October - 4 November 2016 (5 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training on Diagnosis of Occupational Diseases and S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>urveillance 23 Trainees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-06 November 2016 (2 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surveillance and Research Workshops / 23 Trainees and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 November - 2 December 2016 (5 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training of Trainers 25 Trainees</td>
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</table>
Study protocols

6 research protocols

- MSD in construction
- Dermatitis in hairdressers
- Burnout in bankworkers
- Stress in preschool teachers
- Asthma in metal industry
- Tbc protocol in HCW

6 surveillance protocols

- Asbest in demolition services
- Dermatitis in the metal industry
- Asthma in cleaners
- Agriculture (informal workers)
- PTSD in fire fighters
- MSD in construction
First OED congress in Turkey, 2017
Posters, presentations
Reporting ECAS system
Keys to success

- The proposal
  - a defined area of research
  - contribution to the Strategy of the initiating institution.
Keys to success

• The team and network
  – active local people
  – liaison officers
  – Social responsibility
  – multidisciplinarity

• Knowing and tailoring the programme to participants
  – adults working in the OSH field, eager to learn

• Combination of onsite courses, project work, exchange visits, mentoring,...
Challenges

• Knowledge of the English language
  – Lextale test
  – Translation of learning materials and documents into Turkish
  – Simultaneous translation in meetings

• Administration and regulations

• Cultural differences and political issues
  – Travel ban
  – Relocation of activities (and persons?)
  – Keep in contact through research
Lessons learned

- Importance of Project management
- Installing network geographically and after the project
- Flexible and active partners
- Finances: budget and currency
- Reporting to the EU: support from University EU cel (ECAS system)
- Too much committees and official meetings
Thank you for the attention – Questions?

Welcome to the closing conference
Ankara, Turkey, 5-6 November 2018