

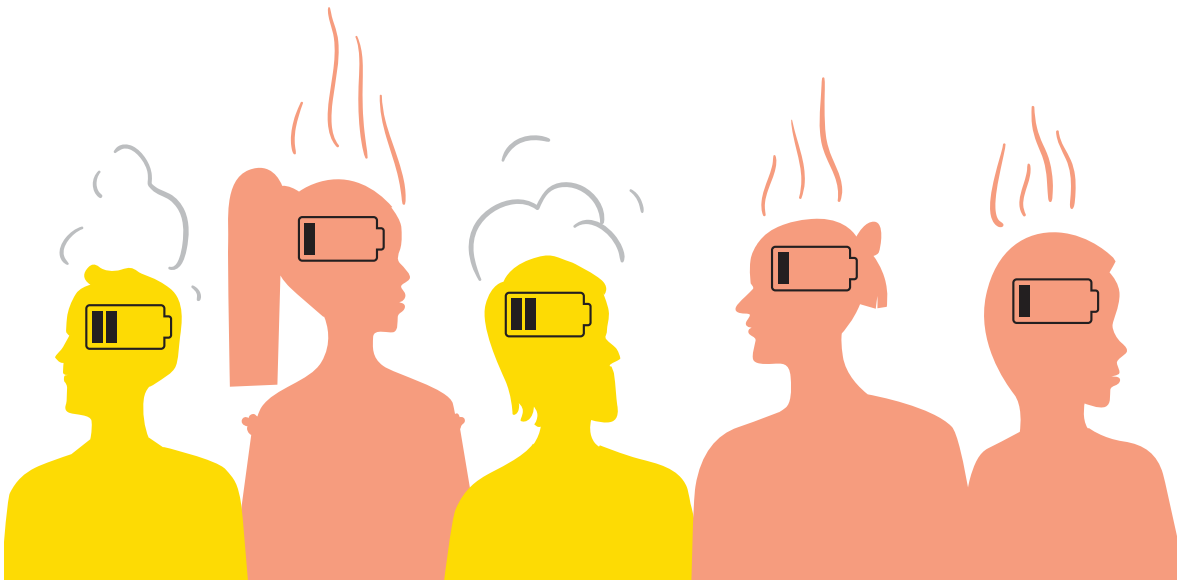
August 2024

FORUM NEWS

Working Group Occupational diseases

A point with the chair of the Working Group Occupational diseases

Dr. med. Anja Zyska Cherix, as chair of the European Forum’s Occupational Diseases Working Group, outlines their current activities at the Zagreb meeting in June.



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As described in the article [link to the article to be added]<https://www.european-forum.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/EUROPEAN-FORUM-Mental-health-position-paper-2024.pdf> “Mental health at work: the European Forum takes a stand”, we proposed this “position paper” to the European Forum with the aim of drawing attention to the fact that stress, burn-out, depression and anxiety should not be included in the European list of occupational diseases.

Still on the subject of mental health at work, Anja presented a study conducted in Switzerland by Suva: a survey on the risks of work-related mental stress and mental disorders and illnesses at work. As the implementing body of the Federal Law on Accident Insurance (LAA), Suva can only provide benefits within the scope of its mandate for which there is a legal basis. Therefore, mental disorders and diseases cannot be recognised based on current scientific knowledge, as no clear causal link

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has been established. The statistical study, based on a survey, has shown that there is a significant correlation between mental diseases (e.g. depression) and high job demands in certain occupational groups/industries. In order to challenge the results of the study, the survey is now being re-conducted. The ultimate aim is to determine the potential for prevention and early detection, and to determine when or on the basis of what factors certain mental illnesses could be recognised as occupational diseases.

In another register, the questionnaire sent to Forum Members on occupational exposure to solar radiation and skin cancer has been updated. In conclusion, there are still many differences between the practices of our member countries, also due to the different climatic zones.

Information was also shared about a judgment very specific to the German system about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as occupational disease. Furthermore, the Members were informed about an official statement of the German medical advisory panel to be published soon on basal cell carcinoma due to occupational natural UV exposure (by S. Palfner, DGUV).

A new topic to be addressed by the Working Group could be the influence of differences in claim on statistics of occupational diseases. ●

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