



The Occupational Medicine (OM) Section of UEMS asks the UEMS Councils support in improving data and reducing the impact of preventable work related injuries and diseases in the European Union (EU).

In 2017 the estimated cost of work-related injury and diseases in the European Union (EU) was in the order of 476 billion Euros (3.3% of EU GDP) despite comprehensive preventive legislation. In terms of deaths, an estimated 98% of work-related deaths are due to work-related diseases not accidents. These costs fall on the individual worker, their employer, healthcare services and society as a whole both at national and international level.

There is a background of change in the workplace - new technologies such as nanotechnology and robotics, different ways of working such as the “gig” economy and new sectors such as “green jobs” all present challenges to preventing work-related ill health and injury. With a rising level of work-related mental ill health, musculoskeletal disorders and occupational cancers, we need more than ever, to have reliable data to allow policy makers and practitioners to identify new conditions and to ensure that control measures are adequate to prevent already recognised conditions from occurring.

The OM Section has produced a comprehensive and detailed position paper on the monitoring, prevention and compensation of occupational and work-related diseases **but additionally request that the Council assist in the protection of health of EU citizens by:**

- 1. Using opportunities arising from consultation of new and existing EU legislation to advocate for better recording of work-related diseases including the linking of exposure data to cases of disease and the establishment of European wide registers,**
- 2. Highlighting the impact of work-related diseases to doctors in other UEMS Sections where patients may have conditions caused by or aggravated by their work,**
- 3. Encouraging the training of all doctors but especially specialists in the identification and reporting of work-related diseases with the inclusion of work-related cases in professional examinations.**

The OM Section believes that by supporting these three actions UEMS Council can improve the recognition of established and new work-related diseases and reduce the personal and national cost of work-related ill health and disability in EU countries.