

Final report. Working Group on alcohol at work. UEMS Occupational Medicine Section (2022)

submitted by: Mari Cruz Rodríguez-Jareño

Title: Position of UEMS-OM on alcohol at the workplace

Objective

- Review UEMS OM section's position statement from 2014, adopted by UEMS Council in 2015.
- Give our professional opinion in the important topic of alcohol at the workplace.
- Increase visibility of the Speciality of Occupational Medicine and of the UEMS-OM Section.

Background: The Spanish Ministry of Health and Catalan Department of Health co-host a workshop on alcohol at the workplace on 12, 17 and 20th May, as part of a European Project (Alhambra: https://drogues.gencat.cat/en/professionals/projectes_internacionals/alhambra/). They would like UEMS OM section input as Occupational Physicians. They would appreciate a main speaker to participate in the introductory session, explaining our vision on the subject, and also in the final roundtable giving a final recommendation for the improvement of the prevention of alcohol problems in the workplace at a European level. Also the participation of other representatives of UEMS section in the groups of the workshop.

Working group members as approved in Perg:

Alenka Skerjanc, Milan Tucek, Marc Jacoby, Mari Cruz Rodríguez-Jareño

Basic Documents:

Previous Statement. https://uems-occupationalmedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/prevention_of_alcohol_and_drug_use_in_the_whp_-_rev_jbr_as_2014.07.18.pdf

Papers:

- Tucek, M; Skerjanc, A. Alcohol, drugs and psychotropic medication at work: guidelines for medical fitness. Cent Eur J Public Health 2019; 27 (3): 195–197
- UIMC Railway medical guidelines. Guidelines for medical fitness of railway personnel in safety critical functions. October 2019.

Preparation:

The four components of the group individually reviewed the relevant documents, and met on-line twice prior to the 3 workshops organized by Alhambra Project in May. During those internal meetings we reviewed the current UEMS OM statement and the rest of the documents in order to prepare common positions in our speech in the workshops.

The workshops organized by Alhambra were of high quality (both technically and in content). Started with short video presentations, followed by discussion in small groups (8-10 people) with moderator,

rapporteur and technical support provided by the organizers, and followed by plenary reporting, and wrap up conclusions.

UEMS OM was invited as a participant in the discussions of the workshops, and in addition Alenka and Mari Cruz had an active role in them.

Outputs:

Participation of 4 members of the section in Alhambra European workshop with bidirectional exchange of information and knowledge. The on-line meetings took place on 12, 17 and 20th May 2022.

Spread our message at European level through an official speaker from UEMS-OM and give visibility to our specialty. We gave voice to UEMS-OM in this forum with an active role: Alenka was one of the main speakers, as past president of UEMS, in the introductory session on 17th May, explaining our vision on the subject through a pre-recorded video available at their website: <https://alh-thematic-workshop6-alcoholinworkplace.onsitevents.com/contenidos> <https://vimeo.com/711198022/fe7b58aabc> . Mari Cruz acted as chair-woman in the second workshop invited as a member of the Spanish and Catalan Society of Occupational Medicine and as UEMS representative. "Coordination for alcohol prevention at work – perspective exchange to overcome barriers". We also participated in the final roundtable giving a final recommendation for the improvement of the prevention of alcohol problems in the workplace at a European level.

Review, previous to and after the meeting, the UEMS Council position statement on alcohol at the workplace, adopted as advised by our section in 2015, and modify if necessary. We saw that no major change is needed. The Statement will be circulated to the group to adopt it changing the date "Updated or reviewed in May 2022".

CONCLUSION:

We achieved the proposed objectives of this short lived WG.

This working group was useful as it permitted UEMS-OM section to participate, give our expert opinion and get visibility in Europe, and was used by the section as an opportunity to review one of our Position statements in the light of scientific updates.

PENDING ISSUES:

1) Once the statement has been reviewed, the final version will be circulated to the section for their approval. Send updated version to UEMS-central and up-load it to our web.

2) The current statement is "draft" watermarked in our webpage, and is no longer available in the UEMS web. Review with UEMS central, or wait until new version is available:

[\[occupationalmedicine.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ReportsCouncil/uems_section_alcohol_and_drug_use_in_the_workplace_0.pdf\]\(http://uems-occupationalmedicine.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ReportsCouncil/uems_section_alcohol_and_drug_use_in_the_workplace_0.pdf\)](http://uems-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

3) Load to our web page Alenka's video: <https://vimeo.com/711198022/fe7b58aabc>

On going:

Mari Cruz continues participating with the Alhambra European Project when appointed in representation of UEMS-OM. At the moment Alhambra is making progress in the awareness and communication proposal, in the referral protocol to outpatient drug addiction care centers and with the training proposals, among other topics to reduce alcohol harm in Europe.