Occupational Health in Finland

UEMS OM Section Board meeting
Helsinki May 27, 2017

Kari Reijula, MD, PhD, Professor
Helsinki University and
Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
Helsinki, Finland
Occupational health services

- Occupational health service is a form of primary health care for **workers**
- Occupational medicine among other clinical specialities
- Legislation (Occup Health Care Act) =>
- Employer is responsible
- Public, private or company owned
- Funding of OH collected (99%) from the employers and employees: total 800 million euros/year
Occupational Health in Finland (Räsänen 2013)

Workforce 15 - 74 yr. 2 627 000*

- Employees 2 067 000 (79%)
- Unemployed 236 000 (9%)
- Entrepreneur 324 000 (12%)

Covered by OH services**
- 1 830 000 (Employees) + 22 000 (Entrepreneur) (70%)

Covered by OH

*Työvoimatutkimus, Tilastokeskus, 2013.
Occupational health in Finland (2015)

- Population 5.5 mill./ workforce 2.6 mill.
- 1.9 mill. covered by OH
  - 84% of working aged population and
  - 90% of employees
- 406 OH centers (>50% private companies) with
  - 2000 physicians (800 OH spec + 750 to become)
  - 2500 OH nurses
  - 920 physiotherapists
  - 540 psychologists
OH services in Finland (2000-2010)

Private medical center
Several companies as owners
One company as an Owner
Company owned by a municipality
Public health care center

Lähde: Työterveyshuolto Suomessa 2010 -katsaus; TTL,STM 2012
www.helsinki.fi/yliopisto
Economical statistics in Finland

- GDP 209,1 bill. euros (in 2015)
- National budget 54,3 bill. euros (2015)
- Cost of health care total 19,5 bill. euros (2014)
  - Special health care 6,8 bill. eu (35%)
  - Basic health care 3,8 bill. eu (19%)
  - Public funding 75,6 % and private 24,4 %
- Occupational Health services 778 mill. euros (4 %) (2015)

OH costs covered by:
- Employers 87 %
- Employers 12,5 %
- Taxes 0,5% (farmers’ OH services)
Occupational accidents leading to work absences of at least three days per one thousand person-years by occupational category

Reported work-related diseases by occupation and diagnosis (n=4300/year in 2015)
Occupational health and medical faculties

- Five (5) medical faculties
  - Five (5) professors + 1-2 assistant lecturers/each faculty
  - MD training (6 years) (OH 1.5-3.0 credits vs. pathology 18)
  - Specialist in Occupational Health (6 years training program)
  - 2nd largest speciality (750 MDs in training)
- Helsinki University:
  - 300 MDs in speciality training
  - 90 training centers + 120 senior colleagues/mentors