Agenda item 10

Legionellosis incidents and outbreaks in the pan-European Region

Thomas Kistemann, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health
Promoting Water Management & Risk Communication, Germany

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Strengthening evidence base on legionellosis in the Region

- Legionellae cause disease outbreaks with high levels of morbidity and mortality and with high public health significance
- True burden of legionellosis in the Region is unknown
- Review of scientific and grey literature: 2011-2021, English + Russian
- National summary reports (2019) submitted under the Protocol
  - 15 countries provided information about legionellosis
Identified published outbreaks

- 72 reports of sporadic legionellosis
- No published outbreaks 2011-2021 (last published outbreak in the Russian Federation in 2007)
- Other topics covered: experimental studies, environmental studies, laboratory methods
Main findings of the literature review

• Outbreak reports published for two third of the EURO countries
• Predominant species: *Legionella pneumophila* SG 1
• Two thirds of outbreaks linked to cooling towers or building water supply systems, and few by spas, pools and wastewater treatment plants
• Strong variation in number of cases (2 - >800) per outbreak and duration of outbreaks (from one month to more than a year)
• The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control hosts a comprehensive surveillance system for Legionnaires’ disease for EU/EEA
• Reporting under the Protocol provides important complementary information
• *Legionellosis* is a still underestimated public health issue in EURO
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Regulatory and surveillance frameworks for Legionella control and prevention
Survey of regulatory and surveillance frameworks of legionella - 2021

**Objective:** to obtain a complete picture on the regulation and practice of *Legionella* risk assessment and management, including environmental and clinical surveillance

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**Online survey:**
- English and Russian version
- 44 responses
Scope of the regulation

- Qualification and training of operators (building water systems, devices etc)
- Registration of facilities posing Legionella risk (e.g. cooling towers, spa pools)
- Clinical surveillance
- Regulatory values
- Environmental monitoring
- Risk management
- Risk assessment
- Roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders

# of countries
Main outcomes

• Most countries had some regulation and guidelines on *Legionella* control

• Regulatory requirements for domestic settings need improvement

• Set and implement regulatory requirements for legionella risk assessment (1/3 responses indicate no specific requirements)

• Legionellosis is reportable disease in 35 countries (80%)

• Limited information from Central Asia and Caucasus indicating a need for strengthening surveillance capacity

• Most countries reported gaps in financing and human capacity for Legionella control and limited awareness among the general public.
Thank you for your attention!