Achievements on exposure assessment of

EMF-NET MT WORKEN "EMF exposure related risk in the working environment"

J. Karpowicz[1], G. Decat[2], R. Falsaperla[3], K. Gryz[1],

K. Hansson Mild[4], M. Hietanen[5], P. Rossi[3], M. Sandström[4]

[1]Central Institute for Labour Protection–National Research Institute (CIOP-PIB), Warszawa, Poland
[2]Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), Mol, Belgium
[3]National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention (ISPESL), Rome, Italy
[4]National Institute for Working Life (NIWL), Umeå, Sweden
[5]Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), Helsinki, Finland

jokar@ciop.pl

MT2 (Main Task-2)-WORKEN "EMF exposure related risk in the working environment" is a part of the European FP6 co-ordination activity EMF-NET. The aim of MT2 is to provide policy-makers with basic scientific data on EMF regulations or standards concerning occupational safety and health on the national and European levels, respectively. In addition, the integration of European research centres involved in studies on EMF occupational exposure should be achieved, in order to exchange experience and good practice.

The main topics of MT-2 are the analysis of the results of on-going and completed studies worked out in various European countries in the area of methods for measurements and computer simulations applicable for EMF exposure assessment for occupational risk evaluation. Advice and guidance concerning the implementation of the EU directive 2004/40/EC on occupational EMF is one of the high priorities of MT2 activities. The project's activities focused on EMF exposure assessment are divided into 2 main topics: measurements technique and computational dosimetry.

The measurement procedures, calculation methods and principles of computer dosimetry for the assessment of risk from occupational exposure to EMF have been considered within various frequency ranges - in the low frequency, intermediate frequency and radiofrequency range. Comparative studies supporting the evaluation of particular methods applicability and their comparability are being carried out. For different frequency ranges highly exposed groups have been identified and discussed in relation to possible standard procedures for measurements and calculations necessary for occupational risk assessment.

Advice for the occupational physicians on how to examine people who have been overexposed to EMF during work is also being considered (*Health surveillance and examination*). As requested in the EU directive 2004/40/EC, workers with special needs have been identified and possible ways of handling the problems are discussed. Pregnant workers, workers with metallic protheses, cardiac pacemakers, or implanted electro-medical devices are examples of workers with special needs and/or regulations.MT2 activities is executing by compilation of the reports on above mentioned topics, experts technical meetings and organising or co-organising international scientific events:

- 3rd EMF Workshop - Session B8: EMF-NET Round Table "Evaluation of occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields - present practices and future perspectives" - October 2004, Kos, Greece
- International Workshop on Electromagnetic Fields in Workplace - September 2005, Warsaw, Poland
- XXVIIIth General Assembly of International Union of Radio Science (URSI) - Session K06 "Occupational EMF safety and health" - November 2005, New Delhi, India
- EMF-NET-MT2 Worken Internation Workshop: Electromagnetic Fields of Welding Equipment in the framework of the Directive 2004/40/EC. April 06, 2006. VITO Mol, Belgium
- ICOH'06 - Mini Symposium on Occupational EMF - June 2006, Milan, Italy
- Workshop on Current Trends In Health and Safety Risk Assessment of Work-Related Exposure to EMFs - February 2007, Milan, Italy.