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# EU-HCWM

*“Developing an EU Standardised Approach to Vocational Educational  
Training Awards in Healthcare Waste Management”*

Project No. 541982-LLP-1-2013-1-UK-LEONARDO-LNW

***Healthcare Waste management  
Transfer of knowledge in EU acceding and candidate countries***

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***Final Conference***

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# Background

- More than 15 years of experience in sterilization, infection control and hospital hygiene
- Participation in International, National and Privately supported waste management projects in the last 10 years
- Preparation and delivery of training courses waste management in more than 10 countries n EU and Asia
- More than 100 Awareness rising seminars, conferences and workshops.
- Involvement in Designing, Equipping, Start up and Commissioning of more than 120 Healthcare waste treatment facilities and systems



# Background

- REC Country Office Macedonia is an International Organization with a mission to assist in addressing environmental issues by promoting cooperation among governments, NGOs, businesses and stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.
- Executed a HCWM training for approx. 40 healthcare workers in 2008, sponsored by Dutch Government.
- Authorized to deliver HCWM trainings in 2010;
- Engaged in various waste management projects since then, in Macedonia and other Balkan Countries.



# Situation in R. Macedonia

- National Rulebook on Healthcare waste Management adopted in 2007
- In 2008 first trainings in HCWM delivered to 70 healthcare workers.
- In 2010 The Rulebook defining the certification programme for waste managers was adopted; HCWM is covered by one module in the exam. The exam is focused on national and EU legislation, no practical skills are required.
- In 2012 -10 training centers authorized to develop and provide training on waste management for interested candidates. Approx. 70 waste managers certified by 2014.
- Since 2015 a new requirement for the candidates to attend 40 training hours before the qualification exams was introduced.
- Need for significant improvement of the training programme and the exam itself.



## Situation in the EU acceding and candidate countries

- Macedonia – HCWM implemented in the healthcare system, 3 Treatment facilities, Incineration and Autoclaving
- Serbia – HCWM implemented in the healthcare system, around 85 autoclaves in Public hospitals and 4 Private operators, no incineration
- Montenegro – HCWM implemented in the healthcare system, 2 treatment facilities (PPP operation) no incineration
- Albania - HCWM implemented in the healthcare system, 9-10 treatment facilities, 7 in public hospitals and 2-3 run by private operators
- Bosnia and Herzegovina –National, Federal, R. Srpska legislation, total of 8 operators...
- Turkey - HCWM implemented in the healthcare system, regional approach for treatment, PPP model of operation of the treatment facilities...

**A LOT OF POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT**



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# Differences & Similarities

## Differences

- Jurisdiction
- HCW Managers in place
- Organizational and Logistics setup
- Coverage with treatment capacities and technologies
- Monitoring and control of the waste management

## Similarities

- Legislation harmonized with EU directives
- WHO recommendations serving a basis
- Similar Organization on hospital level
- Colour Coding systems
- ADR requirements and Basel convention
- Treatment technologies
- Reporting systems
- HCW Management is considered as a working duty not as designated professionals
- Similar Myths and Truths among the HCW Professionals



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# Methods for transfer of knowledge

- Various projects
  - Professional Seminars,
  - Trainings,
  - Conferences
  - Commercial presentations
  - SOCIAL NETWORKS
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- Process of implementation of HCWM system and CPD on all Healthcare levels is supported with requirements for Accreditation of Healthcare institutions



# Methods and issues

- Various projects – Very few projects that includes training in (Healthcare) Waste Management
- Professional Seminars – Not consistent and sometimes can be very scientific
- Trainings – Type of training, validity and affordability
- Conferences – Awareness rising, News from the industry, case studies, etc
- Commercial presentations - Stay up to date with technology
- SOCIAL NETWORKS – Great for sharing of knowledge and experiences but usually considered as not official
- E- Learning... Sounds like good idea... Not only as training method but as tool for CPD





# Best results...

- Training Courses of small groups with same focus of interest and similar experience – **everyone can learn something**
- Training sessions to be organized in 3 phases, with minimum one 30 days between sessions – **Time to review consider and see practical applicability of the learned**
- Proof of knowledge – Testing and/or Evidencing, which will show examples of using practical skills and the theoretical knowledge – **Stressful issue for the candidate, but first proof that the candidate can call him/her self “PROFESSIONAL”**
- Certification and /or accreditation of the trainees – **Huge Motivation factor**
- Recognition of the qualification on National or International Level – **Even better...**



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# Looking Forward

Future Waste Managers should:

- Continuously increase their own level of professionalism
- Stay up to date with the development in the technology and the Industry
- Gain More international knowledge and experience
- Increasing of the awareness and knowledge of the Authorities, Stakeholders, Managers...
- Promote changes
- Expand their networks
  
- EVOLVE...



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# Thank you for your attention