

What every doctor should know about work and health: a needs analysis in six European countries

P.B.A. Smits¹, L. Braeckman², F.J.H. Van Dijk¹, J.F. Gehanno³, E.A. Pauncu⁴, F. Popescu⁴, M. Hanna⁴, P. Bulat⁵



¹ Coronel Institute of Occupational Health, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, ² Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium, ³ Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Rouen, France, ⁴ University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babes", Timisoara, Romania, ⁵ University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia



1 Introduction

All doctors should have 'work and health' competencies. We know little about these competencies as experienced by stakeholders such as patients, general practitioners, medical specialists and occupational physicians.

2 Objective

In the EMUTOM project we explored the perceived needs of stakeholders in six European countries: Belgium, France, Serbia, Romania, Spain and The Netherlands.



3 Methods: convenience sample

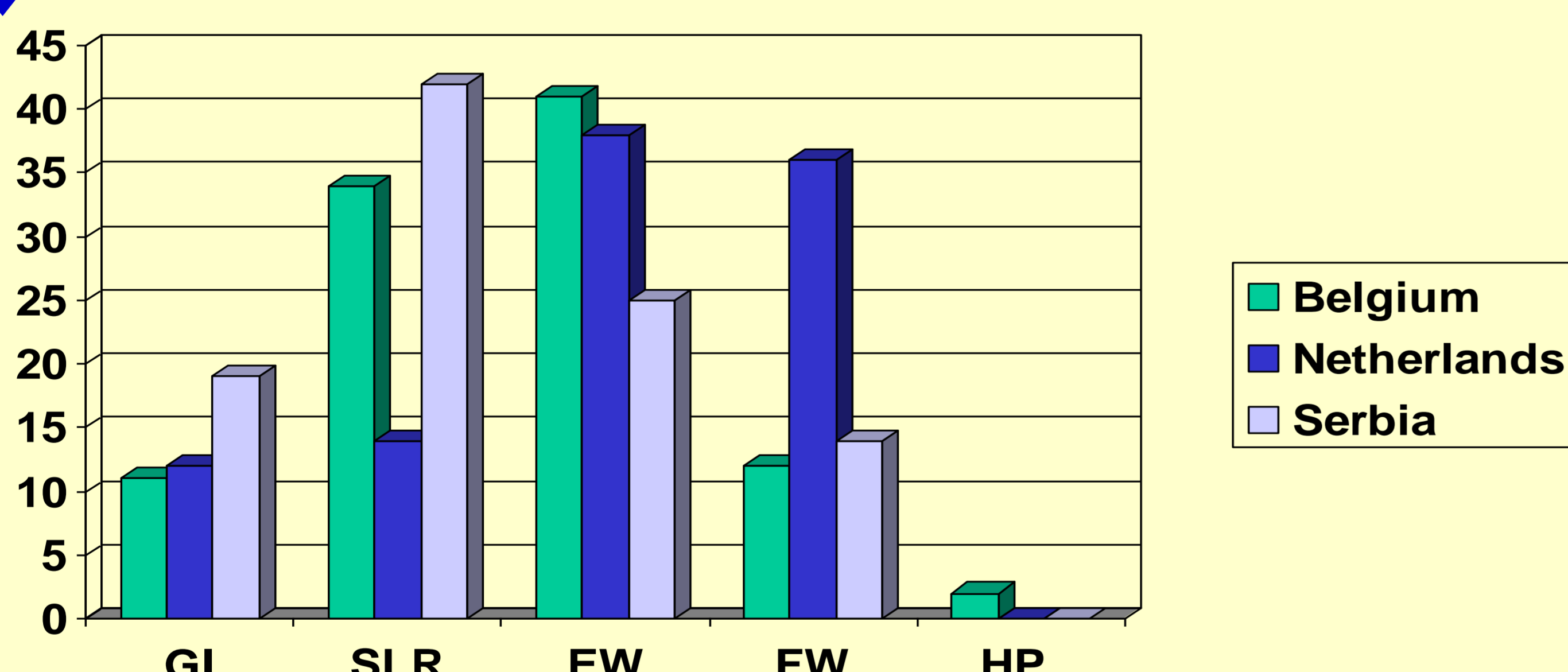
An open answer questionnaire was sent to a convenience sample of stakeholders, asked to articulate which 'work and health' competencies medical students should have at the end of the medical study.



4 Number of stakeholders

	Netherl	Belgium	Serbia	Romania	France	Spain	Total
Patient	1	2	5	8	0	5	21
General Practitioner	5	4	5	4	2	5	25
Medical Specialist	3	2	5	8	2	5	25
Occupational phys.	4	5	5	0	6	5	25
Other	3	3	0	0	0	5	11

5 Which topics are important (1)



Percentages of points given by stakeholders, to General Introduction (GI), Structure, Legislation and Roles (SLR), Effect of Work on health (EW), Fitness for Work (FW) and Health Promotion (HP).

6 Which topics are important (2)

Topic	Common needs	Differences (country where topic is mentioned)
General Introduction	- Meaning of work, employment - Basic knowledge of Occup. Health - Occupational history taking	- Preventive concepts (B, S, Sp)*
Structure Legislation Roles	- Communication	- Legislation (B, S, Sp) - Compensation (B, S, F, Sp)
Effect of Work, occupational diseases	- Diagnostics of Occup. Diseases - Basic knowledge of risks in work - Musculoskeletal diseases and risks - Toxicological risks - Risks of stress	- Reporting of ODs (S) - Personal protection (B, S) - Biological risks (F, B, Sp) - Climate, thermoregulation (R, S) - Radiation (B, F)
Fitness for Work	- Assessment of disability - Return to work policy	- Pre-employment examinations (S)

* F=France, B=Belgium, S=Serbia, R=Romania, Sp=Spain, N=The Netherlands

7 Conclusions

Our stakeholders state that all doctors should have competencies on the meaning of work for health, occupational diseases, health risks at work and fitness for work, and skills on occupational history taking. These competencies should form the basis of the European Module.

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