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OPINIONS OF UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM LEADERS ON OHS TRAINING

Introduction. Occupational injuries among young people globally are a significant public health concern, underscoring the importance of integrating risk management, occupational health and occupational safety (OHS) into daily decision-making processes. The autonomy of higher education institutions is one of the reasons for the lack of OSH education.

The aim of this study is to assess the volume of OHS training in Estonian higher education system.

Method. Based on the Delphi study principle, a two-stage e-survey was carried out among the curriculum managers of different Estonian universities. The main topics, content and volume of OHS training in different specialties were observed. In total 465 curriculum managers were in the target group, to whom was sent the questionnaire.

Results. The response rate of the first stage of e-survey was 16%. From the study group only 10 respondents were agree to continue study in the 2nd phasis. First stage shows that OSH subjects are represented only in 43% of the curriclulums managed by the respondents. The most subjects in the field of OHS are in bachelor's studies and the least in doctoral studies. Occupational safety, occupational health and environmental risk assessment and management subjects are mostly taught. Disaster risks are the least taught. Second phase reviled that physiological and physical risk factors are considered the most important in all areas of education. Recommended minimum volume of OSH training is 3 ECTS (78 hours).

Conclusions. New OHS teaching programme need to be developed in the national and EU strategy plan in the nearest future.

Keywords: Delphi study, higher education curriculum, occupational safety, safety culture

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