

## SUMMARY ON SUBJECT "HEALTH AND HYGIENE REGULATIONS IN BEAUTY SALONS"

Fourth international meeting in Antwerp - Belgium, 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

### DISCUSSIONS

The topic of meeting was "the respect of health and hygiene regulations in beauty salons for the safety of customers and professionals". Compared to previous meetings, we used a different approach: UBK/UCB prepared a summary presentation, containing the contributions given by all partners through the survey questionnaires on hygiene and safety in beauty salons. In this way, it was easier to highlight good practices and differences between Countries, and these outcomes could be useful for the construction of the "curriculum of excellence".

The most relevant aspects of discussion were the following:

1. A correct information and training on operators working in beauty salons are the basic conditions to ensure the hair and beauty professional's and customer's safety.
2. Practical tools (handbook, posters, manuals) should be provided inside beauty salons, reminding the rules to be followed in the treatments or the operations required in relation to the workplace (for example: the correct way to wash the hands, disinfect or sterilize working tools, properly use the equipment).
3. Taking part to training sessions and update seminars is important to maintain a professional high level, to prevent stress, illness and to enhance the safety of professionals and others.
4. Attention should be paid to the use of cosmetics, by reading the labels and the substances contained for the correct use.
5. It is important to respect working schedules and to divide the tasks among operators, to take breaks, to avoid prolonged efforts or incorrect positions at work.
6. The workplace should be kept clean and in order.
7. The discomfort related to "physical stress" or "work stress" need to be faced through training and relaxation techniques and with daily exercises.

During the discussion, it appears that the rules of prevention and safety in beauty sector are different among EU countries:

> In some countries, owners and operators of beauty salons must attend a mandatory training on safety and hygiene. In other countries, operators are not obliged to attend courses but they receive tutorial supports (handbooks, manuals) that operators must consult and then learn and apply.

> Although there are definite rules, in every country operators forget to respect the basic instructions for hygiene and safety in beauty salons. Therefore, it would be necessary to implement an effective campaign of safety and prevention: in countries where this is done, the statistics show that workplace injuries or illnesses have decreased.

> It is also necessary to ask for more controls in beauty salons to guarantee the protection of both the operators and the customers. This aspect should not be seen as a threat, but as an opportunity for salons to demonstrate their service quality.

> There are different policies in different countries in reference to maternity leave for hair and beauty professionals: in some cases, maternity leave is longer period than normal as these are considered at-risk professions, in some countries there are specific policies to support workers and companies to safeguard the workplace especially if the employee cannot come back to work for a long period.

> Policies for the management of hazardous waste (infectious and sharp) exist only in Italy.

It is also important to underline the existence of some European actions and related websites that aim to raise awareness of the operators (mostly for hairdressers):

> In terms of prevention and safety, the website [www.safehair.eu](http://www.safehair.eu) provides advice and recommendations for professionals working in beauty salons;

> In terms of energy saving the website [www.ecohair.be](http://www.ecohair.be) give information about reduction in consumption;

> In the field of risk assessment in the workplace, the website [www.oiraproject.eu](http://www.oiraproject.eu) is an important tutorial for hairdressers.

## **SAFETY DAY**

The event helped partners to understand how prevention and safety practices can be improved in beauty salons. During the seminar some product lines and professional tools were presented by leading companies in the beauty sector, with the aim to suggest how working processes can be optimized and costs reductions can be applied. For example, through products that provide greater well-being widespread in the workplace, or through throwaway and biodegradable products that require less working procedures, or equipment that facilitate the ergonomic position and the work of operators.

## **VISITS TO BEAUTY SALONS AND TRAINING SCHOOLS**

The visits to some hair salons and beauty centre were very interesting and helped to identify the similarities and the differences between beauty salons in other countries. Partners had a positive experience also during the visit to the Beautician Institute, which provides to beauticians a wide range of treatments training and interesting teaching methodologies.

## **DISCUSSION ON NEXT MEETINGS COMING AND DECISIONS MADE**

1. In view of next meetings in 2015, we took some decisions as following:

The next meeting will be held in Malta from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, with these indications:

- Arrival on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February
- Meeting: from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March to lunchtime Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Departure on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning.

Hair and Beauty Federation of Malta will give us a draft programme with all the logistics and organization issues, as soon as possible, so that each delegation can start to organize and book the flights.

2. The objective of the meeting in Malta will be the construction of the "curriculum of excellence" which the main aim of Project BOBS. The curriculum must be prepared and shared among the partners, with the inputs and contents that were gathered from previous meetings, in relation to the three main topics of discussion (socio-demographic changes, vocational training, health and safety). As an example, the development of a "VOCATIONAL TRAINING GUIDE" was suggested: a document useful for all partners, which stimulates to promote vocational training, safety in the workplace, professional skills and the updating required for each operator in beauty sector. This product could be spent for the dissemination of the results of project BOBS in each country, in relation to local actors (particularly schools, professionals, institutional representatives) and to local governments in order to improve policies sector.

3. With regards to the curriculum of excellence, it has been decided that more attention must be paid to the beauty sector. It was suggested that a specific working group should be set up to discuss the issues of the sector in the three working topics.

4. The following and final meeting of Project BOBS will be jointly held in Zagreb (Croatia) and Krsko (Slovenia), between Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015: we ask partners to save these dates in the agenda. The topic of discussion will be the "dissemination of the results and outcomes of Project BOBS". Due to the importance of the issue, all National Agencies should be invited to the meeting as well as national authorities in the field of professional training. UBK/UCB also suggests to invite the representatives of Coiffure EU, in order to show them results achieved and the recommendations made by Project BOBS.