

Agenda item 10

Legionellosis incidents and outbreaks in the pan-European Region

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6th Session of the

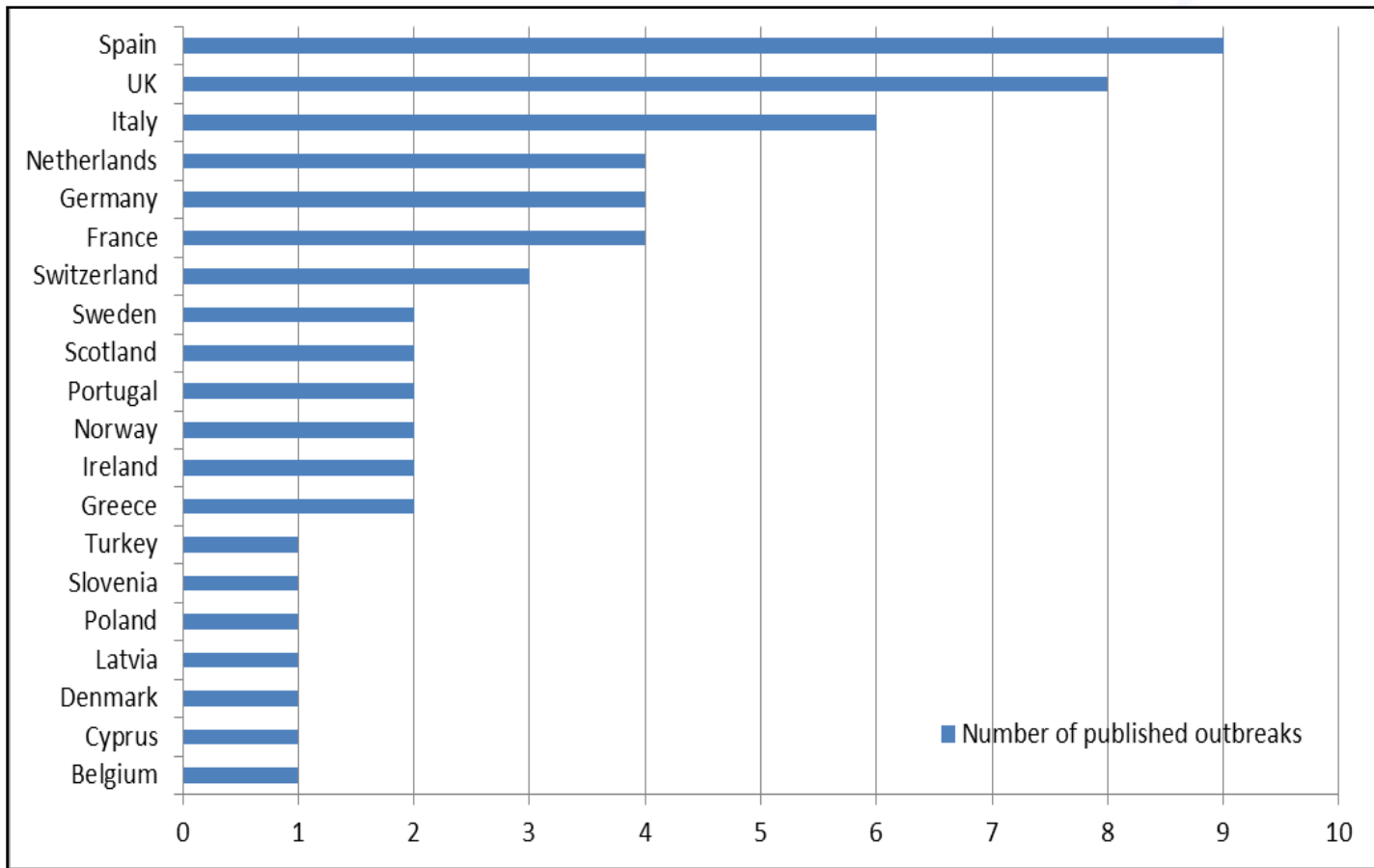
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

16-18 November | Geneva | Switzerland

Strengthening evidence base on legionellosis in the Region

- Legionellae cause disease outbreaks with high levels of morbidity and mortality and with high public health significance
- True burden of legionellosis in the Region is unknown
- Review of scientific and grey literature: 2011-2021, English + Russian
- National summary reports (2019) submitted under the Protocol
 - 15 countries provided information about legionellosis

Identified published outbreaks



Findings for EECCA countries

- 72 reports of sporadic legionellosis
- No published outbreaks 2011-2021 (last published outbreak in the Russian Federation in 2007)
- Other topics covered: experimental studies, environmental studies, laboratory methods

Main findings of the literature review

- Outbreak reports published for two third of the EURO countries
- Predominant species: *Legionella pneumophila* SG 1
- Two thirds of outbreaks linked to cooling towers or building water supply systems, and few by spas, pools and wastewater treatment plants
- Strong variation in number of cases (2 - >800) per outbreak and duration of outbreaks (from one month to more than a year)
- The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control hosts a comprehensive surveillance system for Legionnaires' disease for EU/EEA
- Reporting under the Protocol provides important complementary information
- **Legionellosis is a still underestimated public health issue in EURO**

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Regulatory and surveillance frameworks for Legionella control and prevention

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Survey of regulatory and surveillance frameworks of legionella - 2021

Objective : to obtain a complete picture on the regulation and practice of *Legionella* risk assessment and management, including environmental and clinical surveillance

Respondent
data

Regulatory
documents

Regulated
facilities

Risk assessment
requirements

Risk
management
requirements

Environmental
surveillance

Clinical
surveillance

Implementation

Legionella survey¶
Survey on the national requirements and practice for Legionella Surveillance¶

¶

The health concerns related to *Legionella* have been identified as an area of increased public health significance globally, as outbreaks of legionellosis cause a high level of morbidity and mortality. Legionellosis, one of the emerging water-related diseases in the WHO European region. Although *Legionella* is a well-recognized problem in high-income countries, data are scarce from low- and middle-income countries and the true burden of legionellosis in the Region is unknown. At the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties to Protocol on Water and Health, the Parties and other states decided to address this concern as part of the programming area "Preventing and reducing water-related disease", lead by Norway and Belarus. ¶

This questionnaire aims to collect information on the regulation and practice of *Legionella* risk assessment and management, including environmental and clinical surveillance. To obtain a complete picture, it might be necessary to involve more experts with different expertise. ¶

There are 56 questions in this survey. ¶

General information¶

Your country¶
Your organization ¶

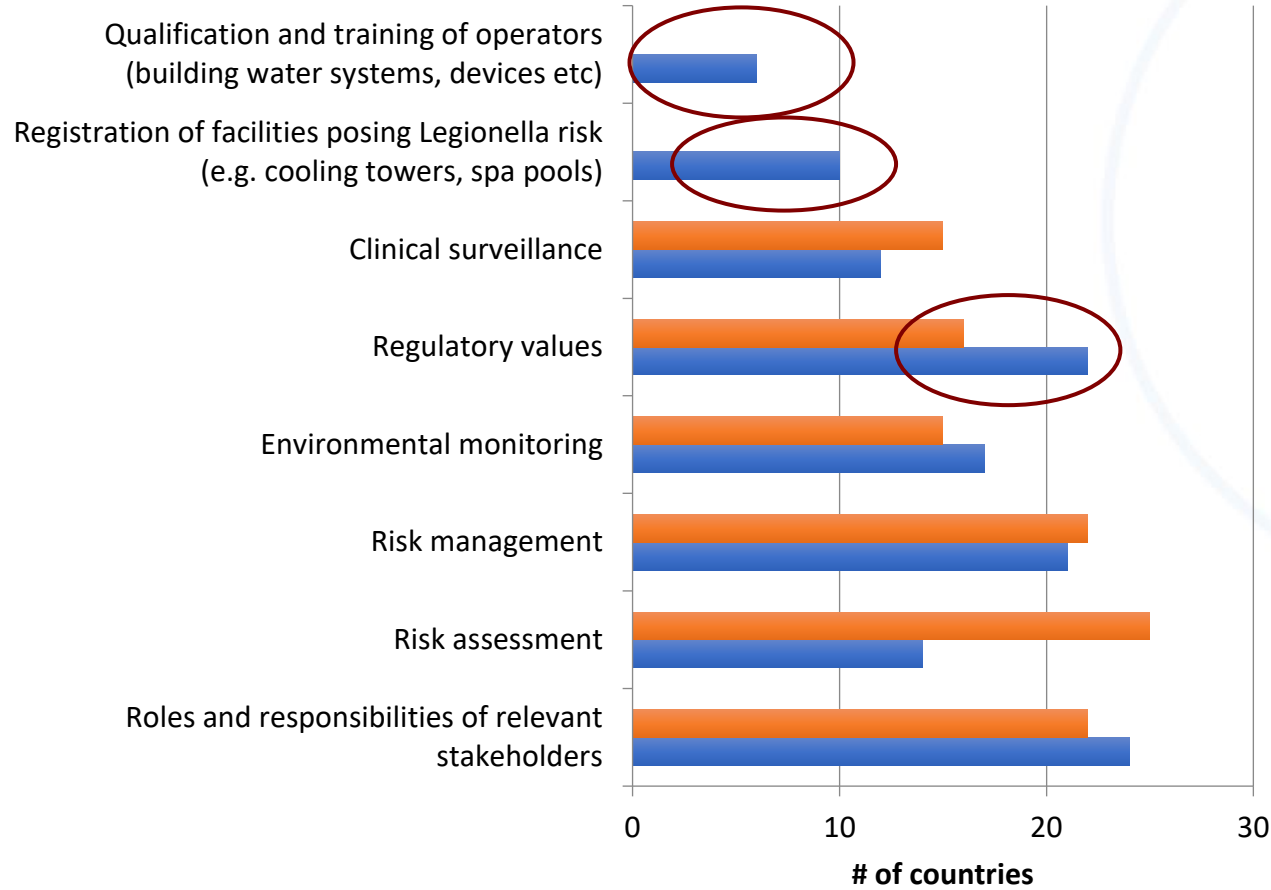
Government organization¶
 Non-government organization¶
 Public health institution¶
 Academic institution¶
 National authority¶
 Local authority¶
 Institute¶
 Other (Please specify)¶
Name of the organization(s)¶

Online survey:

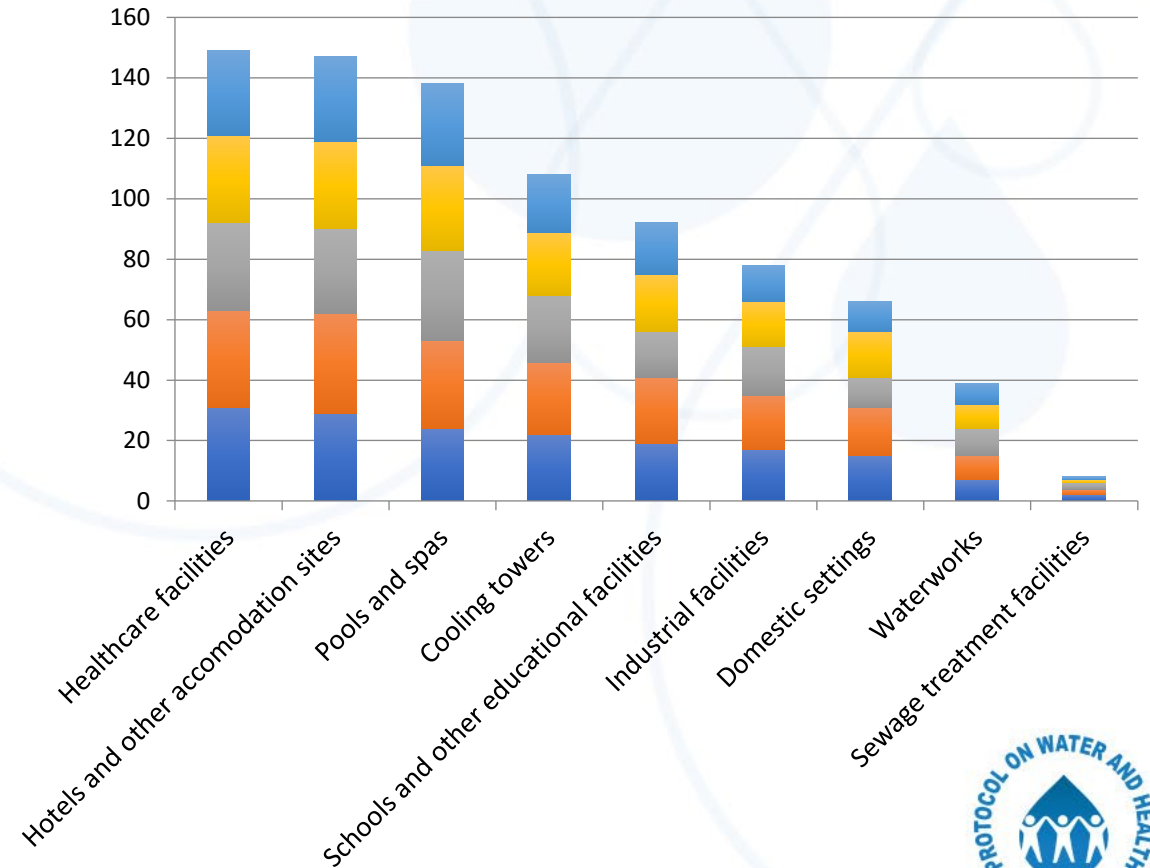
- English and Russian version
- **44 responses**

Scope of the regulation

■ Risk assessment ■ Risk management ■ Environmental monitoring
■ Operational monitoring ■ Regulatory values



■ Standards/guidelines ■ Legislation



Main outcomes

- Most countries had some regulation and guidelines on *Legionella* control
- Regulatory requirements **for domestic settings need improvement**
- Set and implement regulatory requirements for legionella risk assessment
(1/3 responses indicate no specific requirements)
- Legionellosis is reportable disease in 35 countries (80%)
- Limited information from Central Asia and Caucasus indicating a **need for strengthening surveillance capacity**
- Most countries reported **gaps in financing and human capacity** for Legionella control and limited awareness among the general public.

Thank you for your attention!

