



THE LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAMME



INCREASED COLLABORATION BETWEEN POISONS CENTRES

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The Leonardo Da Vinci programme is a European Community programme launched to support funding of transnational partnership projects aimed at improving quality, fostering innovation and promoting the European dimension in vocational training.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/leonardo/leonardo_en.html

Information about the programme and the annual deadlines for the submission of proposals are available at the Da Vinci national websites.

Proposals may be submitted by private, public or semi-public organisations and institutions (i.e. private individuals may not submit proposals).

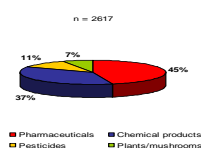
Objective: To create opportunity for further education and promote exchange of experience between poisons centres in Europe. Within this programme a bilateral exchange has started with the following countries: Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden.

Methods: The Swedish Poisons Information Centre (SPIC) has received a grant for 9 persons to facilitate visits to these countries. Expenses for administration, travel and accommodation during two weeks each are covered. This project will be running during the period 2006-2008. The initial phase started with a visit by two participants from the Swedish centre to the Toxicology Clinic (TC) in Sofia, Bulgaria. Organisation and function of the TC were studied and the poisoning patterns in the two countries were compared.

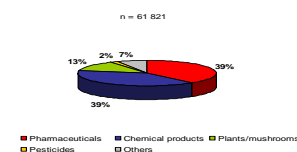
Results: Both centres started their activity around 1960. The main organisation of the TC is concentrated on treatment of poisoned patients in contrast to the SPIC where the main responsibility is a 24 hour telephone service to both medical professionals and the general public.



Bulgaria (TC): 2 617 patients in 2005



Sweden (SPIC): 61 821 inquiries concerning acute poisoning in humans in 2005



Treated patients, poisoning agents:

Agent	%	Agent	%
Pharmaceuticals		Chemical products	
Combined preparations	30.1	Ethanol	59.8
Benzodiazepines	23.5	Sodium hydroxide	23.1
Antidepressants	12.3	Gases	5.7
Others	34.1	Others	11.4

Patients advised to seek medical attention, poisoning agents:

Agent	%	Agent	%
Pharmaceuticals		Chemical products	
Neuroleptics, sedatives, hypnotics	23.7	Detergents	24.4
Analgesics	19.8	Fuels	12.3
Antidepressants	12.8	Gases	10.2
Others	43.7	Others	53.1

Conclusion: The initial phase of the funding programme Leonardo Da Vinci has taken place. Increased collaboration between poisons centres will enhance the exchange of experience and knowledge and also create a basis for the development of poisons centres.