

Strengthening occupational health professionals' capacities to improve the health of the ageing workforces

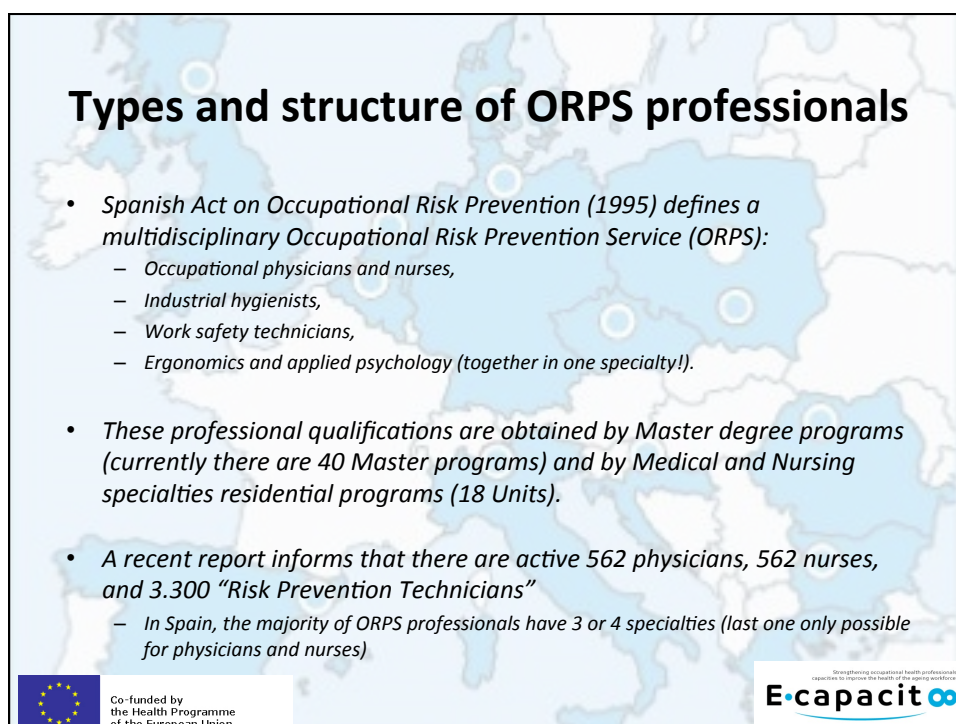
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WP4 Country Report: *Spain*

*Pere Boix, Emily Felt, Fernando G. Benavides.
Centre for Research in Occupational Health,
University Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain)*

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Types and structure of ORPS professionals

- *Spanish Act on Occupational Risk Prevention (1995) defines a multidisciplinary Occupational Risk Prevention Service (ORPS):*
 - Occupational physicians and nurses,
 - Industrial hygienists,
 - Work safety technicians,
 - Ergonomics and applied psychology (together in one specialty!).
- *These professional qualifications are obtained by Master degree programs (currently there are 40 Master programs) and by Medical and Nursing specialties residential programs (18 Units).*
- *A recent report informs that there are active 562 physicians, 562 nurses, and 3.300 "Risk Prevention Technicians"*
 - *In Spain, the majority of ORPS professionals have 3 or 4 specialties (last one only possible for physicians and nurses)*

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Labour demographic look at Spain

- *Activity rates of the population over age 55 are*
 - *Men: from 26.8% in 2001 to 28.8% in 2010*
 - *Women: from 8.8% in 2001 to 15.3% in 2010*
- *A total of 1.7 million people between ages 45 and 64 report having limitations in performing their work.*
- *The Spanish Pension reform (2011) has extended the official retirement age from 65 (currently 62.9 years) to 67 progressively in 2022*
 - *and the contribution period for access to a pension from the current 15 years to 25 years*



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Ageing in the training programmes

- *Our contact with stakeholders (National Institute for Safety and Hygiene at Work, and National School of Occupational Medicine) as well as the review of materials (1) did not reveal any meaningful treatment of the issue of ageing.*
- *In summary, we can confirm that any training programmes for OHPs in Spain cover the issue of workforce ageing.*

(1) CERPIE. Investigación sobre el número de alumnos en PRL en España en los tres niveles formativos (básico, intermedio y superior) y acercamiento a los currículos formativos. Barcelona: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, 2011.



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Ageing (workforce) in other resources

- *A White paper on Active Ageing promoted by Health Ministry in 2011, although only 4 pages (out of 729 pages) are devoted to problems related to workforce aging.*
- *A literature review in PubMed revealed just 4 published articles on the topic in Spain, and only 2 concerned a Spanish population of workers.*
- *A recently published Royal Decree (2) has not yet taken effect, however, it encourages active aging of the labour force and discourages discrimination of older workers.*

(2) Royal Decree Law 5/2013, to promote the continuity of the working lives of older workers and active aging.



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Conclusions and recommendations

- *Spain is in need of the development of OPRS training curricula that addresses the specific concerns of the older working population.*
 - *Curricula materials should include demographics trends and social security information*
- *This curricula should be integrated into the different OPRS training programs currently operating.*
 - *Hold meetings with University masters OPRS programs to explore incorporating materials on aging into curriculum.*
 - *Develop materials on the topic in collaboration with partners whose countries are more advanced in this area than Spain.*



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