

One possibility to complete and improve traditional training in occupational medicine is online case-based learning. NetWoRM (Net-based Training for Work-Related Medicine; www.networm-online.eu) provides an opportunity to share e-learning cases on an international base. The major aim of this project is case creation, translation, adaptation, and integration at the partner universities. Besides the European centres funded by the EU, centres in Chile, Brazil (funded by DAAD) and North America (funded by the Bavaria-Quebec programme) are joining the project. Twenty six cases are now available in a standard English version, up to 10 cases have been adapted to the local situation in French, Spanish, German, English, Romanian, Polish and Finnish covering a broad range of training for OM at the under- and postgraduate level. Evaluation results indicate the high acceptance of the users.

After successful completion of case creation and local implementation into the curricula, dissemination strategies need now to be developed in order to exploit the results and guarantee long-term sustainability. The aim of the next NetWoRM phase therefore is the dissemination and exploitation of the e-learning cases reaching the critical mass of users and developing strategies for the long-lasting success. These local, national and international strategies will be developed jointly by the NetWoRM consortium in close collaboration with local organizations for occupational health. The cases should form the basis for an international curriculum on occupational health combining onsite and distance training.

Overall, the quality of education and training in OM will be enhanced, improving workers' health in the long-run.