

WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health (MKD-2)

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Core Priority 2 - Protecting against health emergencies

▪ **Background**

WHO CC for Occupational Health at the Institute of Occupational Health of RNM in Skopje, North Macedonia:

- cooperates with other WHO CCs in Europe and beyond
- coordinates a sub-regional network of experts in occupational health in 9 Member States (ALB, BiH, BUL, CRO, MKD, MNE, ROM, SRB and TUR) - the SEE Network on Workers' Health (**SEENWH**).

▪ **Project activity:** In the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO CC in Skopje coordinated a capacity building project (September 2021-February 2022)- **'Actions to strengthen resilience of health workers in south-eastern Europe in response to COVID-19 and beyond: implementation of WHO/ILO guidance and mapping of priority needs for occupational health and safety (OHS) programmes for health workers (HWs)'**

➤ The project was developed and implemented in cooperation with WHO ECEH, in coordination with WHO HQ, with support from WHO Country Offices in participating Member States.

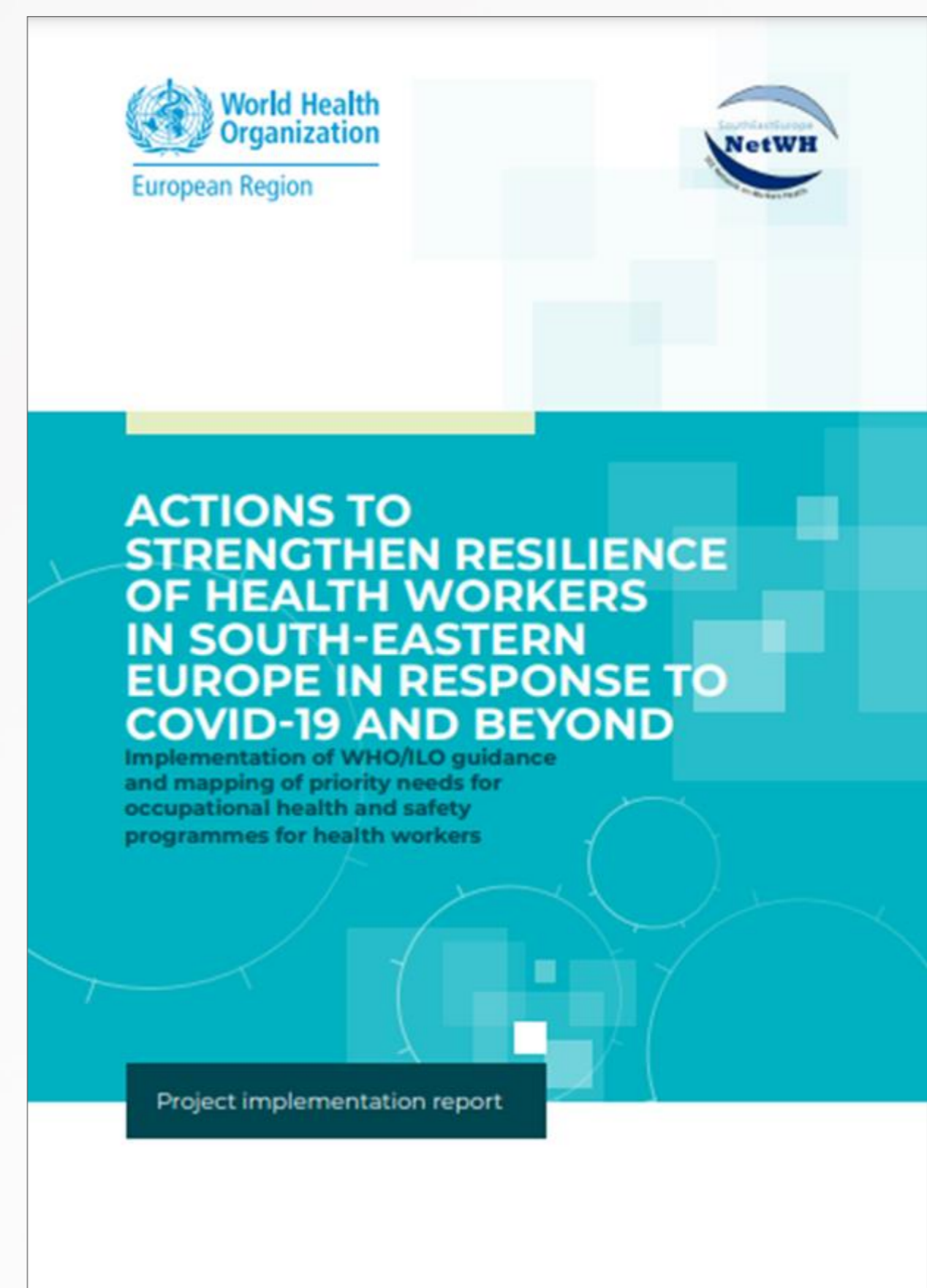
▪ **Aim of the project:** strengthening capacities of HWs in SEENWH countries in response to COVID-19 and other risks, disseminating the WHO/ILO guidance on OHS for HWs.

▪ **Project's organization:**

- At the start of the project, WHO CC in Skopje organized an online training of trainers, delivered by recognized experts in OH, members of SEENWH
- A series of online training courses followed in seven countries, members of SEENWH (BiH, BUL, MKD, MNE, ROM, SRB and TUR).
- Trainings developed and delivered in national languages, adapted to national circumstances, and accompanied by communication materials.
- The trainings got accreditation in the respective medical chambers.

▪ **Additional values:**

- This project is a good example of raising awareness and visibility of WHO CCs and their contribution to the national health actions and in achieving WHO recommendations.
- The implemented project, focused on supporting HWs, contributes also to the implementation of the WHO Western Balkans Roadmap for Health 2021-2025.
- This activity confirms the role of SEENWH as a well-established platform for sharing the knowledge on OH and collaboration between professionals in SE Europe.



<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/362274>

▪ **Project's deliverables:**

- **More than 1,600 HWs from SEENWH countries participated**, enhancing their resilience in response to COVID-19 and new and emerging risks.
- WHO CC in Skopje developed, distributed and analyzed questionnaires to gather feedback from participants and collect views on future needs for developing national OHS programmes for HWs.
- The main project activities, lessons learnt, and future needs are summarised in a report published on the WHO EURO website.