Lifeguard Legislation in Greece

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SOBRASA 2014, Symposium
The Drowning Problem in Greece

- **More than 1 person/day!**
- 2004: ranked 69th in totally 192 countries, having the same rates with Germany that is 8 larger in population (WHO 2009).
- Double drowning rates from the average rate of Europe.
- **1: 20** drowning deaths : non-fatal childhood drownings hospital admissions.
- 2nd leading cause of accidental death for children 0-14 old.
YEARS

DROWNING DEATHS

1980 (290)

1990 (311)

2000 (341)

2004 (390)

2010 (387)
Consequences of the Problem

**High cost: Ministry of Health**

- No fatal drowning > paralysis > unemployment, sexual problems, obesity, pain, NCDs, sores, lack of socialization, psycho-social problems for the victim and the family.

**Fatal drowning** > social/family problems (divorce of those whose lost a child, legal implications, possible PTSD).
Questions Raised by the Problem

What is the legislation for agencies that certify pool, water park and lake lifeguards?

Which governing body could act as the head?

How could the lifeguard agencies operate?
Greek LG Legislation: Now

Sea (Decree Law 23/2000)

= BL Instructors
Greek LG Legislation: **Now**

Sea (Decree Law 23/2000)
Greek LG Legislation: Now

Pools (King Decree 1976)
Greek LG Legislation: **Now**

Pools (King Decree 1976)

1 : 300 bathers

Few hrs Full course

**OR**

Pool LG employment
Greek LG Legislation: Future Chart

Ministry of Health
Hellenic CDCP
Water Accident Prevention Office
Lifeguard Agencies
Director
Instructor’s Instructor
Instructors
Course Candidates
[First Aid, AED, Rescuing Disabled, Lifeguard (Pool, WP, Lake), Head Lifeguard, Spinal Injury Management, Instructor qualification for all the above]
Risk Assessment Officers
Greek LG Legislation: Future Innovations

- Common national syllabus
- Common book
- Certificates: general safety/rescue education
- Diplomas: for employment
- Directors: SSPE graduates specialized (a) in Lifeguarding or (b) Water Polo/Swimming with lifeguard education.
- Instructors: Qualified nationally or abroad (ILS, ILS members)
Low quality legislation in Greece is one of the contributing factors of the high drowning rates.

Legislation update: vital to enhance water safety.

The Hellenic CDC proposes to act as the leading organization together with the Ministry of Health in the field of water accident prevention.
The End