



# Priorities for Occupational safety and health research in Europe: 2013-2020

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**Partnership meeting**  
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Safety and health at work is everyone's concern. It's good for you. It's good for business.

# Defining priorities for occupational safety and health research in Europe

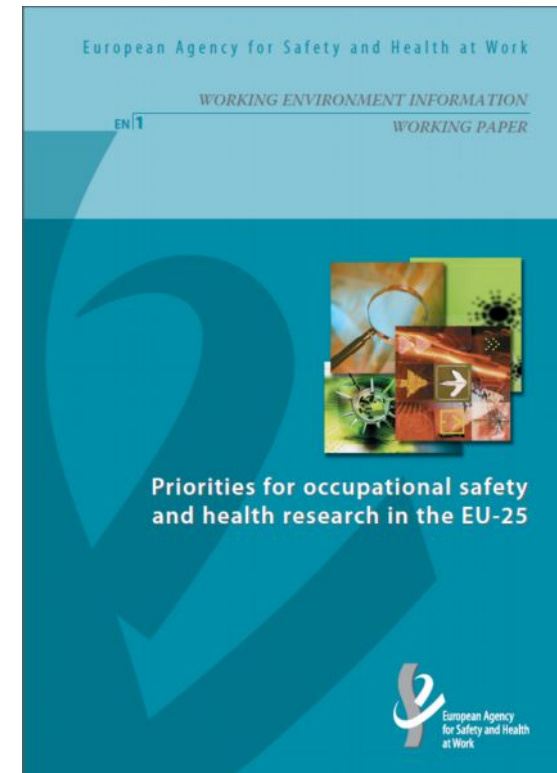
## EU-OSHA and European Risk Observatory objectives

- to seek a consensus on research priorities in OSH, and to encourage national OSH research institutes to set joint priorities
- to promote Member State cooperation in research
- to encourage the inclusion of OSH requirements in research programmes



# Background

- **2000 - Future occupational safety and health research needs and priorities in the Member States of the European Union**
- **2005 - Priorities for occupational safety and health research in the EU-25**
  - The priorities identified are reflected in the Community Strategy 2007-12
- **Priorities for Occupational safety and health (OSH) research in Europe: 2013-20**
  - Prepared in 2012, published in June 2013



# Priorities for Occupational safety and health (OSH) research in Europe: 2013-20

## Objectives:

- To update the report from 2005 and to define OSH research priorities for the upcoming years
- To provide input into the 8th Research Framework Programme – Horizon 2020, and a possible new EU strategy

## Broad consultation involving

- all the major OSH research institutions and in particular PEROSH
- EU-OSHA Focal Points
- social partners and other networks
- ILO, WHO
- Seminar in May 2012 to provide input



# Priorities for Occupational safety and health (OSH) research in Europe: 2013-20

- **Structured around four main areas to emphasise the link to EU2020 Strategy**
  - Demographic change – Sustainable work for healthier and longer working lives
  - Globalisation and changing world of work
  - OSH research for safe new technologies as a prerequisite for sustainable growth
  - Research into new or increasing occupational exposures
- **Transversal issues**

# Demographic change – Sustainable work

- **Ageing and increasing diversity of the workforce: Older workers, women at work and the gender dimension, migrant workers**
  - female-dominated sectors and types of jobs in which women are overrepresented, such as healthcare, education, retail, hospitality, personal and household services, and part-time and precarious jobs
- **Health inequalities and work**
  - socioeconomic and gender-specific
  - business activities and professions with the high levels of exposure and strain in which unhealthy lifestyles are common.
- **Major health problems, disability prevention and return to work research**
  - models of integrated and collaborative health management (including work design, work organisation, workplace health promotion and rehabilitation) for workers with chronic diseases and health conditions, including mental illness and disorders, to prevent work disability and unnecessary job losses. Interventions also need to address the psychosocial aspects of working with a chronic disease.



# Globalisation and the changing world of work

- **Health in restructuring**

- health effects of restructuring, including in SMEs

- **New employment and working patterns and psychosocial risk factors**

- impact of new employment and working patterns, including different forms of flexibility, on safety and health at work
- the safety and health aspects of precarious work in terms of access to occupational healthcare, health surveillance and traceability of occupational diseases, worker participation and access to training
- the determinants of work–life balance in a wider societal context, including societal values and systems; new working patterns and different types of flexibility, implementation of new technologies and work–life balance and health and well-being at work and organisational performance

- **Violence and harassment**

- the influence of various situational and environmental factors of third-party violence or harassment in worker–client interactions in different workplace settings

# Globalisation and the changing world of work

- **Psychosocial risk factors, work-related stress, and chronic diseases and health conditions**

- the complex interactions between work-related psychosocial and organisational risk factors, work-related stress, physical inactivity at work, risk behaviours, and chronic diseases and health conditions

- **OSH in SMEs**

- specific features of small and micro-enterprises, the success and obstacle factors throughout the enterprise life cycle in different economic contexts (growth, recession), the key factors affecting OSH decision-making in these enterprises
- key conditions that contribute to a 'favourable' environment, good levels of OSH management practice in SMEs (especially those with fewer than 100 employees)
- Support schemes



# Priorities for OSH research: Transversal issues (1)

- **Mainstreaming OSH research in other research and policy areas**
  - Environment
  - Public health
- **Prevention through design**
- **Economic dimension of OSH**
  - socioeconomic costs of the consequences of poor or no OSH, analysis of costs and benefits of OSH prevention
  - effects of regulatory systems, employment relations, social security systems and other contextual factors at the society–enterprise interface

## Priorities for OSH research: Transversal issues (2)

- **Translational research – transfer of research results to the workplace**
- **Intervention research**
  - evaluate OSH interventions at all levels, including evaluation of the process, effectiveness, feasibility and cost-effectiveness
- **OSH communication / risk communication**
  - Different target groups (e.g. in terms of risk perception and factors influencing it) - optimal message contents and formats
  - groups that are difficult to reach, such as small and micro-enterprises, self-employed, workers in temporary and precarious work, etc.
  - effectiveness of different communication channels and media - specific characteristics and needs of different audiences.
  - possibilities of new technologies and social media

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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