



EU-OSHA perspective on work-related diseases: from research to practice

ILO International Safety and Health Conference 2013

“Make it visible: Occupational diseases – Recognition, compensation and prevention”

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European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)



- A body of the EU
- Established in 1996 in Bilbao, Spain
- To promote a **culture of risk prevention to improve working conditions in Europe**, by providing technical, scientific and economic information to serve the needs of those involved in safety and health at work.
- Tripartite Board bringing together:
 - governments, employers' and workers' organisations
 - the European Commission



What we do

■ Research

- We identify and assess new and emerging risks at work
 - e.g. foresight, ESENER (EU survey of enterprises on new and emerging risks)
- We mainstream OSH into other policy areas: public health, research, environmental protection, transport, education, ...

■ Prevention

- We collect good practice examples
- We develop hands-on instruments for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to help them assess their workplace risks, share knowledge and good practices on OSH
 - OiRA (Online interactive risk assessment)

■ Partnership

- We work with and network governments, employers' and workers' organisations, EU bodies, networks, and private companies
 - e.g. our EU network of national Focal Points

■ Campaigning

- We organise major bi-annual EU “Healthy Workplace Campaigns”:
 - 2012-2013: Working together for risk prevention
 - 2014-2015: Healthy workplaces manage stress

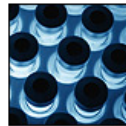
Our Sources of Information

Good practices and Risk Assessment Tools

Topic Pages

Menu
A propos de l'Agence
Solutions pratiques
Observatoire européen des risques
Thèmes
Aspects de la SST en termes d'entreprises
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Évaluation des risques
Incitations économiques
La SST et l'éducation
Leadership en matière de gestion
Le bruit au travail
Le monde du travail en mutation
Maintenance
Participation des travailleurs à la sécurité et à la santé
Prévention des accidents
Promotion de la santé sur le lieu de travail
Stress and psychosocial risks
Substances dangereuses
Troubles musculo-squelettiques
Groupes prioritaires
Secteurs
Campagnes
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Presse et multimédia
Publications
Organisations et stratégies
Points focaux nationaux
Législation
Quelques chiffres sur la sécurité et la santé au travail

Substances dangereuses



Les substances dangereuses, c'est-à-dire tout liquide, gaz ou solide qui présente un risque pour la santé ou la sécurité des travailleurs, sont présentes sur la plupart des lieux de travail. En Europe, des millions de travailleurs sont en contact avec des agents chimiques et biologiques susceptibles de leur nuire.

Selon une étude récente, 19 % des travailleurs de l'UE déclarent être exposés à des vapeurs toxiques pendant au minimum un quart de leur temps de travail, tandis que 15 % des travailleurs doivent manipuler des substances dangereuses dans le cadre de leur travail quotidien.

Si les risques liés à l'utilisation de substances dangereuses ne sont pas gérés correctement, ils peuvent nuire à la santé des travailleurs de diverses manières. Les effets sur la santé peuvent inclure aussi bien l'irritation moyenne des yeux et de la peau, l'asthme, les problèmes de reproduction et les anomalies congénitales, que le cancer. Ils peuvent se produire par le biais d'une brève exposition unique, ou d'expositions multiples et d'une accumulation à long terme de substances dans le corps. Légalement, les employeurs de l'UE doivent protéger leurs travailleurs contre les substances dangereuses sur le lieu de travail. Les employeurs doivent procéder à une évaluation des risques et agir en conséquence. La législation prévoit également l'identification et l'étiquetage de milliers de substances dangereuses différentes, enregistrées sur le marché européen. Réduire les risques professionnels liés aux substances dangereuses n'est pas uniquement un impératif moral et juridique – cette approche représente également un aspect commercial majeur. Les organisations, tout comme les travailleurs, peuvent souffrir lorsque les choses tournent mal, que ce soit par le biais d'une perte de productivité, ou d'une augmentation des responsabilités liées aux poursuites et aux demandes d'indemnisation. Heureusement, de nombreux conseils sont disponibles pour les employeurs et les travailleurs en matière de gestion des substances dangereuses. En outre, il existe en Europe de nombreux exemples de bonnes pratiques dont il est possible de s'inspirer. En prenant les mesures appropriées, les travailleurs peuvent se protéger lors de l'utilisation de substances dangereuses. Les employeurs sont également tenus de fournir aux travailleurs des informations concernant les risques que présentent les substances dangereuses et de les former pour leur apprendre comment les utiliser en toute sécurité. Les règles s'appliquent aussi bien aux produits commercialisés qu'aux déchets et aux sous-produits résultant des processus de production.

- Valeurs limites d'exposition professionnelle
- Législation
- REACH (enregistrement, évaluation et autorisation des produits chimiques)
- CLP – Classification, étiquetage et emballage des substances et mélanges
- Agents biologiques
- Observatoire du risque
- Quels sont les effets sur la santé?
- Comment me protéger? Conseils aux travailleurs
- Que faire? Conseils aux employeurs:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/ds>

- Mesures de prévention
- Communication
- Conseils aux producteurs de produits chimiques

Reports, E-facts all provided in various EU languages

More about...

- ➔ Napo in ... Danger: Chemicals!
- ➔ Practical solutions: risk assessment tools, case studies, FAQs

Publications

- Summary - Green jobs and occupational safety and health: Foresight on new and emerging risks associated with new technologies by 2020
- Green jobs and occupational safety and health: Foresight on new and emerging risks associated with new technologies by 2020
- Risk perception and risk communication with regard to nanomaterials in the workplace
- Des lieux de travail sans tabac. Conseils pour les employeurs : créer un lieu de travail plus sain
- Des lieux de travail sans tabac. Conseils pour les non-fumeurs

Plus...

Actualités

- UK-Working Safely with Nanomaterials in Research and Development
19/09/2012
- EU-BCHA launches a public consultation on 54 potential Substances of Very High Concern
11/09/2012
- DE-BAuA publishes guidance for the registration of nanomaterials under REACH
03/09/2012
- EU - Safety data sheets - Proceedings of the second meeting of the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios now available
06/08/2012
- ECHA launches a new generation of its Chemical Safety Assessment and Reporting Tool to further harmonise and improve information on the safe use of chemicals.
27/06/2012

Work-related diseases

Refocusing the perspective

▪ **Building on Agency's work**

- MSDs, skin diseases, stress-related disorders

▪ **Risks to reproductive health**

- 2014: Workshop to discuss findings from 2012 report
 - Lack of testing routines, monitoring and epidemiologic studies on some reprotoxic effects (male reprotoxicity; on the offspring e.g. propensity to allergies, hormonal and developmental changes), caused by chemicals, physical and organisational factors
 - Only few countries have strategies beyond the protection of pregnant workers
 - Support workplace management and awareness-raising
- 2014: Publication of workshop summary

▪ **Carcinogens and work-related cancer:**

- 2013: State of the art report + summary to follow-up on 2012 seminar and address gaps identified – to be published in 2014
 - incl. monitoring methods, campaigning for awareness and prevention, identification of vulnerable groups, chemical and biological, but also other risks

▪ **Workshop to scope future work on burden of WRD: 2014**

- with experts, EC, FOPS, social partners, SCOEL

EU-OSHA's database with examples of company “Good Practice” – management of nanomaterials

- **15 company case studies presenting Good Practice examples for the workplace management of engineered nanomaterials**
 - Risk assessment, prevention at source, hierarchy of control principle, management's commitment, workers involvement, etc.
- **Covers a variety of industrial environments and activities:**
 - Textile, plastics, paints, medical applications, energy (fuel cells), aircraft industry, production of nanotubes, cleaning of surfaces, construction, research labs
- **From 8 EU Member States (AU, BE, DE, FIN, NL, PL, RO, SE)**
- **Database of cases on-line:** <http://osha.europa.eu/en/practical-solutions/case-studies>
 - What was done, by whom and how
 - Difficulties, how they were overcome, and success factors
 - What was achieved, incl. cost-benefits
 - How easily can it be transferred to other sectors/countries
 - Contact details, URL, lists of all partners involved

Magnitude of non-fatal work-related illnesses and accidents

Main Findings



Accidents at work

- 3.2% of workers in the EU-27 had an accident at work during a one year period, which corresponds to almost 7 million workers.
- Approximately 10% of these accidents were a road traffic accident in the course of work.

Work-related health problems

- 8.6% of workers in the EU-27 experienced a work-related health problem in the past 12 months, which corresponds to 20 million persons¹.
- Bone joint or muscle problems and stress, anxiety or depression were most prevalent.

Occupational diseases – specific studies addressing the main diseases and health problems

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

EUROPEAN RISK OBSERVATORY REPORT

EN 6



Occupational skin diseases and dermal exposure in the European Union (EU-25): policy and practice overview



European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

EUROPEAN RISK OBSERVATORY REPORT



OSH in figures:
stress at work — facts and figures



European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
EUROPEAN RISK OBSERVATORY REPORT

RISK OBSERVATORY
THEMATIC REPORT



OSH in figures:
work-related musculoskeletal disorders
in the EU — Facts and figures



Noise in figures

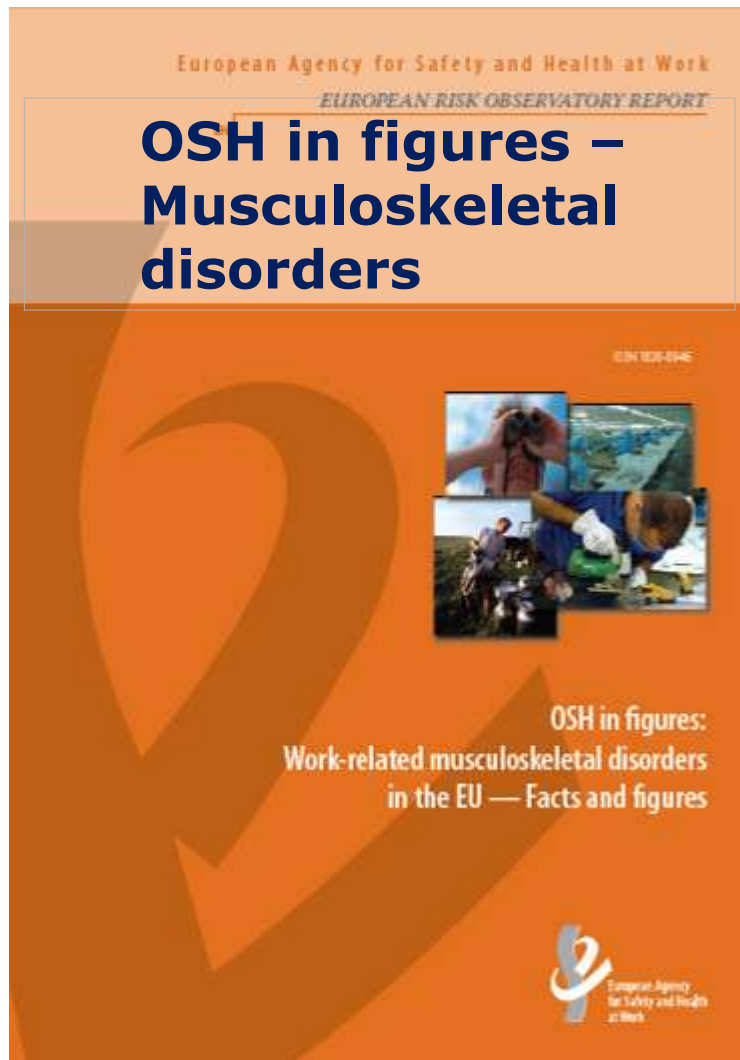


EU-OSHA campaigns

- 2000: 'TURN YOUR BACK ON MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS'
- 2001: 'SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT'
- 2002: 'WORKING ON STRESS'
- 2003: 'DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES – HANDLE WITH CARE'
- 2004: 'BUILDING IN SAFETY'
- 2005: 'STOP THAT NOISE!'
- 2006: 'SAFE START'
- 2007: 'LIGHTEN THE LOAD'
- 2008-2009: 'RISK ASSESSMENT'
- 2010 – 2011: 'SAFE MAINTENANCE'
- 2012-2013: 'Working together for prevention'



Facts and figures combining information on recognised diseases and risk factors – musculoskeletal disorders



- Highlights issues for women, migrant and young workers
- Lower limb disorders
- Combined and multiple exposures, incl. in service professions
- Diverse recognition practices make it impossible to identify trends
- High impact on costs
- Difficulties in assessing at mobile workplaces
- Increase in static postures
- Prolonged standing and sitting , especially in service professions
- Address organisational as well as physical conditions – French concept of „pénibilité au travail“

Awareness raising and good practice

EU-OSHA 2007 MSD campaign

- Built on 2000 campaign
- Return-to-work as an integral part of MSD policy
- Holistic approach
- Risk assessment addressing total musculoskeletal load on the body
- Assessing jobs people really do
- Lesser known MSDs – lower limbs, static work, standing work
- Interaction with vibration, stress
- Groups and sectors:
 - Transport, home deliveries, health care, home care, cleaners, catering, home working,
 - Women workers, aging workers, awareness among young workers



Campaign materials:

- Dedicated web feature
- Database of links to good practice
- Fact sheets MSDs, manual handling and WRULDs
- Good Practice Awards
- 'Back to Work' report (October 2007)
- 'Prevention' report

Stress – facts and figures

Emerging risks



- **The main emerging psychosocial risks identified in the forecasts*:**
 - New forms of employment contracts and job insecurity (the use of more precarious contracts together with the trend towards lean production and outsourcing)
 - The OSH risks for the ageing workforce
 - Work intensification - high workload and work pressure
 - High emotional demands at work, violence and harassment
 - Poor work-life balance
 - Combined exposure to psychosocial and physical risks

- **All of these risks affect workers' health and safety. They may increase work-related stress and lead to serious deterioration of mental and physical health.**

Stress – EU OSHA information available at:

Practical solutions – Awareness raising

- Agency's information on stress: <http://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/stress>
- Includes factsheets on violence, stress and bullying, good practice case study reports, risk assessment tools
- Workplace health promotion <http://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/whp>
- Mental health promotion in the workplace – A good practice report (2011) http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/mental-health-promotion-workplace_TEWE11004ENN/view

Facts and figures - European Risk Observatory:

<http://riskobservatory.osha.europa.eu>

- OSH in figures – stress at work http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TE-81-08-478-EN-C_OSH_in_figures_stress_at_work/view
- Workplace Violence and Harassment: a European Picture (2010) <http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/violence-harassment-TERO09010ENC/view>
- ESENER, EU survey on new and emerging risks, management of stress at enterprise level <http://www.esener.eu>
- Reports on factors associated with and on drivers and barriers of effective management of psychosocial risks



Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress EU-OSHA Campaign 2014-15

Campaign objectives

- Raising awareness about the **growing problem** with stress and psychosocial risks. Follows on from campaign in 2002.
- Focus on the **positive effects** of effective psychosocial risk management, including the **business case**
- Increasing the enterprises' awareness and **practical knowledge** related to **recognising and preventing** psychosocial risks at work



Main messages

- Despite its sensitive nature, stress and psychosocial risks at work can be **successfully reduced and dealt** with in the same logical and systematic way as other OSH issues
- Effective practical **tools do already exist**
- Tackling stress in the workplace leads to **improved worker wellbeing** and **better organisational performance**
- **Leadership and worker participation** is crucial to tackle psychosocial risks and work-related stress effectively

Information and practical support

- **Practical guide to managing psychosocial risks in micro and small enterprises**
 - 30 national versions
- **Collection of international and national practical tools**
- **Overview reports**
 - Costs of stress and psychosocial risks at work
 - EU-OSHA / Eurofound joint report
- **ESENER**
 - Secondary analysis reports
 - ESENER 2
- **Napo DVD**



HWC 2014-15 timetable

2013

Q 1-4 Preparation of core Campaign products (online, print)

2014

March EU partnership meeting (recruitment of official Campaign partners)

28 April Official launch of the Campaign & Good Practice Awards Competition

Q3/4 Campaign promotion, distribution of reports, etc.

Q3/4 National partnership meetings organised by FOPs

CW 43 European Week for Safety and Health at Work

Q4 Regional, local and sector focused activities

2015

Q1 Evaluation of Good Practice Awards Competition

28 April Good Practice Awards Ceremony with Latvian EU Presidency

November Healthy Workplaces Summit with Luxemburgish EU Presidency

Thank you for your attention

Join the campaign!

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