



1996-2006
European
Agency for Safety
and Health at Work

Risk Observatory

Anticipating change



The European Risk Observatory and EU-level research

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Overview

- Aim & methodologies of the European Risk Observatory (ERO)
- Co-ordination of research & research programmes at EU level
- New OSH ERA



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Aim of the ERO

- To identify **new and emerging risks** (N&ER)
- Three methodologies / dimensions:
 - **Past**: analysis of historical data & trends
 - **Present**: monitor OSH in 'real time'
 - **Future**: forecasting methodologies
- Shorten the delay between identification of risk and adequate preventive actions



3 dimensions of the ERO

PAST

- Draw on **past** information about N&ER through the collection and analysis of historical data: “OSH in figures”
- Explore evolution of past **trends**, relate them to the current data on N&ER
- Watch out for trends that may have gone **unnoticed** (e.g., affecting specific groups), and which should be reported to improve monitoring or prevention of N&ER



3 dimensions of the ERO

PAST

PRESENT

- Monitor OSH in 'real time' by collecting and analysing **current** data about N&ER:
- Literature reviews: *state-of-the-art* knowledge
- Expert seminars and workshops
- Other sources of current data: labour inspectorates, practitioner / research networks, other observatories...



3 dimensions of the ERO

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

- **Anticipating** change: N&ER
- Data collection (e.g., labour inspectorates)
- Experts' input: **forecasting**
 - Short-term: next 2-3 years
 - Feasibility study for medium-term forecasting: 10-year horizon



Activities of the ERO

- Pulling together **research findings**, putting them into context (e.g. European social agenda and the Community strategy)
- Looking for trends, and **communicating** the key issues effectively to its target audience of **policy-makers** and **researchers**
- **Stimulating debate** and reflection among the Agency's stakeholders and providing a platform for debate



Co-operation: multiple data sources

- How can we improve the detection of current risks?
- Identify all potential sources of current data
- Imperfect sources ➔ not relying on a single source, but on the **build-up of evidence from several sources**
- Essential to have good European co-ordination of efforts

new

NEW OSH ERA

**New and Emerging Risks in
Occupational Safety and Health**
**- Anticipating and dealing with
change in the workplace through
coordination of OSH risk research**

NEW OSH ERA

- ERA-NET scheme, specific programme 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'
- ERA-NET: Principal means in FP6 to support the **cooperation and coordination of research programmes** carried out at national or regional level

NEW OSH ERA: Project data

- Aim: building a European dimension into the assessment of **new and emerging risks (N&ER)** in the workplace
- Duration 48 months
- EC funding € 2,6 M
- Starting date April 1, 2006

Strategic objectives

- Promoting synergistic and coordinated research & research management efforts
- Networking national OSH research programmes: special emphasis on N&ER
- Bringing together programme owners /managers and **funding institutions**
- Facilitating collective strategic coalitions across national frontiers



NEW OSH ERA: milestones

Four phases:

1. Information exchange
2. Strategic activities
3. Implementation of joint activities
4. Transnational activities

Consortium members

Coordinator

- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, FIOH, Finland

Partners

- Finnish Work Environment Fund, TSR, Finland
- Finnish Ministry for Social Affairs and Health, Finland
- Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, BAUA, Germany
- Central Institute for Labour Protection - National Research Institute, CIOP-PIB, Poland
- Project Management Organization at DLR, Project Management Organization for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, PT-DLR, Germany

Consortium members

- German Federation of institutions for statutory accident insurance and prevention, HVBG, Germany
- National Institute of Occupational Health, AMI, Denmark
- Research Unit for the Improvement of Working Conditions (DiOVA/DiRACT), General Directorate for the Humanization of Work, Ministry of Labour, Belgium
- Italian National Institute for Prevention and Safety at Work , ISPESL, Italy
- National Institute for Working Life, NIWL, Sweden
- Fodor József National Center for Public Health, FJOKK, Hungary

Consortium members

- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, EASHW, EU
- Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health & Safety, ELINYAE, Greece
- Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, Greece
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany
- Ministry of Health, Italy
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Poland
- **Extension of the NEW OSH ERA Consortium by the end of the project by 3-4 members is planned.**



ERO co-operation at EU & national level

- With EuroFound & Eurostat
- EC-funded research initiatives, e.g.: New OSH ERA, WORK-IN-NET, ETPIS
- Fostering OSH research co-operation: research seminar series (FP7)
- Liaison with EU & international surveys, observatories and networks
- Build up the best possible picture of N&ER and research priorities



Thank you for your attention

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