

## Survey development and cross culture methodology: attuning national surveys

### Duration of the project

2009 - 2011

### Background

In many EU countries OSH-monitors have been developed in the past in order to monitor Occupational Safety and Health risks and risk groups. In the development of these monitors there has not been much coordination. These OSH-monitors measure OSH concepts, but probably, even when measuring the same concept, these monitors may measure the same concepts in different ways, making EU-wide comparisons on OSH a difficult issue. In addition, even when questions are (about) the same, cultural differences may hinder EU-comparative analyses (e.g. with the EWCS data). The aim of this project group is to obtain a better understanding of the differences and similarities in concepts, indicators and operationalisations and find ways to bridge the gaps in future (comparative) research.

### Objectives

The objective of the project is to make an inventory of the indicators and operationalization of the surveillance systems of work and health in a number of European countries (PEROSH-partners). This inventory is aiming to identify

- the type of indicators measured in most surveys;
- the commonalities and specificities in concepts or indicators covered by the national surveys, as well as their operationalizations.

Besides that, the project aims at **concluding on common grounds and directions for new and emerging risks.**

### Deliverables

A **research paper** is written that will be published in a scientific journal to describe the degree to which existing surveillances can describe the changing world of work. An excel file is made that shows in detail a) **which OSH information is gathered in the various countries, and b) how this information is gathered.**

### Research methods

The project will be using information from the surveys of the countries to deliver an overview of available information in national OSH-surveys in the EU. A paper will be written to describe to which extent there is (dis)agreement between the OSH surveys in the various countries. The paper will conclude with a suggestion for topics on (emerging) risks that could be included in OSH surveys in order to better cover 'emerging risks', or risks that should be measured because they are important predictors for work-related ill health.

At the end of this first phase, a meeting will be organized to discuss (1) the analyses made on what do we jointly measure and what are the more typical issues around Europe, (2) How to continue after this first phase. The research group is preparing a plan for a second phase, where the effect of differences in measuring method on the identification of risk groups is assessed. More countries are invited to join.

### Scientific relevance

Within the EU most OSH-monitors measure comparable concepts relevant to OSH in different ways, making EU-wide comparisons on OSH a difficult issue. Even when questions are (about) the same, cultural differences may hinder EU-comparative analyses (e.g. with the EWCS data). A better understanding of the differences and similarities in indicators and how to bridge the gaps may in the future result in relevant EU wide measurements. In addition for new/emerging issues, comparability may be enhanced.

### Practical/societal relevance

In Europe, there is the EWCS (European Working Conditions Survey), hosted by the European Foundation (EWILWC). It would, however, be helpful if national data would be more comparable. The PEROSH institutes often collect data on a larger scale compared to the EWCS and these data are more tuned to the typical OSH risks in the country or region, and –as such– would allow more breakdowns relevant to EU and national stakeholders.

For other researchers, the project will give an overview of what indicators on important work and health issues are used

For policy makers, the project will give an overview what is done in the field of work and health.

For the project group, the project will provide a forum for exchanging experiences, knowledge, challenges.

### Project leader

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### Project participants

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### **More information**

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