

## PROLONGING WORKING LIFE

**BACKGROUND** Due to demographic changes across Europe there are strong political interests in maintaining the labour force by prolonging working life, i.e. increasing retirement age. TNO led a previous PEROSH project “Ageing of the workforce” which dealt with this issue, but this project has been terminated. However, due to the strong political interests in all European countries, it is relevant for PEROSH to maintain collaborative activities in the research field ‘Prolonging working life’.

**OBJECTIVES** The new PEROSH project will maintain and expand the existing research collaboration on this topic in PEROSH and serve as a strong platform for future collaboration in relation to Horizon2020 applications in this field.

The present PEROSH project aims to determine push and stay factors for labour market participation of older workers across different European countries with different regulations and cultures to thereby better guide initiatives for maintaining older workers at the labour market across Europe.

**TARGET GROUPS** National and EU stakeholders

- DELIVERABLES**
1. On the PEROSH website, an overview of projects at the PEROSH institutes about prolonging working life (short description, webpage link, target groups, type of study etc).
  2. A list of questions relevant to prolonging working life that can be answered from the different existing European datasets (please notice, that doing the analyses and writing the paper will not be part of the hours allocated in the present project)
  3. A list of research questions that can be compared in existing national datasets from the participating PEROSH institutes, i.e. where similar types of data are available in the different countries.
  4. Organize a conference in 2019 and 2021.

- RESEARCH METHODS**
1. Mapping across PEROSH institutions of existing research projects related to the research field ‘Prolonging working life’.
  2. Make an overview of existing available European datasets with questions in relation to prolonging working life.
  3. Identify and suggest where we can do comparative studies on existing national datasets from the participating PEROSH institutes, i.e. investigate same research question in different datasets. Afterwards each institute would apply for funding for time (in-house or through grant applications) to do the analyses and write the papers
  4. Organize international conferences about “Opportunities and barriers for prolonging working life in Europe” in mid-late 2019 and again in mid-late 2021.

**SCIENTIFIC  
RELEVANCE**

While there is a lot of knowledge about risk factors for poor health that may lead to early retirement, there is a lack of knowledge about which factors that make people stay beyond “normal” retirement age.

**PRACTICAL AND  
SOCIAL RELEVANCE**

The knowledge generated in the PEROSH project can be of benefit to national and EU stakeholders confronted with the challenge of ageing societies and the necessity to prolong working life (e.g. EUOSHA, EUROFOUND and DG EMPL, next to national governments/ministries of labour/social affairs).

**PROJECT LEADER**

The National Research Centre for the Working Environment (NFA)

**PROJECT  
PARTICIPANTS**

Central Institute for Labour Protection – National Research Institute (CIOP-PIB), Poland

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), Finland

INAIL: Italian Workers Compensation Authority

Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité

INSSBT – National Institute of Safety, Health and Wellbeing at Work

National Institute of Occupational Health (STAMI), Norway

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

Healthy, Vital and Safe Work