Workshop 2: Including results
Estimating the costs and benefits on a higher level

Room: Merbauzaal
Moderators and rapporteur: Marjolein de Weerd (TNO) and Xavier Irastorza (EU-OSHA)

Introduction

Establishing an accurate overall estimate of the costs and benefits to all stakeholders at a sector, national or international level with regard to work-related injuries and illness due to poor or non-occupational safety and health (OSH) is a complex task. However, it is vital that policymakers understand the scope and scale of poor or non-OSH in order to implement effective measures in this policy area because the costs can be substantial.

Assignment to the workshop group

What do we need to measure the costs and benefits of OSH and non-OSH on national and EU level?
The aim is to discuss the needs in this area, the role of different stakeholders and define next steps to accelerate the implementation for the near future.

Workshop structure

- General introduction by moderator, aim and structure (5 minutes)
- Who is who, short introduction round by participants (10 minutes)
- **Focus of the workshop**: there are two main steps when providing a quantitative estimate of the costs of occupational injuries and illnesses:
    - The identification of the <u>number of cases</u>
    - The application of <u>monetary values</u> to the identified cases

    This workshop will focus on the **second** step: the actual estimation of costs.
    - What are the different types of costs to consider?
    - Who are the different stakeholders?
    - Who bears what?
- What do we already know? Form subgroups of 5 persons and discuss in (20 minutes):
    - How do we collect data now? In your country?
    - What are our needs?
    - What is the role of different stakeholders?
- List the results of the subgroups on the flapover (10 minutes)
- Discuss what is needed in the future (10 minutes)
- Discuss who should act (10 minutes)
- Finally wrap-up of the results on one paper one which the prior steps are written and preparation of what and how to report back into the plenary. (20 minutes)

Relevant questions that can be used

- How to collect data?
- Could a standardization of cost calculation methodologies at the country level help?
- How to collect these data?
- How to make the data gathering uniform?
- How can companies help?
- How can we collect information about the costs and benefits of interventions?
- Would it make sense to prescribe a monitoring by law at least for bigger companies in order to raise awareness?

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Results

We started the discussion with the question, for which stakeholders is a figure or percentage of 'not or poor investing in OSH' relevant? Policymakers need to decide which intervention is going to be implemented, so we agreed that the focus of analysing this figure would be the policymaker, currently at EU level.

Awareness has to be raised on the benefits of investing in OSH and having figures and scientific evidence to support is needed. It is something that is actually mentioned in the EU Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Strategic Framework 2014-2020.

After this discussion about stakeholders we focused on which data are needed, and furthermore we discussed the current available data. We discovered, that there are indeed quite some differences in available data. And more interestingly, that there is a gap between available research on the one hand, and policy making on the other. The basic conclusion is, that we just need to start collecting data. There were some suggestions from academics to focus on one particular disease for which there is available information, but from a policy making point of view it was considered that it would be more appropriate to build a thorough, broad estimate, including as many diseases and accidents as possible. Aggregation of national studies would probably be the best approach, and we need standardised methods for this purpose.

In addition, after collecting, we need one standardised methodology to analyse the data. And yes we need assumptions. If we at least have one methodology then this will be the stable factor. But most important, let's just start (collecting and analysing)!