Foresight of New and Emerging Risks to Occupational Safety and Health Associated with New Technologies in Green Jobs by 2020

Focal Point Workshop, 12-13 November 2013 (Bilbao)
Welcome and Introduction

Emmanuelle Brun
Project Manager, Prevention and Research Unit
Why green jobs?

• **OSH Community Strategy 2007-2012:**
  EU-OSHA to anticipate **risks associated with new technologies**

• **Green jobs: strong emphasis on innovation**

• **A growing sector: over 1million new jobs in the EU by 2020 (FR: 600,000)**
  • EU2020: 20% decrease in CO2 emissions, 20% increase in renewable energy, 20% increase in energy efficiency
  • Solar, wind and biomass energy: the most rapid employment growth
    - EU Wind energy: +30% jobs between 2007-10; +50% between 2010-20
    - EU: 300,000 jobs linked to biomass fuel production by 2020

⇒ **Potential to affect many workers if green jobs are not safe**
⇒ **Green jobs will be sustainable only if safe, healthy and decent**
⇒ **Opportunity to anticipate new risks before they appear**
A 10-year horizon foresight

- Policies often driven by an “official” view of the future

→ Scenario-building foresight: a tool for strategic futures thinking
  - Doesn’t assume the future is pre-determined
  - To provide insight and stimulate debate into ways to shape the future
  - Takes account of demographic, societal and economic context
  - Multidisciplinary → new risks are more likely to be identified
  - Participatory approach → outputs are useful for stakeholders

- Outcome: Scenarios of plausible, possible futures to help
  - gaining insights into new and emerging risks
  - understanding better what decisions could help shape a safer future
Outputs

- **Publications:**
  - April 2013:
    - Foresight report + PPT cartoons
    - Summary report (in DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, PL)
  - EU green week (3-7/06): E-facts
    - Green construction
    - Small-scale solar energy
  - End 2013: Report Wind energy
  - Q1 2014: E-fact Wind energy

- **Foresight workshops:**
  - With Focal Points
  - 2014: With EU sectoral social dialogue committees
Feedback from participants in the foresight project

- Over 170 participants: interviews, e-surveys and 8 workshops

Scenarios are a useful tool to:

- To anticipate possible new and emerging risks
- To mainstream OSH into other disciplines
- To encourage people to think outside their “usual box” in a neutral context (the future) removed from the constraints of the present in order to generate new insights
- And to test policies against different assumptions to develop future-proofed, surprise-resistant policies
Thank you for your interest and enjoy the workshop!
Picture credits

- **Cover pictures: (from left to right)**
  - Kim Hansen, Post-processing by Richard Bartz and Kim Hansen
  - Felix Kramer (CalCars)
  - U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Nadine Y. Barclay

- **Pictures on slide 3:**
  - U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Nadine Y. Barclay

http://osha.europa.eu