



# Setting the scene: What is the issue with MSDs in Europe? Facts and figures of MSDs in Europe

**Musculoskeletal Disorders OSH overview – Final conference 22 October 2020**

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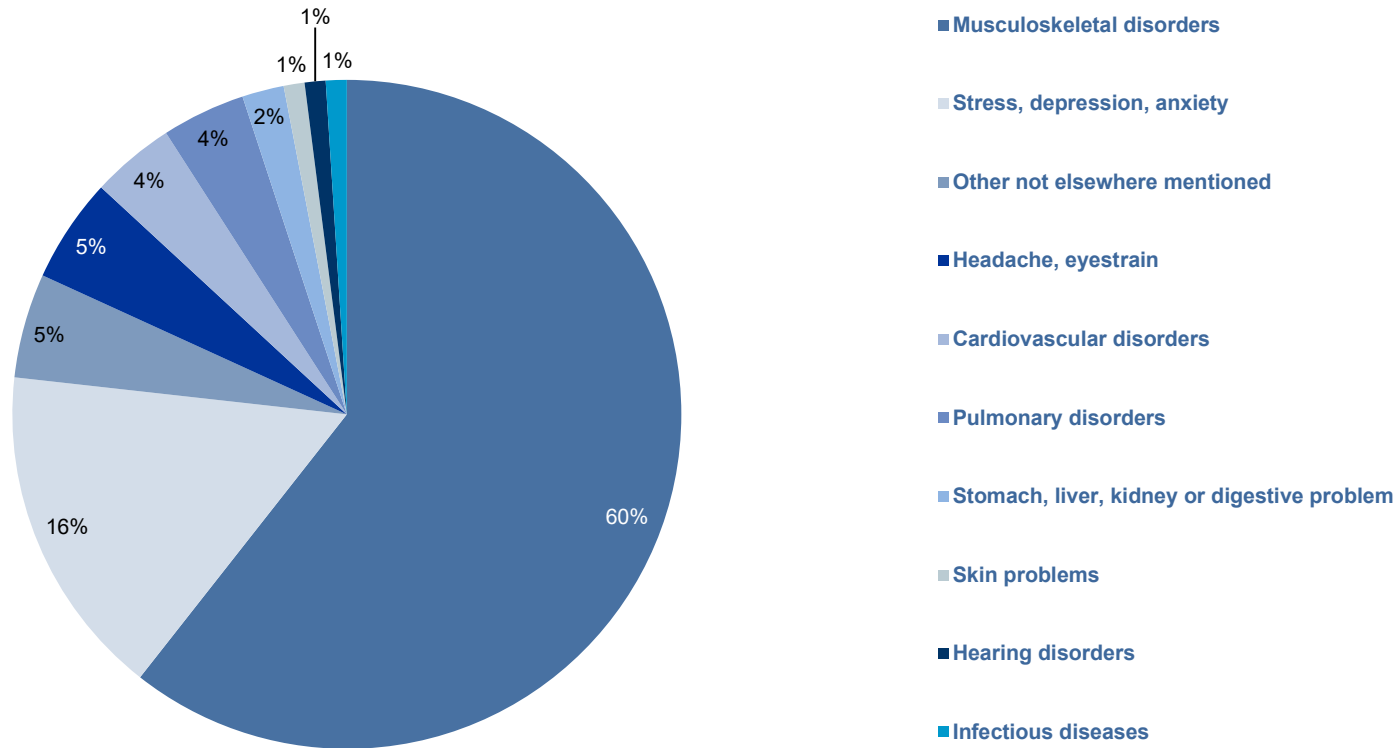


# Introduction

- **EU surveys (ESENER, EWCS, LFS) provide data / information mainly on:**
  - MSDs prevalence
  - Exposure / MSD-related risk factors
  - MSDs impact
  - Preventive measures.
  
- **Data on direct and indirect costs of MSDs not available at EU level**
  
- **This PPT is based on the following reports:**
  - EU-OSHA, Work-related musculoskeletal disorders: prevalence, costs and demographics in the EU, 2019 available at: <https://osha.europa.eu/es/publications/msds-facts-and-figures-overview-prevalence-costs-and-demographics-msds-europe/view>
  - EU-OSHA, Work-related musculoskeletal disorders: Facts and Figures — Synthesis report of 10 EU Member states reports, 2020 (AT, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, NL and SE) available at: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/work-related-musculoskeletal-disorders-facts-and-figures-synthesis-report-10-eu-member/view>

# Around 60% of all workers with a work-related health problem, identify **MSDs** as **their most serious issue**

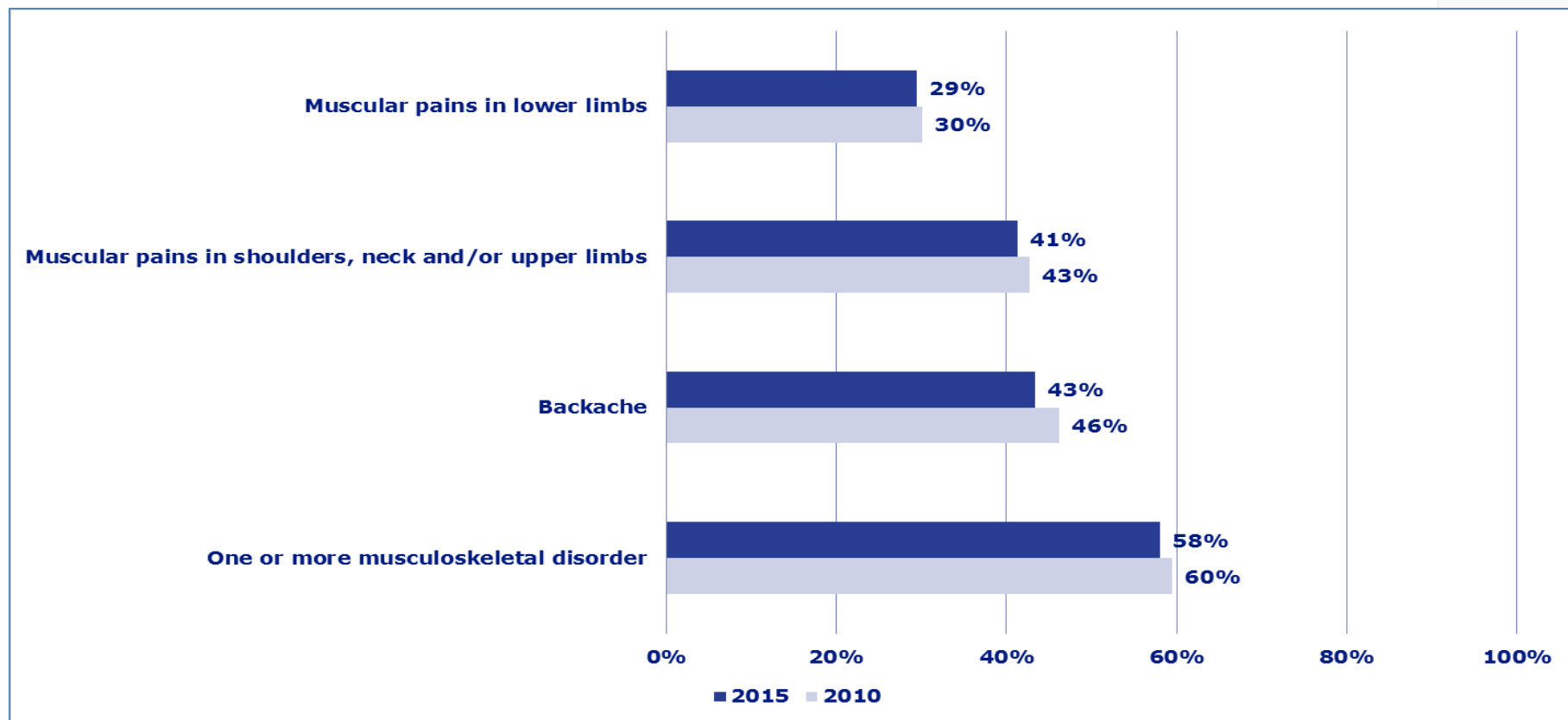
Percentage of workers reporting a work-related health problem, by type of problem, EU-27, 2013



Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey ad hoc module 'Accidents at work and other work-related health problems' (2013)

# The proportion of workers reporting MSD complaints **slightly decreased** between 2010 and 2015

Percentage of workers reporting different musculoskeletal disorders in the past 12 months, EU-28, 2010 and 2015



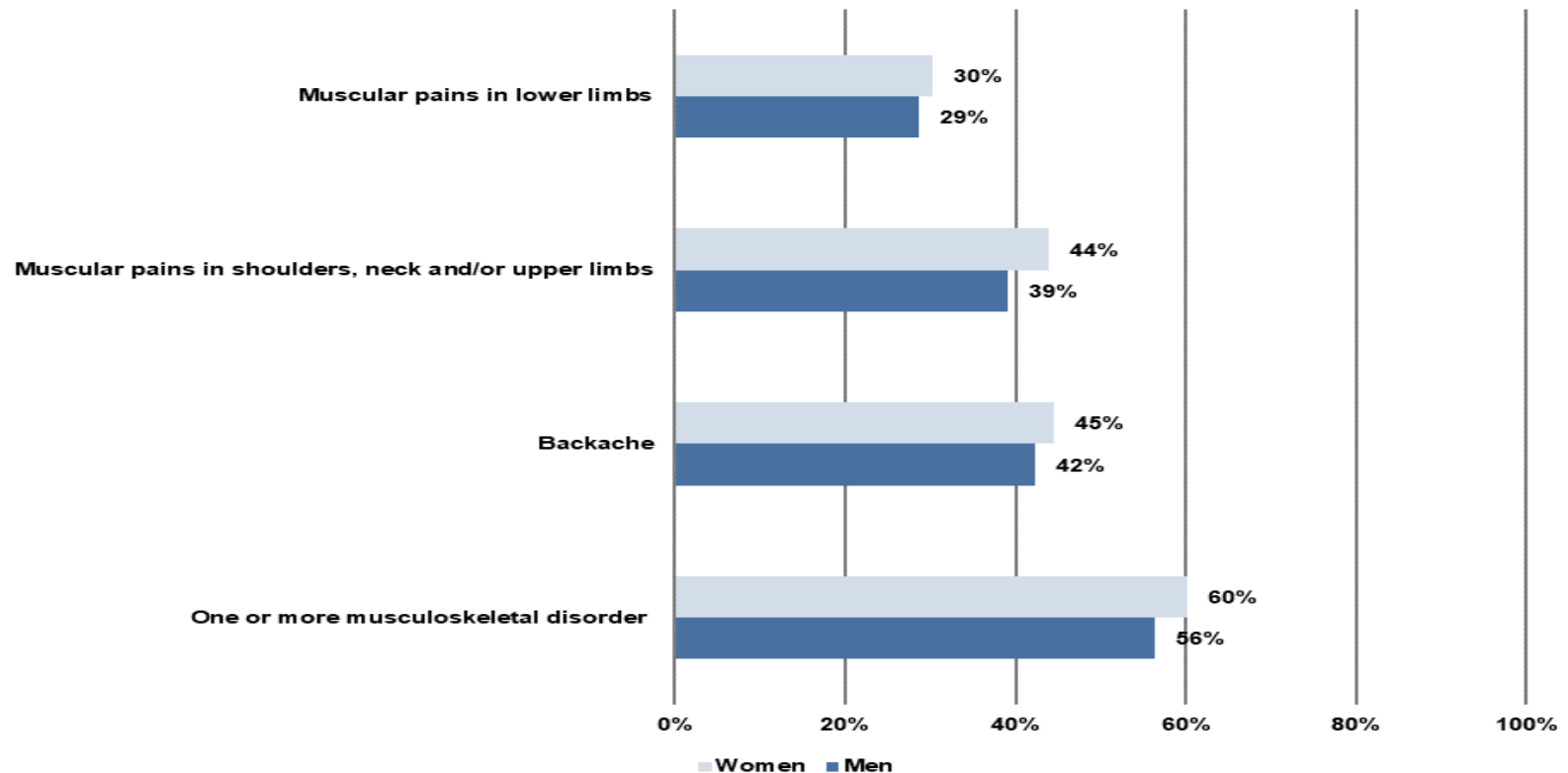
Source: Panteia based on the fifth (2010) and sixth (2015) waves of the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)

# Prevalence of MSDs varies between Member States, sectors and occupations

- Country differences are hardly (or not at all) related to differences in the sectoral or occupational distribution of the workforce or to differences in terms of age, gender, education level and country of birth of the workforce.
- Differences between MS must also be explained in terms of social, political and economic environments.
- Policies and strategies to prevent MSDs must be tailored and adapted to the specific national circumstances
- Given the differences among sectors (and occupations) in prevalence, type of MSDs and severity of MSDs, sector-specific approaches for addressing MSDs are needed.

# Women report slightly more MSDs than men

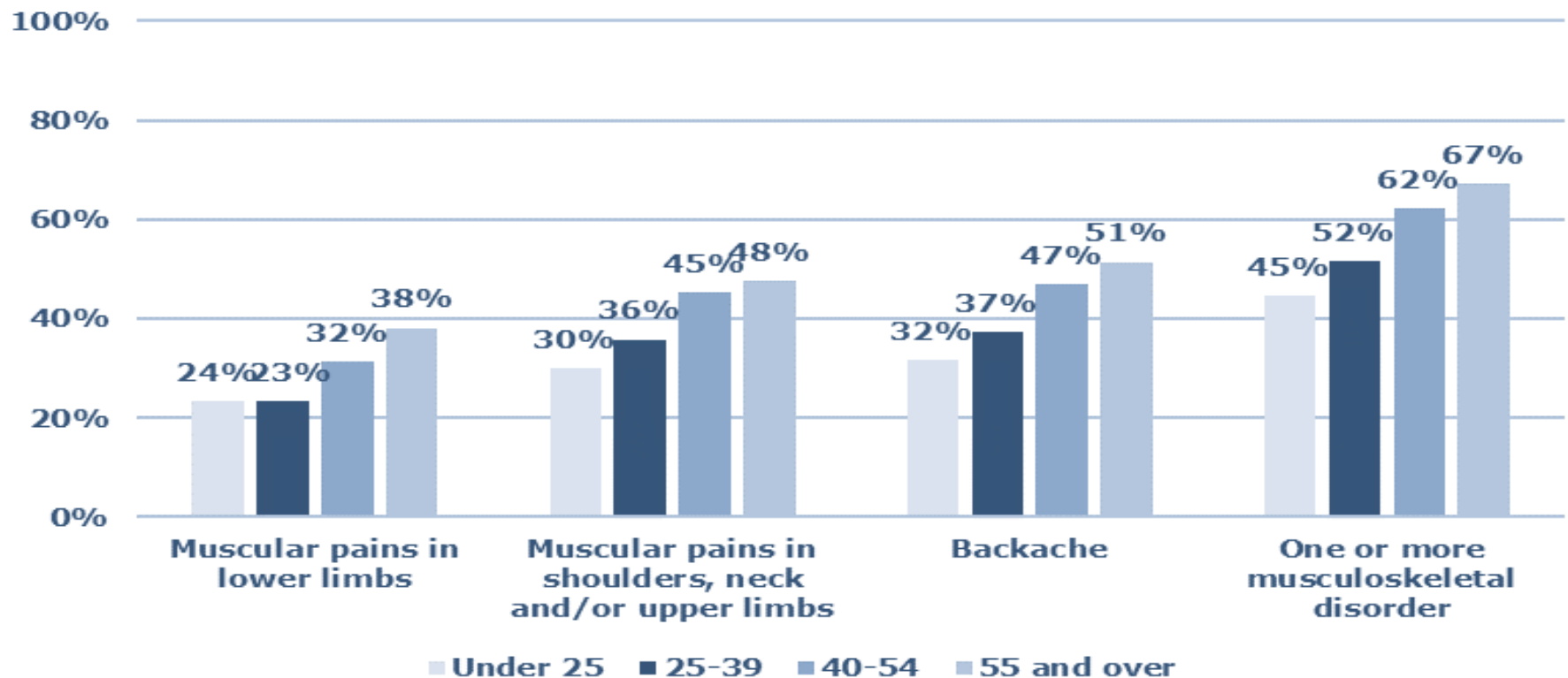
Percentage of workers reporting different musculoskeletal disorders in the past 12 months, by gender, EU-28, 2015



Source: Panteia based on the sixth (2015) wave of the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)

# MSDs prevalence is higher among older workers

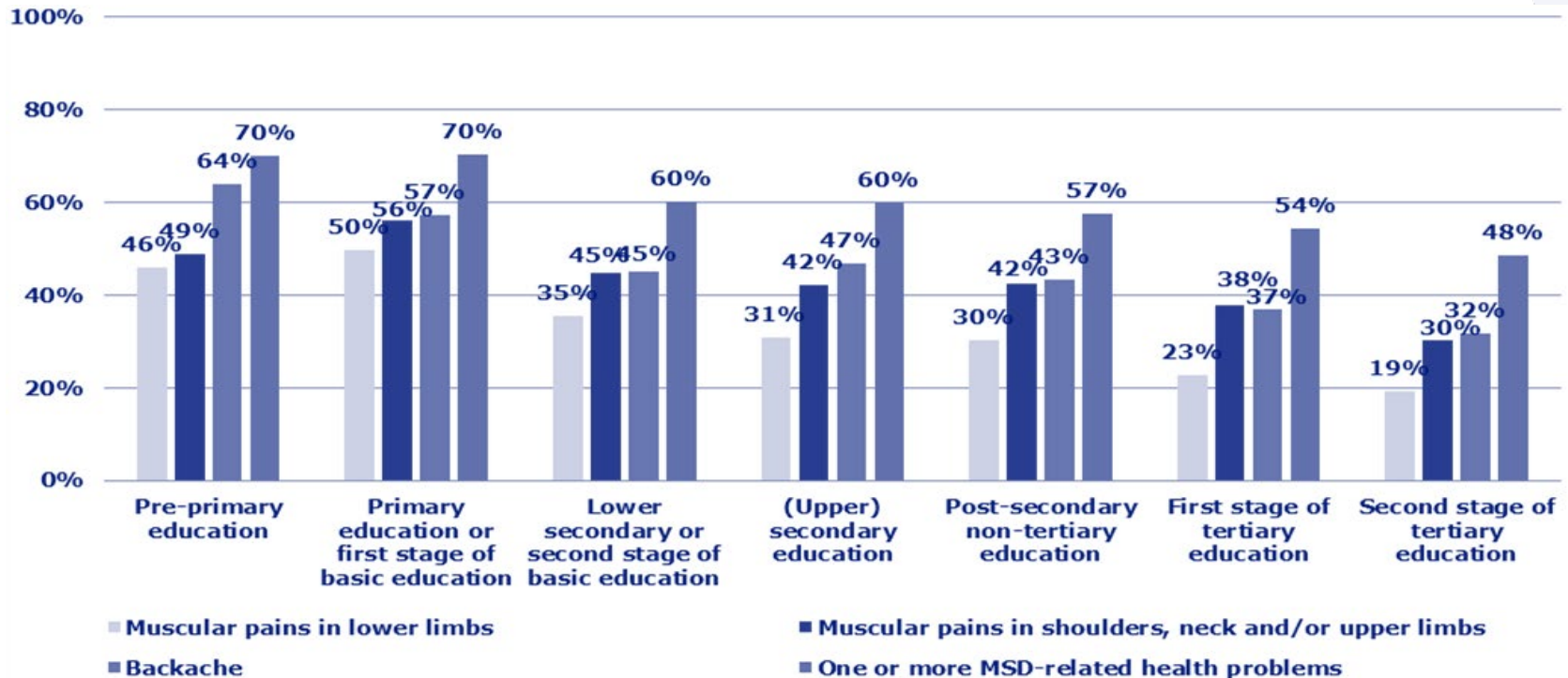
Percentage of workers reporting different musculoskeletal disorders in the past 12 months, by age group, EU-28, 2015



Source: Panteia based on the sixth (2015) wave of the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)

# MSDs prevalence decreases with educational level

Percentage of workers reporting different musculoskeletal disorders in the past 12 months, by educational level, EU-28, 2015



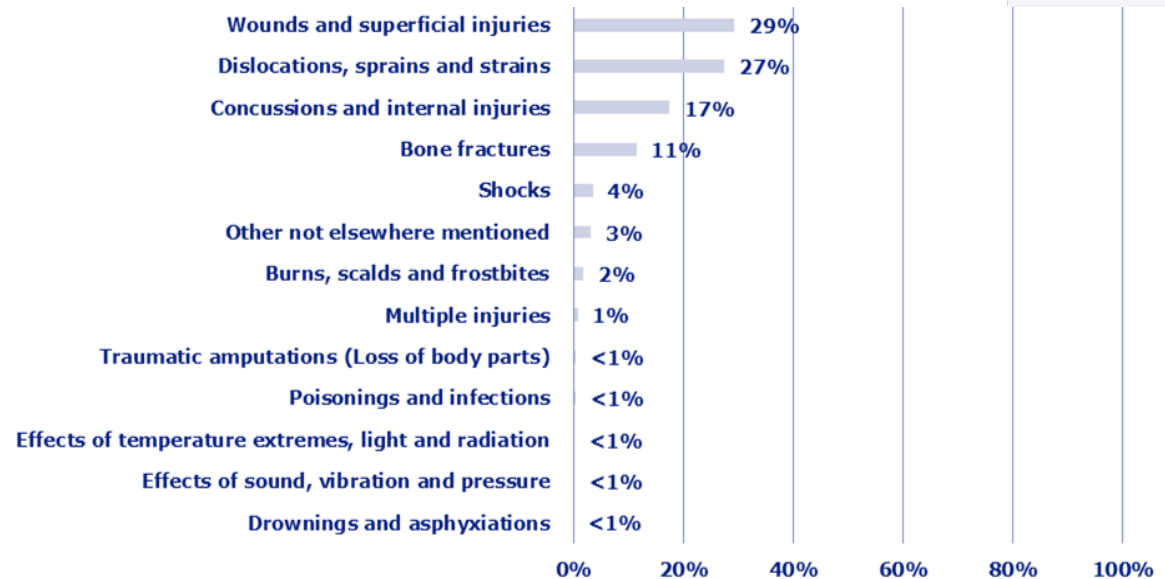
Source: Panteia based on the sixth (2015) wave of the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)



# MSDs-related accidents

- The **types of accidents** related to MSDs-related are: dislocations, sprains and strains and bone fractures.
- MSD work-related accidents are among **the most** common work-related accidents.

Distribution of fatal and non-fatal accidents at work by type of injury, EU-28, 2016



Source: Eurostat, European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW)

# Impact of MSDs

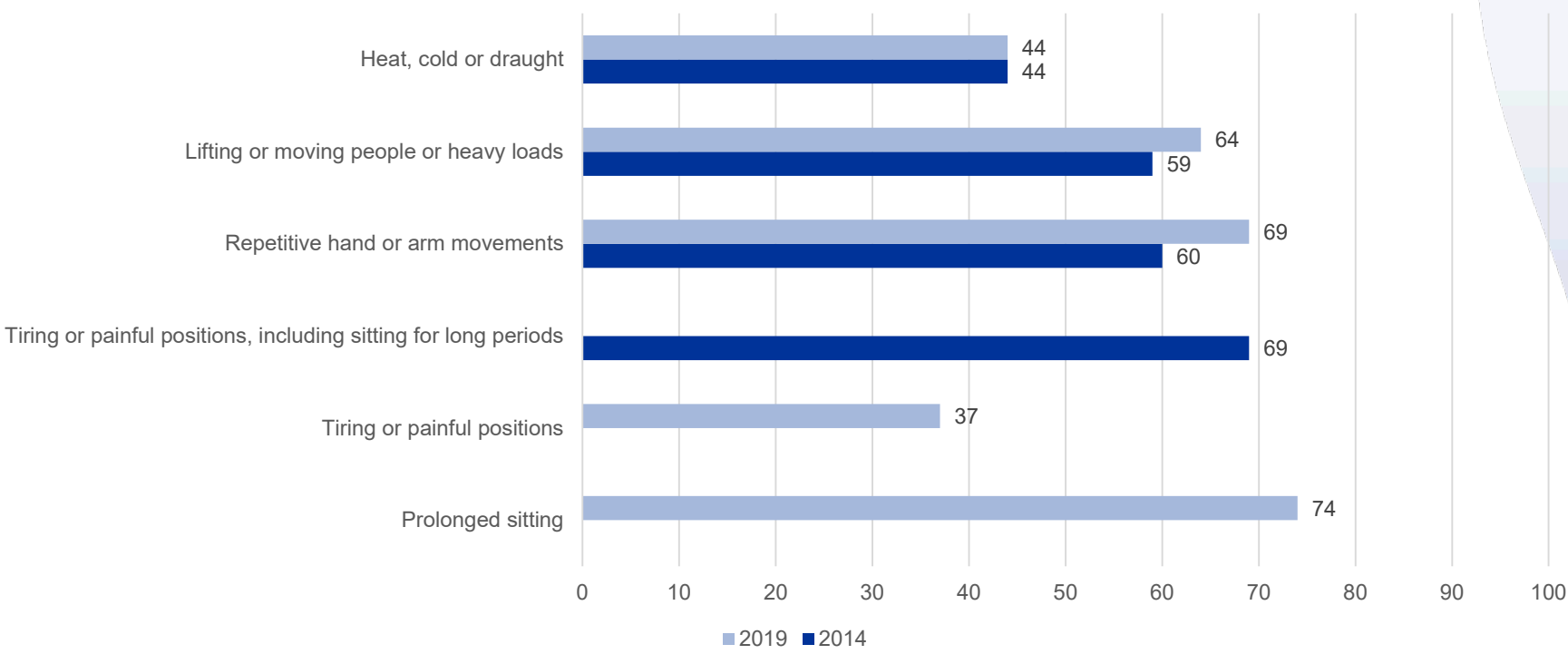
- **MSDs have an impact on the general health of workers**
  - Proportion of workers with (very) good health is smaller for workers who suffer from MSDs
  - Headaches, overall fatigue and sleeping problems affect the lives of workers who suffer from MSDs
- **Workers with MSDs tend to be absent from work more often than others and for longer periods**
- **Lack of data on the economic impact of MSDs at EU level**

# Impact of MSDs

- **Some data on the economic impacts derived from MSDs are available in terms of both:**
  - direct costs (contributions and compensations paid by companies, costs paid for health care and medicines, etc.).
  - (in some cases) indirect costs (disruptions in working teams, decreases of productivity, production delays, losses of production caused by reduced ability to work and sick leave).
- **In Germany, musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders accounted for EUR 17,200 million of production loss (production loss costs based on labour costs) in 2016 and EUR 30,400 million in loss of gross value added (loss of labour productivity). This represents 0.5 % and 1.0 % of Germany's gross domestic product (GDP), respectively.**
- **More information available at:** EU-OSHA, Work-related musculoskeletal disorders: Facts and Figures — Synthesis report of 10 EU Member states reports, 2020 (AT, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, NL and SE)

# High prevalence of MSD-related risk factors in EU establishments

Percentages of employees working in establishments where different physical risk factors are in place (% establishments, EU28, 2019 and 2014)



Note: “Prolonged sitting” and “Tiring or painful positions” are new items in ESENER 2019. Previously they were covered by a single item “Tiring or painful positions, including sitting for long periods”

Source: EU-OSHA based on ESENER 2014 and ESENER 2019. (ESENER – European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks)

# Associations between self-reported MSDs and organisational and psychological risk factors (and other health problems)

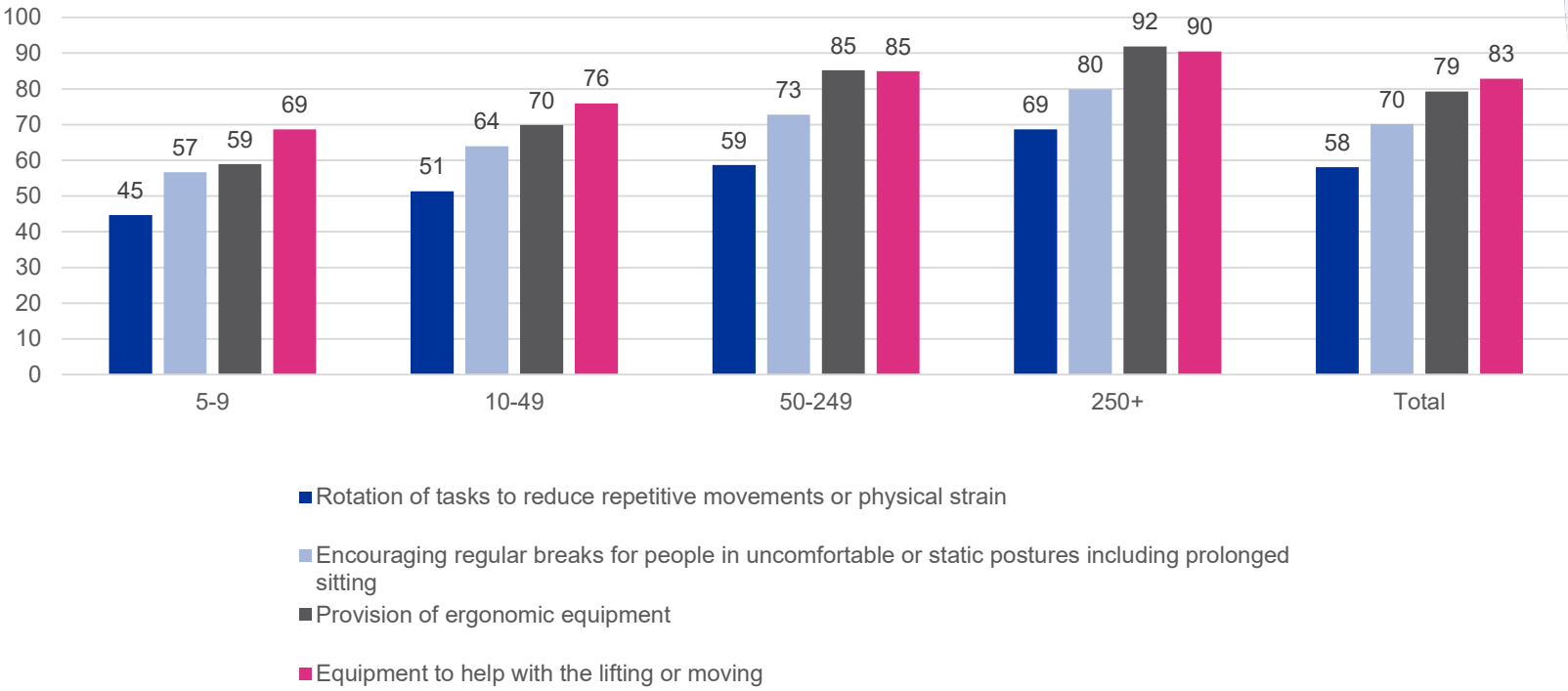
Body Area	Significant relationship identified	
Back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Overall fatigue</li> <li>• Sleeping problems</li> <li>• At work subjected to                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• verbal abuse</li> <li>• unwanted sexual attention</li> <li>• bullying /harassment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental well-being</li> <li>• Feeling energized</li> <li>• Knowing what is expected at work</li> <li>• Pace of work depends on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct demands from customers etc.</li> <li>• direct control by management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Lower limbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Overall fatigue</li> <li>• Sleeping problems</li> <li>• Mental well-being</li> <li>• Feeling energized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At work subjected to                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• verbal abuse</li> <li>• unwanted sexual attention</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Knowing what is expected at work</li> <li>• Able to choose or change order of tasks</li> </ul>
Upper limbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Overall fatigue</li> <li>• Sleeping problems</li> <li>• Mental well-being</li> <li>• At work subjected to                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• verbal abuse</li> <li>• threats</li> <li>• physical violence</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee voice</li> <li>• Job gives the feeling of work well done</li> <li>• Take a break when you wish</li> <li>• Fairly treated at workplace</li> <li>• Job requires hiding of feelings</li> <li>• Work-related stress</li> <li>• Working at very high speed</li> </ul>

This table is based on the results of various binary logistic regressions that have been estimated to explain the prevalence of self-reported MSD complaints in the 6<sup>th</sup> (2015) wave of EWCS.

Source: Panteia, 2019

# Availability of preventive measures increases by establishment size

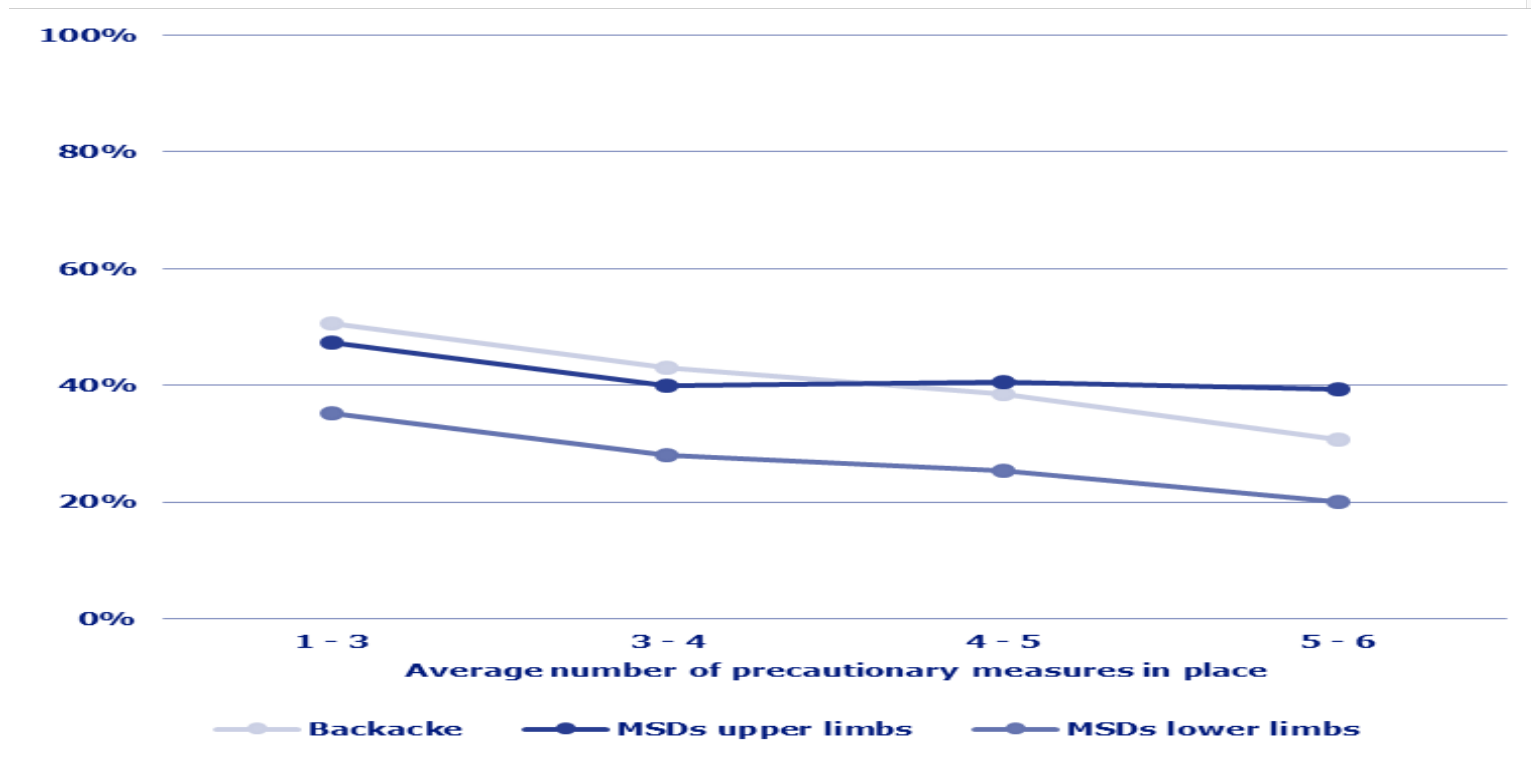
Percentage of employees working in establishments where different preventive measures are in place, by establishment size, EU-28, 2019



Source: EU-OSHA based on ESENER 2019. (ESENER – European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks)

# Workers in countries and sectors where more preventive measures are in place are less likely to report MSD complaints

Percentage of workers having MSDs in back, upper limbs and lower limbs, by average number of precautionary measures in place, EU 28, 2015.



Source: Panteia based on sixth (2015) wave of European Working Condition Survey (EWCS) and second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER 2014)

**Thank you for your attention**

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