



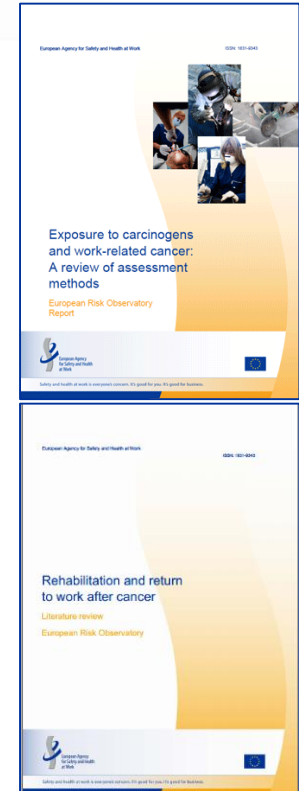
EU-OSHA work on cancer and carcinogens

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EU-OSHA work on carcinogens and work-related cancers

- **Member States survey and report on OELs for CMRs (published 2009)**
- **Seminar with DG Employment, ECHA, Member State reps nominated by FOP, ACSH WP Chemicals, SLIC Chemex, SCOEL (Summary published in 2012)**
- **Gaps identified in:**
 - Research
 - Monitoring
 - Workplace solutions: collect case studies of successful prevention, examples of company policies, successful interventions by preventive services and labour inspections
 - Policy level: need for back-to-work strategies for workers affected by cancers (currently hardly any in place)



EU-OSHA work on carcinogens and work-related cancers

- **2013-2014: State-of-the report to address the gaps identified above, focusing on existing exposure and disease assessment & examples of national policies**
- **2016-2017: Feasibility study for a survey on cancer risk factors**
- **2016-2018: Research on return to work after cancer** (literature review, examples of support schemes interventions and categorisation, expert interviews, company case studies, expert workshop)
- **2016- ongoing: roadmap on carcinogens activities**
- **2013-2015: involvement in ISSG ex-post evaluation of OSH aquis**
- **2016-2018: involvement in ISSG for carcinogens Directive, and recast of OSH legislation**
- **Presentations to different audiences and stakeholders**



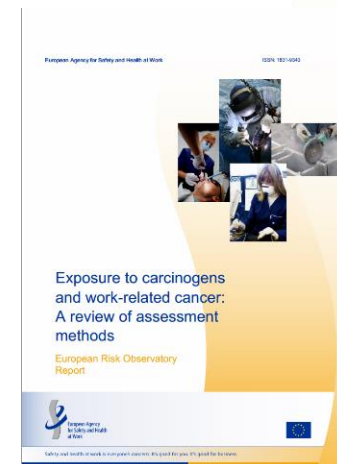
Work-related cancer and exposure to carcinogens

EU-OSHA findings

- Analysed existing schemes to record exposure and monitor cancer, e.g. NOCCA study, GISCOP, job-exposure matrices, etc...
 - describes carcinogens and cancer-causing conditions in the workplace
 - evaluates sources of information and identifies knowledge gaps
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- Services not covered by data/recognised diseases
 - Combine different systems, e.g. exposure and cancer registries
 - Vulnerable workers exposed, but exposure under-assessed
 - New and emerging risks: endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, etc...
 - Work organisational factors important, lifestyle factors influenced by work
 - Part-time workers may be excluded from some studies
 - Return to work strategies for sufferers of cancer limited
 - Need for workplace solutions

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/report-soar-work-related-cancer>

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/tools-and-publications/publications/reports/summary-on-cancer/view>



EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2018/19

Aims – promote prevention culture on dangerous substances while targeting specific groups of workers



- Reinforce the substitution principle and hierarchy of control measures (in EU OSH Directives)
- Share information on newly developed tools and instruments
- **Raising awareness of risks linked to exposure to carcinogens at work**
- Communication up and down the supply chain
- Addressing new risks, changes in work, sectors and workforce
- Issues relevant to vulnerable workers and gender issues



Roadmap on carcinogens

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances/roadmap-to-carcinogens>

- Aiming to **raise awareness of the risks arising from exposure to carcinogens in the workplace**, while **promoting and facilitating the exchange of good practice across Europe**.
- Initiated by the NL Presidency, launched in May 2016; EU-OSHA one of the founding partners

Support and promotion:

- **Web section on corporate website**
 - **Highlights** (World Cancer Day, ICOH conference), **press releases** – Austrian EU Presidency, **News articles**, **OSHmails**, **regular contributions to Roadmap newsletter**
 - **Presentations and Workshops** (A+ A, ICOH conference, AT EU Presidency conference, SLIC Thematic Day November 2018, national events, European Parliament, ECHA meetings, ETUI Women, work and cancer conference)
 - **Focal Points' activities on carcinogens**
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- **Info sheet on carcinogens with the roadmap partners**
 - **Workshop at the HWC 2018-19 Summit**
 - **Prolongation of roadmap to Finnish Presidency -> event Helsinki November 2018, cooperation and workshop on good practices**



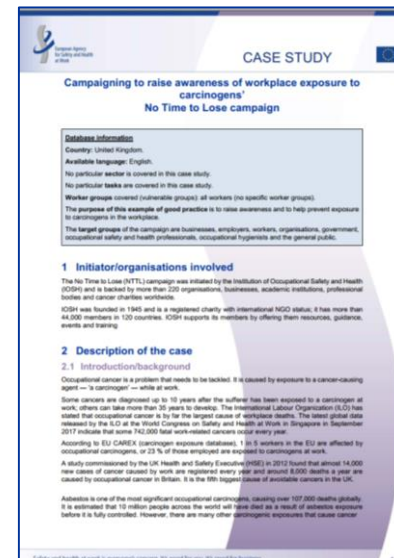
Survey among our Focal Points – A diverse range of activities

- Vocational school visits – Truck: game, NAPO film, quiz
Day of chemical safety at work for primary school children
- Inspection campaigns, e.g. rel. to specific carcinogens
Exposure assessment – inspection and measurement
- Training, guidance/tools, incl. linked to new legislation
- Health surveillance incl. spec. guidance, e.g. those formerly exposed to occupational carcinogens
- National or regional strategies, e.g. on the prevention of occ. diseases
- Includes REACH/CLP, e.g. focus on safety data sheets and labelling, and how to translate info for workplaces
- Wide range of sectors: agriculture, aquaculture, basic chemistry, cleaning, construction, engineering, hairdressers, healthcare, leather, metallurgy/ metalworking, repair of cars and motorcycles, rubber & plastics, transport (road, sea and rail), wood.



National campaigns and guidance

- Guidance for risk assessment and its documentation
 - Substance information
 - Sectoral guidance
 - Guidance for substitution
 - Technical, organisational and personal prevention measures
- Examples are available in our database of tools and resources (>300): case studies, guidance documents, videos, posters, etc...
- Case studies that address carcinogens management at work



Case study example: Controlling exposure when treating surgical instruments

- A large hospital with 3,000 workers, more than 300,000 patients/year in Latvia
- Ethylene oxide to sterilise surgical equipment and supplies that are heat sensitive or cannot tolerate excessive moisture
- Potential mutagenic, reproductive, carcinogenic, neurological, and fire and explosion hazard, causes dizziness and loss of control
- All the protective measures:
 - latest generation of ethylene oxide sterilizer
 - department in groundfloor,
 - closed system
 - local exhaust systems and gas analysers
 - gas masks and other personal protective equipment
 - limited access to premises
 - dangerous chemicals kept in fireproof cabinets or in fireproof compartments that have separate exhaust systems
- Equipment is more expensive (~70 %), but savings are ~ 63 %.
- Loading the equipment is more ergonomic and easier for the operator



Survey on exposure to cancer risk factors at work

2016-2017: Assessing the feasibility of a survey

- Proposing a list of cancer risk factors that could be assessed
- Assessing pilot exercise in a selection of or in all EU Member states
- Estimate how many workers are exposed and to which extent
- Inspired by research conducted using a methodology developed in Australia

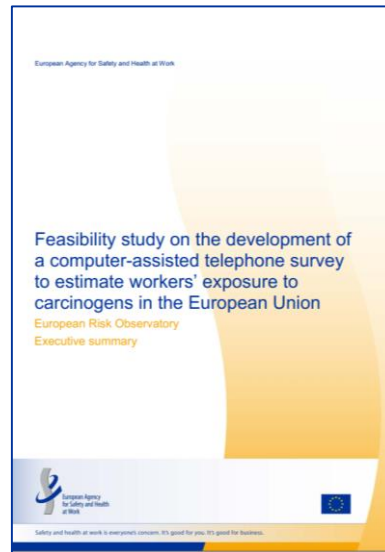
2018: Follow-up with experts to discuss the study

2019: Preparatory phase

2020-2021: Preparatory work and pilot survey

2022: Fieldwork and first findings

2023-2024: Promotion and evaluation



<https://osha.europa.eu/en/tools-and-publications/publications/feasibility-study-development-computer-assisted-telephone-survey/view>

Rehabilitation and return to work after cancer

- **Employers' positive attitude and understanding is crucial**
- **Worker's rights to be respected (confidentiality and medical data)**
- **SMEs should be provided with help:**
 - Information and resources for RTW programmes are lacking
 - Fewer alternative jobs and tasks
 - Family-like atmosphere: more supportive environment
- **Work should be assessed earlier - early in the diagnosis and treatment process**
- **Focus not only on RTW but also on remaining in work once a worker has returned**
- **No programmes aimed at RTW after occupational and work-related cancer**
- **Return to work influenced by the context of a country, especially the length of paid sick leave**
- **Possibility to work part-time?**

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/tools-and-publications/publications/rehabilitation-and-return-work-after-cancer-instruments-and-view>



Return to work - Interventions aimed at workers and employers

▪ Aimed at workers

- Workplace accommodations, including:
 - workload
 - tasks
 - assistance
- Information and training on cancer and RTW issues
- Psycho-educational interventions
- Rehabilitation services
- Job coaching

▪ Aimed at employers

- Support for employers in constructing RTW plans for workers with cancer
- Workplace accommodations to facilitate RTW
- Improved communication between the employee and co-workers
- Factual information on diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- Guidelines

Thank you for your attention

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