The Sustainable Work Place in Horizon 2020: A Swedish platform

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Background

• Sweden has a strong tradition in OSH research
  – but few OSH projects with EU-funding
• Sustainable working-life seen as strategically important (Social partners, government)
  – but not visible in preparations for Horizon 2020
• Funding for advocacy platforms connecting relevant Swedish interests and good prospects for influencing the agenda
  – Sustainable work place is a strong research area
  – Not a priority in Horizon 2020,
  – A platform may push the area forward
Context

- No NIWL
  - but three nodes (conglomerates) of researchers
    - South-west, middle, north
    - Major groups in occupational medicine and work technology
      - Strong Nordic contacts
      - Weaker European networks
- Tripartite OSH
  - Weaker governmental involvement
  - Stronger support from social partners
- Polarization of the labour market
  - Increase in social disparities in health
  - Need to work longer

- Strong research infrastructure
  - National registries
  - Biobanks
  - Access to work-places, employers and employees
- Fairly unique work participation for women
  - Highly gendered labour market
  - Widening educational gap: women > men
- The social partners are willing to
  - Assure relevance for the OSH research
  - Offer possibilities for intervention research
  - Support implementation of the results

OSH in a tight spot

The Sustainable Work Place – a Resource for Health, Innovation and Growth

• Societal challenges (priority III)
• Health, demographic change and wellbeing (Challenge 1)
• Presently focus on disease and treatment
• Wider scope including work environment and the sustainable work place?

• Understanding the determinants of health, improving health promotion and disease prevention (1.1)
• Transferring knowledge to clinical practice and scalable innovation actions (1.9)
• Better use of health data (1.10)
• Active ageing, independent and assisted living (1.12)
Aims

• In a long-term perspective to
  – create a platform with the intention that research on the sustainable workplace will be included in Horizon 2020;
  – strengthen interaction, in Sweden and abroad, between
    • strong research environments,
    • the social partners and other actors.

• In a short-term perspective to organise
  – dialogues between researchers, social partners, entrepreneurs and authorities
  – highlight key research areas relevant for different "windows" in Horizon 2020
  – develop an advocacy strategy (national and European level)
How?

• Compilation of knowledge sources / perspectives and list of ongoing EU-funded research in Sweden
  – work environment, sustainable jobs and innovations
• Joint meetings with
  – Social partners and businesses,
  – National funding agencies and authorities
• Consultation with the Commission and final workshop with invited international experts in Sweden February 2014
• The work includes three work packages: WP1: Knowledge Overview, WP2: Policies and Practices and WP3: Connecting Europe
• Final Report Research Agenda for Sustainable Work sent to the EU Commission / DG Research in March 2014.
What we hope for

- Better interaction between strong research environments in Sweden and elsewhere in Europe
- Improved dialogue with the social partners and users
- New fields identified for joint European research efforts in the field of sustainable and innovative workplaces
- Deeper interest in research on sustainable and innovative workplaces in Horizon 2020
- The “sustainable workplace” is given greater priority in European research cooperation
Contact us

The platform

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• Kenneth Abrahamsson, expert
• Elisabeth Lagerlöf, expert

• Node South-West
  – Mats Bohgard, Lund Institute of Technology
• Node Mid-Sweden
  – Per Gustavsson, Karolinska Institute
• Node North Sweden
  – Bengt Järvholm, Umeå University