



## Emerging risks

# Anticipating change: foresight projects

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Work and workplaces are constantly changing. This may give rise to new risks and challenges to workers' safety and health, which must be anticipated and addressed. Through its foresight projects, EU-OSHA aims to anticipate changes — technological, societal, political and economic — that may result in the emergence of new occupational safety and health (OSH) challenges. The objective is to support timely prevention of future OSH risks, thus ensuring that tomorrow's workplaces are safe and healthy.

## What is a foresight project?

EU-OSHA has been running a series of foresight projects intended to evaluate the possible effects of new technologies, new ways of working and societal change on workers' safety and health. EU-OSHA's foresight projects draw on a variety of methods, including literature reviews, consultation with experts, workshops and scenario-building, to gather information on key trends and drivers of change and analyse what their impact on work and OSH risks might be. The result is a set of scenarios describing how Europe's workplaces might look in 10 years' time and what OSH challenges we may be facing. The scenarios are intended to allow policy-makers to plan for the future and help them develop strategies to prevent and manage the emerging OSH risks identified. The projects encourage a long-term, strategic approach to OSH management, which will contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU's economies.

**EU-OSHA's foresight projects identify trends and drivers of change and model potential scenarios of the future so that strategies can be developed to prevent and manage new OSH risks.**

## Foresight projects in action

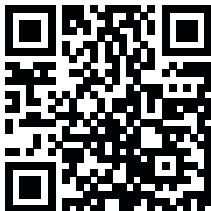
### Green jobs and OSH

An increasing focus on greener policies has created new jobs, but what is good for the environment is not necessarily good for the safety and health of workers. To ensure that these jobs are sustainable and provide a safe and healthy work environment, EU-OSHA commissioned a foresight project on green jobs. It focused on specific areas, such as green building, waste management, small-scale solar energy applications and wind energy, to highlight new OSH risks that will need to be managed in the future.

### Digitalisation and OSH

The creation of a European Digital Single Market is one of the European Commission's top 10 priorities. An EU-OSHA foresight project looks at the potential impact on OSH of rapid developments in information and communication technologies (ICT), including on-line platforms, artificial intelligence and robotics. It aims to provide EU-OSHA's stakeholders with the information they need on changes in ICT, their impact on the nature, location and organisation of work, and the emerging OSH challenges that they may bring.

Find out more about EU-OSHA's foresight projects at



<https://osha.europa.eu/en/emerging-risks>

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