Emerging risks
Anticipating change: foresight projects

Work and workplaces are constantly changing, which may lead to new occupational safety and health (OSH) risks and challenges and new dilemmas. Through its foresight projects, EU-OSHA aims to anticipate these changes — technological, environmental, societal, political and economic — and to support timely prevention and mitigation of future OSH risks.
Foresight projects — always up to date

Digitalisation
This foresight project focused on the impact of digital technologies on OSH, including online platforms, artificial intelligence, smart monitoring tools, remote work and robotics. The project’s insights contributed to the 2023-2025 Healthy Workplaces Campaign ‘Safe and healthy work in the digital age’ with its five priority areas.

Circular Economy
Changing to a Circular Economy, in the context of Europe’s Green Deal and a Just Transition, has significant policy and regulatory implications that affect current and future jobs and workers’ safety and health. This foresight study comprised scenarios looking at a more carbon neutral Europe in 2040. These scenarios aim to foster dialogue among stakeholders, informing decisions today for a healthier and safer future at work.

EU-OSHA’s foresight projects identify key trends, drivers of change and model future scenarios to develop strategies for preventing and managing emerging OSH risks.

Green jobs
An increasing focus on greener policies has created new jobs, but their environmental benefits may not align with worker safety and health. To ensure that these jobs are sustainable and provide a safe and healthy work environment, EU-OSHA’s foresight project on green jobs focused on areas like green building, waste management and renewable energy, to highlight the OSH risks that need to be managed now and in the future.

Climate change
The effects of climate change are increasingly apparent and important policy responses are being developed. This foresight looks into the OSH implications of future climate change-related developments and crises. The project is in line with the 2021-27 EU OSH Strategic Framework’s key objectives of anticipating and managing change in the context of green, digital and demographic transitions and, increasing preparedness to respond to future health crises.

Find out more about EU-OSHA’s foresight projects at https://osha.europa.eu/en/emerging-risks