



Welcome and short overview of the project

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Presentation of EU-OSHA

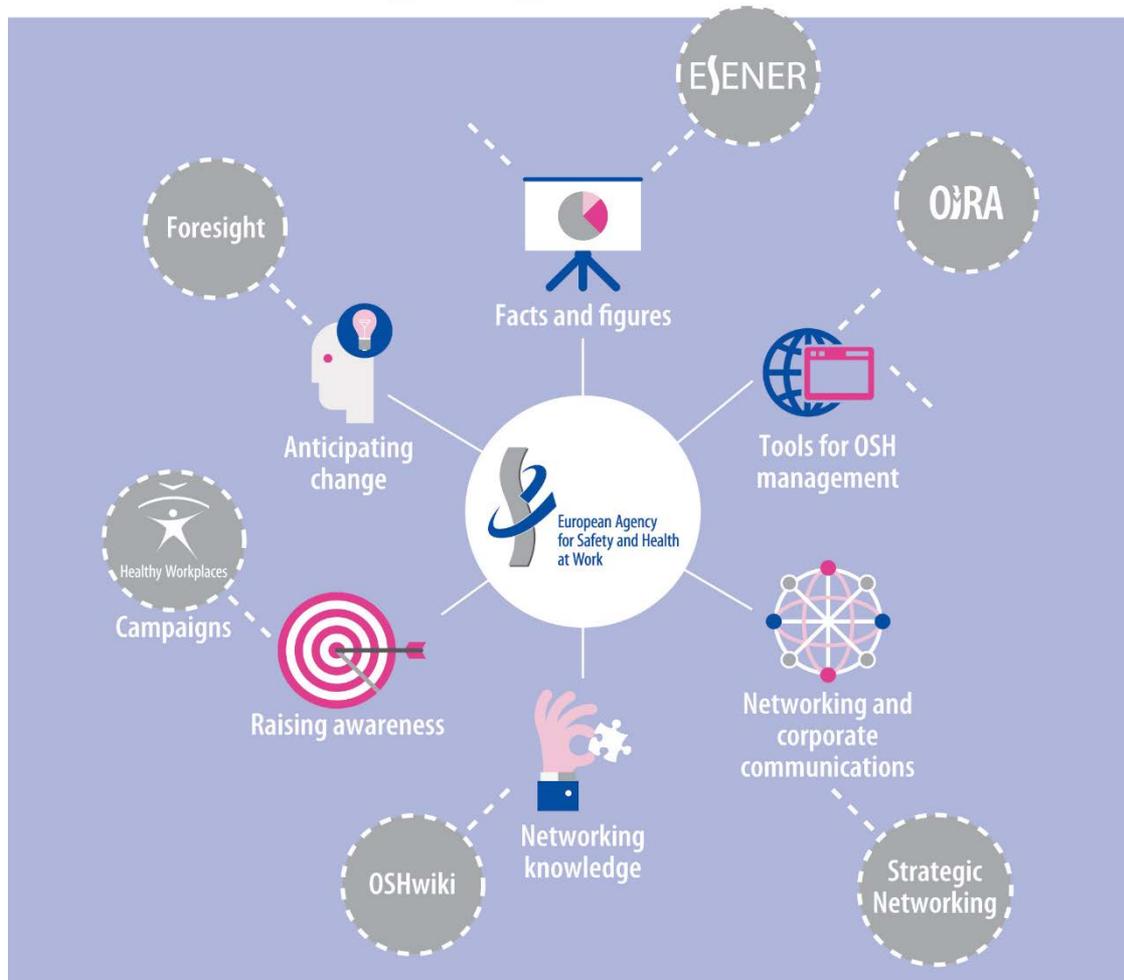
- **Set up in 1994 by the European Union and based in Bilbao, Spain**
- **Promote a culture of risk prevention**
- **What we do**
 - Collect information
 - Analyse information
 - Disseminate information
- **What we don't do**
 - ~~Make legislation~~
 - ~~Inspect workplaces~~
 - ~~Enforce the law~~
- **How we do it**
 - Produce reliable and relevant information
 - User-friendly tools
 - Share good practices
 - Network with organisations across Europe



EU-OSHA activities

EU-OSHA Priority areas and activities

Multi-annual Strategic Programme 2014-2020



Background of the project

▪ EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020

- One of the 3 major challenges: to improve the prevention of work-related diseases

▪ Background

- 320,000 workers die worldwide every year due to communicable diseases caused by biological agents - 5,000 of these fatalities are in the EU.
- At least 15% of all new cases of cancer worldwide are caused by viruses, bacteria or parasites (e.g. Hepatitis B, aflatoxin B1, wood dust).
- FR (2003): 2,6 million workers (15%) exposed to biological agents
 - healthcare/social work (> 50%), agriculture (33 %), food (31 %), domestic work (27 %), R&D (24 %)
- Waste management and healthcare are growing sectors

Part of OSH overview on work-related diseases

■ 2015-2019

- Desk research, expert interviews and focus groups
- Description of policies or monitoring systems and data analysis
- Workshops with experts and EU-OSHA stakeholders

■ **Outputs:**

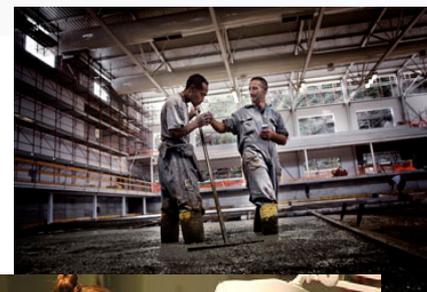
- Seminar online summaries, literature reviews, reports, articles and recommendations, ppts for policy makers and for experts
- Translations – portfolio approach: SOS, articles, report summaries, national workshops

■ **Building on previous EU-OSHA work**

- Dangerous substances incl. biological agents, etc.

Objectives of the project

- **Raise awareness** on exposure to biological agents in exposed professions, especially those with unintentional use of biological agents;
 - Increase **information on health problems** related to exposure to biological agents;
 - Support efforts to **prioritise and structure the prevention** of work-related health problems linked to biological agents.
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- Overview on the **current knowledge** on relevant exposures and on recognised diseases;
 - Particular focus on **emerging issues and new professions**, e.g. green jobs;
 - Link to biological agents directive – **unintentional exposures**;
 - Collect **information from recording and compensation systems**;
 - Identify **gaps in data/knowledge**.



Complementary to previous work

EU-OSHA campaigns

European Week 2003 and HWC 2018-19

Expert Forecast: Main emerging biological risks

- Global epidemics (avian flu, HIV, etc.)
 - Workers are many times at the frontline of contamination
- Drug-resistant micro-organisms (MRSA, tuberculosis, etc.)
- Poor Indoor Air Quality: Indoor mould
 - Poor maintenance of air-conditioning, construction & insulation technics
 - mould-related diseases: in FI, 264 cases (155 allergies) (2002)
- Waste treatment: micro-organisms, mould, endotoxins, etc.

Poor risk assessment: little information on dose-effect relationship; measurement is challenging; low awareness level

Selected reviews:

- Legionella and Legionnaires' disease: a policy overview
- Biological agents and pandemics: review of the literature and national policies



Beneficiaries & intermediaries

▪ **Beneficiaries**

- Policy makers at national and EU level, including social partners;
- Legislators;
- Researchers;
- Actors in occupational diseases recognition and statistical data collection (e.g. national social security organisations);
- Actors at enterprise level (e.g. health and safety manager, health and safety representative, trades union representative) and intermediaries involved in setting up company policies;
- Sectoral organisations;
- Policy makers in other, related areas, for example at the sectoral level, or regarding employment, public health and environmental policies.

▪ **Intermediaries**

- Intermediaries involved in setting up company policies;
- Sectoral organisations
- Policy makers at national and EU level, incl. social partners
- Researchers...