

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



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

SREU-Work Project . Swedish Platform for
Research for Sustainable Work Systems in
Europe



Contact us

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