



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (1)

*EU action on occupational safety and health (OSH) has been pursued over the years within a strategic policy framework that includes two key components:*

- 1. A comprehensive body of EU legislation covering the most significant occupational risks and providing common definitions, structures and rules that are adapted by Member States to their different national circumstances; and*



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (2)

2. A series of multiannual action programmes between 1978 and 2002, followed by European strategies (covering 2002-06 and 2007-12), to identify priorities and common objectives, that provide a framework for coordinating national policies and promote a holistic culture of prevention

As a result of the 2007-12 strategy, 27 Member States have put in place national strategies



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (3)

- Risk prevention and the promotion of safer and healthier conditions in the workplace are key not just to improving job quality and working conditions, but also to promoting competitiveness
- Keeping workers healthy has a direct and measurable positive impact on productivity, and contributes to improving the sustainability of social security systems



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (4)

- Preventing workers from suffering serious accidents or occupational diseases and promoting workers' health throughout their working life, from their first job onwards, is key to allowing them to work for longer
- This therefore contributes to addressing the long-term effects of demographic ageing, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy's objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth



# EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 (5)

- Investment in OSH contributes to the well-being of workers and is cost-effective. According to recent estimates, investments in this area can produce high ratios of return, averaging 2.24, and in a range between 1.29 and 2.895.



# The need for policy action to improve the OSH situation in the EU

- *85% of workers satisfied with the health and safety situation in their workplace (EB 2014)*
- *This outcome can be attributed to the comprehensive legislation and policy actions implemented by the Union, Member States and social partners. However,*
- *> 4 000 workers die of accidents at work and > 3 million workers are victims of a serious accident at work.*
- *160 000 deaths annually are attributed to work-related diseases, 95 000 of which to occupational cancer.*
- *Costs due to work-related sick leave, work-related diseases and accidents are unacceptably high and put a heavy burden on competitiveness and social security budgets.*



# Preparatory and consultation process (1)

## Evaluation of the EU Strategy on Health and Safety at Work 2007-2012

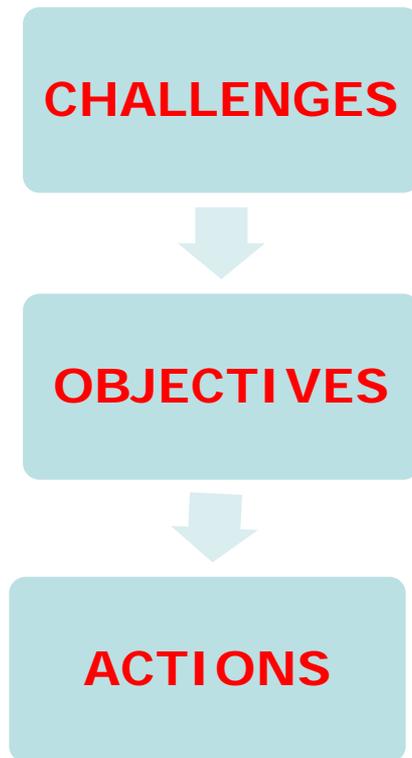
- Confirmed the value of an EU strategic framework for policy action in the field of OSH and show strong stakeholder support for a continuing EU-level strategic approach.
- The evaluation highlighted the need to review objectives, priorities and working methods to adapt the EU policy framework to changing patterns of work, and new and emerging risks.



## Preparatory and consultation process (2)

- *Opinions received from the European Parliament, the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health (ACSH) and the Senior Labour Inspectorate Committee (SLIC), in favour of launching a strategic policy initiative*
- *Online public consultation to seek stakeholder views: more than 500 replies, mostly in favour of pursuing a strategic policy approach at EU Level. However, diverging views about need for further regulation and need to reduce regulatory burden on SMEs*
- *Conference on Working Conditions of 28 April 2014*

# Design process of the strategic initiative





# 1<sup>st</sup> challenge: Improving the implementation record of MS

- *The scope and effectiveness of OSH management remains a challenge for micro and SMEs. They still show lower levels of compliance with rules.*
- *Effective protection of workers' health and safety has to be insured in all workplaces regardless of size.*
- *Simpler, more efficient solutions need to be put in place to take into account the situation of micro and small enterprises. This requires:*
  - *simplifying legislation where appropriate, and*
  - *providing tailored guidance and support to micro and small enterprises to facilitate risk assessment.*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> challenge: Improving the prevention of work-related diseases

- *Troubles with bones, joints and muscles as well as stress, anxiety and depression are by far the most often mentioned health problems caused or worsened by work (EB 2014).*
- *Industrial application of new technologies and new work organization, despite their obvious benefits, can entail risks that need to be tested and checked (e.g. nanotechnologies, biotechnologies and green technologies).*
- *Special attention should be paid to occupational diseases, e.g. cancers, lung diseases, skin diseases, asthma and other chronic conditions, and diseases caused by asbestos*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge: Tackling demographic change

- *The EU population is becoming older and the working population is also ageing, as the proportion of older workers in employment increases relative to that of younger workers*
- *In order to ensure sustainable social security, an extension of working life is necessary. This will require appropriate working conditions throughout the entire working life*
- *Successfully prolonging working careers depends on appropriate adaptation of workplaces and work organisation, including working time, workplace accessibility and workplace interventions targeted at older workers. Innovative ICT products and services can help*
- *Reintegration and rehabilitation measures allowing for early return to work after an accident or disease are needed to avoid early exclusion from the labour market*

# EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020 (6)

## Challenges:

- *Implementation of OSH legislation*
- *Prevention of work-related diseases*
- *Demographic change*

## Key objectives:

- *Consolidation of national strategies*
- *Compliance with OSH rules, MSEs*
- *Enforcement by Member States*
- *Simplification*
- *Ageing, new risks, occupational diseases*
- *Data collection*
- *International cooperation*

## EU instruments:

- *Legislation*
- *EU funds*
- *Social dialogue*
- *Communication and information*
- ***Synergies with other policies***



# Implementation

- *Framework for action, cooperation and exchange of good practice*
- *Implementation requires the active collaboration of national authorities and social partners*
- *Open debate with key stakeholders*
- *Review in 2016 in light of the results of the ex-post evaluation of the EU acquis*
- *Monitoring, associating EU institutions and relevant stakeholders*



# Research aspects in the EU-OSH Strategic Framework (2004-2020)

*Research aspects are mainstreamed along the document:*

- *Key strategic objective 5*
- *Key strategic objective 6*
- *EU Instrument 2*
- *EU Instrument 4*
- *EU Instrument 5*



# Research aspects in the EU-OSH Strategic Framework (2004-2020) (I)

## *Key strategic objective 5 on:*

- *Ageing of the workforce,*
  - *emerging new risks, and*
  - *prevention of work-related and occupational diseases:*
- *network of OSH professionals and scientists and possibility to set up a scientific consultation body in OSH*
    - **SCOEL for chemicals**
  - *support the dissemination of the findings of the European Risk*
    - **Role of EU-OSHA**

# Research aspects in the EU-OSH Strategic Framework (2004-2020) (II)

*Key strategic objective 6 on the Improvement of statistical data collection and development of the information base:*

- *Evidence-based policy: reliable, timely and comparable statistical data on:*
  - *work-related accidents and diseases,*
  - *work-related ill-health,*
  - *occupational exposures,*
  - *OSH costs and benefits*
- *Eg. launch discussions within the ACSH on a possible common database on occupational exposures*
  - ***Hazchem@Work study***



# Research aspects in the EU-OSH Strategic Framework (2004-2020) (III)

*EU Instrument 4: Communication*

*EU Instrument 5: Synergies with other policy areas*

- Education, Research, Public Health, Environment, Industrial Policy, Equality



# Research aspects in the EU-OSH Strategic Framework (2004-2020) (IV)

***Horizon 2020*** (in Instruments for implementation):

*Focus areas mentioned:*

- understanding health;
- ageing and diseases;
- improving active and healthy ageing;
- effective health promotion;
- disease prevention; and
- preparedness and screening.



## Some comments on the EU-OSHA Position Papers

- *Good links among important concepts in OSH Research: innovation, industrial technologies at the service of OSH (eg. design of technical risk management measures) and in line with OSH, prevention through design, new forms of work organization,...*
- *New and emerging risks... but not only*
- *More strength in the Health part (health promotion in the workplace, health monitoring including biological monitoring,...)*



# Thank you for your attention

More information:

EU OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=151&langId=en>

EU actions in the area of health and safety at work

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&langId=en>