

## **SURVEY DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS CULTURE METHODOLOGY: ATTUNING NATIONAL SURVEYS**

### **BACKGROUND**

In many EU countries, OSH-monitors have been developed in the past in order to monitor OSH risks and risk groups. In the development of these monitors there has not been much coordination. These OSH-monitors measure OSH concepts, a lot of which may be the same, but probably, even when measuring the same concept, these monitors may measure the same concepts in different ways, making EU-wide comparisons on OSH a difficult issue. In addition, even when questions are (about) the same, cultural differences may hinder EU-comparative analyses (e.g. with the EWCS data). The aim of this project group is to obtain a better understanding of the differences and similarities in concepts, indicators and operationalizations.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the project is to make an inventory of the indicators and operationalizations of the surveillance systems of work and health in a number of European countries (PEROSH-partners). This inventory aims at

- identifying the type of indicators measured in most surveys,
- ascertaining the commonalities and specificities in concepts or indicators covered by the national surveys, as well as their operationalizations and
- enhancing the discussion about common interests in surveillance and monitoring among the European partners.

Besides that, the project aims at presenting common grounds and directions for surveillance / monitoring and research.

### **DELIVERABLES**

A discussion paper will be written and published in a scientific journal to describe in which aspects the countries refer to similar concepts and operationalizations and how much the indicators assessed reflect themes covered by scientific research. An excel file is made that shows in detail a) which OSH information is gathered in the various countries, and b) how this information is gathered.

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

The project will be using information from the surveys of the countries to deliver an overview of available information in national OSH-surveys in the EU. A paper will be written to describe to which extent there is (dis)agreement between the OSH surveys in the various countries. The paper concludes with a suggestion on how to establish evidence for health and labour market effects regarding working conditions scarcely or never investigated in research.

The current research group is preparing a plan for a second phase, where the effect of differences in measuring method on the identification of risk groups is assessed. More countries are invited to join.

**SCIENTIFIC  
RELEVANCE**

Within the EU, most OSH-monitors measure comparable concepts relevant to OSH in different ways, making EU-wide comparisons on OSH a difficult issue. Even when questions are (about) the same, cultural differences may hinder EU-comparative analyses (e.g. with the EWCS data). A better understanding of the differences and similarities in indicators may in the future result in relevant EU wide measurements.

In addition for new / emerging issues, comparability may be enhanced.

**PRACTICAL/SOCIETAL  
RELEVANCE**

In Europe, there is the EWCS (European Working Conditions Survey), hosted by the European Foundation (EWILWC), that allows for comparisons of working conditions across the participating countries. It would, additionally, be helpful if national surveys that are usually more comprehensive than EWCS would be more comparable. The PEROSH institutes often collect data on a larger scale compared to the EWCS and these data are more tuned to the typical OSH risks in the country or region, and – as such – would allow more breakdowns relevant to EU and national stakeholders.

For other researchers, the project will give an overview of what indicators on important work and health issues are used.

For policy makers, the project will give an overview what is done in the field of work and health.

For the project group, the project will provide a forum for exchanging experiences / knowledge / challenges in methodology, reporting and organization of surveillance and monitoring.

**PROJECT LEADER**

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