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**STOP
THE
PANDEMIC**

Roadmap on Carcinogens

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#EUhealthyworkplaces
#StopthePandemic

**International Seminar on Protection of Hospital
Workers from the Occupational Risks Related to
Carcinogens**
3 September 2021



The healthcare sector – a growing sector in the EU

- A mainly female working population (78% of the health workers)
- Health and social systems employ more workers now than at any other time in history, one in every ten jobs found in health or social care (*Health at a Glance – 2019, OECD indicators*)
- In the last quarter of 2019, 14.7 million over 15 years were employed in health occupations in the EU, representing over 7% of all persons employed and almost 4% of the total population.
- These health jobs include
 - medical doctors (1.9 million),
 - nurses and midwives as well as their assistants (4.5 million),
 - personal care workers (4.1 million), other health professionals and their associates (4.1 million).
- An ageing working population: Over one third (36%) of people in health occupations in the EU were 50 years old or over, followed by those aged 35 – 49 (35%) and those less than 34 (29%).
- A wide variety of jobs:
 - Include home care and ambulant services
 - Include elderly care and socio-medical service provided to vulnerable groups

Key workplace hazards and risks in healthcare

Chemical risks

- Exposure to chemicals used in healthcare
- Allergies
- Lack of training

Biological risks

- Exposure to biological agents
- Sharps injuries
- Lack of vaccination programmes
- Overcrowded hospitals

Ergonomic issues

- Load on body
- Lack of training
- Poor ergonomic design and unavailable /unsuitable equipment
- High workloads

Psychosocial risks

- Emotional demands
- Violence, harassment and bullying
- High workload, working hours and time pressures
- Lack of control
- Poor work organisation
- Economic crisis

Safety risks

- Noise
- Radiation (ionising and non-ionising)
- Slip trips and falls

Combination of these diverse risks makes healthcare a high-risk sector for workers

EU-OSHA Resources – Healthcare sector

- [Current and emerging occupational safety and health \(OSH\) issues in the healthcare sector, including home and community care and corresponding Executive summary](#)
- [E-fact 46: Mental health promotion in the health care sector](#)
- [E-fact 35 - Risk Assessment for Care Workers](#)
- [E-fact 28 - Patient handling techniques to prevent MSDs in health care](#)
- [E-fact 18 - Risk assessment in health care](#)
- [Innovative solutions to safety and health risks in the construction, healthcare and HORECA sectors](#)
- [Keeping our healthcare workers healthy - Prevention of blood-transmitted infections](#)
- [E-fact 40 - Risk assessment and needlestick injuries](#)
- [Needlestick — how to prevent needlestick injuries effectively](#)

OSHwiki articles:

- [Work-related musculoskeletal disorders among hospital workers](#)
- [Prevention strategies for MSDs in the healthcare sector](#)

ESENER 3. More information available at: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/surveys-and-statistics-osh/esener/>

Many resources under the current Healthy Workplaces campaign 2020-22

EU-OSHA support to action on carcinogens – roadmap on carcinogens

EU-OSHA one of the founding members

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances/roadmap-to-carcinogens>

Themes

COVID-19: resources for the

workplace

Ageing & OSH +

Benefits of OSH

Dangerous substances

Practical tools and guidance

Glossary

Roadmap on carcinogens →

REACH

CLP

Green jobs

ICT/digitalisation

Leadership & worker participation

Mainstreaming OSH into education

Micro and small enterprises & OSH

Musculoskeletal disorders +



Roadmap on carcinogens

Taking action on work-related cancer

Cancer is estimated to be the leading cause of work-related deaths in the EU. It is clear that more can be done to reduce the number of cases of occupational cancer, and that's why, on 25 May 2016, six European organisations signed a covenant committing them to a voluntary action scheme to raise awareness of the risks arising from exposures to carcinogens in the workplace and exchange good practices.

The partners were:

- [The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection](#) 
- [BUSINESSEUROPE](#)  (European employers)
- [The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work \(EU-OSHA\)](#)
- [The European Commission](#) 
- [The European Trade Union Confederation](#) 
- [The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment](#) 

The covenant was renewed on 28 November 2019 and was signed by the [Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health](#)  and the [German Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs](#) , who thanked Austria and the Netherlands for their

Promotion of ongoing actions on the webpage, participation in major events

Promotion of selected tools and instruments

An annual event: A+A 2021, October, good practice exchange on labour inspection practices and guidance for enterprises

Special tribute to Rob Triemstra, one of the promoters of the roadmap on carcinogens



- **Roadmap on carcinogens**
 - A joint info sheet with the signatories
- **An important part of the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2018-19**
- **Several events (A+A 2017, ICOH 2018, Presidency conferences in the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Germany, Portugal)**
- **And now: SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE**
- **Activities in 2021:**
 - Updating EU-OSHA's roadmap pages
 - Supporting the European Commission on the amendments to OELs
 - Activities in the framework of the new roadmap strategy
 - A+A 2021 conference: workshop, good practice exchange on labour inspection practices and guidance for enterprises
 - Preparations French Presidency conference 2022
 - Preparations for the Workers' Exposure Survey on cancer risk factors

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances/roadmap-to-carcinogens>

- **Provides an overview of the legal framework!**
- **Importance of workplace risk assessment, where to find information**
- **Hierarchy of prevention measures for carcinogens**
 - Occupational exposure limits (OELs) and monitoring
 - Maintenance and incidents, emergency plans and monitoring in case of incidents
 - Consultation of workers, information and training
 - Health surveillance
 - Notification and record-keeping
- **Measures for workers who may be particularly at risk**
- **Roadmap on carcinogens**
- **Examples of guidance and information materials**
- **Available in BG, CS, DA, DE, EL, EN, FI, FR, IS, LT, MT, NL, NO, PT, SK, SL**

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/infosheet-carcinogens-work/view>



EU-OSHA committed to supporting and sharing good practices

- **Database of tools and resources for the management of dangerous substances, incl. carcinogens**
 - Nearly 1000 links to resources, including visual resources
 - Nearly 300 related to carcinogens
- **Interactive e-tool on dangerous substance management for MSEs, available in Austria, Estonia, Romania, Slovenia, Norway, Iceland, Portugal, Germany and Spain**
- **Case studies, including the award winners from the Good Practice Award scheme 2018-19 demonstrating that**

Prevention is possible!

EU-OSHA supporting and promoting national campaigns and guidance – roadmap on carcinogens

M•plus 340.1 SICHERHEIT KOMPAKT



Austrian campaign on carcinogens at work had a strong focus on the healthcare sector:

- Guidance for risk assessment and its documentation
- Substance information
- Sectoral guidance
- Guidance for substitution
- Technical, organisational and personal prevention measures

Case study: Controlling exposure when treating surgical instruments – Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2018-19

- Large hospital with 3,000 workers, more than 300,000 patients/year in Latvia
- Ethylene oxide to sterilise surgical equipment and supplies that are heat sensitive or cannot tolerate excessive moisture
- Potential mutagenic, reproductive, carcinogenic, neurological, and fire and explosion hazard, causes dizziness and loss of control
- All the protective measures:
 - latest generation of ethylene oxide sterilizer
 - department in groundfloor
 - closed system
 - local exhaust systems and gas analysers
 - gas masks and other personal protective equipment
 - limited access to premises
 - dangerous chemicals kept in fireproof cabinets or in fireproof compartments that have separate exhaust systems
- Equipment more expensive (~70 %), but savings are ~63 %
- Loading the equipment is more ergonomic and easier for the operator



Thank you for organising this important Conference

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