Carcinogens and the EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaign
2018/19 Conclusions and future perspectives

Dr. Christa Sedlatschek
Executive Director

Roadmap on Carcinogens Conference
“Working together to eliminate occupational cancer”
Helsinki, 27 – 28 November 2019
Healthy workplaces campaign 2018-19

- Coordinated by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- Organised in more than 30 countries
- Supported by a network of partners:
  - National focal points
  - Official campaign partners
  - European social partners
  - Media partners
  - Enterprise Europe Network
  - EU institutions
  - Other EU agencies
Strategic Objectives

▪ Raising awareness of the importance and relevance of managing dangerous substances in many European workplaces by providing facts and figures on the exposure to dangerous substances and the impact of this on workers.

▪ Promoting risk assessment, elimination and substitution and the hierarchy of prevention measures by providing information on practical tools and good practice examples.

▪ Raising awareness of risks linked to exposure to carcinogens at work by supporting the exchange of good practices as a signatory to the covenant committing to the Carcinogens Roadmap.

▪ Targeting groups of workers with specific needs and higher levels of risks, due to limited knowledge in relation to dangerous substances by providing facts and figures and good practice information.

▪ Improving awareness of policy developments/ legislative framework by providing an overview of the existing framework and existing guidance.
HWC 2018-19: Campaign resources

- Campaign guide
- Practical e-tool
- Reports
- Series of info sheets on priority topics
- Database of resources and tools
- Case studies and audio-visual database
- OSHwiki: updated section and new articles
- Training for substitution materials
- Napo films

- Promotion material
  - Campaign leaflet
  - Good Practice Awards flyer
  - Poster
  - Videos
  - Online banner
  - Email signature
Dangerous substances e-tool and training material

- **E-tool for DS management**
  Published in 2018: EU-Masterversion

- **E-tool country versions:**
  2019: Austria, Estonia, Romania, Slovenia, Norway. Later: Iceland, Portugal, (Germany)

- **Training material on substitution:**
  End of 2018: Basic material for trainings in Member States, first seminar in Helsinki in 2020

Find and reduce the safety and health hazards from dangerous substances and chemical products at the workplaces in your company.

Quick Start

7 Questions

Seven questions will prompt you to answer about your current practices with dangerous substances and chemical products. If improvements are needed, you immediately get tips and advice on what you need to do and how you can do it safely and efficiently as possible.

When you’re done with the seven questions, you can also continue with the longer questionnaire. This will help you with a more accurate analysis of the rules applicable to the chemical products and dangerous substances. You will also receive a report containing your answers, To-Do’s, recommendations and advice. In this report, the advice is adapted to the needs of your company or work place based on your responses. You will be informed about procedures and good practice measures that help you to create a safe and healthy chemical work environment.

My Chemical Guide

Up to 36 Questions

The long questionnaire will help you with a more accurate analysis of your current situation related to chemical products and dangerous substances. You will also receive a report containing your answers, To-Do’s, recommendations and advice. In this report, the advice is adapted to the needs of your company or work place based on your responses. You will be informed about procedures and good practice measures that help you to create a safe and healthy chemical work environment.

www.healthy-workplaces.eu
New and updated resources – database and info sheets

- **Database of tools and resources:** close to 1,000 entries. The database is also accessible from the corporate website and will be maintained. For the next campaign there will be a similar database on MSD.

- **Moreover:** Most articles in OSHWiki on Dangerous substances were updated in 2017 and 2018
Carcinogens at work

- Key points
- Importance of workplace risk assessment, where to find information
- Hierarchy of prevention measures applied to 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

Vulnerable workers and dangerous substances

- Key points
- Legal obligations
- New or young workers
- Migrant or temporary workers
- Workers with medical conditions
- Pregnant and breastfeeding workers
- Workers in service occupations and gender issues
2018 Healthy Workplaces CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

- Supported by EU-OSHA: more than **220 activities** in 28 Member States and 3 EEA countries
- More than **70% increase** in activities compared to previous years
- Distributed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>Campaign-branded items</td>
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<tr>
<td>950,000</td>
<td>Publications in 25 languages</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>Campaign banner stands</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Exhibition kits</td>
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The Healthy Workplaces campaign on dangerous substances – a huge success!

Number of monthly unique visitors to the HWC 18-19 compared to HWC 16-17:

Comparison to previous campaign is always vs the same previous period (2016 in this case)

Average monthly unique visitors for HWC 18-19 and HWC 16-17:

- HWC 16-17: 7,300
- HWC 18-19: 11,704

The variation to the previous campaign: 60%

Total number of visits:

- HWC 16-17: 64,974
- HWC 18-19: 168,767

The variation to the previous campaign: 67%

http://osha.europa.eu
Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards

- **GPA Promotion**
  - GPA ceremony: in November 2019 during Healthy Workplaces Summit
  - 6 awarded and 4 commended examples

- A hairdresser shop with a holistic OSH policy
- Responsible handling of asbestos-containing putty in the glazier trade
- Dust reduction in potato sorting
- Minimising residual contamination after illegal narcotics production
- How to stop using CMR solvent (Perchlorethylene) to characterise coated aggregates for recycling asphalt
- Safe work practices for advanced drilling in materials containing carbon nanotubes
Cooperation with other EU organisations

- **Cooperation with ECHA**
  - Consultation on OSH wiki articles and web sections on REACH and CLP
  - Co-promotional activities, regular teleconferences and events
  - Cooperation with the substitution network, meeting in Bilbao
  - ECHA involved in the eTools workshop to prepare the campaign
  - HWC promoted through the ECHA website
  - Presentations to the ECHA stakeholder groups (ENES, Forum, HelpNet, stakeholder conference)
  - ECHA visit to Bilbao 28.10.2019 to scope further cooperation

- **Involvement of ECHA, EEA in Summit 2019**
Healthy Workplaces Summit & Good Practice Award Ceremony

Euskalduna Conference Centre: conference & parallel sessions

300 participants from all over Europe

Maritime Museum: Networking evening event

http://osha.europa.eu
CARCINOGENS ACTIVITIES

- Roadmap on carcinogens
  - A joint info sheet with the signatories
  - Promotion of ongoing actions on the webpage
- Several events (A+A 2017, ICOH 2018, AT Presidency conference)
- HWC Summit: Session on carcinogens, incl. Exposures in the services sector and welding fumes
- And now: FINNISH PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE
  - Biomonitoring
  - Good practice examples – by EU-OSHA
  - REACH and OSH
- Many Focal Point activities related to carcinogens under the HWC; overview given at Presidency conferences
- New EU-OSHA activity: Worker exposure survey on cancer risk factors
Worker exposure survey - Background

- Need for harmonised and comparable data on exposure to carcinogens
- Existing and unique survey in Australia (AWES cancer, 2012)
- Feasibility study on a survey on exposure to cancer risks (2017)
- Results and recommendations of the study discussed with experts and with our Management Board (2018)
- Scientific consensus on:
  - the feasibility of running a robust exposure survey
  - the value of the anticipated results in terms of their reliability;
  - the extent to which such results would meet a widely-identified need;
  - the absence of a viable alternative to meeting this need.

1st phase of the survey in our work programme from 2020
Survey methodology – main features

- A telephone survey with workers
- A standardised questionnaire with modules customised for a broad variety of jobs (more than 50)
- Short, precise and factual customised questions about tasks
- Possible exposure to 46 cancer risk factors, going beyond substances (e.g. radiation and night shift)
- Probability of exposure assessed by experts, using OccIDEAS tool
- Possible multiple exposure situations for a person
- A large number of risk factors covered, not only cancer risk factors
OccIDEAS – how it works

- An application to assess occupational exposure
- Collaborative service rather than commercial product

https://www.occideas.org/
Main challenges and limitations

- **Key challenges:**
  - Adaptation of the questionnaire modules to Europe
  - Identification of relevant differences between countries
- Identification of **occupational hygiene experts** to assess and validate the questionnaire and rules at national level
- Need for experts’ engagement over time
- **Adaptation to national language**: simple questions but very specific to the job
- Some questions on agents, materials or prevention measures may overstrain the knowledge of unskilled workers (possibly leading to measurement errors)
- Need for a specific expert subgroup on Manufacturing
THANK YOU
HELSINKI!

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