#### **Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest**

I, Brenda O'Brien DO NOT have a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with one or more organizations that could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation.





## An Update from EU-OSHA: Current and Future Activities

**Brenda O'Brien Brussels Liaison Office Manager** 



Brussels, 15 May 2013



## **Mission**

The European Union body responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant information to serve the needs of those involved in safety and health at work.





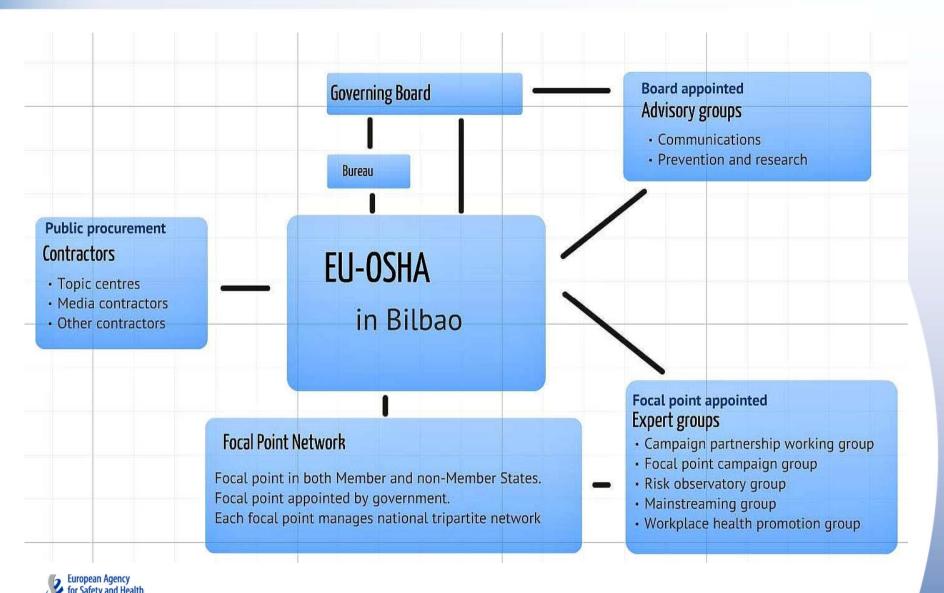
## **Tripartitism**

- The basis of the European workplace approach
- Employer, worker, and government engaged in dialogue and seeking consensus
- EU-OSHA is a tripartite organisation
  - ➤ Tripartite governing board and bureau
  - ➤ Tripartite national focal point networks

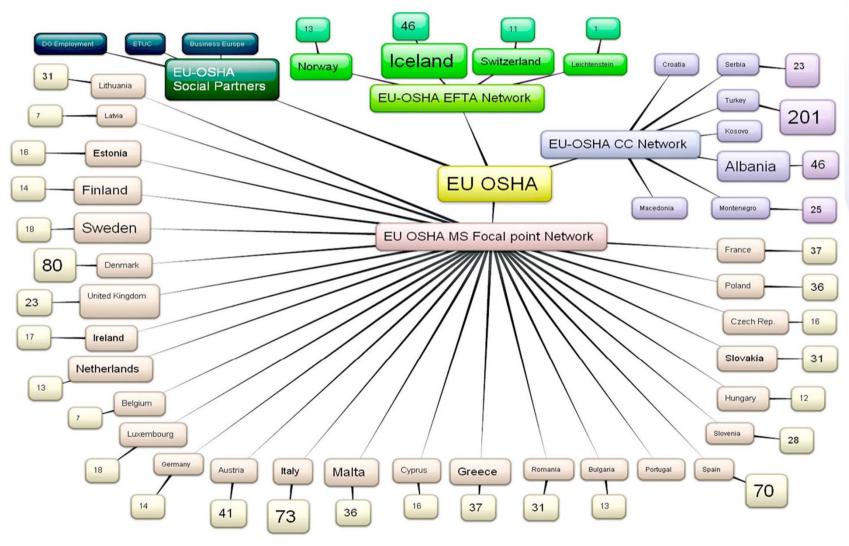
 ESENER survey results show greatest OSH management performance when there is both leadership by management AND effective worker safety representation



## How we are organised



# How we engage at national level





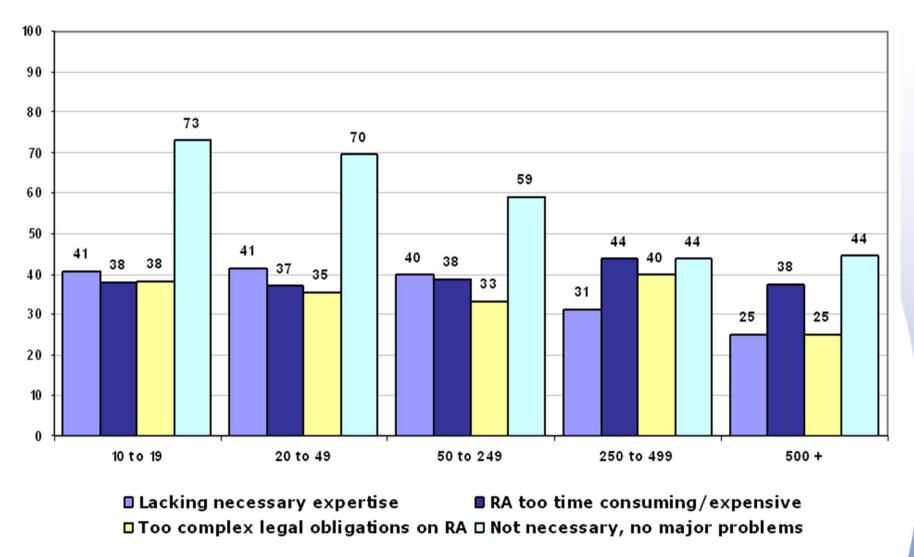
## The cost of inadequate prevention

- 205 million people in employment
- 167,000 fatalities attributed to work-related accidents and diseases in EU, and within that:
  - 159,000 fatalities attributed to work-related diseases
    - Of which 74,000 fatalities attributed to hazardous substances at work (asbestos included)
- 95,581 work-related cancer deaths annually (2002)
  - 9.6% of all cancer deaths estimated to be attributable to work

Source: ILO, 2010

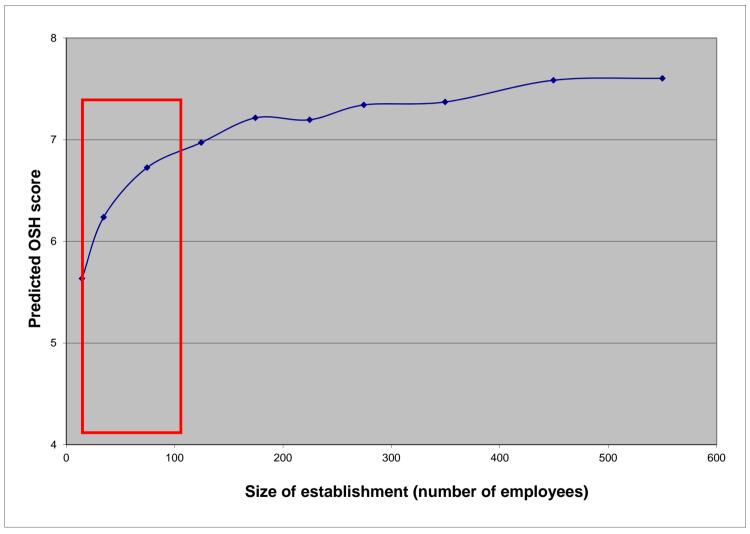


## Lack of awareness of OSH issues





# Management challenges in MSEs





## Campaigning



- World's biggest OSH campaign
- 2012-2013: Working together for risk prevention
- 2014-2015: Healthy workplaces manage stress





### Campaign 2014-2015: Why psychosocial risks?

- ESENER survey 2009 : 79% of European managers are concerned about stress at work;
- Less than 30% of European organisations have procedures in place to deal with stress, workplace violence and harassment;
- The management of psychosocial risks varies significantly between EU countries and sectors;
- Experts indicate that a holistic approach to managing psychosocial risks is especially effective;
- To benefit from the outcomes of the current HWC 2012 2013 and build on the close cooperation between management and workers to reduce or even better abolish stress at work.

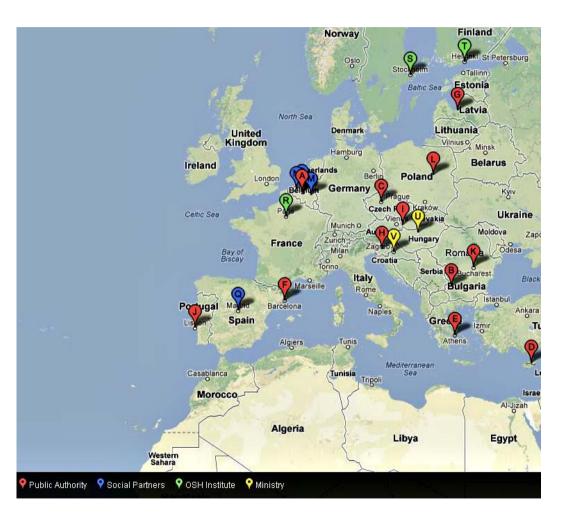


## Campaign 2014-2015: Objectives

- Raising awareness about the growing problem with stress and psychosocial risks
- Raising awareness about the positive effects of reducing stress and psychosocial risks, including the business case;
- Increasing the enterprises' awareness and practical knowledge related to recognising and preventing stress and psychosocial risks at work;
- Promoting the use and development of simple practical tools for reducing stress and psychosocial risks at work, in particular for micro and small enterprises



## OiRA - Supporting micro-enterprises



- Online interactive risk assessment tool
- Take-up around Europe and across sectors
- Partnerships with public authorities, social partners, and OSH institutions



## **Anticipating future risks**

- Gather data and other information (e.g. expert judgement) from as many sources as possible
  - No single data source will give a complete picture
- Focus not only on occupational safety and health, but on the relevant socioeconomic context, too
- Examine <u>past</u> trends, describe the situation at <u>present</u>, and explore <u>future</u> developments



## **NAPO: Non-verbal OSH information**





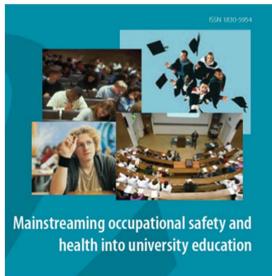




## More approaches



- Workplace health promotion and wellbeing at work
  - Addressing worker health holistically



- Mainstreaming health and safety into all levels of education
  - So workers are better protected from their first day at work



# Older workers pilot initiative (I)

- Initiated by the European Parliament
- Considering issue of older workers from an OSH perspective
- Supporting the application of existing legal requirements for the prevention of harm to workers
- Supporting good age management practice
- Recognising that a holistic approach is needed for workers of all ages



# Older workers pilot initiative (II)

- ➤ Investigating the strategies and actions regarding rehabilitation, older workers and OSH that are in place at European and Member State level.
- ➤ Assist the development in areas such as return-to-work and rehabilitation for older workers, including individualised training, for example after an occupational musculoskeletal disorder.
- ➤ A selection of specific programmes will be described in detail. Assessment of programmes and practices will include discussion activities with intermediaries and relevant OSH experts.



# Agency's activities: an example of work-related MSDs

- The most common work-related health problem (53% of all WRHP concern MSDs in EU-15, LFS 1999)
- Personal sufferings and high costs due to medical / social expenses, and lost productivity (estimated cost of back pain to NHS, business and economy in UK - £5 billion per year)
- Preventable if applying appropriate intervention methods
- An integrated management approach including both prevention and rehabilitation is the most promising\*



### **MSDs on EU-OSHA Website**

- Read the Key Facts
- Agency publications on Musculoskeletal Disorders

#### What can I do?

- How do I keep safe? Advice for employees
- What do I have to do? Advice for employers
- What do I need to know? Advice for safety and health professionals

https://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/msds/index\_html



## Facing up to the crisis

- In the current economic crisis we have to do more with less
- Not addressing health and safety is not an option
  - The costs of inaction are too great for Europe,
    Member States, enterprises, and workers
- Only through on-going social dialogue and engagement – at both strategic and workplace level - can real change be made



# https://osha.europa.eu





#### AND FINALLY...

#### For any further questions, please get in touch with:

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