



SIP

Societal Impact of Pain

2017

**Structured Cooperation
between Health Care
Systems tackling the
societal impact of pain!**

The Contribution of Occupational Safety and Health to Managing Pain in the Workplace

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➤ An information Agency of the European Union

- Scientific, technical, economic, good practice cases, tools
- Analysis

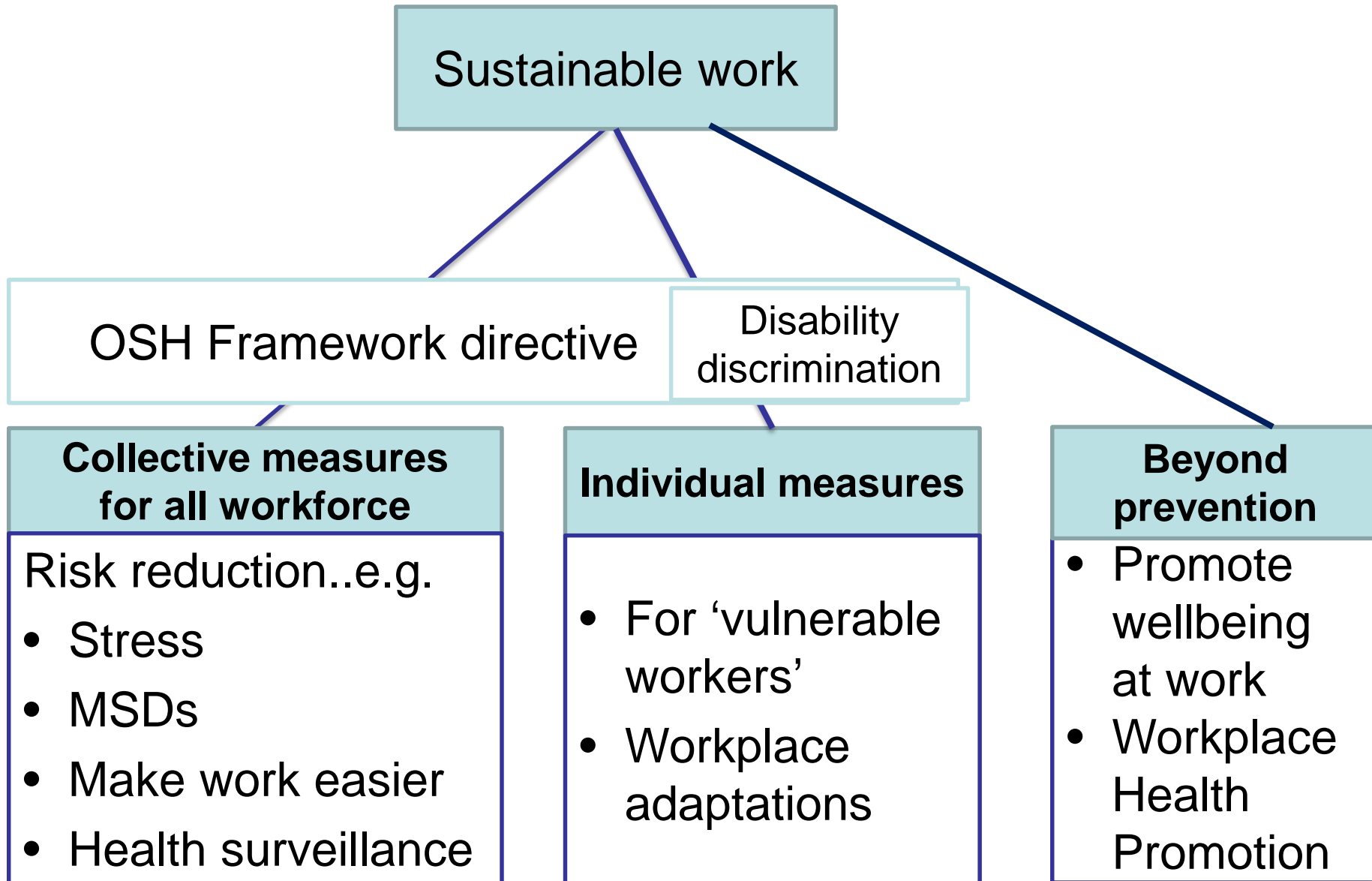
➤ Tripartite: Governing Board

➤ National Focal Points

European Union OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020

- Better coordinate EU and international efforts to address OSH
- Commission Communication 'Safer and Healthier Work for All – Modernisation of the EU OSH Legislation and Policy' (COM(2017) 12)
- Top actions include:





European Parliament project – Safer and Healthier Work at Any Age: OSH in the *context* of an aging workforce

Return-to-work conclusions:

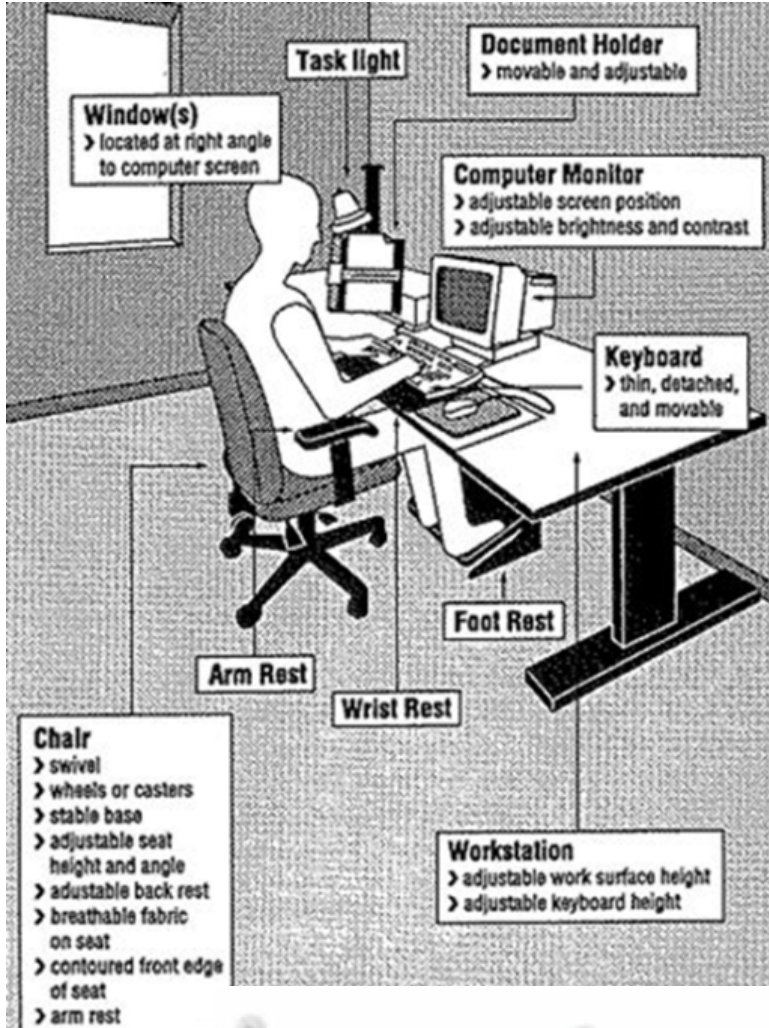
- Early intervention – focus on staying in existing work
- Multidisciplinary programmes to support companies and employees
- Return-to-work as a clinical (treatment) outcome
- More public health focus on non-life threatening chronic diseases – MSDs etc
- Joined up policy, interventions, budgets
- For early detection: access to occupational health services, and surveillance, workplace health promotion

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/osh-management-context-ageing-workforce/ep-osh-project>

➤ Diversity explicit in role of Austrian Labour Inspectorate

- Gender mainstreaming expanded to all diversity areas
- Training and checklists for inspectors
- Diversity included in generic campaigns, guides
- Support for SMEs e.g. workforce age
- Impact assessments

Challenging sedentary working-life style



Too late to start at work...



Neck pain and back pain associated with school furniture and bag weight*

* Buckle et al, Surrey University 2007

- MSD project: 2018 onwards
- European Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2020-21:
theme MSDs
- Working with pain incorporated
- Scoping the project

- N.B Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2016-17:
Healthy workplaces for all ages:
<https://osha.europa.eu/en/healthy-workplaces-campaigns/2016-17-campaign-healthy-workplaces-all-ages>

Key Message for workplaces

- OSH measures which make work easier for all the workforce can enable an individual with reduced work capacity to remain in employment
- Simple measures to support an individual can often benefit the whole workforce

Key Message in conclusion

- Too often chronic pain leads to early exit from the workplace.
- But, with the right employer attitude and workplace adjustments combined with support from the public health system, many pain sufferers can continue working.
- Occupational safety and health has an important role to play in a multidisciplinary approach to pain management
- This requires a strong and progressive OSH system

Thank you

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