



# EU OSHA update and report back on sustainability

**Tim Tregenza**

**Senior Network Manager**

# EU OSHA Work ongoing and in preparation

- HWC Safe and health work in the digital age
  - Digital platform work (current focus)
  - Automation of tasks (focus from June)
  - Remote and hybrid work, Worker management through AI, and Smart Digital Systems to come
- ESENER IV – Fieldwork this summer, 1<sup>st</sup> results at end of the year
- Commencement of projects on
  - Climate change and OSH
    - Foresight study followed by OSH overview
  - Cardiovascular disease
    - Identified as the second largest cause of work-related deaths in the EU and the leading cause of death in the EU (2017).

## Sustainability of networking - To what extent do networks and networks need formal organisational and cooperation structures?

- To be successful, networks in the context of work need to achieve three things:
  - The individual who is participating in the network sees an added value to participation.
  - The employer who is funding the participation (even by just allowing the worker time to participate) must see an added value
  - The network as a whole benefits from the participation

For individual, organisation, or network, the benefits may not be directly financial, but enhance the social capital of all and allow individuals and organisations to perform better.

## Sustainability of networking - To what extent do networks and networks need formal organisational and cooperation structures?

- The added value for the worker may be the opportunity to meet other experts in the field and gaining knowledge, gaining prestige from working at an international level, or building one's own personal network
- The worker's participation in the network can provide an organisation with visibility at the European or international level, an opportunity to participate in funded research projects, or publicity for the organisations other activities.
- Participation of an individual who is representing an organisation can bring prestige to the network, it gives the network additional reach so it is able to spread its message further, and active participation brings knowledge into the network.

## What role do "weak links" play in the survival of a network?

- "Weak links" are those people who you see infrequently or in different contexts.
  - Research has shown that people hear about job opportunities more from distant acquaintances than from close friends.
- For ENETOSH, the weak links may be people working in topics indirectly related to OSH in education and in education approaches. O
  - ENETOSH and EU-OSHA invited researchers on body image to a workshop relating to MSDs and education.
- ENETOSH members should look out for people engaged in work that is obliquely linked to the mainstreaming OSH into education topic and try and find common ground.

## How is funding for networks to be ensured?

- Funding is always a problem for networks. There are opportunities where activities are carried out at the European level.
  - The European Social Fund+ has a huge budget, other opportunities include CORDIS.
  - The challenge with all funding opportunities is that it takes time and experience to successfully apply for such projects.
- A positive side is that COVID has strongly driven online networking and meeting opportunities. Online meetings complement but do not replace in-person meetings, but can help reduce costs of knowledge sharing, as does the use of social media.

## How important is the fit with overarching European and international strategies?

- The current EU Strategic Framework does not specifically identify mainstreaming OSH into education as a priority, nor does it particularly consider young workers.
  - As a result it is harder to promote work in the area and potentially could make obtaining funding more difficult.
- A priority for ENETOSH is to ensure that mainstreaming gets into future strategies (in both OSH and education).

## Seeking synergies to build ENETOSH

- Members have identified a potential “subgroup”. These are the smaller academic departments who work in OSH. Opportunities for the collaboration of smaller institutions or academic bodies is more limited.
  - Is there the potential for ENETOSH to reach out to these smaller academic departments or smaller institutions?
- ENETOSH could identify small academic bodies and bring them together in a (virtual) meeting at which, ENETOSH could be presented and potential benefits of engagement, particularly the opportunities for knowledge sharing and the possibility of future projects and funding opportunities.



## More information

- Contact details
  - [tregenza@osha.europa.eu](mailto:tregenza@osha.europa.eu)
  - <https://osha.europa.eu/>
- EU-OSHA Multi-annual Strategic Programme 2022-2027
  - <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/eu-osha-multi-annual-strategic-programme-2022-2027>
- HWC Digitalisation campaign
  - <https://healthy-workplaces.osha.europa.eu/>