

# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN EUROPE

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**PEROSH position on future research and policy priorities in OSH**

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## PEROSH INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2003 in Roma the network has expended over the past ten years

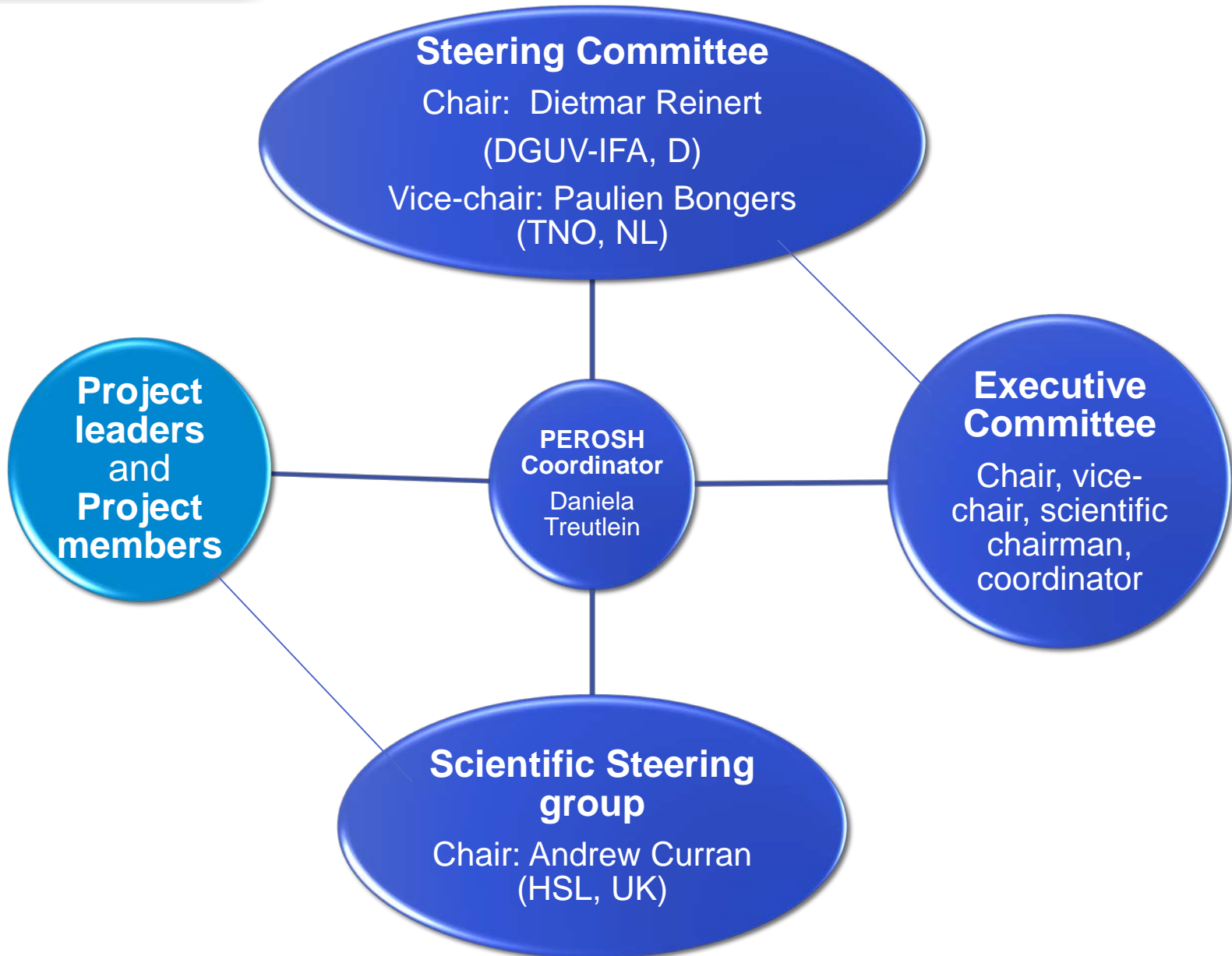
New agreement 2014 – 2018 concluded in May 2014

**12 member institutions from 11 members states = large pool of European OSH experts (> 2000)**

### Main objectives of the partnership:

- Strengthen cooperation on OSH research and accelerate the generating of knowledge in key areas of OSH (*12 joint research projects*)
- Disseminate and exchange on OSH issues





# JOINT COLLABORATION ON RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Nanoparticules  
(dustiness)**

**Well-being**

**Ageing**

**Nano exposure**

**Safety culture**

**Survey development  
and cross culture  
methodology**

**OSH evidence-  
Clearinghouse of  
Systematic reviews**

## 5 NEW PEROSH PROJECTS

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- Strengthen the network's capacity for forecasting future research priorities.
- Share information on the integration of ambient intelligence solutions for safety and health
- Develop recommendations for procedures to measure occupational physical activity and workload
- Broaden the application of health impact assessment models for occupational respiratory diseases
- Indirect UV radiation at the workplace

## 7 CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE EU OSH RESEARCH

The PEROSH group has identified 7 key OSH issues to work on:

1. Sustainable employability to prolong working life
2. Disability prevention and reintegration
3. Psychosocial well-being in a sustainable working organisation
4. Multifactoral genesis of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
5. New technologies as a field of action for OSH
6. Occupational risks related to engineered nanomaterials
7. Safety culture to prevent occupational accidents



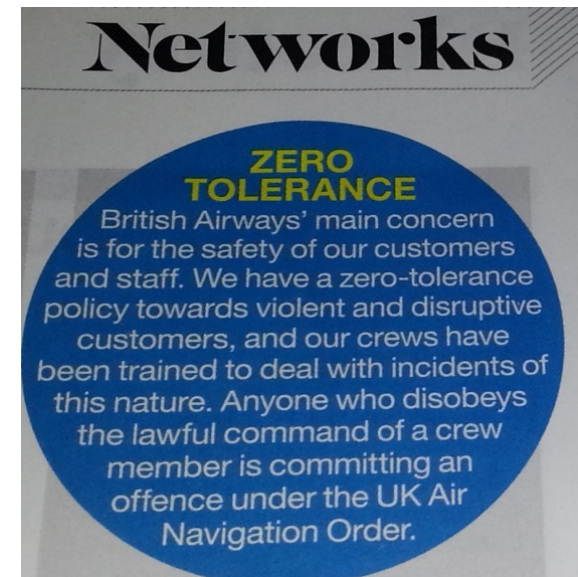
[www.perosh.eu](http://www.perosh.eu)

## **EU LEVEL RESEARCH NEEDS: SELECTED ISSUES**

- Analysis of factors enhancing return-to-work
- Development of interventions for changing OSH world (new technologies, Industrie 4.0)
- Link OSH with health care sector on double ageing effect
- Analysis of link between vulnerable groups and psychosocial risks
- Development of risk assessment tools and prevention solutions for mixed exposures
- Cost-effective individual and organisational interventions and measures (regulations, legislation) that extend productivity and working life in good health
- Stimulate the development of innovative e-solutions and VR applications for the design of safe workplaces
- Disseminate and promote a 'zero accident vision' and workplace safety culture for enterprises

## SAFETY CULTURE: ZERO ACCIDENT VISION (ZAV)

- The risk management approach is often restricted in its impact by **limited management commitment**.
- When safety and health focus on ‘solving problems’ the motivation to tackle new problems will almost by definition decrease when the major problems are solved.
- When it is felt that the **identity of the company does not allow for accidents, the continuous challenge is the pursuit of ‘goal zero’**.
- Motivation may increase over time thanks to successes achieved and communicated.





# PEROSH POSITION I

3 current position papers to issue future OSH research challenges into European research agenda and programmes:

1. Challenge of Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies → **The changing world of OSH.**
2. Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies → **Prevention through design.**
3. Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing → **OSH in the context of demographic change.**



## Position Paper 1 Challenge of Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies: The changing world of work and OSH

Globalisation, increasing competition, the rapid spread of ICT and the Internet, have had a large impact on production methods and work organisation, resulting in a gradual transition from relatively standardised work organisation and working time patterns towards more complex and diversified working environments in Europe. The development of information technologies enable the development of increasingly complex and

ters of OSH policy, which might explain the relatively poor OSH situation of those workers<sup>3</sup> (Kieselbach et al., 2010).

### Specific challenges

- Over the past decade, the number of workers employed under atypical arrangements (fixed-term contracts, self-employed,



## PEROSH POSITION II

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- **Regarding 1. The changing world of OSH:** Prevention in light of global supply chains, 24/7 economy, new working patterns and non-standard working times and precarious, atypical employment arrangements; workplace innovation.
- **Regarding 2. Prevention through design approach for: KETs** (advanced materials, nanotechnology, micro- and nano-electronics, biotechnology, photonics), blue and green economy as key source of innovation and industrial competitiveness.
- **Regarding 3. OSH in the context of demographic change:** Preventing early retirement and prolonging workforce participation, engage with demographically diverse workforce incl. migrants, elderly employees and women; development of diversity-adjusted health promotion and workplace design and ICT-based platform w. certified prevention and safety culture measures for a multinational and multi-ethnic workforce.

## FUTURE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS I

- Monitoring and **fostering the implementation of the EU strategic framework** ,on the ground‘ particularly important
- Regarding the key objective under 4.7. of the EU Strategic Framework: **consider OSH consequences for EU in upcoming TTIP negotiations**



## FUTURE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS II

- EU should take their facilitating role serious in further promoting **and** financially assisting the research-intensive development and role-out of innovative OSH solutions
- New EU strategic framework contains concrete policy actions **but** for development of new, innovative solutions on key OSH topics R&D funds such as H2020 should contain more focussed OSH calls regarding upcoming challenges.
- Ideas issued by DG Research on **healthy workforce** for ageing or **European Human Biomonitoring Initiative** are **welcomed** (mentioned by T. Karjalainen DG Research on 12 Nov 2014, EU-OSHA Seminar in Brussels).

