

Seminar, 25 January 2016 : Occupational hazards and diseases: Promoting knowledge exchange between trade unions, researchers, public health and occupational health stakeholders

European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)
5 Boulevard du Roi Albert II
1210 Brussels
Room B (first floor)

Participation is free but a registration is required through the following link:
<https://crm.etui.org/civirm/event/info?reset=1&id=92>

Translation in French, English and Spanish will be provided

OBJECTIVES

The scientific and institutional instruments developed within the European Union do not enable the considerable impact of work on our health to be accurately measured. For example, the official occupational disease statistics represent merely the tip of the iceberg in terms of the myriad links between work and ill health. Existing provision in this sphere fails to tackle issues such as the true state of working conditions, the gender dimension, the fate of workers excluded from work on grounds of ill health, or of those who have already entered retirement. To address this situation, many stakeholders (trade union representatives, general practitioners, occupational health physicians, labour inspectors, researchers, epidemiologists) are working to amass knowledge, carry out research and surveys, reconstruct the occupational history of affected workers, set up observatories and create territorial maps of existing companies or companies that have shut down in order to gather information on occupational exposure and establish links with the development of occupational diseases in workers¹.

This seminar aims to think about the way in which the tools developed upstream of this work (software, databases, qualitative interviews, etc.) can be made accessible and usable **by all local stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to locate and identify occupational diseases in workers**. Specifically, how can stakeholders take ownership of these databases and maps? How can we develop databases using appropriate and user-friendly software and, above all, perpetuate knowledge exchange between stakeholders? How can we make the administrative databases that exist nationally (e.g. within institutions responsible for recognising and compensating occupational diseases, mutual companies, health insurance funds, etc.) usable at a local level while also making locally developed

¹In 2015, a day conference organised by ETUI and the Belgian *Plate-forme d'action santé et solidarité* (Platform for Action on Health and Solidarity) brought together initiatives aimed at giving visibility to work impacts on health and showcased a selection of these. In 2016, all of the initiatives collected at the conference are due to be presented in a publication, in order to raise their profile. <http://www.etui.org/en/News/Making-occupational-illness-visible-a-call-for-a-coalition-between-scientists-and-workers>

databases available more widely so that they can benefit all stakeholders or the sector as a whole? What about the production of data gathered through research activities? How can dispersed knowledge be linked up, cross-referenced and shared as well as being systematically and permanently stored so as to make it 'universal' to all stakeholders?

The final objective of the seminar is to think about how workers can be better cared for and how those affected by occupational illness can be found alternative positions within the labour market and, above all, to develop collective strategies for eliminating the risks and promoting health within the workplace.



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PROGRAMME

Welcome: 9 a.m.

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

Introduction: Laurent Vogel, Research Department, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), and **Aline Bingen**, METICES, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Session 1: Improving cooperation to promote knowledge

- **Ana María García**, Director General of Public Health, *Conselleria de Sanitat Universal i Salut Pública* (Spain), "The SISVEL system: a tool for the epidemiological monitoring of occupational diseases and occupational health surveillance"
- **Elsebeth Lynge**, Centre of Epidemiology and Screening, University of Copenhagen (Denmark): "The Nordic Occupational Cancer (NOCCA) study"
- **Benoît Nemery de Bellevaux**, KULeuven (Belgium): "Using clinical intelligence to analyse a respiratory case with occupational causes"

Discussant: Dr I. Morelle, Occupational Doctor at Mensura, in charge of an enquiry at Jules Bordet Institute (Belgium)

Afternoon

Session 2: Social dynamics - knowledge for action

- **Emmanuel Henry**, Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Sociology, Economics and Political Science (IRISES), Université Paris-Dauphine, and **Emilie Council**, Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department at the EHESP School of Public Health, and GISCOP (France): Research project on the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis with GISCOP: "What knowledge is needed for which types of expertise in occupational health? Knowledge from the field vs institutional expertise: competition or complementarity?"
- **Arnaud Mias**, IRISES, Université Paris-Dauphine and **a representative of CGT** (France), "Trade Union action challenging the employers' policies in health and safety"
- **Laetitia Melon**, ULB, and **Guy Léonet**, SETCa Charleroi (Belgium), "Establishing a methodology for disseminating the results of a research initiative on musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in an occupational sector (Joint Committee 319). Collaboration between a researcher and trade union delegates (SETCa-FGTB): prospects for expanding this methodology"

Discussant: Marco Bottazzi, INCA (Italy)

Conclusions: Jean-Marie Léonard, *Plate-forme d'action santé et solidarité* (Platform for Action on Health and Solidarity) (*to be confirmed*)