Indicators are pointers that simplify phenomena and help to understand and monitor complex realities. Profiles are concise subject descriptions that usually also include quantitative indicators. A profile is more than a set of indicators because it provides an understanding and context that cannot be communicated by numbers only. Profiles and indicators of occupational health and safety (OH&S) are used to describe states of affairs, provide early signals for problems in the work life, monitor trends, assess the effectiveness of programmes, and present a baseline against which progress is measured. Data on OH&S indicators, such as work injuries and occupational diseases, are collected in some form in nearly every country, but comparisons across countries are difficult because of differences in legislation, criteria, and reporting systems. Sub-national profiles (province, district, etc.) enable comparisons between different geographical areas or population segments. Strength of a sub-national approach is that contextual parameters (culture, language, legislation, administrative procedures) usually are similar, unlike when comparing different countries. Profiles increase transparency and visibility of OH&S and provide insights into the complexity of OH&S affairs, priorities, and needs of countries.

In 2001, a WHO CC meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, established a Task Force to encourage development of OH&S profiles and indicators. In 2003, a WHO CC meeting in Iguassu, Brazil, updated the strategy of the Task Force. At present, some 35 institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas are involved in building OH&S profiles.

Further development of a strategy for collecting national and local profile data in OH&S

Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi)

_target group:_ WHO collaborating centres, others

The purpose of the Task Force 13 (TF13) is to increase the awareness about occupational health and safety (OH&S) situation of national and local decision makers by promoting the compilation of profiles and indicators at national and subnational levels.

In 2002, at request of WHO/EURO, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) surveyed the availability and analysed the inter-country comparability of candidate indicators in twenty-two European countries. There were many problems in the availability of the proposed indicators in the required form. Furthermore, the comparability of indicators between European countries was generally poor. On a global scale comparisons of indicators are even more problematic because of larger heterogeneity of cultural, legislative, administrative, socio-economic and other factors.

A Session of WHO CC Meeting in Iguassu, 2003, discussed concerns on data comparability. It was noted that a country profile is valuable as such, irrespective of problems about quantitative comparability across countries. All countries require a written summary of their situation for their own needs. Comparisons between countries, not a main objective of a country profile, can be done on an overall level even if individual indicators are somewhat different.

The comparability of data within a country between different regions and over time is generally much better than the comparability across countries. Data collected within a country enable subnational comparisons and surveillance of temporal changes.

The standardization of data collection methods and harmonization of definitions and criteria of indicators in different countries would be a formidable task due to inherent differences between countries. Therefore, it is difficult to suggest one fixed standard for a set of national indicators. However, the WHO/EURO approach has provided an example for a thematic structure for national profiles. Certain themes, items, and issues are universally relevant to all countries.

A rational strategy for the TF13 is to make the existing and forthcoming profiles as widely available as possible through the Internet. Therefore the TF13 establishes a Web site that organizes the profiles and indicators developed by CCs. The Web site also provides access to contact information, background documents, and useful sources in general. An Internet-based profiling instrument will be developed in order to expedite, and to harmonize to a reasonable extent, the building of OH&S profiles. The twenty-two country profiles from the WHO/EURO project will be made available through the Web site. The Web site will also offer access to national profiles of other countries, and to the subnational, sectoral, and subject-specific profiles, when such products become obtainable.
Many developing countries may have difficulties in writing a comprehensive national profile. In such a case a stepwise strategy could be employed by first writing a ‘mini-profile’ using information that is readily at hand, and gradually expanding the factual content when more information becomes available.


**Contribution for generating and publishing of country profile - Hungary**

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*Keywords:* indicators, data, occupational health, Hungary

*Target group:* decision-makers in Departments of Health, Department of Labour and Trade Unions, occupational health staff and directors, managers associated with occupational health.

The objective of this project is to present the most important results of Hungarian occupational health in a form comparable to those of other countries as far as possible. The project contains the key information on the organisation, professional links, coverage of the Hungarian occupational health, as well as statistical data characterizing the activity of the service.

Within this work NCPH-NIOH has collected Hungarian OH&S data, using the method recommended by FIOH. Joining of Hungary the EU soon, makes it actual to process these data according to EUROSTAT requirements.

The data collection method of EUROSTAT to be adopted; deadline: 31 December 2003.


Processing of the actual data according to EUROSTAT; continuous process.

The Finnish Collaborating Centre is participating in this project.

**Contribution for generating and publishing of country profiles - Italy**

Alessandra Pera, ISPESL, Italy (alessandraperatiscalinet.it)

*Keywords:* occupational health, prevention, epidemiological surveillance

*Target group:* The definition of the Italian Country profile will lead to a better definition of the “standards” in occupational health. This will develop into a body of useful information for decision-makers in the area of safety and prevention.

The study is aimed at defining the Country Profile of our Country as regards the topics of occupational safety and health. The objectives of the activity will be achieved through the study of WHO models for the definition of Country Profiles and national and international criteria and guidelines; comparison with the various European Countries as well as with WHO Collaborating Centres; The setting up of inter-sectorial collaboration at a national and international level; the setting of key indicators of the status of the country in terms of occupational health and safety and the development of studies in the country. A country profile of Italy has been prepared.

**Further development of a strategy for collecting national profile data in OH&S: Indicator study and design for worker’s compensation and occupational health systems in Colombia, Chile and Argentina**

Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán, Fundación Iberoamericana de seguridad y salud ocupacional (FISO), Colombia (jrodriguezg@fiso-web.org)

*Keywords:* occupational health, worker’s compensation systems, profile

*Target group:* decision-makers, managers, occupational health professionals, governments, employers, trade unions

The purpose of this project is to built a diagnoses or profile about worker’s health in Colombia, Chile and Argentina, their OHS service and healthcare capacity, as well as prevention services, after they have undergone through several policy and system reforms; to raise awareness among decision makers in these three countries.
The country profiles and indicators that were built on OHS and worker’s compensation systems are to be used to present proposals for prioritising activities at the national level, to provide early signals of the emerging problems in the work life, specially to the growing informal sector and giving evidence of achievements in the formal sector.

National OH Profiles have been finished and a publication is to be done. A written report will be published, and a magnetic report will be placed online on the web through FISO’s homepage.

Asociación Chilena de Seguridad is collaborating on the project. Funds are in place.

### Indicators of chemical exposures in Central America and the Caribbean

Luisa Castillo (lcastill@una.ac.cr), Fabio Chaverri (fchaverr@una.ac.cr), Timo Partanen (timopartanen@yahoo.com), Catharina Wesseling (cwesseli@una.ac.cr), IRET-UNA, Costa Rica

With UNEP; Central American Integration System; Central American and Caribbean Universities, other scientific institutions, ministries; National Institute of Working Life (Sweden); National Institute of Public Health (Sweden); University of Montréal; Finnish Institute of Occupational Health; Laboratory of Teledetection and Geographical Information Systems – Universidad Nacional (TELESIG-UNA); U.S. Geological Survey.

**Keywords:** Central America, profiles, indicators, exposures, surveillance

**Target group:** Regional, national, and local authorities; international agencies; employers; workers; trade unions; NGOs; mass media; and general public.

The objective of this project is the prioritisation and surveillance of exposures to toxic, endocrine disrupting, and carcinogenic substances for sectoral, national and regional control in Central America and the Caribbean. The project started in 1982.

Indicator systems have been and are being developed for occupational and environmental exposures and their determinants in Central America and the Caribbean. These include (i) the UNEP Global Environmental Facility project *Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS)* for 27 PTSs in 23 countries with 136 million inhabitants; (ii) a Central American data bank of amounts, imports, and human and environmental toxicity of pesticides; (iii) a national estimation system of the extent of occupational carcinogenic and pesticide exposures; and (iv) a Costa Rican database of aquatic system exposure to pesticides.

The following progress has been made thus far:


(ii) Data banks are operational and updated; 3 scientific articles have been published.

(iii) The European CAREX system was modified for feasibility in Central America, with 2 scientific reports for Costa Rica.

(iv) Inventory of pesticide use, wells, geohydrological and climate data; mapping of the distribution of aquifers in Costa Rica and of susceptibility indicators for groundwater contamination; watershed modelling.

Operational data banks; UNEP PTS report; 3 scientific articles; 15 technical reports; CAREX modification for Central America, workshop on groundwater vulnerability have been realized.

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### Indicadores de exposiciones químicas en América Central y el Caribe

Luisa Castillo (lcastill@una.ac.cr), Fabio Chaverri (fchaverr@una.ac.cr), Timo Partanen (timopartanen@yahoo.com), Catharina Wesseling (cwesseli@una.ac.cr), IRET-UNA, Costa Rica

Centros incluidos en el proyecto: Programa Ambiental de las Naciones Unidas (PNUMA); Sistema Centroamericano de Integración (SICA); universidades centroamericanas y caribeñas; otras instituciones científicas, ministerios, Instituto Nacional para la Vida Laboral (Suecia); Instituto Nacional de la Salud Pública (Suecia); Universidad de Montréal; Instituto Finlandés de Salud Ocupacional, Laboratorio de Teledetección y sistemas de Información Geográfica – Universidad Nacional (TELESIG-UNA); U.S. Geological Survey.

**Palabras claves:** América Central, perfiles, indicadores, exposiciones, vigilancia

**Grupos meta:** Autoridades regionales, nacionales y locales; agencias internacionales; empleadores; trabajadores; sindicatos; organizaciones no gubernamentales; medios de comunicación masiva; y el público en general.

Objetivo del proyecto: Priorización y seguimiento de exposiciones a sustancias tóxicas, disruptores endocrinos y carcinógenos en América Central y el Caribe.
Año del comienzo: 1982

Se ha construido y se va a construir sistemas de indicadores de exposiciones ocupacionales y ambientales y sus determinantes en América Central y en el Cariibe. Estas incluyen (i) el PNUMA Global Environment Facility proyecto Evaluación Regional de Sustancias Persistentes Tóxicas para 27 sustancias en 23 países con 136 millones de habitantes; (ii) un banco de datos de cantidades, registros e importaciones, y toxicidad humana y ambiental de plaguicidas; (iii) una sistema nacional del extensión de exposiciones ocupacionales a sustancias carcinogénicas y plaguicidas; y (iv) un mapa de vulnerabilidad de aguas subterráneas a la contaminación por plaguicidas.

Avance:

(i) Un informe regional de PNUMA Evaluación Regional de Sustancias Persistentes Tóxicas (2002)
(ii) Bancos de datos
(iii) Se ha modificado y evaluada la factibilidad para usar el sistema europeo CAREX en Costa Rica, con 2 artículos científicos.
(iv) Inventario de uso de plaguicidas, pozos y datos geohidrológicos y climáticos; un mapa de la distribución de acuíferos en Costa Rica y de indicadores de susceptibilidad de aguas subterráneas; modelos con base en cuencas.

Productos: Bancos operativos de datos; el informe PNUMA; 3 artículos científicos; 15 informes técnicos; la modificación y los resultados del sistema CAREX para América Central; taller de vulnerabilidad de aguas subterráneas.

National and Local Profiles and Indicators - The Republic of Macedonia

Prof. Dr Jovanka Karadzinska Bilsimovska, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Republic of Macedonia, (bilsimovska.j@hotmail.com)

Keywords: country profile, indicators, occupational health, Macedonia

Target group: National, local authorities and decision makers, planners and administrators responsible for OHS form relevant Ministries and agencies, occupational health staff, employers and employees, trade union, NGOs.

The aim of this project is the development of country, local and company profile- models with specific national, local and enterprise indicators on health and safety at work. Establishing an information system in this field will facilitate integrated workplace health policy development, its implementation and evaluation.

The starting point of this project is the adoption of cross-sectoral policy requirements and key principles to facilitate good practice in workplace health, environment and social capital management in enterprises. This is a basis to prepare an action plan on enterprise, local and national level with concrete tasks and activities for all workplace health stakeholders.

The project includes further development of a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators to be used for making integrated workplace health profiles at the national, regional/local and company level.

The indicator set covers occupational, environmental, life style and social health determinants. This data should be used by companies, local authorities jointly with other provincial stakeholders and by national authorities for making annual reports, analysis of current situation and as well as for justifying plans for next period.

Preparing tools (questionnaire and methodology) for the national survey to detect high professional risks, specific occupational hazards and health promotion needs of working population are next steps in the project. They will be used by the National Co-ordination centres- Institute of Occupational Medicine - to collect information necessary to assess impact of the occupational health hazards and life style, environmental and social health determinants on health and well being of working age population. Pilot implementation of good practice in integrated workplace health management in selected enterprises will present a testing model for the project. Organization of national registry of work-related diseases in integrated workplace health monitoring will contribute to define the country status in terms of occupational health and safety.

The development of our activities in this project gave us a chance to cooperate with neighbouring WHO CC for initiating regional approach in South-east Europe in the future.

The accomplishments so far include:

- The Ministry of Health appointed the Institute of Occupational Medicine, Skopje as the National coordination centres for “Health, environment and social management in enterprises” programme in the Republic of Macedonia
The final document on National "Health, environment and social management in enterprises" Action Plan, with basic principles, criteria and concrete activities for each stakeholder was adopted by Health Council of Ministry of Health.

A draft document of national survey methodology (questionnaire and procedures) to detect high professional risks, specific occupational hazards and health promotion needs of working population was adopted at a National Intersectoral Workshop.

A draft document on a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators to be used for making national, provincial and company integrated workplace health profile was adopted on National Intersectoral Workshop.

Australian OHS data accounts and country profile
Helen Burbidge (Helen.burbidge@nohsc.gov.au), Julie Hill (Julie.hill@nohsc.gov.au), National Occupational Health & Safety Commission, Australia

Keywords: Indicators; data; profile

Target group: decision makers, government, OHS professionals and researchers.

The purpose of the project is to develop a coherent framework for combining and relating various data sources on OHS in Australia that incorporates the magnitude of effect, the severity and the economic costs. An Australian country profile will then be developed using this data and information on the OHS infrastructure in Australia.

The project team will initially identify and assess data sources relating to OHS issues in Australia. Data sources assessed as being of sufficient quality and covering an aspect of the field not better covered by another source will be combined to form the best estimate of Australia’s OHS performance. Indicators are being developed for occupational injuries, fatalities and disease.

Comparison of occupational illness and injury reporting systems across countries
Fernando G. Benavides (fernando.benavides@cesx.upf.es), Occupational Health Research Unit, Research Unit on Respiratory and Environmental Health, Barcelona, Spain.

Keywords : reporting systems, international comparability

Target group : Developed and developing countries.

The purpose of the project is to review and compare existing reporting systems for work-related injury and illness across countries, and to provide recommendations for enhancing the degree of comparability of such systems, as a step towards a more global analysis of work-related injury and illness.

This work is being done in collaboration with another WHO Collaborating Centre in Occupational Health (Southwest Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health at The University of Texas School of Public Health). Initially, the comparability of workplace fatality reporting systems between the U.S. (CF01) and European Union (ESAW) has been studied. Although comparisons are initially being made between existing reporting systems in developed countries, the outcomes of this research should be useful and applicable to developing countries as well. Funds from various grants support this activity on an ongoing basis. For its commitment, WHO is being asked to share relevant information on similar work-related injury and illness reporting systems from national-level Collaborating Centres, and to provide reviews of the work done by the Occupational Health Research Unit on this topic.

The manuscript on work-related deaths between the U.S. and European Union has been submitted for publication.

Collection of country profiles and national reporting system of occupational diseases
Fengsheng He, National Institutes in Occupational Health and Poison Control, China (hefs@public.bta.net.cn)

Keywords: indicator, profile, country, national

Target Group: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention at provincial, municipal, prefectural and country levels

The purpose of this project is to collect and analyze the country profiles and occupational diseases reporting data.

This is an ongoing project. The data collection was not satisfactory and needs to be improved.

Fund have been provided by the Ministry of Health.
Establishment of a website for the development of OH&S indicators and profiles
Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi)

Keywords: Internet, Web, homepage, information dissemination

Target group: WHO CCs, politicians, administrators, others

The main operational strategy of the TF13 will be to make the existing profiles, indicators, and related information as widely accessible as possible by using the Internet. The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health will assist the TF13 to establish a TF13 Web-site. The Web site organizes the profiles and indicators that are developed by CCs so that they will be freely accessible to all. The Web site also provides access to contact information, background documents, and useful sources in general. The twenty-two country profiles from the WHO/EURO pilot project will be made available through a TF13 Web site. The Web site will also offer access to national profiles that will be developed in other countries, and to subnational and sectoral OH&S profiles, when such products become obtainable.

An Internet-based profiling instrument will be developed in order to expedite, and to harmonize to a reasonable extent, the building of OH&S profiles.

Generation and publishing of regional and local profiles - Bulgaria
Emilia Ivanovich, National Centres of Hygiene, Medical Ecology and Nutrition, Bulgaria (e.ivanovich@nchmen.government.bg)

Keywords: work, working condition, outcomes, profile

Target group: decision-makers, planners and managers, and occupational health staff in Departments of Health, Departments of Labour, and Trade Unions, company management, local authorities.

The aim is to raise awareness of OH among decision-makers in Departments of Health, Departments of Labour, Trade Unions local authorities, companies and enterprises. Profiles and indicators on occupational health and safety can be used for describing the activities, prioritising activities at the regional level, providing early signals for problems emerging in the work life, and giving evidence of achievements. The methodology has been adopted. Funds are needed. FIOH is collaborating on the project. Active period: 2003-2005.

Occupational health social dialogue - Colombia
M Giraldo, Ministry of Health, Group for the Promotion of Workers’ Health, Colombia (Mgiraldo@minsalud.gov.co)

The aim is to improve knowledge of the health conditions in order to facilitate the social dialogue processes through the regional observatories. This activity requires Intersectorial coordination with the Ministry of Work.

Funding is in place (Fondo de Riesgos Profesionales). The project will be completed between 2002-2005.

Publishing of data on country profiles on OH&S collected by the pilot countries
Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi); Gregory Goldstein, WHO (goldsteing@who.int)

Twenty-two European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, The Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, and Serbia and Montenegro) have provided country profiles based on a WHO/EURO model.

The indicators were divided into three main categories: a) Indicators of prerequisites of OH&S, b) indicators of working conditions, and c) indicators of OH&S outcomes. The results of the project showed: the availability of data greatly varies between countries; the inter-country comparability of the data is low; quantitative data needs to be complemented with qualitative information; a multi-parameter profile is more informative than the aggregation of several parameters to one single indicator score.

The European country profiles have been published as a document, and will also be made available through Internet from the TF13 Web site. Countries in other continents can consider the findings and experiences gained by the European project.


WHO, ILO, and the Finnish Institute (FIOH) have provided funding for selected African (Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania) and Asian (Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) countries to prepare country
summaries on OH&S. The results were presented at an international seminar in Helsinki in October 2001, and have been printed in a publication.


Sectoral and subject-oriented profiles and indicators
Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi); Magdalene Chan, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore (magdalene_chan@mom.gov.sg)

Keywords: indicator, profile, national

Target group: decision makers, planners, managers, occupational health and safety professionals.

The objective of this project is to develop a model profile that gives an overview of the OH&S situation in the chemical sector and use this as a tool for benchmarking with other economic sectors within a country and, perhaps, between similar sectors in other countries.

The profiling of the chemical industry in Singapore covers the following activities: Manufacturing of Refined Petroleum Products, Manufacturing of Chemicals and Chemical Products, and Manufacturing of Rubber and Plastic Products. In the selection of the items and indicators for the profile, reference has been made to the approach taken in the compilation of country profiles published in the FIOH People and Work Research Reports 52 (Work and Health Country Profiles of 22 European Countries) and 55 (Proceedings of the Workshop on National and Local OH&S Profiles and Indicators), as well as the Survey on ILO Standards-Related Activities in the Area of OSH in 2002.

Data is collated from the various databases maintained by national authorities, including the Manpower Ministry, economic and statistical agencies and professional bodies, as well as published or available local research material.

The profile will comprise the following:
- Economic and manpower statistics
- OH&S legislation and standards
- Human resources in OH&S
- Worker exposure and biological monitoring data
- Occupational disease and accident statistics

A CD-ROM sectoral profile is available on the internet. The project is expected to be completed in December 2003.

Development of an OHS Performance Measurement Tool
Magdalene Chan, Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore, (magdalene_chan@mom.gov.sg)

Keywords: occupational health and safety performance measurement tool, Universal Assessment Instrument (UA1), standardised sectorial profile

Target group: employers, employees, government agencies and OHS professionals

The objective of this project is to develop an OHS Performance Measurement Tool that is able to give a profile of the OH&S situation with regards to a specific economic sector.

The tool is made up of a checklist and a questionnaire. It is designed to be a self-assessment tool. It has to be simple yet comprehensive, robust, verifiable and meaningful. The checklist is developed based on the Universal Assessment Instrument (UA1) which has been tested in selected companies in the USA. The basis of UA1 has been published in peer-reviewed journals. It has to be compatible with the current audits of OSHAS 18001 and MOM SMS. The questionnaire is to be used as a verification tool for the results obtained from the checklist.

An OHS profile of the specific sector in terms of OHS performance can be obtained by aggregating the results from companies in the sector. This will be a useful item in the sectoral profile that will provide a means for comparison with other economic sectors within a country, and, perhaps, between similar sectors in other countries.

The OHS Performance Measurement Tool has been developed. The checklist comprises 21 measurement criteria, grouped under five driving factors. The five driving factors are management commitment, employee participation and training, OHS systems and practices, OHS expertise and line ownership of OHS. The questionnaire has 20 items.
A pilot study has begun in the chemical industry. Five companies participated in it. The results obtained from the study are being collated. The testing of this tool may be extended to other industries. Other centres collaborating on the project: Steven P. Levine, (slih@umich.edu), Ph.D., CIH, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Health, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, USA; Kim Ng (kim.kl.ng@exxonmobil.com), ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Product: OHS Performance Measurement Tool. The deadline of this project is December 2005.

Indicator study and design for worker’s compensation and occupational health systems in Colombia, Chile and Argentina

Julietta Rodríguez Guzmán, FISO, Colombia (jrodriguezg@fiso-web.org)

Keywords: occupational health, worker’s compensation systems, profile

Target group: Decision makers, planners and managers, and occupational health staff the administrative institutions and insurance companies, governments, employers and trade unions in the three countries.

The purpose of the project is to build a diagnosis or profile about worker's health in Colombia, Chile and Argentina, their OH&S service and healthcare capacity, as well as prevention services, after they have undergone through several policy and system reforms; to raise awareness among decision makers in these three countries.

The country profiles and indicators that were built on OHS and worker’s compensation systems are to be used to present proposals for prioritising activities at the national level, to provide early signals of the emerging problems in the work life, especially to the growing informal sector and giving evidence of achievements in the formal sector.

The National OH Profiles have been finished and a written report is to be published, which will also be online on the web through FISO’s homepage.

The Asociación Chilena de Seguridad is collaborating with us on this project.

Publishing of data on country profiles on OH&S collected by the pilot countries

Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi); Gregory Goldstein, WHO (goldsteing@who.int)

Twenty-two European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, The Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, and Serbia and Montenegro) have provided country profiles based on a WHO/EURO model.

The indicators were divided into three main categories: a) Indicators of prerequisites of OH&S, b) indicators of working conditions, and c) indicators of OH&S outcomes. The results of the project showed: the availability of data greatly varies between countries; the inter-country comparability of the data is low; quantitative data needs to be complemented with qualitative information; a multiparameter profile is more informative than the aggregation of several parameters to one single indicator score.

The European country profiles have been published as a document, and will also be made available through Internet from the TF13 Web site. Countries in other continents can consider the findings and experiences gained by the European project.


WHO, ILO, and the Finnish Institute (FIOH) have provided funding for selected African (Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania) and Asian (Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) countries to prepare country summaries on OH&S. The results were presented at an international seminar in Helsinki in October 2001, and have been printed in a publication.


Contribution for generating and publishing of country profiles - Viet Nam

Nguyen Thi Hong Tu, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam (hongtu@netnam.vn)

Key words: country profile, indicators, occupational health, prevention
Target group: decision-makers at Ministries, politicians, workers’ organizations, employers’ organizations, academic institutions

The objective is to describe the national structures and functions of the Vietnamese system for the management of OH&S. The Vietnamese Network on Occupational Health and Safety will contribute to the accomplishment of the task.

Contribution for generating and publishing of country profiles - Bulgaria
Emilia Ivanovich, e-mail: e.ivanovich@nchmen.government.bg) National Center of Hygiene, Medical Ecology and Nutrition, Bulgaria
Project finalised.

National occupational health plan - Chile
Juan Carlos Llano (jllano@minproteccionssocial.gov.co), Mónica Maria Corchuelo, (mcorchuelo@minproteccionssocial.gov.co), Ministry for Social Protection, Santaté de Bogotá, Colombia
Keywords: occupational health plan
Target group: Government and workers.
The purpose of this project is to elaborate a national occupational health plan based on the diagnosis of the Professional Risk System.

The aim is to elaborate a National Occupational Health Plan and establish a diagnosis of the occupational health situation (occupational health data, Occupational Health Institutions (ARP), Ministry of Social Proteccion, National Net of Occupational Health Committees). At local level, a work plan will be defined, which will periodically evaluated on the basis of indicators and results.

A national network of occupational health committees has been established.

Contribution for generating and publishing of country profile - Poland
Jacek Michalak (jmzooz@imp.lodz.pl) and Stanislaw Tarkowski (tarko@imp.lodz.pl)
Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland
Keyword: training materials
A draft outline of the country profile has been prepared, presented at BSN meeting in Riga 2002, and provided to co-ordinators. The profile is being continuously supplemented according to changes in Polish legislation, new information and other important data.

At present, there is no identified source of financing this task yet. NIOM covers only a part-time job, which caused remarkable slow-down of the work.

Funding is needed. The completion date is yet to be determined.

Contribution for generating and publishing of country profile
Magdalene Chan, Occupational Health Department, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore, (magdalene_chan@mom.gov.sg)
Keywords: indicator, profile, national
Target group: decision makers, planners, managers, occupational health and safety professionals

The objective of this project is to compile a country profile of Singapore with regard to occupational health and safety to facilitate information sharing, comparisons between countries and surveillance across time.

The occupational health and safety profiles and indicators being compiled are broadly classified into three main categories, viz., prerequisites of OH&S, working conditions and OH&S outcomes. In the selection of the items and indicators for the profile, reference has been made to the approach taken in the compilation of country profiles published in the FIOH People and Work Research Reports 52 (Work and Health Country Profiles of 22 European Countries) and 55 (Proceedings of the Workshop on National and Local OH&S Profiles and Indicators).

Data is collated from various databases maintained by national authorities, including Manpower and Health Ministries, economic and statistical agencies and professional bodies, as well as published or available local research material.

The profile will include the following items:
- Economic, health and manpower statistics
- OH&S infrastructure and system
- OH&S Legislation
- Human resources in OHS
- Worker exposure and biological monitoring data
- Occupational disease and accident statistics
- Work related health problems, such as stress and musculoskeletal problems

A CD-ROM country profile is available on the internet. The project is expected to be completed in December 2003.

**Extension of the profiles to subnational levels (province, district) in the countries**

Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi)
Gregory Goldstein, WHO (goldsteing@who.int)

*Keywords:* district, local, profile, province, subnational

National statistics homogenise information to the country level. Yet, subnational divisions may differ in important ways with regard to labour force demography, structure of economy, OH&S services, hazards, outcomes, etc. Health For All by the year 2000 programme has noted that information has been given mainly a central connotation, and the collection of information at the peripheral level is usually done with the needs of the central level in mind. "One has to get away from such thinking." Strengthening the local role in the management of OH&S requires a closer attention be paid to local information. Subnational profiles enable comparisons between different geographical areas or population segments, thus identifying disadvantaged population groups or regions.

Local administrators can compare separate subdivisions within their administrative territory for monitoring purposes, identifying deviances, and recognizing needs for action. Strength of a subnational approach is that important parameters (culture, language, climate, legislation, administrative procedures) usually are similar, unlike when comparing different countries.

Thailand is developing OH&S profiles in three provinces. China (Shanghai), Bulgaria, and the Republic of Bashkortostan (Russian Federation) are committed to ‘Generation and publishing of regional and local profiles’, pending on funding.

**Extension of the profiles to subnational levels (province, district, commune) - Viet Nam**

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*Key words:* local, profile, province, district, indicator, occupational health

*Target group:* local decision-makers, local politicians, local stakeholders, academic institutions

The objective is to describe and make transparent the structures and functions of at provincial, district and commune level for strengthening local management of OH&S in Viet Nam. The approach will first be developed and tested in one or two provinces and, if found feasible, later extended to other provinces.

**Generation and publishing of regional and local profiles - The Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia**

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*Keywords:* local profile, occupational health, medicine, Bashkortostan


The purpose of this project is to presentation database on the system of health protection of the population and its indicators in the republic of Bashkortostan on the basis of statistic analysis. The project aim is presentation of the information on real health status of the population, major factors of health promotion and the most effective ways of reforming the health care system to the RB Government and regional administration organs (decision-makers, managers).

The local profile of the Republic of Bashkortostan is related to the national profile of the Russian Federation. It is a monographic issue of the results of the integrated analysis of real indicators of the population health and health care system. In the project a great deal of attention will be focused on the problems of health protection of the RB working population of the current and following generations.

The aim and tasks of the project has been defined. The programme and plan of its implementation has been developed. At present, the collection and analysis of necessary information is being done. The Moscow Research Institute of Occupational Health affiliated to RAMS is collaborating on the project. Funds are needed. Primary results are supposed to be obtained in 2003.
**Extension of the profiles to subnational levels (province, district) in the countries - Colombia**

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The aim is to improve knowledge of the health conditions through the regional observatories in order to facilitate the social dialogue processes. This activity requires intersectorial coordination with the Ministry of Work.

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**Extension of the profiles to community level in the countries**

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*Key words:* local profile, province, district, indicators, occupational health

*Target group:* empowerment, village, rapid assessment, primary health care, public health

Traditional health indicators such as morbidity or disability reveal little about actual community concerns. Such concerns may include employment, poverty, work injuries, pesticide poisonings, ergonomic or other work-related problems, etc. Community activation is a strategy to provide some OH&S services to informal sector and improve OH&S in rural villages. Locally acceptable light methods are needed. Rapid assessment procedures (RAP) can be used to that effect. RAPs are mixed techniques that fall in the continuum of casual conversations and academic methods. They apply principles of knowing the difference between what is worth knowing and what is not, and 'appropriate imprecision' to avoid a degree of precision that is unnecessary. Information from RAP exercises is used to write a community OH&S profile which is a basic technique for community development. RAP is an approach, which provides information, and in the very process of acquiring information can alter the situation. Obvious hazards may be corrected immediately, often by simple means, such as pesticides containers lying on ground unguarded. The aim is to empower communities to manage OH&S on their own, as much as they can.

A pilot project in three provinces in Thailand is preparing village OH&S profiles. As part of the process, actions for improving OH&S at work sites have been undertaken, and education conducted on controlling local hazards. After considering the experiences from the pilot, other countries are informed and encouraged to contribute to the effort.

The Task Force 2 'Intensive Partnership in Africa includes a task for Preparation of community profiles on OH&S in Africa, pending on funding. This task can utilize the experience and results of the work undertaken by TF13.

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**Extension of the profiles to community level - Viet Nam**

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*Key words:* local profile, province, district, indicators, occupational health

*Target group:* villages, communities, public health system, local decision-makers, local stakeholders

The project describes the OH&S situation, problems and awareness at the village level in Viet Nam as a baseline for starting improvements by local resources. The goal is to empower primary health care and grass-root actors to manage OH&S problems by using the means that are at disposal of a community.

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**Preparation of regional profiles in occupational health and safety**

Deoraj Caussy, SEARO (CAUSSYD@whosea.org), PAHO, EURO

Funds are required. The date of completion is yet to be determined.

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**Report form for basic information on occupational health**

Ministry of Public Health, Director of the Division of Occupational Health, Thailand

The Thai government funds the project.

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**Generation and publishing of regional and local profiles - China**

Taiyi Jin, Fudan University School of Public Health, China (tyjin@shmu.edu.cn)

Funds are needed.
Publishing of data on profiles on OH&S in three pilot provinces of Thailand
Director of the Division of Occupational Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
The Thai government funds the project.

Organizing small seed funding for countries to collect the survey information
Gregory Goldstein, WHO (goldsteing@who.int)
WHO and Finnish Institute (FIOH) have provided funding to assist selected African (Kenya, Tanzania) and Asian (Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) countries to carry out subnational profiles. The results were presented at an international meeting sponsored by FIOH and WHO in November 2002, and will be published by the end of 2003.

Extension of the preparation of country profiles to all other Collaborating Centres
Kari Kurppa, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland (Kari.Kurppa@ttl.fi); WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health
The models for OH&S profiles developed by pilot countries will be made available to all WHO Collaborating Centres and other interested bodies. The access to such information will be offered through a TF13 Web site.

For cross reference see also:
TF 2 : Preparation of community profiles on OHS in Africa
TF 5 : Health Care Workers
TF 6 : Environmental health assessment for selected areas
TF 8 : Support for a local and a regional network of stakeholders in occupational health
TF 11 : Further development of a strategy for collecting national profile data in OH&S; Contribution to the development of a strategy for collecting national profile data in OH&S; Contribution for generating and publishing of country profile