



## **Consultation of the working document on the future "EU 2020" strategy**

NEW OSH ERA "New and Emerging Risks in Occupational Safety and Health - Anticipating and dealing with change in the workplace through coordination of OSH risk research" is a project funded under the ERA-NET scheme in the context of EU's 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'. NEW OSH ERA is an association of more than twenty funding organisations and research institutes in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH). It aims to increase the overall scale, effectiveness and quality of research into new and emerging risks through coordination of OSH research in Europe.

The Commission working document "EU 2020" strategy calls for deep post-crisis transformations for Europe focusing on a more competitive but simultaneously sustainable and greener economy based on new innovations and higher productivity. Public expenditure is aimed to be reshaped in ways that enable to reach the 2020 vision. The new policies are planned to contribute to social cohesion, tackling unemployment and fostering social inclusion while securing well performing labour markets.

The Commission considers that the key drivers of EU 2020 should be thematic, focusing on

- 1) creating value by basing growth on knowledge
- 2) empowering people in inclusive societies and
- 3) creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.

According to the Commission working document, its aim is to lead, compete and prosper as a knowledge-based, greener economy that grows fast and sustainably. The document emphasizes that it is essential for Europe to develop high-quality jobs. Furthermore, Europe should be a model for other countries to follow, projecting its values and fostering stronger labour, environmental and safety standards around the globe.

The principles of sustainable development should also be applied into the use of human resources in working life in order to carry out the change processes successfully. This is a challenge for both organized labour and employers' organizations. The main goal should be a continuous movement towards a more sustainable working life. As the future "EU-2020" strategy document suggests it is essential to approach sustainability in human and social dimensions in addition to the ecological dimension in order to enable the sustainable economy.

### **Proposal for an amendment to the Commission working document**

NEW OSH ERA proposes the following amendments to the future "EU 2020" strategy:

1. To be added to the fourth paragraph of the chapter 1: Creating value by basing growth on knowledge: "The aim of the "EU-2020" strategy is also to assure through research on occupational safety and health a healthier and a more competitive workforce that will support the development of a healthier and economically more competitive Europe at the end of the decade."
2. To be added to the second paragraph of the chapter 2: Empowering people in inclusive societies is proposed to be added the following sentence: "A precondition for the empowerment of people is a healthier and more productive workforce. A new proactive concept for safety and health in the whole society is needed with special emphasis on a healthy work environment. Research on safety and health which accompanies new technologies, new working environments and new life styles is the basis for this proactive concept."