Methodological note

GUIDANCE ON STATISTICAL PROCESSING FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK (ESAW AND EODS DATA COLLECTIONS) IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

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Introduction

Data on occupational diseases at EU level are essential for EU policies in the area of Occupational Health and Safety (OSH). They are necessary to pursue the developments and the evaluations of the OSH legislation and OSH policy framework, as well as for the preparation of new evidence-based initiatives in this policy field. There are two separate data collections in the OSH area: European Accidents at Work Statistics (ESAW) – data collection under EU implementing Regulation 349/2011, and European Occupational Diseases Statistics (EODS) – pilot data collection that aims to provide experimental statistics at EU level on occupational diseases (currently this information is not disseminated).

Purpose

The COVID pandemic has affected everyone, occupational risks for some categories of workers increased significantly. Some EU countries are assessing the possibility to consider COVID-19 from occupational point of view either as an accident at work or as an occupational disease. National practices are different; and in some countries, it has been decided that COVID-19 could be related to the workplace and will receive an occupational recognition. Therefore, it is important to be able to capture the existing situation on COVID-19 occupational related and to not hamper the reporting of these data when they are available. Eurostat proposes to support
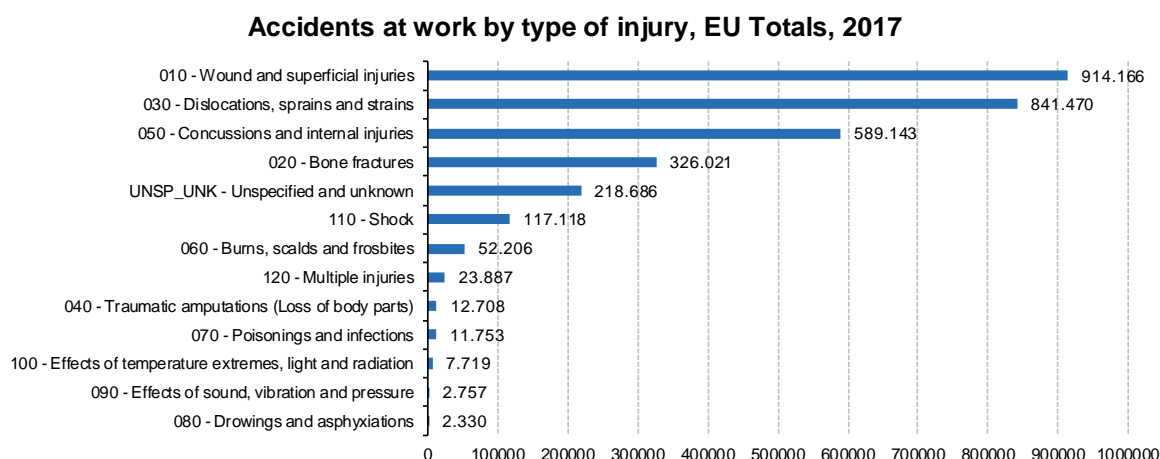
harmonized statistical processing of OSH data at European level, for capturing COVID-19 from occupational angle. Eurostat recommends the following:

- For ESAW data collection – use the ESAW classification 3 digits for 'Type of injury' and the specific new code created for recording COVID-19 accidents at work
- For EODS - use the specific ICD-10 codes issued for COVID – 19 by the WHO

ESAW - SPECIFIC STATISTICAL PROCESSING FOR THE CASES OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK – COVID-19

The data collection ESAW contains a set of variables that describes, in a statistical way, the accidents at work. One of these variables is 'Type of injury' (coded 'INJ').

Definition: 'physical consequences for the victim' e.g. bone fracture, wounds etc. The 3-digit version of the ESAW classification for 'Type of injury' should be used for encoding of information on this variable. The graph below shows the distribution of accidents at work based on type of injury groups.

Accidents at work by type of injury, EU Totals, 2017

Type of injury	Value
010 - Wound and superficial injuries	914.166
030 - Dislocations, sprains and strains	841.470
050 - Concussions and internal injuries	589.143
020 - Bone fractures	326.021
UNSP_UNK - Unspecified and unknown	218.686
110 - Shock	117.118
060 - Burns, scalds and frosbites	52.206
120 - Multiple injuries	23.887
040 - Traumatic amputations (Loss of body parts)	12.708
070 - Poisonings and infections	11.753
100 - Effects of temperature extremes, light and radiation	7.719
090 - Effects of sound, vibration and pressure	2.757
080 - Drowings and asphyxiations	2.330

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In the existing ESAW classification at 3-digit level for the 'Type of injury' variable there is a possibility to use the group '070' for reporting 'Poisoning and infections' at the workplace. The group is further subdivided into '071 – 'Acute poisonings', '072' – 'Acute infections' and '079' – 'Other types of poisonings and infections'.

070	**Poisonings and infections**
071	Acute poisonings
072	Acute infections
079	Other types of poisonings and infections

The positions '073'-'078' for the ESAW classification for 'Type of injury' have been left free to allow further expansion of the existing classification. Eurostat proposes adding the code '073' – 'COVID-19' that will allow capturing the necessary information when available. Countries reporting accidents at work to Eurostat should use the newly created code '073' to report COVID-19 cases of accidents at work recorded nationally.

070	**Poisonings and infections**
071	Acute poisonings
072	Acute infections
073	COVID-19
079	Other types of poisonings and infections

EODS - SPECIFIC STATISTICAL PROCESSING FOR THE CASES OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES – COVID-19

EODS is an annual pilot data collection with the scope of collecting incident cases of occupational diseases that are recognized by the competent national authorities.

For capturing the COVID-19 occupational disease cases recognized nationally, Eurostat proposes using the ICD variable of the EODS data collection.

Definition: ICD 4-characters code of the recognized occupational diseases cases. The occupational diseases should be coded using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), currently ICD-10 version. The ownership of the classification belongs to the World Health Organisation (WHO) who is in charge of the revisions that are meant to reflect the advances in health and medical science over time. In the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, WHO issued a new code for COVID and associated guidance; the most updated information concerning coding principles of the ICD-10 classification specific for COVID- 19 can be found here:

https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/covid19/en/

The new ICD-10 codes for COVID-19 are:

• **U07.1** COVID-19, virus identified
• **U07.2** COVID-19, virus not identified
  o Clinically-epidemiologically diagnosed COVID-19
  o Probable COVID-19
  o Suspected COVID-19

Eurostat recommends using the above-mentioned codes, when is the case, for coding the ICD variable in EODS.