



Sectoral approach to occupational health and safety

THE NETHERLANDS

- **DURATION:** since **2020**, ongoing
- **SECTOR:** multiple sectors, including garages (**2020**), wood processing industry (**2021**), paper industry (**2021**), construction materials industry (**2021**), computing industry (**2021**), landscaping industry (**2021**), furniture industry (**2022**), glass cleaning (**2022**), horeca sector (**2023**), health care (**2023**) and insulation companies (**2024**)
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTED ENTITIES:** over **14 000**
- **NUMBER OF INSPECTORS ENGAGED IN THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES:** during the programme period 8 teams over the country have carried out inspections – approx. **130** inspectors



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

A good health and safety system reduces the risk of accidents and health complaints. An important part of the health and safety system is the legally required risk assessment and evaluation (RI&E). This is a tool to recognise and control occupational risks. An up-to-date, dynamic RI&E ensures that an employer knows the risks in his company and can take appropriate measures to protect employees. This obligation is still unknown to many employers. To change that, the Netherlands Labour Authority has implemented the described inspection programme.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The priority areas for inspections in the described programme were selected on the basis of inspectorate's own database of workplace accidents and occupational diseases, EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027 and SLIC recommendations. The reasons for selecting chosen sectors of economy were: high rates of workplace accidents, including fatal and serious accidents, high morbidity rates of occupational diseases and statistics on low rate of compliance concerning risk assessment and evaluation, especially in small enterprises. IT tools are used to identify the target groups: combined data on compliance, accidents, diseases caused by work integrated in a specific method called IRA (integrated risk analysis) of the Netherlands Labour Authority.



ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Both the average duration of a workplace visit and the average duration of the activities carried out in the office of the labour inspectorate were within one day, between 2 and 4 hours. 8 regional teams of inspectors were involved in the inspection activities (nearly all inspectors specialized in OSH are participating in these regional teams). They were instructed during kickoff meetings based on a specific project plan and handouts. Establishments covered by inspections in the framework were provided with information and trainings. Online information campaigns and information provision in collaboration with employer organisations about the importance of health and safety care and the legally required documents / risk assessment and evaluation (RI&E) were organized. Also a letter with the announcement on the project and information about the legally required documents / risk assessment and evaluation (RI&E) was sent to a preselected target group of employers within a chosen sector.

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

Partial assessments were made after every sectoral project. The reports were published on the Netherlands Labour Authority's website.

The number of employers with the legally required risk assessment and evaluation (RI&E) increases significantly through this approach. For example, only 30% of small entrepreneurs in the construction materials industry had a proper RI&E at the start of the project. In the computing industry it was 21% and in the landscaping industry 22%. After the intervention project, the percentage was 98% in all three sectors.

More in general for all the approached sectors the level of compliance was raised up an average of 90%.