

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FIELD
EXPLORATORY MEETING TO RE-REGISTER AS
THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CRG
DISCUSSION POINTS**

WEDNESDAY 10th February, 17.15 – 18.30

These discussion points were taken from the second Occupational and Safety and Health Group exploratory meeting at the Well-being at Work Congress in Helsinki on February 9-12, 2010 by Juha Liira of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (juha.liira@ttl.fi)

All 200 Congress Participants were invited to attend the meeting both before the congress by email and at the congress by paper invitations. Totally 20 delegates participated the exploratory meeting which took place after the congress program.

On behalf of the Monitoring and Registration Group, Nicole Skoetz was present via a video-connection.

Jos Verbeek gave a short presentation and overview of the CC. He explained that the Occupational Health Field is part of the Cochrane Collaboration and that the field wants to transform itself into a Review Group. The purpose of the meeting was explained as to find out if there is sufficient support among Occupational Health and Safety professionals. It was further explained that the Cochrane Occupational Health Field had been in place for almost six years. The field has promoted the writing of Cochrane Reviews, developed methods for systematic reviews and it has developed a global network of contributors and supporters. The field model requires collaboration with many review groups within the Cochrane Collaboration that manage the review process. The main difference between a field and a review group is that, in contrast to a field, the review group can manage the whole review process by itself. He said that it was felt that it was time to move on and extend the field's responsibilities and possibilities. In addition to the work that had been done up, the new review group model will facilitate the registration of new titles. Also the development of methods for occupational health reviews will be facilitated.

The first exploratory meeting was held in Singapore in October 2009 at the Annual Cochrane Colloquium. The Cochrane participants that were present at the meeting supported the formation of a review group enthusiastically but required support from the field to be shown as well. That was the main reason for the meeting to find out if there is support among OSH professionals and if there are specific wishes as to the objectives or the structure of the new review group.

The scope, the structure and the plans for the proposed review group were explained along the same lines as during the first exploratory meeting in Singapore.

In the general discussion that followed the presentation, the formation of the occupational safety and health review group was supported by all present and no objections were raised.

More detailed comments were brought up by the following persons:

1. Professor Ewan Macdonald from University of Glasgow pointed out the importance of the Cochrane work for the field of occupational medicine specifically and for occupational safety and health in general. In UK, systematic reviews of occupational health interventions have increased the professional esteem of the occupational medicine speciality. He could also speak on behalf of the European Association of the Medical Specialities, section Occupational Medicine and state the association warmly welcomes the idea of a new review group in the field of occupational safety and health.
2. Dr. Nathalie Casalis from WHO Geneva supported the review group proposal and emphasized the importance of evidence reviews in the field of occupational safety and health.

3. Dr. Mikko Härmä from the managerial board of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health informed the participants of the support by the Finnish Institute for the review group.

4. In the discussion participants inquired about the responses from the side of other review groups (eg. public health group, injuries group). Jos Verbeek informed about the positive statements and support from the side of other review groups.

The following persons participated in the meeting:

Eta Lilic, New Zealand

Lisanne Verweij, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Ulrike Euler, Bundes Anstalt for Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin, Berlin, Germany

Annette Nold, DGUV, St Augustin, Germany

Roxane Gervais, Health and Safety Laboratory, UK

Jenny Lunt, Health and Safety Laboratory, UK

Mary Trainor, Health and Safety Laboratory, UK

Ines Monteiro, Brazil

Nicole Majery, Service de Medicine de Travail, Luxembourg

Ewan McDonald, European Union of Monospecialist (Occupational Physicians), Glasgow, UK

Malin Lohela Karlsson, Karolinka Institutet, Stockholm Sweden

Eva Bergsten, University of Gävle, Sweden

Hannu Jokiluoma, Ministry of Health, Helsinki, Finland

Paul Schulte, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Cincinnati USA

Mikko Härmä, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland

Evelyn Aaviksoo, Occupational Health Service, Tallinn, Estonia

Maria Rautio, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland

Hana Fazlic, Zagreb, Croatia

Tomislav Furlan, School of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia

Rajna Golubic, Zagreb, School of Public Health, Croatia

Milan Milosevic, Zagreb, School of Public Health, Croatia

Robin Nicholas, Communication in OSH specialist, USA