



Spanish Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health

15 20 (EESST 2015-2020) (Abstract)

The **Spanish Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health (EESST 2015-2020)** and its predecessor the 2007-2012 Strategy were both the result of commitment by the central government, regional governments, employers' organisations and most representative trade unions, which working through the National Occupational Safety and Health Commission (CNSST), the joint body on which institutions participate in the area of occupational safety and health, they prepared and agreed the Strategy before its final approval by the cabinet on 24 April 2015.

The EESST 2015-2020 follows on from the EESST 2007-2012 and the Review of the EESST 2007-2012, both approved by the CNSST, and reflects the European Union Occupational Safety and Health Strategic Framework 2014-2020. It is also the result of an initial analysis of the situation that revealed the main strengths and weaknesses of the system and selected the priorities for action, before drafting the content of the EESST 2015-2020.

The EESST document is divided into a number of general objectives, and other specific objectives, which are implemented through specific lines of action.

General objectives

The EESST 2015-2020 has set out the following general objectives. As can be seen, they prioritise action to strengthen the implementation of the rules in SMEs and to improve aspects related to work-related illnesses. Both objectives are in line with the indications of the Strategic European Framework approved in 2014:

- a)** Strengthen implementation of existing occupational health and safety rules and their consolidation in the autonomous regions, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises.
- b)** Foster the continued improvement of working conditions across the board for all workers, particularly in terms of the prevention of occupational diseases and work-related illnesses.

Specific objectives

1 Improve the effectiveness of the institutions dedicated to occupational risk prevention

This refers to the design and implementation of preventive policies at national level. The aim is to adopt decisions that strengthen the public institutions dedicated to occupational risk prevention, and boost mechanisms to coordinate different areas (labour, educational, health and industrial) and consolidate a uniform national OSH system across the country.

2 Boost action by the public authorities in the area of analysis, research, promotion, support, technical assistance, supervision and control of occupational risk prevention

This specifies the main actions of the competent public authorities, such as:

- Improving implementation in SMEs using new tools.
- Strengthening the supervision and control functions and their compatibility with the functions of technical assistance.
- Boosting awareness in society through media involvement.
- Consolidating the integration of OSH across the different levels of the educational system.
- Improving information systems.

3 Promote the improvement of occupational safety and health conditions with the participation of the social partners and regional governments, particularly in the sectors, activities, groups and companies at greatest risk

This includes:

- Setting specific targets for action in sectors, groups and companies at greatest risk. Of note are: priority sectors according to the accident rates, improvement in occupational road safety, musculoskeletal disorders, the study of emerging risks, etc.
- Enhancing the study and research on occupational diseases.
- Promoting more efficient health monitoring and a healthy lifestyle.

4 Strengthen the engagement of the social partners and the involvement of employers and workers in improving occupational safety and health

- Strengthen institutional participation.
- Boost collective negotiation as an instrument for integrating occupational risk prevention.
- Promote the implementation of occupational risk prevention in SMEs.
- Boost the preventive culture in companies, management commitment

The ongoing premise of the 2015-2020 Strategy has always been to create a framework of reference for public risk prevention policies that is dynamic and that can be adapted naturally to the changes taking place in the constantly evolving environment of occupational risk prevention. That is why the text of the EESST 2015-2020 will have to be supplemented with successive Action Plans for the two-year period 2015-16 (as already approved on 30 July) and for 2017-18 and 2019-20.

The EESST 2015-2020 will be monitored through a four-party working group (central government, regional governments, employers and trade unions) that has been set up as part of the functions of the National Occupational Safety and Health Commission. At the end of each Action Plan the level of achievement of the targets will be assessed, and the plan's contents may be extended into the following plans until 2020, the completion date of the Strategy.

Some of the actions included in the Strategy require corresponding financial support. For this reason, the Government of Spain, through the Ministry of Employment and Social Security and the National Institute for Safety and Hygiene at Work (INSHT), has guaranteed a stable line of finance through any financial instruments that allow these actions to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved.

This line of specific finance will be additional and earmarked for compliance with the Strategy objectives. It will be paid for through the Occupational Contingency Fund, with a minimum of 12 million euros for each of the two-year Action Plans.

To sum it up, it constitutes the framework for developing the main policies covering occupational safety and health in the coming years, and it is a clear example of policy action aimed at improving the conditions of occupational safety and health as a result of the engagement between the social partners.



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