Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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with lockdowns. Many such organizations have been reprioritising and changing methods of operation with regards protection of the safety and health of workers, control and assistance to the implementation of employment retention measures such as lay-offs, or changes in workplaces related to working time arrangements and other. Attention is and should also be paid to the safety and health of labour inspectors themselves when visiting workplaces. Presentation will revolve around the changes operated in labour As well as lessons learned and strategies to be deployed to ensure the effective discharge of labour inspectors’ duties now and in the post-COVID-19 future.

**Special Session 51 Pandemic and post-pandemic challenges, a vision of the Perosh network**

**Chair: Diana Gagliardi**

**Session introduction**

This session summarizes a part of the research activity led by 10 European institutes, members of Perosh (Partnership for European Research in Occupational Safety and Health) during the pandemic. It also emphasizes what we have learned to prepare for the future:

- preparedness to cope with another pandemic with better tools for infectious risk assessment,
- better understanding of factors ruling the efficiency of prevention measures,
- better knowledge of the psychosocial risks in the sectors of care during such crisis and leads to improve their prevention,
- observations in such an extreme situation with much more people working at home than before offered a lot of opportunities to understand the associated occupational risks.

**Sp51-1**

**Pandemic and post-pandemic challenges**

**Louis Laurent**

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Introduction: All institutes in the field of occupational safety and health had to provide quick answers to advise public authorities and companies, with questions such as personal protective equipment, risk assessment at the workplace, prevention measures and the impact of telework. In addition, the pandemic is likely to induce changes in the future work organization, for instance the use of information technologies at work. Eleven institutes presented their views at the occasion of the PEROSH 2022, 4th Research Conference in Madrid.

Materials and Methods: This presentation is a synthesis of seventeen talks. Various methods have been used, adapted to the urgency, consisting often in literature review, follow up of existing cohorts, specific survey and interviews.

Results: 1) Exposure assessment with two kinds of activity, one aiming at a better understanding of outbreaks at the workplace, the others aiming at the development of job-exposure matrices. 2) Compliance of prevention measures in companies, investigation of their effectiveness, and evolution of risk prevention induced by the pandemic. 3) Psychosocial risk in the care sector, factors modulating its effect, prevention measures. 4) Effect on health of massive telework and lessons which could be derived for the post pandemic world.

**Sp51-2**

**Risk analysis of Covid-19 in the workplace: practical approaches by activity sector in Italy**

**Fabio Boccuni, Giuliana Buresti, Diana Gagliardi, Bruna Maria Rondinone, Benedetta Persechino, Marta Petyx, Antonio Valenti and Sergio Iavicoli**

**INAIL, Dept. Of Occupational And Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology And Hygiene, Rome, Italy**

Introduction: Italy was the first among western countries to face the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The progressive adoption of several containing measures by the Government during the first lockdown period from March 2020, encompassed the temporary suspension of non-essential business activities, resulting in a reduction of about 75% of workers present in their workplaces (including remote workers).

Materials and Methods: INAIL developed a methodology for assessing the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the workplace to support the Government for a safe reactivation of businesses evaluating the impact of the modular reopening of work activities after the first lockdown period. The average risk classes have been associated to the number of employees by sector to take into account the potential impact on the mobility due to the commuting.

Results: Specific protocols for reopening activities have been developed for many sectors; these included administrative, preventive and protective measures to manage the risk in the workplace and mitigate the impacts for the community at large. Practical recommendations were allowed for public transport, manufacturing, meat processing and cutting plants, construction, schools, shopping malls and retail shops, catering services, seaside facilities and personal care services.

Conclusions: Although there is a wide spectrum of cultures among European countries and various research approaches, many conclusions are similar or complementary. These results will be useful to tackle new questions in the post pandemic world.

**Sp51-3**

**Infection Control Measures and Occupational Safety and Health in German Companies during and after the Covid-19 Crisis**

**Anita Tisch, Sophie-Charlotte Meyer, Sabine Sommer and Swantje Robelski**

**Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Germany (BAuA), Unit Working Time and Organization, Dortmund, Germany**

Introduction: All over Europe, occupational safety and health (OSH) gained importance during the Covid-19 pandemic. Most companies adapted many different OSH measures to cope with the risk of infection. Thereby, in German companies, the adoption of infection
control and OSH measures highly depends on different company characteristics.

Materials and Methods: We employ data from the 2nd and the 16th survey rounds of the study “Establishments in the Covid-19 crisis (BeCovid)”, a German representative establishment survey of approximately 2,000 companies in several branches. Both survey rounds, conducted in August/September 2020 and August 2021, focus on infection control measures and health and safety regulations. The latter further includes questions concerning future challenges for OSH.

Results: The results show that a large variety of different measures helped to provide infection control and OSH during the crisis. Larger companies not only adopted more measures, but also were more likely to implement measures also concerning psychological health of employees. While the majority of all companies plan to consider OSH in future management decisions, again mainly larger companies are going to invest in digital tools to provide OSH in the future.

Conclusions: The covid-19 crisis raised awareness on OSH. It is important to use this awareness and work towards safer and healthier workplaces in the long term.

**Sp51-4**

**Working in times of Covid-19, psychosocial risks and emotional impact on health centers staff**

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National Institute of Safety and Health at Work (INSST), Psychosociology Technical Unit, Madrid, Spain

Introduction: The COVID-19 crisis will have an undeniable impact on the populations’ emotional health. The present study aims to shed light to the psychosocial impact on the Spanish health centres workers during the first and second wave of COVID-19 and possible preventive measures to minimize it.

Materials and Methods: Literature review (PubMed, SCOPUS and Cochrane Library Plus); statistical analysis of the 2019 National Labour Force Survey; 41 semi-structured interviews.

Results: The review shows that the group most at risk is made of women, nurses or low qualified professionals, aged between 20-30 years, work experience <5 years and without previous crisis training. Working in first line impact on mental health leads to a higher prevalence of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. There are several preventive interventions to be implemented, including those based on peer support and resilience training. The semi-structured interviews confirmed consequences compatible with bibliographic findings and allowed to deepen into the knowledge of the sectors preventive system.

Conclusions: Working in health centres during the pandemic gives rise to psychosocial risks that require a specialized approach. Exposure to these risks at the workplace can lead to negative effects on people’s physical and mental health so that preventive measures are required. Mental health surveillance is key for an early detection and addressing the damage caused by the pandemic. The commitment of managers, middle managers and prevention services heads to psychosocial health is essential for the success of preventive actions.

**Sp51-5**

**Working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Netherlands**

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Introduction: The call to work from home was one of the measures taken by the Dutch government. Almost 50% of the Dutch workers did so. Although working from home was already common in the Netherlands, the number of homeworkers and the number of hours they worked from home increased significantly. This paper provides an overview of changes in working conditions and health of homeworkers in the Netherlands between 2019 (pre-COVID-19) and March 2021.

Materials and Methods: For this, the NWCS-COVID-19 cohort study is used. This study is a follow up study of an annual survey conducted by TNO and Statistics Netherlands among a representative group of workers in the Netherlands (the Netherlands Working Conditions Survey/NWCS). For the NWCS-COVID-19, a group of participants of the NWCS 2019 was approached again in June 2020, October 2020 and March 2021. 8,911 respondents provided data in all four waves.

Results: The results show both improvements and deteriorations of working conditions and health and wellbeing. For example: compared to the pre-pandemic period respondents reported more sedentary behaviour. Workers with young children struggled with work-life balance during the first wave. Homeworkers report a good health and less MSD’s than before the crisis. Work related stress did not increase. Some groups, however, do feel lonely and miss connection with work.

Conclusions: The expectation is that home working will be more common in the future than before the pandemic. In organizing this hybrid way of working, we must ensure that positive effects of home working are maintained and negative ones are minimized.

**Special Session 52 Young workers - our future workforce needs OSH attention now!**

Chair: Susan Gunn and Frida Marina Fischer

**Session introduction**

Workers below the age of 18 are often overlooked, yet as of age 15, and even younger depending on the type of work, they may work legally and assist their family with chores. Like adult workers, they too are exposed to workplace hazards and require policy protection and education about the risks. In certain respects they have unique vulnerabilities that must be taken into account. Our youngest workers need occupational health protection too!

**Sp52-1**

**New numbers and what they tell us about child workers in the world today**

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Introduction: Worldwide, 222 million workers are below the age of 18. Of these, 160 million are classed as child labour because their