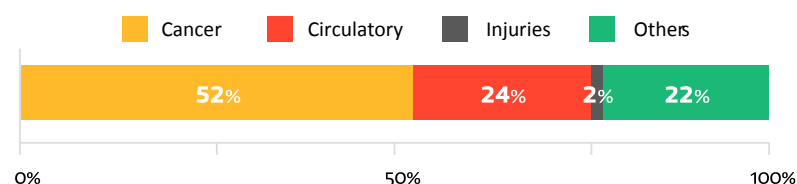European Commission

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

Occupational safety and health in a changing world of work

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of health and safety at the workplace to protect workers and for the continuity of critical services.

With the green and digital transitions, demographic shifts, and changes to the traditional workplace set-up, it is time to ensure that occupational safety and health is fit for the future.
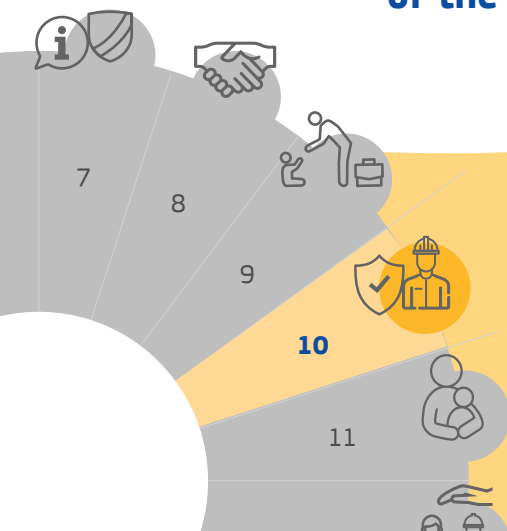
More than **200,000 workers** die each year from work-related illnesses
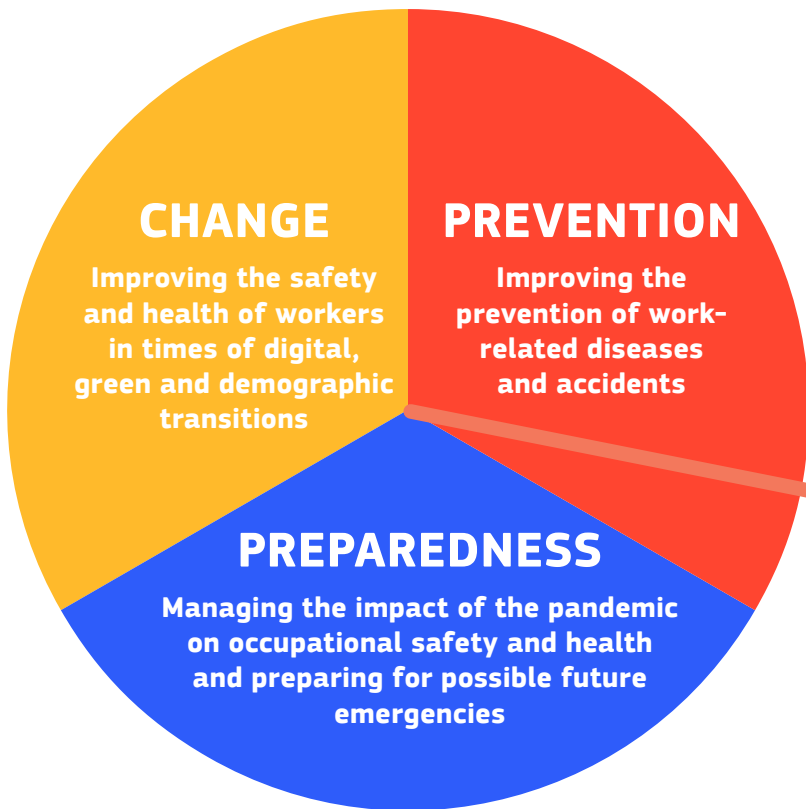
Causes of work-related fatalities (%) in the EU

Cancer   Circulatory   Injuries   Others

52%	24%	2%	22%

0%   50%   100%

Source: EU-OSHA

Legislation is essential to protect the health and safety of the almost 170 million workers in the EU.

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European Pillar of Social Rights, Principle 10: Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection

"[...] Workers have the right to a high level of protection of their health and safety at work..."

The new OSH strategic framework, three cross-cutting key objectives

CHANGE
Improving the safety and health of workers in times of digital, green and demographic transitions

PREVENTION
Improving the prevention of work-related diseases and accidents

PREPAREDNESS
Managing the impact of the pandemic on occupational safety and health and preparing for possible future emergencies

Work-related accidents and illnesses **cost the EU economy over 3.3% of its GDP** (€460bn in 2019)

Prevention of work-related deaths

Fatal accidents at work in the EU decreased by about 70%

There were still over 3,300 fatal accidents in 2018

Asbestos causes up to 85% of lung cancers developed at work

Lead is the largest contributor to diseases from reprotoxic substances at work

ACTION: The new framework will promote a 'vision zero' approach to work-related deaths

ACTION: Updated legislation on Carcinogens and Mutagens, Chemical Agents, Asbestos

Well-being and mental health

Stress contributes to around half of all lost working days

ACTION: EU level initiative related to mental health at work

Increased preparedness

During the COVID-19 crisis, occupational safety and health has played a crucial role in helping to protect lives and maintain business continuity

ACTION: Emergency procedures and guidance for the rapid deployment in potential future health crises

Risk Assessment