

Occupational Safety and Health Protection Strategy in the Slovak Republic until 2020 and the Programme of Its Implementation for the Period of 2013 - 2015 with Prospects until 2020

INTRODUCTION

The employers' development care for the protection of the life and health of employees at work must also be assisted in the interest of the economic and social development of the Slovak Republic. The submitted Occupational Safety and Health Protection Strategy in the Slovak Republic and the Programme of Its Implementation for the Period of 2013 - 2015 with Prospects until 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the "OSHP Strategy") defines its basic goals and priorities and establishes its principal tasks in the area of occupational safety and health protection (hereinafter referred to as "OSHP") in the Slovak Republic for the period until 2015 with prospects until 2020 for support of the employers in their care for OSHP. The OSHP Strategy and particularly the programme for its implementation shall be updated for the period of 2016 - 2020 taking into consideration the future status and the needs of Slovakia. The OSHP Strategy was prepared in connection with the known intents, goals and instruments of the strategy of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the "EU") in the area of OSHP until 2020.

The implementation of preventative and protective measures in the area of OSHP must be a part of the corporate culture, and OSHP issues should be a part of the life-long learning of employers and managers.

Employers must know the risks that occur at their workplace in the interest of effective OSHP management and implementation, and particularly the reduction of the number of occupational accidents and occupational diseases; they should not prefer their economic interests with a view to higher profits before OSHP, or order employees to work overtime without adequate rest. The cause of occupational accidents and occupational diseases due to aforementioned reasons must be stated.

There must also be a dialogue with the employees to ensure that they are aware of the importance of adhering to the regulations in order to comply with OSHP and working conditions established by the Labour Code and other relevant legal regulations and thus to protect their health and safety.

1. CURRENT STATUS OF OSHP IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Developed and competitive economies also achieve good results in the area of OSHP. In general, good working conditions for employees support a high standard of OSHP which creates the groundwork for higher productivity and the reliability of working performances.

Currently, when the economy is stagnant, the risk of threats to the life and health of employees increases, since the negative development of an economy directly influences negative developments in occupational accident rates. The shortage of finances, particularly in production sectors, is manifested in the fact that the employers gradually stop ensuring OSHP. Savings are made in occupational safety education, ensuring controls, official tests, expert

inspections and specialized tests of technical equipment and reserved technical equipment; maintenance is not conducted, detected shortcomings are not eliminated, old technologies are not replaced by newer and safer technologies and personal protective equipment is not always provided.

The status of OSHP and working conditions with Slovak employers and natural persons who are entrepreneurs has stagnated; in particular, the status of operating technical equipment has not been substantially improved. This situation is a reflection of current economic situation and incorrect labour organization of employers and the failure of employers and employees to comply with their obligations. This status is frequently a result of the negative relationship of the organization to OSHP, including the lack of legal awareness of employers and executive managers regarding statutory organs. Many organizations do not adopt the required systematic approach to the OSHP-related issues. Cooperation between the management, executive managers and employees in the area of OSHP is quite frequently insufficient and formal. Employers place economic and commercial activities before employee care.

The results from supervision show significant differences in the care for OSHP between large and small employers. The situation with large employers is better; employee OSHP employees, technical safety services and occupational health services are in operation there and more effectively ensure the implementation of tasks in the area of OSHP. Large companies also strive to systematically involve employees in addressing issues related to OSHP, particularly in risk assessment. Small employers often formally perform the obligations arising from legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP, while placing the greatest emphasis on ensuring production activities and the survival of the company.

Problems are also result from insufficient social appreciation of the significance of OSHP as well as the inappropriate classification of the position of safety technician within the organizational structure of an employer. To date, the status of risk assessment among employers has not distinctively improved and the effort to assert risk assessment as the main principle in preventing occupational accidents and occupational diseases has failed.

The number of occupational accidents (78,767 in 2012), particularly fatal accidents (52 in 2012) and accidents with grave damage to health (166 in 2012) in the Slovak Republic continues to be high. Therefore, employers and the entire society must focus on improving the working conditions of employees and particularly the more consistent provision of conditions for ensuring their safety and health.

2. GOALS OF THE OSHP STRATEGY

The basic goals of the OSHP Strategy include a reduction in the number of occupational accidents, particularly fatal occupational accidents and accidents with lifelong consequences, as well as the elimination of the causes to occupational diseases, the improvement of prevention and the strengthening labour culture and all in comparison with the status achieved in 2012.

Consistent preventative activities and adopting effective protective measures form the most significant instrument in the care of employers for OSHP, which is also preferred in the OSHP Strategy. The OSHP Strategy strives to promote the following:

- Application of a sufficient level of protection for all employees in all spheres of the economy;

- Ensuring of the continuous improvement of employees' health;
- Taking into consideration the gender aspect in OSHP-related issues;
- Taking into consideration the changes on the labour market arising from demographic developments, the aging of the productive population and technological development.

3. PRIORITIES OF OSHP STRATEGY

The following is the system part of the implementation of the OSHP Strategy

- reducing the number of non-standard employment relations aimed at the reduction of risks arising from them with respect to the occupational safety and health of employees;
- Reduction of stress at workplaces through preventative measures aimed at reducing its unfavourable effects on the health of employees and the elimination of chronic diseases, cardiovascular diseases and damages to the musculoskeletal system caused by bad working conditions;
- Support for risk management and education in the area of the OSHP.

In the interest of the effective application of measures for ensuring OSHP with employers, the following principles must be promoted:

- Prevention prevails over indemnification for occupational accidents or occupational diseases and over the occupational rehabilitation for the restoration of the ability to work after an occupational accident and in the case of occupational diseases;
- Occupational rehabilitation prevails over the premature elimination of employees from working process due to health problems;
- Ensure professional, effective and efficient performance of labour inspection, supervision and trade union control over OSHP;
- Increase the active involvement of employees regarding OSHP-related issues, particularly in the assessment, prevention and management of risks of health damages;
- Consistently use agreements in social dialogue for the purposes of OSHP;
- Pay attention to older employees with the aim of supporting measures that will help to keep them safe, healthy and able to work;
- Pay attention to school graduates with the aim to provide them with specialized information necessary for ensuring OSHP, with an emphasis on prevention of occupational accidents.

3.1 Priority No. 1: Improving the publicity, promotion and culture of prevention in the area of OSHP

Based on knowledge acquired in the performance of OSHP labour inspections and when performing supervision over OSHP, it has been established that the care for OSHP by employers is frequently minimal and formal. Many subjects do not consider creating suitable working conditions for employees and for the protection of their life and health at work as an inseparable part of employment obligations; they frequently are unfamiliar with these obligations and prefer their economic and business interests. This situation is more distinct in the case of small and medium-size employers and with natural persons who are entrepreneurs.

Their employees, particularly those in the production sphere, use dangerous working methods and procedures, incorrect labour organization and dangerous equipment. This results in elevated occupation injury rates and the increased occurrence of occupational diseases.

Due to the aforementioned reasons the enhancement of the awareness of the expert and lay public regarding OSHP, as part of the movement to strengthen the labour culture, is a necessary part of prevention in the area of OSHP. Improving OSHP publicity and promotion, not only through the bodies of labour inspection and supervision over the OSHP but particularly through professional preventative services, employers' representatives and professional employee associations and the academic community, research and the media is a must.

3.2 Priority No. 2: Improving the personal and material conditions for quality and effective operations of labour inspection bodies and other supervision bodies in the area of OSHP

Pursuant to the International Labour Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "ILO") and the Conventions and Recommendations of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "SLIC"), conditions must be created for the effective and firm promotion of legal and other requirements for ensuring healthy and safe conditions at workplaces. That requires a sufficient quantity and quality of labour inspectors and other employees of bodies supervising OSHP. Because of the membership of the Slovak Republic in the EU, language skills, English in particular, are also necessary; this would make it possible to use all of the tools and databases created by European institutions in the interest of law enforcement in this area.

The performance of labour inspections and state supervision over OSHP must be intensified and its quality must be improved to the level of standards achieved in the EU Member States in order to increase the number of supervisory activities, improve the activities and effectiveness of labour inspection bodies and organs of state supervision over OSHP and in the interest of developing their preventative practices.

The effective use of existing financial, technical and personnel resources of the state inspection bodies and supervisory organs can be achieved by better coordination and the gradual creation of conditions for the suitable institutional integration of present inspection and supervisory organs operating in the area of OSHP in compliance with the standards and established practice of EU Member States and ILO. This will increase the effectiveness of the operations of these state organs on employers and natural persons who are entrepreneurs and ease the burden of controlled subjects arising from overlapping controls of several state organs.

Preventative, monitoring, sanctioning and repressive activities of labour inspection and other organs of state supervision over the OSHP shall focus on the sectors and work with higher rates of damage to health.

3.3 Priority No. 3: Improving the quality of activities of specialized subjects eligible to perform activities in the area of OSHP

According to legal requirements, small and medium-sized organizations which do not have their own experts in the area of OSHP are obliged to fulfil certain obligations in the area of OSHP; these tasks are frequently ensured through outsourced/supply companies which are authorized to perform activities related to preventative and protective services (safety

technical service, occupational health service) and the verification of compliance with the safety requirements for technical equipment. As a result, labour inspectorates and public health authorities must intensively verify the quality of services and carry out controls in these companies focused on the professional qualifications of their employees and the quality and professional standards of their methods when providing these services.

3.4 Priority No. 4: Applying system approach to OSHP-related issues

Fulfilling the obligations in the area of OSHP is often insufficient, especially among small and medium-size employers and the level of legal awareness in the structure of employers is low; furthermore, a system and comprehensive approach to OSHP-related issues and care for OSHP is lacking. It has been demonstrated that the application of a system approach to OSHP and its verification by an independent third party will increase the level of OSHP among individual subjects. In addition to the OSHP management system pursuant to the OHSAS 18 001 standard, which is also acknowledged in the international context, the level of protection of employees in organizations in Slovakia can be verified through the Safe Enterprise project implemented by the National Labour Inspectorate (hereinafter referred to as the “NLI”). Social appreciation is a significant element here; when subjects that conform with the requirements of this project receive the Safe Enterprise award from the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic it is a manifestation of an excellent level of care for OSHP.

4. COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF OSHP

Deepening the application of regulations for ensuring OSHP and eliminating the prequalifications for the occurrence of occupational accidents and occupational diseases can be ensured through the increased involvement of individual parties which are obliged to implement OSHP requirements or which can assist in the practical application of OSHP. The goal is to achieve a higher level of active cooperation among representative organizations of employers and employees at the national level and the effective cooperation of employers with employees at the level of employers. Increasing the involvement of employees and natural persons who are entrepreneurs in the protection of their own safety and health is also a significant element.

The general requirement that solutions in the area of OSHP be adopted and implemented with the active cooperation of all involved organs and institutions is also related to the promotion of the mutual cooperation of relevant state organs, particularly state administration bodies in the area of labour inspection and state supervision over OSHP, including their cooperation with social partners.

The resolution of OSHP related issues must be searched for and found in cooperation with social partners, namely through social dialogue and at the expert level. Furthermore, the joint assertion of a consistent application of legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP by employers and the enforceability of OSHP law is required.

It is anticipated that the deepening of the application of regulations ensuring OSHP and the increased involvement of the parties at the national level and at the level of employers, along with the activities of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “CTU SR”) will be achieved through active participation of representative organizations of employers and their representatives – the National Union of Employers (hereinafter referred to as the “NUE”), the Federation of

Employers' Associations of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "FEA SR"), and Club 500. The active presentation of proposed solutions should be manifested in preparing and implementing national, sectoral and corporate programmes and projects aimed at addressing OSHP, including the support and development of the health of employees.

Collective bargaining must be further deepened at the level of individual employers in the interest of negotiating working conditions that raise OSHP above the standards established by the legal regulations for ensuring OSHP.

The purpose of this cooperation is to support the proper application of the regulations ensuring OSHP with employers by organizing a purposeful joint campaign affecting employers and employees. Cooperation, particularly in favour of support of small and medium-size employers and especially in production activities, must be developed so that their specifics and possibilities are taken into consideration along with the consistent ensuring of the tasks in the area of OSHP.

The participation of representatives of the Slovak Republic in the activities of international institutions brings positive results, especially in promoting its interests and the preparation of documents for the EU, ILO, World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as the "WHO") of a binding and recommending nature and in their assertion in terms of the Slovak Republic. This refers to active participation in the area of OSHP, especially in the field of the work environment, health support and protection, the safety of technological equipment and designated products, market supervision, etc.

The participation of Slovak representatives in the SLIC and the International Association of Labour Inspection (hereinafter referred to as the "IALI"), which is the base for expert assessment of global social conditions in terms of competence and the need for the development of affairs within the competence of the labour inspectorate, including OSHP, is of principal significance. In addition to the representation of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "MoLSAF SR") in the Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health Protection established at the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "EU Advisory Committee for OSHP"), the participation of the representative of the Supreme Mining Authority in the permanent working group for the safety of work in mines, which operates within the EU Advisory Committee for OSHP and deals with issues related to occupational safety and health protection in mines, is also important. Cooperation and the exchange of practical and legal experience within the EU Member States are also crucial. Adopting the framework of the new Health 2020 health policy in the European region in the WHO is important for the development of occupational health.

The significance of international cooperation in the area of OSHP lies in the acquisition of information and the dissemination of especially positive information about the proper approach toward working conditions, including OSHP. It is also an important tool in establishing relationships with countries outside the EU, especially those countries that are interested in becoming members of the EU.

5. DEVELOPING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE AREA OF OSHP AND THE APPLICATION OF ITS OUTCOMES

Thorough analysis and research is necessary for improving working conditions and reducing the number of occupational accidents, occupational diseases and other work-related health problems. Support for basic and applied research in the area of OSHP and related areas

is necessary with regard to new, potential and on-going work risks. Therefore it makes sense to widely present the outcomes of the research, particularly research regarding new risks and possible measures for their prevention to the general public and to incorporate them in the practice of actual workplaces of employers. Adequate economic resources must be provided for the support of research and the practical implementation of its outcomes.

Legal awareness regarding OSHP, lack of awareness and the unreasonable underestimation of risks of health damage, and the lack of effort and willingness to address working tasks also at the expense of one's own health and unwillingness to prevent health damage by preventative OSHP measures are pervasive in the Slovak Republic. Therefore education in the area of OSHP and its coordination must be supported.

6. REGULATIONS ENSURING THE OSHP

Legal order is a significant tool for implementing the national OSHP strategy. Legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring the OSHP stipulate the conditions for enhancing the level of OSHP at employers' workplaces and for improving employee protection.

The appropriate legislative creation of the position and conditions for the performance of the labour inspectorate and other bodies of supervision over OSHP pursuant to the relevant ILO conventions and EU documents create the basis for the effective and efficient action of labour inspection bodies.

Simple and clear OSHP legislation which is in compliance with achieved scientific and technical progress and reflects current social needs is necessary in order to support the business environment and facilitate the development of small and medium-size employers.

New legal regulations must be adopted in the area of OSHP in order to preserve the current level of labour protection. Amendments to the Acts and other generally binding legal regulations for ensuring OSHP must be prepared to ensure that frequent changes do not occur and to enable easy orientation and improve their application.

The emphasis of labour inspection bodies and other OSHP supervisory organs on eliminating the formality of the application of OSHP requirements must be enhanced in the interest of reducing the administrative burden of employers.

7. FINANCING

Implementation of OSHP Strategy tasks will be financed from the budget and out-of-budget resources. Funds necessary for the implementation of OSHP Strategy tasks will be identified and planned for the pertinent year when elaborating the tasks in implementation form.

Public organs will implement them through funds within the framework of the approved limits of relevant budget chapters for the period of 2013 - 2020.

Public organs, other institutions and organizations, legal entities and natural persons may use funds from the EU structural funds and operational programmes based on the approved projects for financing.

The task of the OSHP Strategy in whose implementation the representative organizations of employers and representative organizations of employees are interested and

the tasks prepared and implemented by them will also be financed from resources purposefully accumulated by these representative organizations.

It will also be possible to ensure the financing of certain tasks of the OSHP Strategy through resources from foundations, donations, etc.

8. ASSERTING THE APPLICATION OF THE OSHP STRATEGY

In the interest of the effective implementation of OSHP Strategy tasks we must universally support its dissemination, explain its significance and promote its benefits. This is important especially in relation to the expert public, employers, natural persons who are entrepreneurs and small and medium-size employers.

These tasks in the competence of the national administration will be implemented by the labour inspection organs within the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and supervisory bodies active in the area of OSHP – organs of public health within the competence of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, the state mining authority within the competence of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic (MH SR), organs of public health within the competence of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the MoTCRD SR”), the supervisory organ of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic (MD SR), the supervisory organ of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (MI SR), the supervisory organ of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard within the competence of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (MJ SR) and the supervisory organ within the competence of the Financial Directorate within the competence of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (MF SR).

Use the activities of social partners at the national and regional levels, the Slovak Association for Occupational Safety and Health Protection and Fire Protection (hereinafter referred to as the “Slovak Association for OSHP and FP”) and media means, seminars and conferences and others to promote the OSHP Strategy.

8.1 Monitoring the implementation of the OSHP Strategy

Implementing the OSHP Strategy and fulfilling its priorities will be monitored and evaluated in half year intervals by the Coordinating Committee for the OSHP (hereinafter referred to as the “CC for OSHP”) which is an advisory body to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The CC for OSHP was established in order to prepare and coordinate strategic intents in the area of OSHP in the Slovak Republic and to evaluate the fulfilment of the tasks in order to achieve its goals. For this purpose the administrators responsible for the fulfilment of individual tasks of the Programme of the OSHP Strategy Implementation and cooperating institutions submit information regarding the fulfilment of the OSHP Strategy to the MoLSAF SR; they are subsequently discussed at the CC for OSHP. Members of the CC for OSHP continuously report on the implementation of the Strategy tasks.

It is proposed so that an informative report on the implementation of the OSHP Strategy be submitted to the session of the Slovak Government in 2014 for the first time and then every year not later than the sixth month from the end of the evaluated calendar year.

9. OSHP STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

The implementation of the tasks contained in the following sections are proposed for the fulfilment of the tasks and priorities of the OSHP Strategy:

A. Improving the publicity, promotion and culture of prevention in the area of OSHP

1. To be actively involved in international campaigns organized by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, SLIC and other activities targeted at the European Agency for OSHP and to organize these activities in the Slovak Republic.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “MoESRS SR”)

Cooperating: Slovak Association for OSHP and FP, universities

2. To ensure the presentation of employees in mass media which will be oriented on encouraging the active attitudes of the general public regarding OSHP, including health protection at work and the creation of psychological, physical and social well-being and to ensure that the general public is timely informed of new legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, MD SR, ME SR, MI SR, MJ SR

Cooperating: Slovak Association for OSHP and FP, universities

3. To publicize in the media information about trends in the development of risky work at the national and regional levels and information about the occurrence and trends in the development of occupational diseases in the Slovak Republic.

Date: annually

Responsible: MH SR

4. To publicize in the media the information about occupational accident rates in the Slovak Republic and in the regions, including information about violations of legal regulations and other regulations ensuring OSHP which were causally linked to the occupational accidents.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

5. More intensively publicize in the media and promote the significance and activities of labour inspectorates, organs of public health and other supervisory bodies over OSHP in order to raise awareness in this area (the aspects of prevention and repression) among employers, employees and other subjects.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, MD SR, ME SR, MI SR

6. To implement activities targeted on improvements in the working environment, working conditions and in support of the health of employees in cooperation with employers.

Date: annually

Responsible: MZ SR, MPSVR SR

Cooperating: RUZ, MDVRR SR

7. To provide specialized counselling for employers and employees targeted on the prevention of health risks and the protection of health at work, with a special focus on small and medium-size enterprises.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MH SR

Cooperating: MTCRD SR

8. To organize working meetings of experts in the area of OSHP in the interest of improving the implementation of legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP in practice.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MD SR, ME SR, MI SR

Cooperating: MH SR, CTU SR, FEA SR, NUE, Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia (hereinafter referred to as the "ATCS"), Slovak Association for OSHP and FP, universities

9. To organize thematically oriented, specialized seminars for managers and representatives of employees in order to improve their perception of the importance of a safe and healthy workplace.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MD SR, ME SR, MI SR

Cooperating: MH SR

10. To organize specialized conferences and seminars, including scientific seminars, at which educational and research institutions such as universities will serve as expert guarantors, even in the international context with the aim to inform the expert and lay public about the outputs of research tasks and their application in practice.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

Cooperating: MH SR, universities

11. To publish specialized handbooks, information and promotional materials for employers, employee representatives for OSHP, trade union members and employees in order to promote legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP and to achieve a better understanding and application thereof. For this purpose

- To continue in developing the "Rules of Good Practice" project
- To publish information materials about OSHP for starting entrepreneurs and to make them available to the general public at relevant offices so that entrepreneurs have information regarding their basic obligations in the area of OSHP from the very beginning,
- To regularly publish bulletins with information about the latest outcomes of OSHP-related research.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

Cooperating: MH SR, NUE, CTU SR, Technical University Košice

12. To support and lead employees to responsible and safe behaviour at workplaces and the active addressing of OSHP-related issues when cooperating on risk assessment and the related adoption of measures, education at all levels and the training of employee representatives.

Date: annually

Responsible: CTU SR

Cooperating: ATCS

13. To contribute to enhancing social and legal awareness in the area of OSHP through “Open House Days”.

Date: annually

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR

Cooperating: NUE

14. To establish and operate a specialized OSHP website in order to

- Ensure simple and fast access of the general public to information from the area of OSHP in the scope necessary for the professional and safe management of a performed activity;
- Provide timely information in the event of amendments to legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP;
- Address OSHP management issues, issues related to risk assessment, promoting the rules of OSHP, proper technological procedures and working conditions and other principal aspects of OSHP;
- Promote seminars and other activities oriented on amendments and application of new OSHP legislation and best practice examples.

Date: 2014 and continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

B. Improving staffing and material conditions for the quality and effective functioning of labour inspection bodies and other organs of supervision in the area of OSHP

1. To ensure commensurate financial and human resources and conditions for the effective performance of labour inspectorates and OSHP supervisory organs in all areas of their subject competence, for training and the adequate remuneration of these employees to ensure that law enforcement is feasible and to make it possible to ensure preventative activities according to SLIC recommendations and ILO principles.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, ME SR, MD SR, MI SR, MF SR

2. To ensure lifelong learning, enhancing of professional levels and language skills and the deepening of specialized knowledge and skills necessary for the performance of the

working activities of state administration employees conducting the supervision of compliance with legal regulations and other regulations for ensuring OSHP.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, ME SR, MD SR, MI SR

Cooperating: MoESRS SR, Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing (hereinafter referred to as the “SOSMT”), universities

3. To coordinate the supervisory activities of organs of public health, labour inspection bodies and other organs of supervision over OSHP aimed at the control of the fulfilment of the obligations of employers in the area of OSHP, to cooperate in their performance and to implement joint supervisory activities.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MH SR, MoLSAF SR

C. Improving the quality of activities of expert subjects authorized for the performance of activities in the area of OSHP

1. To ensure the consistent control of the fulfilment of obligations of natural persons – entrepreneurs and legal entities that conduct preventative and protective services (occupational health service and technical safety services) in OSHP for employers.

Date: annually

Responsible: MH SR, MoLSAF SR

D. Applying a system approach to OSHP-related issues

1. To promote the application of the system approach to OSHP within organizations and in the performance of preventative and protective services, to involve employees in addressing all areas of OSHP and to motivate them to actively participate in addressing OSHP-related issues.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: FEA SR, CTU SR

Cooperating: Slovak Association for OSHP and FP, universities

2. To encourage employers to have the status of OSHP voluntarily verified by an independent audit and thus support the Safe Enterprise programme and the Healthy Workplaces campaign.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

Cooperating: MH SR, ME SR, MI SR, Slovak Association for OSHP and FP, FEA SR, CTU SR, universities

E. Cooperation in the area of OSHP

1. To create and apply adequate and effective mechanisms of cooperation among the supervisory organs in the area of OSHP and institutions in the area of science, research, education, public health and other areas related to OSHP.
Date: continuously until 2020
Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, ME SR, MoESRS SR
Cooperating: universities, SAV
2. To involve OSHP experts in international cooperation within the framework of expert groups, technical commissions and projects of European and international institutions.
Date: continuously until 2020
Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, MD SR, MI SR, ME SR, MJ SR, MoESRS SR
Cooperating: CTU SR, NUE, universities
3. To prepare and implement a subject table and timetable for the implementation of this Strategy at the level of the responsible and cooperating institutions. To involve social partners in its preparation at the national, sectoral and corporate levels.
Date: 2013 and continuously until 2020
Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MH SR, MD SR, MI SR, ME SR, MJ SR, MoESRS SR
Cooperating: CTU SR, Slovak Association for OSHP and FP
4. To agree on the forms of cooperation with social partners and experts from other ministries in order to improve cooperation in the area of OSHP. To ensure participation in specialized seminars and conferences organized by accredited and certified institutions and institutions in this area.
Date: continuously until 2020
Responsible: MD SR, MI SR, MF SR, MJ SR
5. To improve the cooperation of supervisory organs and other institutions in the exchange of information related to effective supervision.
Date: continuously until 2020
Responsible: MH SR, MoLSAF SR
Cooperating: Slovak Association for OSHP and FP, authorized legal entities

F. Developing research and education in the area of OSHP and the application of its outcomes

1. To provide adequate access to new outcomes of research in the area of OSHP to relevant state administration bodies and to the widest possible range of experts and the lay public.
Date: continuously until 2020
Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MI SR, MoESRS SR
Cooperating: universities, Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
2. To establish the Council for Education and Research in the Area of OSHP as a consultative body to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak

Republic; to elaborate its statutes and involve research workplaces, universities and social partners in its activities.

Date: 2013

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

Cooperating: MoESRS SR, universities, SAS

3. To promote research targeted on new technologies (such as the recycling of materials, nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, green energy), on changes in the world of labour and new combinations of risk factors, such as demographic changes and the aging of the productive labour force and mental health in the context of Safety and Security.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MI SR, MoESRS SR

Cooperating: universities, SAS

4. To examine the possibilities of the economic evaluation of losses due to occupational accidents and occupational diseases with employers and to apply economic laws at the national and corporate levels in OSHP management (motivational elements, economic stimulation).

Date: 2015

Responsible: MoLSAF SR, MoESRS SR

Cooperating: universities

5. To deepen OSHP integration in educational systems of schools (implementation of OSHP in future professional life of pupils and students), application of methods while using modern e-learning educational systems, standardizing systems with the aim to facilitate the free movement of the labour force within the EU.

Date: continuously until 2020

Responsible: MoESRS SR

Cooperating: MoLSAF SR, universities, secondary schools

G. Regulations for ensuring OSHP

1. To update legislation for ensuring OSHP in the construction industry, transportation, etc.

Date: 2016

Responsible: MoLSAF SR

2. To examine the possibilities for the financial accessibility of Slovak technical standards for state bodies, institutions, employers, representatives of employees and for preventative and protective services.

Date: 2015

Responsible: SOSMT

Cooperating: MoLSAF SR, technical universities

H. Financing

1. To ensure the financing of the OSHP Strategy when preparing the draft budget chapter for the upcoming year.

Date: 2013 and continuously

Responsible: relevant ministers and the chairman of another central state administration body

2. To allocate resources for the area of OSHP from EU structural funds.

Date: 2014 and continuously

Responsible: MoLSAF SR