

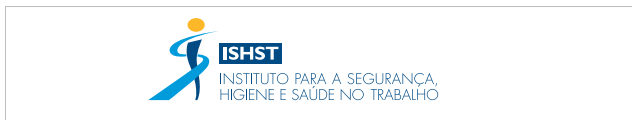
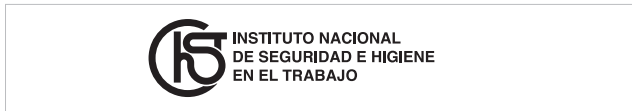
What METROnet is

The Mediterranean Training and Research in Occupational Safety and Health Network is based on a collaboration programme, drawn up in May 2002 through a Memorandum of Understanding involving four National Institutes of occupational safety and health:

- ISPESL, Istituto Superiore per la Prevenzione e la Sicurezza del Lavoro (Italy);
- INRS, Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (France);
- INSHT, Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo (Spain);
- ISHST da Instituto para a Segurança, Higiene e Saúde no Trabalho (Portugal).

This cooperation programme was renewed in 2006 by a new agreement, in order to consolidate the network and point the way forward.

METROnet activities are planned, approved and coordinated by a Steering Committee, made up of the President or Director of each Institute. The Steering Committee meets at least once per calendar year. It is responsible for the strategic management of the network, the approval of annual programmes, including annual aims and related tasks, the promotion of joint research projects and the enlargement of the network to include new members.



Aims

The main purposes of the Network consist of:

- cooperating for the development of research projects and training programmes;
- exchanging experience among the four Institutes;
- sharing and disseminating results of research in order to avoid inappropriate and expensive duplication of efforts;
- enforcing a European partnership in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge in the Mediterranean area through the integration of common cultural background.

Working Groups

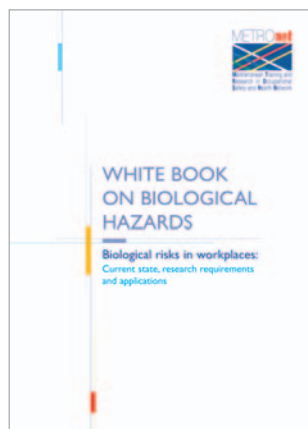
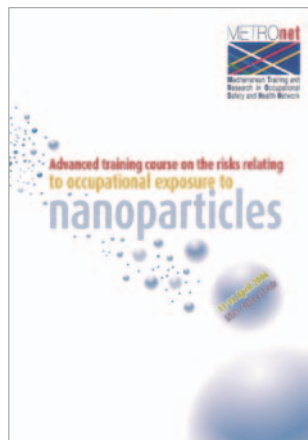
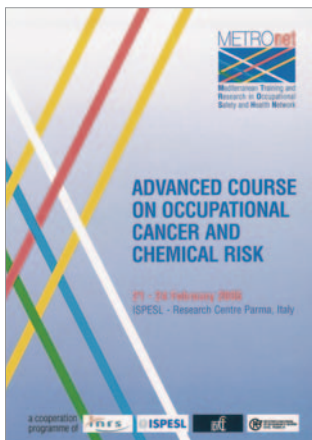
The network is composed of two Working Groups: Research and Training.

The Research Group works on identifying emerging themes in the field of occupational safety and prevention and strengthening a critical mass for the research in OSH. The Training Group organizes courses on specific for researchers, experts and qualified practitioners on occupational risks with the aim of updating the status of risks and developing scientific knowledge and experience

Activities

Since its constitution, METRONet has carried out the following projects:

- Publication of a White Book on biological agents (October 2005), with the aim of supplying experts, researchers and international institutions with a framework for research needs and application on the subject of biological hazards.
- Organization of the Advanced course on occupational carcinogenesis and chemical risks (Parma, February 2005) for the sake of providing an overview on the state of art of these topics, taking great care over toxicology and related risk management.
- Organization of the Advanced training course on the risks relating to occupational exposure to nanoparticles (Paris, April 2006) with the aim of developing the competence of participants to assess, prevent and manage these risks and giving the opportunity to share knowledge and experience on nanotechnologies.



Website

The website of METRONet is a communication tool designed for giving visibility to the network at international level and information about METRONet activities, ongoing projects, training initiatives, publications and the way of joining the events.

The website aims at promoting interaction and cooperation among the four Institutes, the Working Groups (Training and Research), experts and end-users involved in the field of occupational safety and prevention.

Through this tool, METRONet plans to develop and distribute technical and scientific knowledge in order to increase the joint efficiency in the efforts to improve sustainable working life for workers in the Mediterranean countries as well as, on a wider scale, in the European Union.

Ongoing Projects

The Research Group is working on a second White Book about reproductive toxicology at the workplace. The paper is due to be published by the end of 2007.

The Training Group is organizing a training course on biological hazards to be held in Spain by the end of November 2007.

The main goals of the course are:

- To update knowledge about biological agents and their effects.
- To improve the expertise on the assessment, prevention and management of biological risk at the workplace.

INFORMATION

All information will be available on METRONet website, to be launched in the course of the year 2007 at the following address: <http://www.metronet-osh.org>

KEY WORDS

Occupation safety and health, Training, Research