



# Modernizing International Networking in Occupational Safety and Health



International Labour Organization

Development partner: Government of the Republic of Korea (2015-2017)

## ILO Global Survey on OSH Agencies, Institutions and Organizations (AIOs)

OSH Survey Series – Issue 1, January 2017

### Background

Building on 50+ years of the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (ILO-CIS), the ILO engaged the modernization of its international networking practices in OSH knowledge and information as an outcome of a large-scale participatory consultation with the network of CIS National and Collaborating Centres. A global survey was designed and launched during the third quarter of 2016 in order to document the organization, activities and needs of OSH knowledge agencies, institutions and organizations (AIO) operating in various contexts around the world. Understanding their status, governance, management and resources, research priorities, internal organization and delivery of services, information and public awareness-raising activities, and international networking practices is key to devising strategies, projects and activities to strengthen their capacities to acquire and use knowledge for prevention.

### Wide coverage of the ILO global survey on OSH

Identifying potential respondents to the survey was the first step to collect information through existing sources, professional exchanges and an extensive web-based search. The aim was to identify organizations that are directly involved in knowledge development through research, studies and/or analysis, and by the same token, identify others of relevance, notably with regard to OSH knowledge and information capacity enhancement and dissemination.

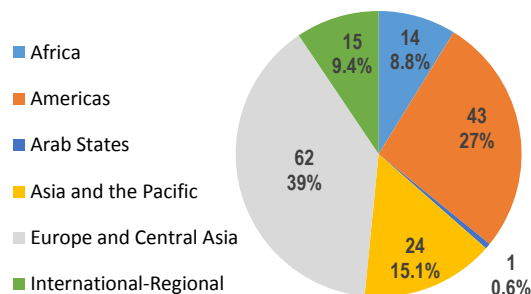


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of respondents (N=159)

A rigorous reading of the 271 responses received against the criteria defining the units of analysis and a series of individual exchanges with respondents for clarifications when needed led to retain a total of 159 of them, from 67 countries and 15 international organizations (Figure 1). The categories of governmental agencies and research institutes in their various forms of organization account for 78 respondents (48 countries and 4 international organizations), and together constitute almost half of all valid responses. An additional 69 respondents (43.4 per cent) belong to the category of professional associations and non-governmental organizations. The other 12 respondents (7.5 per cent) are either workers' or employers' organizations, national or sector-based consultative bodies. Overall, these 159 OSH AIOs have the potential to outreach to 2.5 billion workers around the world, or 74.2 per cent of the global workforce.<sup>1</sup> The information received from all continents is currently analyzed by category of respondents and subject matter.

Multiple stakeholders contribute to OSH knowledge development in all countries, including governmental agencies, ministries, employers' and workers' organisations, institutes, universities, civil society organisations amongst others. The new and innovative web-portal on OSH networks, agencies, institutions and organizations, the forthcoming e-Forum for the worldwide OSH community of experts and practitioners, and the technical report presenting the results of this survey will concur to promote and support collaboration and knowledge-sharing among them, enrich debates and inform policy-making towards achieving a true culture of prevention, globally.

Summary information notes on results will be released periodically as we progress towards *Technical Symposium 22* at the XXI World Congress on OSH ([www.safety2017singapore.com](http://www.safety2017singapore.com)), 3-6 September 2017 in Singapore. More soon!

Email: [osh-survey@ilo.org](mailto:osh-survey@ilo.org) Website: [http://www.ilo.org/safework/projects/WCMS\\_540693/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/projects/WCMS_540693/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>1</sup> Estimate based on the distribution of the global workforce using World Bank and ILO data:

- <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.TOTL.IN>
- [http://www.ilo.org/beirut/countries/occupied-palestinian-territory/WCMS\\_532917/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/beirut/countries/occupied-palestinian-territory/WCMS_532917/lang--en/index.htm)

