



# EU OSH Strategy 2007-2012: implementation and future perspectives

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REGULĀCIJAS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ



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# Overview

- European Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Strategy 2007-2012
- Preliminary evaluation of the strategy
- Context - changing nature of work in Europe
- Future perspectives
- The role of European Agency for Safety and Health (EU-OSHA)

## Conclusions from the previous Strategy, it:

- Re-launched prevention policies at **national** level
- Presented arguments in favour of a **partnership** to achieve common objectives
- Obligated interested parties in the prevention field to give **strategic consideration** to how these objectives might be attained
- Raised **public awareness** of the importance of OSH by presenting them as integral parts of quality management

# OSH Strategy 2007-2012

## Main challenges identified:

- **Burden** of accidents and work-related ill-health is still unacceptably high
- Occupational hazards are **unevenly distributed** among different groups (young, older, migrant), companies (SMEs) and sectors (construction, agriculture, healthcare)
- **Demographic** change and ageing
- New **employment** trends (outsourcing, teleworking)
- New and larger flows of **migrants**
- Increasing number of **female** workers
- Common occupational **illnesses** – MSDs, infections, illnesses linked to psychosocial risks
- **New risks** – violence, addictions, nanoparticles
- **Implementation** of EU OSH legislation amongst the Member States (MSs) **differs**

## Target:

- 25% reduction in the total incidence rate of accidents at work by 2012
- an ongoing, sustainable and uniform reduction in occupational illnesses

# OSH Strategy 2007-2012

## Main instruments proposed:

- Improving and simplifying existing **legislation** and enhancing its implementation in practice through non-binding instruments such as exchange of good practices, awareness-raising campaigns and better information and training
- Appropriate **national OSH strategies** targeted to their specific needs within the scope of EU strategy
- **Mainstreaming** of health and safety at work in other national and European policy areas (education, public health, research)
- Promoting **changes in behaviour** – culture that values health and risk prevention (amongst employers, workers and beyond)
- Identification of **new and increasing risks** through research, exchange of knowledge and practical application of results
- Promotion of **OSH at international level**

# Preliminary evaluation of the strategy

- **Relevant** – a clear policy basis and framework for coordination and a clear sense where we were going
- Highlighted OSH as a basis for a **strong and competitive economy**
- **Accident rates down** in most Member States (but full EUROSTAT data not available until 2014)
- Many **actions** planned under the Strategy have been **implemented**
- Most Member States now have **national strategies** and are putting their strategies into effect
- There is close consistency between **public health** and **OSH policy**; initiatives have been launched to reduce tobacco smoke in the workplace and to improve mental health

# Challenges from the strategy

- Having an **accidents target** created a perceived imbalance with occupational diseases
- More effort should be targeted at the needs of **SMEs**
- **Mainstreaming** appears not to have been as successful as hoped — in environmental, fisheries, research, regional policy and public procurement
- Focus should be on a **smaller number of priorities**



# What next?

- Preliminary evaluation shows most stakeholders attach high importance to a **new EU strategy** for occupational health and safety
- Lack of an OSH strategy would imply that occupational safety and health is a **low policy priority** for the Union, with a consequent negative impact on the ground
- The European Strategy's objectives and priorities are consistent with the **Europe 2020** targets for building an inclusive society and achieving a **75% employment rate** by 2020; and contribute in achieving these targets

# Europe 2020

- Europe 2020 is the EU's **growth strategy**
- **Five** ambitious **objectives** –on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy.

## In **employment**:

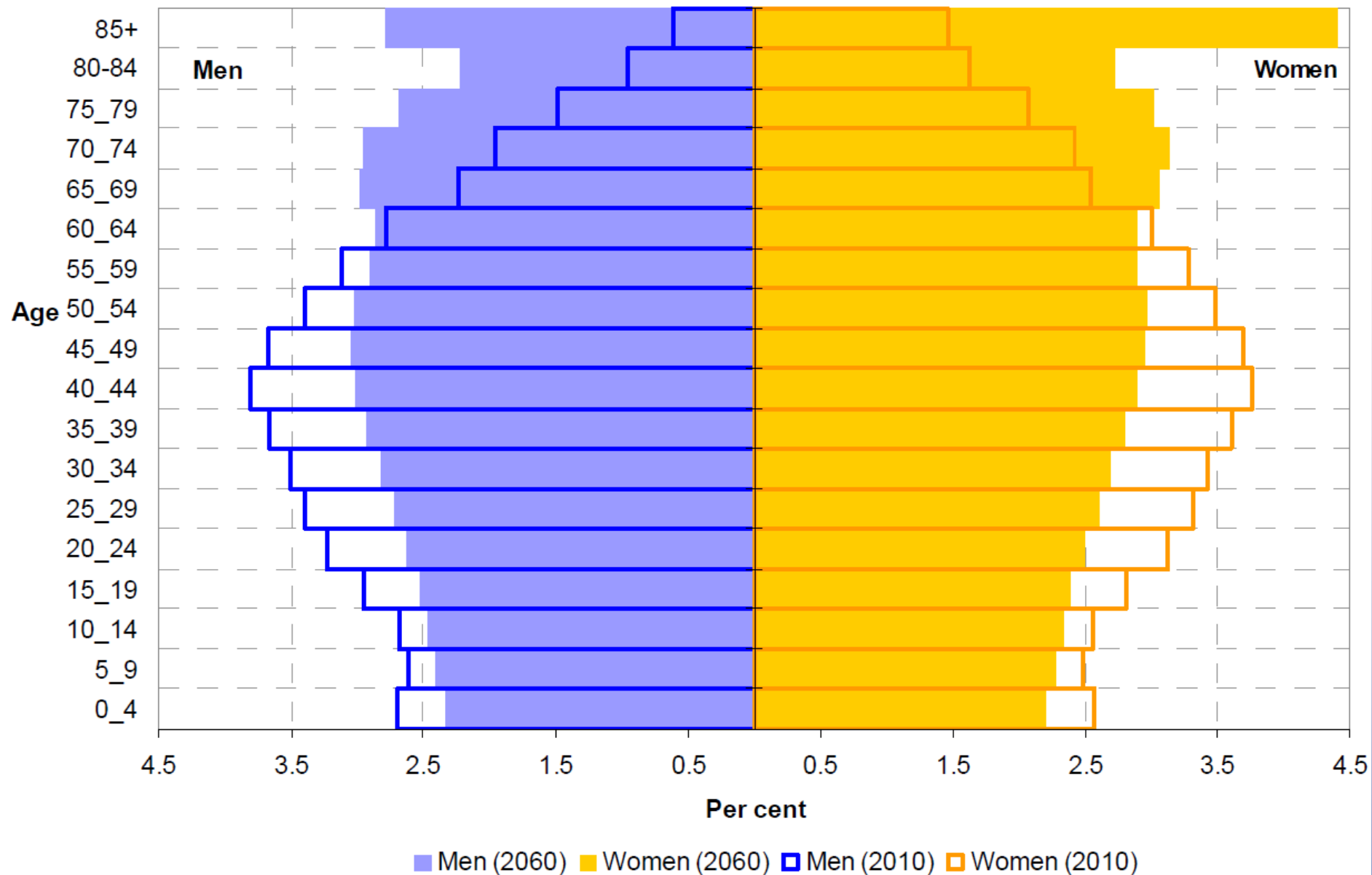
- **75%** of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed
- Improving flexibility and security in the labour market ('**flexicurity**')
- Equipping people with the right **skills**
- Improving the **quality of jobs** and ensuring **better working conditions**
- Improving the conditions for **job creation**

# What next – the context

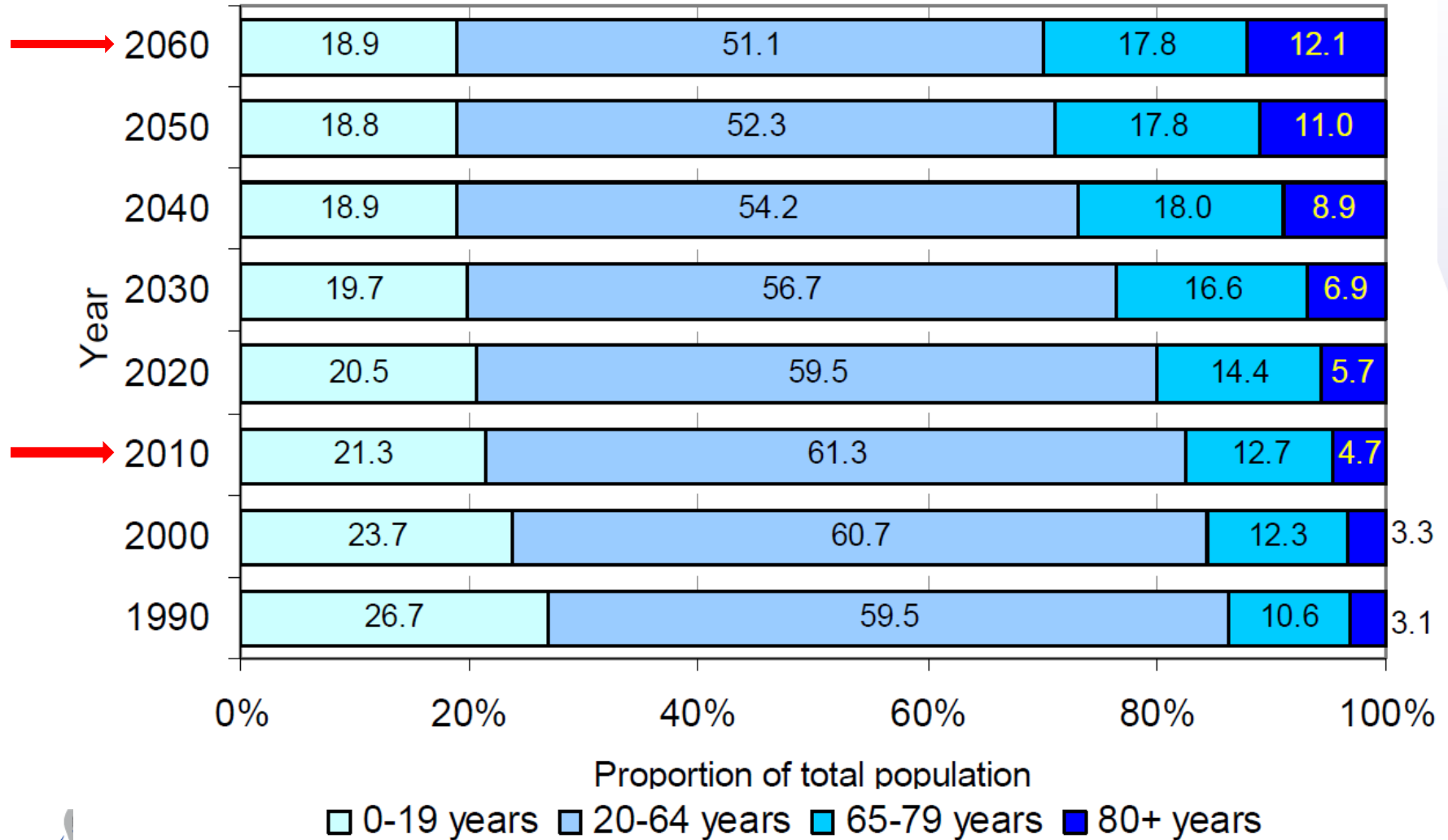
## Changing world of work:

- Ageing
- More smaller enterprises, in particular micro-enterprises
- Uncertain economic situation
- Plus the same challenges identified for OSH Strategy 2007-2012

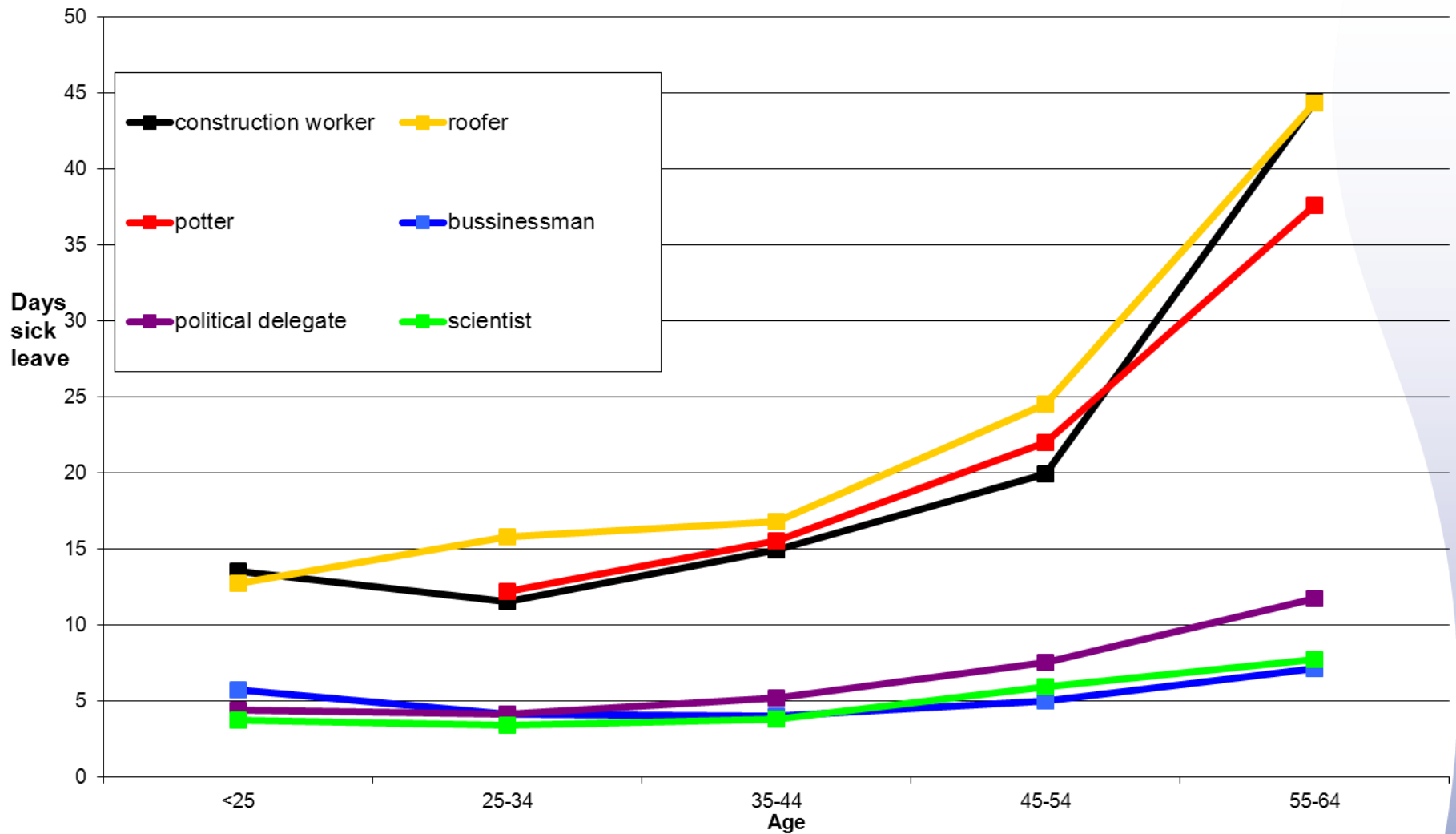
# A “top heavy” European population



# Fewer young and more older workers

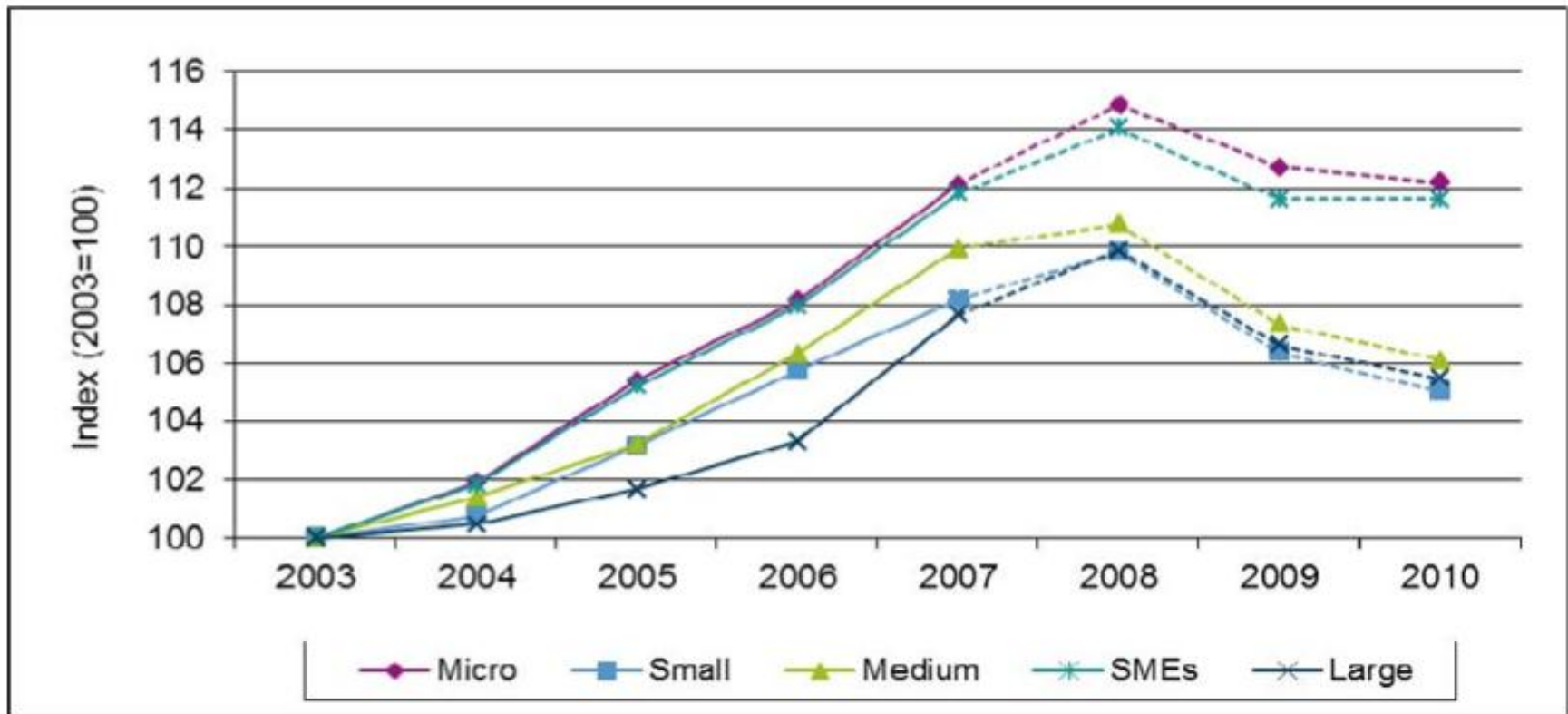


# Workability by age and occupation



# Changes in business patterns

Figure 2.2 Number of enterprises by size class, EU-27, 2003-2010 (2003=100)<sup>10</sup>



Source: Eurostat/National Statistics Offices of Member States/Cambridge Econometrics/Ecorys

# Content of the new strategy?

- The sustainable working life taking into account demographic change
- Prevention of occupational diseases
- MSDs and ergonomics
- Psychosocial issues and mental wellbeing
- New and emerging risks and industries (green jobs, nanotechnologies)
- Dealing with SMEs (help to perform better without imposing an unnecessary burden)
- Facilitate risk assessment and management
- Emphasise the economic benefits of good OSH
- Coherence between the workplace and wider society in identifying and addressing risks



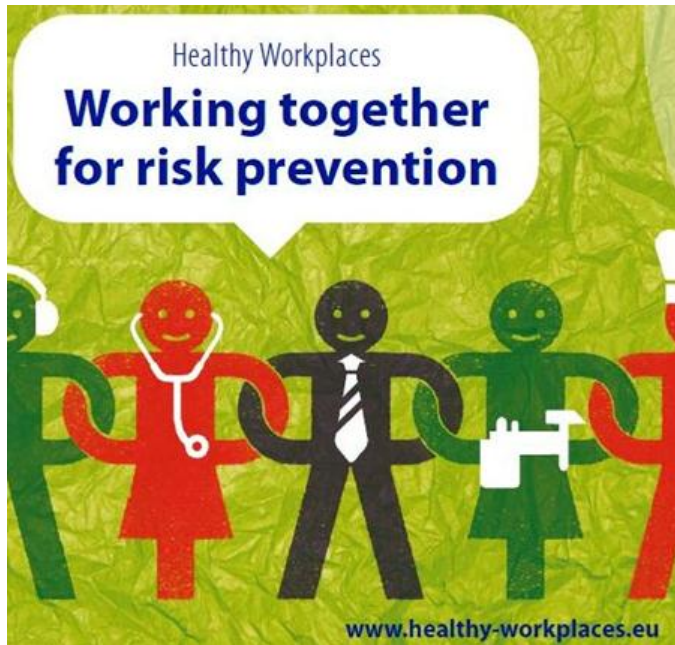
# EU-OSHA

- **EU-OSHA will develop long-term strategy based on existing strategies and approaches at European level**
- **Annual plans of work will derive from this strategy**
- **Key Agency activities continue to include:**
  - Providing data on OSH in Europe (ESENER)
  - New and emerging risk identification (ERO)
  - Analysis and sharing of transferable solutions (good practice)
  - Reducing the burden for SMEs (OiRA)
  - Raise awareness of hazards and solutions (European Healthy Workplaces Campaigns)

# Needs of small and micro-enterprises

Awareness raising

Practical support tools



# More information



<http://osha.europa.eu>