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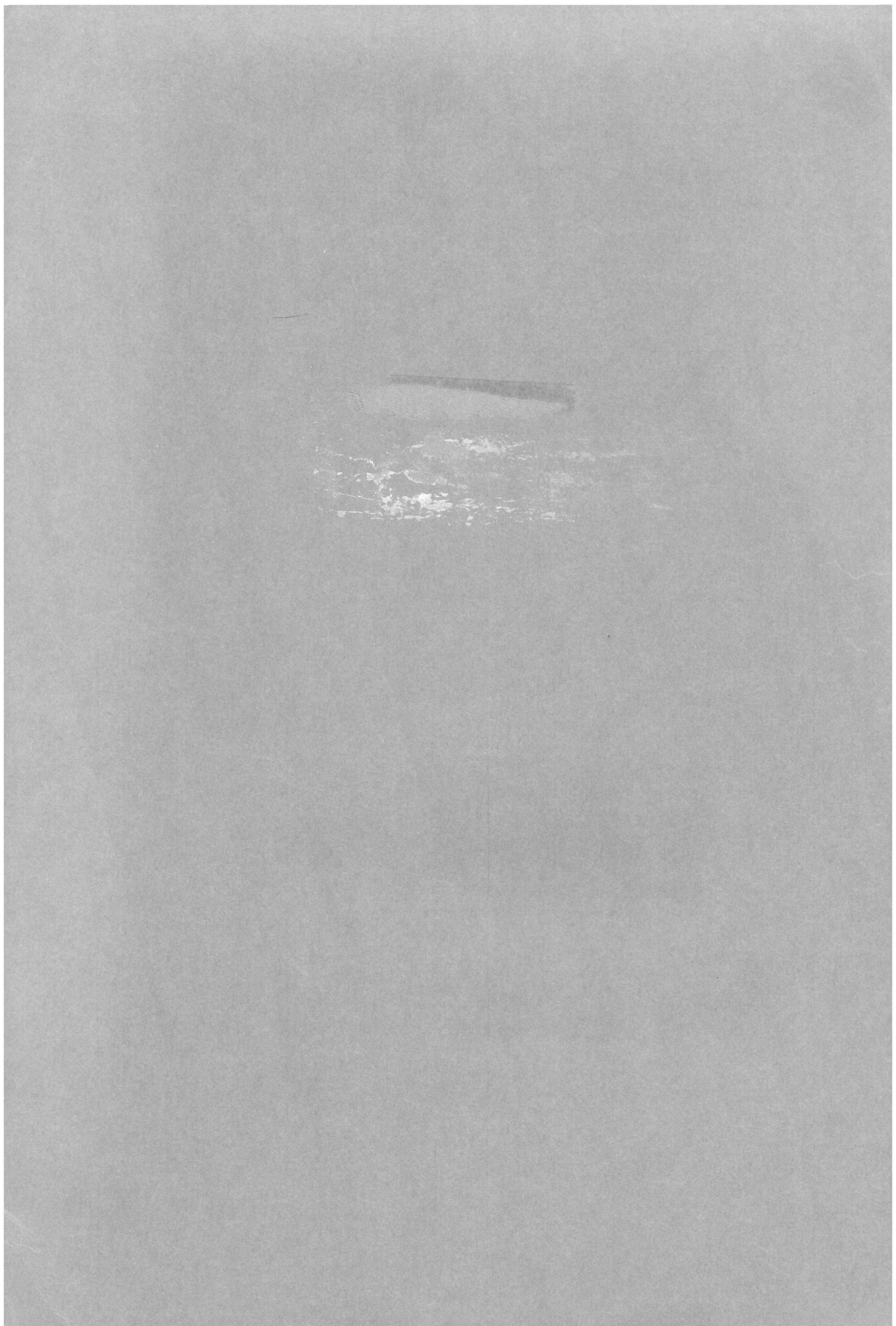
SYSTEMS FOR THE
MONITORING OF WORKING
CONDITIONS RELATING TO
HEALTH AND SAFETY:
EXTENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden



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Belgium
Germany
Luxembourg
The Netherlands



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**SYSTEMS FOR THE
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Belgium
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by
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Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden
(NIA)

Working Paper No.: WP/91/11/EN

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* To be added later; for short description see "Catalogue of systems for monitoring working conditions related to health and safety in the EC"

Introduction

This report contains the extensive descriptions of (some of) the monitoring systems on health and safety in use in the Benelux countries and Germany. As this exercise is meant to be a first attempt at describing such systems, we have not tried to be as complete as possible in covering "all" systems available. We merely intended to give an overall view of what kind of systems are now used to monitor working conditions and health aspects of work, or have been used in the past decade.

The project of which this report is a part, aimed at gathering information on monitoring systems throughout the EC member states. Similar reports about the other countries have therefore also been produced and are available at the Foundation.

Abstracts of all the gathered systems have also been compiled and put into a catalogue. This document will have to be updated and extended regularly to provide an ongoing "state of the art" view of the current monitoring systems used in the EC.

Before entering into the descriptions we will first give a general picture of the "working environment institutions" involved in the many aspects of working conditions and health in the Benelux and Germany.

In Belgium three major sources for the provision of data on occupational accidents can be discerned. Firstly data based on reports from the 'safety and labour-hygiene committees', covering about 75% of the population. Secondly the inspection of insurances and thirdly the National Institute for Statistics.

These three sources for statistical data are yearly coordinated by the NVVA (a national association for the prevention of occupational accidents). This national association has a documentation centre that gathers and disseminates information on problems of safety and working environment.

The scheme of benefits in Belgium in case of occupational accidents is a matter of civil law. In contrast with that the Fund for occupational diseases is a matter of public law and is as such under the rules of social security. This fund is the only provider of data on sickness statistics. These statistics are used for preventive purposes. Preventive policies are carried out furthermore by an extensive and effective network of occupational health services. Actions are taken to include smaller companies in these occupational health services in the nearby future.

A number of research institutes have carried out projects with the aim to inform and stimulate government as well as industry in their policies to improve working conditions. In this sense research was done on a.o. occupational accidents and occupational diseases of shift-workers, absence due to illness and influence of technological development on safety and occupational accidents.

In the Belgian situation there are no large-scale surveys conducted on working conditions and health of the working population.

In the Netherlands one of the major providers of some general aspects of information on working conditions is the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS). By means of large-scale surveys conducted by CBS there exists a more or less continuous flow of information on many aspects of life, among which certain indicators for working conditions. The bureau is in organisational terms a part of the ministry for economic affairs.

Due to specific organisation of the workers health insurance in the Netherlands a lot of information on workers health is collected by branch organisations which govern the benefit payments. These organisations are also the providers of the basic information on occupational accidents and diseases. This basic information is collected and stored at the ministry of social affairs and employment. The CBS is responsible for the publication of these data. Apart from these public bodies there consists a number of institutions (universities) and organisations which conduct research in the field of working conditions and work related health.

In Luxembourg there are two organisations that deal with the recording and reporting of occupational accidents and diseases. Firstly there is the 'Association d'Assurance contre les Accidents', a social security body, and secondly the 'Inspection du travail et des mines'. Because of the compulsory notifications of accidents and diseases by employers, both organisations are notified in occurring cases. The statistics produced by the insurance body are exhaustive, which means that all reported accidents and diseases are included. The data published by the Inspectorate are based on occurrences in the steel and mining industry and a more or less representative group of companies for other sectors. These statistics, which have been started in 1979, are aimed at creating a basis for the work of the Labour Inspection.

The German situation regarding the monitoring of working conditions is characterised by the existence of a variety of data sources and instruments as well as serious attempts to improve the utilization of these systems.

Traditionally, reported occupational accidents and injuries provide an important source of information on work places with safety risks. For many years the administrative data of compulsory accident insurance have been analysed and used for preventive purposes. Since the early eighties the government, research institutes and social security bodies stimulate projects to make better use of available social security data. They should be used optimal for the detection of work related diseases, epidemiological research on high risk jobs, and the improvement of health and safety prevention.

Working conditions of the entire work force are only irregularly investigated in this country. The two year Mikrozensus covers a restricted number of job characteristics (e.g. occupation, working time). In 1979 and in 1985/1986 a nation-wide survey was made, which mainly aimed to inquire about labour market mobility, educational and qualification aspects of the work force. Notwithstanding, the survey contains important indicators on working conditions (e.g. tasks, physical and mental aspects of the work place, tools and equipment applied). The next survey will be held in 1991-1992.

Three more instruments can be mentioned which may contribute to a better insight of some aspects of working conditions. The BAU (Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz) operates an information system on fatal occupational accidents, which contains information based on inspection reports of the Labour Inspectorate. Furthermore, the Technical Control Board Rheinland developed a system containing occupational health data from about 300.000 preventive medical examinations of workers. Finally, the integration of documentation systems has also been started a few years ago. Occupational associations (administering accidents insurance) started to integrate databases which are now separately operated, covering occupational diseases, asbestos exposed persons, substances and products, etc.

Systems for the Monitoring of Working Conditions
related to Health and Safety

BELGIUM

Extensive Descriptions

Rienk Prins, Frans Verboon

Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden
Amsterdam

5 September 1990

Occupational accidents statistics

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

"Statistiek van de arbeidsongevallen"
Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek (N.I.S.)
Leuvenseweg 44
1000 Brussel
Belgium

Telephone: 32 25 13 13 04

1.2 Institutional context

This institute is a part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
The N.I.S. processes the data as being delivered by the authorized insurance agencies.

1.3 General Outline

In the accident statistics an extensive overview is given of all accidents on and around the workplace of workers under the "Occupational Accidents Act". The accidents from and to the workplace are dealt with separately.

1.4 Origin and history

Since the introduction of the "Occupational Accidents Act" in 1971 the insurance agencies provide yearly information about occupational accidents to the N.I.S.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The general aim is information-gathering about risk-groups. On the basis of this information adjustments in policy can be made, by the Government as well as by the insurance agencies.

2.2 Intended users

Governmental bodies
Insurance agencies
Scientific research

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

Yearly report

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

In the statistic all accidents are recorded under the "Occupational Accidents Act", this means practically every occupational accident.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

The insurance agencies gather information from the companies about the accident and generate data about the duration of disability and the financial consequences. They then send this data to the N.I.S.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Working conditions:
 - occupation of injured person
 - sector of activity
 - size of company
 - material agent (cause)

Health indicators:
 - type of injury
 - location of injury
 - type of accident
 - duration of disability

3.3.2 Other variables

Age, gender, nationality, month of occurrence, financial consequences.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

A report is published yearly consisting of a series of tables. Furthermore a number of possible additional tables to be obtained is listed.

4.2 Accessibility

The reports can be obtained from the N.I.S. for a moderate amount.

4.3 Network integration ?

No network integration

4.4 Actual users and actual use

No information available

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

Because of the extensive overviews a good insight can be 1984 was published.

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

The abundance and type of information (accidents by occupation) seems to make an comparison with data from other countries possible.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

No information available.

Absence due to illness

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Afwezigheid wegens ziekte (research-report)
E. Henderickx
Faculteit van de Rechtsgeleerdheid
Rijksuniversiteit te Gent
Academy year 1984-1985
Belgium

1.2 Institutional context

University in Gent

1.3 General Outline

It concerned an empirical study on strategic behavior of workers in a number of companies. It was tried to asses the influence of several background variables on absence rates by way of structured data collection and statistical analysis.

1.4 Origin and history

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

To give an insight in the relative importance of sickness absence. This insight can contribute to the public discussion about the formulated problem.

2.2 Intended users

The participants of the public discussion about absence causes and costs, as the public service and social security agencies.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

One-time research

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

The data concern 1012 employees in 32 labour organisations.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

To obtain information on a large amount of variables a transversal survey design has been used. For this a structured questionnaire has been developed. The respondents have been approached through the personal departments of the selected companies.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Working conditions:

- temperature
- noise
- smell
- dust
- safety
- shiftwork
- workrate

Health indicators:

- perceived health
- absence proneness
- frequency of absence
- sickness duration

3.3.2 Other variables

Age, residence, length of service, education-level, used technologies, satisfaction-scales, status, social mobility.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

A one-time report

4.2 Accessibility

Open to the public.

4.3 Network integration ?

4.4 Actual users and actual use

No information available.

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

It is useful for similar research.

5.2 For what purposes?

See 5.1

5.3 How to improve it?

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

The data are from representative samples.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

General census and housing count (1981)

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Algemene volks- en woningtelling (1981)
Nationaal instituut voor de Statistiek (N.I.S.)
Leuvenseweg 44
1000 Brussel
Belgium

Telephone: 32-25131304

1.2 Institutional context

The institute is a part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

1.3 General Outline

Providing an overview of demographic characteristics of the population. Apart from the distribution of the population over men and women and workers and non-workers, for all administrative units of the country information about occupation, the position in the company, sector of economic activity and the weekly working time was gathered.

1.4 Origin and history

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

See 1.3

2.2 Intended users

The intended users are civil servants in the diverse levels of the countries Administration.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

A one-time research.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

The data concern all inhabitants of Belgium in 1981.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

Nationwide survey.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

- worker/non-worker
- occupation category
- sector of economic activity
- weekly working time

3.3.2 Other variables

Age, gender, residence

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

A one-time report

4.2 Accessibility

The report is open to the public.

4.3 Network integration ?

No network integration

4.4 Actual users and actual use

No information available

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

5.2 For what purposes?

5.3 How to improve it?

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

The data concern the whole population.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

No information available.

Systems for Monitoring Working Conditions
related to Health and Safety

GERMANY

Extensive Descriptions

Rienk Prins, Frans Verboon

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Amsterdam

5 September 1990

Micro-Census

I. General context and structures

1.1 Identification

Mikrozensus
Statistisches Bundesamt
Postfach 5528
6200 Wiesbaden
Germany

Telephone: 06121 - 751
Telefax: 06121 - 753425

1.2 Institutional context

1.3 General outline

Survey in German inhabitants providing information on population, employment and social security.

1.4 Origin and history

The Mikrozensus was firstly carried out in 1957, and with a few exceptions repeated yearly or every two years.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The Mikrozensus aims to provide continuous information on population and employment in years not covered by the general census.

2.2 Intended users

Data and analysis are provided for decision makers, social partners, labour market and social security experts, researchers.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

With some exceptions the Mikrozensus is carried out annually. The organisation of field work is carried out by statistical bureaus of the countries (Länder).

3.2 Methodology

The survey covers a representative 1% sample of the working age population which is legally obliged to provide information.

The 1% sample is yearly surveyed in the last week of April or first week of May. About 200.000 households are covered, containing about 600.000 persons which are interviewed by about 4.000 interviewers.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

The questionnaire contains a questions on sociodemographic characteristics (age, gender, nationality, etc.), work (employment), present job (sector, occupational status, normal and real working time, occupation), income and social security (receipt of benefits, etc.).

Additionally, in a supplementary questionnaire every two years some questions are included regarding health-issues (e.g. consumption of pharmaceuticals, chronic diseases, accidents, work incapacity, medical consultations).

IV. Output and users

Data from Mikrozensus are used by decision makers in several areas (employment, social security, health care). Numerous publications (books, articles) deal with developments in German work force, working conditions, etc. Data are further used for international overviews, research, etc.

V. Evaluation

Vis-à-vis working-conditions the restrictions of information are obvious. In 1989 two extra characteristics could be measured: "shift work" and "weekend work". Legal conditions limit the inclusion of a wider range of indicators on working-conditions. Consequently, the use of the data for the improvement of working-conditions is restricted.

Integrated information system on hazardous substances (GESTIS)

I. General context and structures

1.1 Identification

Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften
Alte Heerstraße 111
5205 St. Augustin 2
Germany

Telephone: 02241 - 23102
Telefax: 02241 - 231234

II. Missions and objectives

GESTIS offers information on chemical substances and products, on exposure to these substances at workplaces and on cases of occupational diseases. The system also provides background information in the form of literature references.

III. Description

GESTIS consists of four separate databases (substances and products (ZeSP), exposure data (MEGA-DOK), cases of occupational diseases (BK-DOK) and literature references. All of them are maintained by the central federation of the professional associations. Furthermore, databases containing special data material on exposure to asbestos, carcinogenic substances, hazardous substances and products on construction sites have been generated by different professional associations. They are integral parts of GESTIS.

Integration of all above-mentioned databases is possible by means of key fields containing, e.g. the product-code, substance-code, industrial branch-code, workplace-code or profession-code. The measuring services of the professional associations as well as special expert working groups provide the latest data material used to continuously update the databases.

IV. Output and users

GESTIS may be inquired to get details on e.g. correlations between occupational diseases and exposure to hazardous substances, statistics and trends of occupational health, statistics and trends of exposure data of typical workplaces in certain industrial branches and to obtain online-information on hazardous substances and products (first aid, toxicology, prevention, etc.). The integration of GESTIS thus ensures a link-up between different databases providing answers to all kinds of questions concerning occupational exposure, prevention and health.

Use is improved by restricting the scope of data materials available and limiting accessibility preferably to the statutory accident prevention and insurance institutions (in the following called "professional associations").

Data Bank Technical Control Board Rheinland

I. General context and structures

1.1 Identification

TüV Rheinland
Postfach 10 17 50
5000 Köln 1
Germany

Telephone: 0221 - 8060
Telefax: 0221 - 806114

1.2 Institutional context

As one of its tasks of the Technical Control Board, Rheinland offers occupational health services to employers in the Rhein-Ruhr-area. To that end fifteen occupational health centres are in operation, covering about 190,000 employees in 780 firms.

1.3 General outline

Medical examinations carried out are being compiled into a data base and analysed for preventive purposes.

1.4 Origin and history

The system has been started in 1982. In 1989 the system contained data from about 375,000 examinations.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

Data are yearly compiled and analysed to allow an insight into the work-relatedness of health complaints and into the effectiveness of health and safety protecting measures at an individual level.

2.2 Intended users

The information provided by the system should allow occupational physicians to evaluate health-related measures, improve diagnostics, inform employers on health-related problems in personnel (aggregated level).

Further data could be used for epidemiological studies to detect health risks in occupational groups.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

Since 1982 for every year medical examination forms have been compiled in a data base.

3.2 Methodology

Bio-medical examination outcomes as well as questionnaire data on work stress, health complaints, etc., are recorded on a standard form continuously entered in the data system.

3.3 Indicators

Several aspects of the work place, work stress as well as workers characteristics are measured:

- age, gender of employee;
- health complaints, diagnosis, laboratory outcomes;
- job/profession;
- work stress (physical, mental, social), working time, job requirements, work place.

IV. Output and users

An important function of the system is the provision of information for the occupational physician re-examining employees (comparative and evaluative purposes). Furthermore, a start has been made with the analysis of aggregated data to detect work-related health risks in selected job groups or work places.

Vis-à-vis the abundance of materials selection of aggregated data are available for research purposes.

V. Critical evaluation

The system holders indicated that the organisation of the system may need reconsideration. Valuable socio-medical data are available, but require some programme to allow full use for preventive purposes.

Data Base Fatal Occupational accidents

I. General context and structures

1.1 Identification

Erhebung tödliche Arbeitsunfälle
Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz (BAU)
Postfach 170202
4600 Dortmund 17
Germany

Telephone: 0231 - 17631
Telefax: 0231 - 1763454

1.2 Institutional context

The Federal Institute for Occupational Safety yearly processes and compiles data derived from reports of Labour Inspectors on fatal occupational accidents.

1.3 General outline

The information on fatal accidents in the private sector is analysed and reported annually and provides data for research purposes vis-à-vis prevention and safety matters.

1.4 Origin and history

The project started in 1978 with the development of a questionnaire. This questionnaire is nation-wide used by labour inspectors to describe fatal accidents. Publications were made yearly, but recently only for longer periods.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The system aims at the detection of high risk jobs, work places or sectors with a special interest in fatal electricity accidents and accidents involving dangerous substances.

2.2 Intended users

The insights based on the analysis of fatal accidents should contribute to the improvement of prevention, and provide cues for revision or development of (legal) safety regulations. Furthermore, the

questionnaire should give an informative structure to the investigation of the labour inspector.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

Yearly reports

3.2 Methodology

The questionnaires are provided by the Labour Inspectorate and processed and compiled at the Federal Institute. Fatal accidents are statistically described and specific analyses may be performed (e.g. regarding specific work places or sectors).

3.3 Indicators

The questionnaires cover several aspects of fatal accidents, namely:

- employee (age, gender, education, job);
- firm (sector, size);
- tasks performed, personal protection;
- tools, instruments, machines involved;
- specific risks: dangerous substances, electricity, deteriorated work place;
- measures taken (including first aid);
- description of accident process.

IV. Output and users

Outcomes of the analysis were published yearly, but since 1985 every four years. Statistical analysis were focussed on person-related, firm-related, job-related and prevention-related characteristics of fatal accidents. Also sector-specific overviews were provided and compared over years.

Several proposals to improve safety regulations could be formulated, which were partly based on case studies. The data base is available for research purposes.

V. Critical evaluation

Several aspects of fatal accidents have been described and analysed satisfactorily, so that this is no longer repeated every year. Revision of the questionnaire is pending to match changes in technology, which should be adequately covered in this instrument.

Qualification and work survey

I. General context and structures

1.1 Identification

Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (IABB)
der Bundesanstalt für Arbeit
Postfach
8500 Nürnberg 1
Germany

Telephone: 0911 - 171
Telefax: 0911 - 172123

1.2 Institutional context

The IABB conducts studies and inquiries in the field of employment, labour market, qualification, rehabilitation, etc. and operates within the Federal Bureau for Employment.

1.3 General outline

Irregularly nation-wide surveys are held to investigate (un)employment issues. The qualification and work survey was held in co-operation with the Federal Institute for Occupational Training.

1.4 Origin and history

The first survey was held in 1979, the second in 1985/1986. They originate in the need for more and specific information as census data showed many restrictions.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The survey aimed at obtaining an insight in technological changes qualification and mobility processes in the labour market. The information is provided for decision making purposes in the field of qualification and education, employment policy and working-conditions.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

The inquiry is carried out on an irregular basis. The next survey is planned for 1991 or 1992.

3.2 Methodology

The survey covered a representative sample of about 26,300 workers and aimed at obtaining an insight in labour market mobility, qualification levels, etc. Partly some aspects of working conditions were measured: profession, job content, work place, tools and instruments, working conditions, use of protective equipment, etc. Specific working conditions covered were:

- Manual transport/lifting over 20Kg
- Work in atmosphere of smoke, dust, gas, vapors
- Work in cold, hot, damp conditions, in water, air draughts
- Work in a noisy environment
- Work bent over, squatting, kneeling, lying; work above head
- Standing work
- Work with oils, fats, dirt, rubbish
- Work with strong shaking, knocking, vibrations
- Work in dazzling light, bad/insufficient light
- Handling of dangerous substances, observance of safety regulations, use of protective clothing
- Night work/shift work
- External control regulations
- Pressure for time allowed, responsibility, concentration
- Variety of tasks, pressure for innovation
- Disturbances, work impediments

IV. Output and users

The abundance of material provides information for separate inquiries. In some articles first outcomes have been published both dealing with description of labour market processes or experienced working-conditions, as well as with technical, methodological issues (e.g. typology of work places). Both public authorities, social partners and researchers make use of the information.

V. Critical evaluation

The survey is considered to be an extensive instrument to provide valuable information for decision makers and researchers. The material has only partly been explored. It is still to be decided whether psychological aspects of work and working-conditions (e.g. job satisfaction) should be covered more fully in the next version.

Occupational accident and diseases statistics

I. General context and structures

1.1 Identification

Hauptverband der Gewerbliche Berufsgenossenschaften
Postfach 150140
5300 Bonn 1
Germany

Telephone: 02241 - 23101
Telefax: 02241 - 231333

1.2 Institutional context

German occupational accident and disease insurance is administered by occupational associations. The central Federation (Hauptverband) of these associations annually publishes statistics based on (a sample of) reported occupational accidents and diseases.

1.3 General outline

The statistical overviews inform about trends, reported causes, rehabilitation measures taken, claim rewards, etc. Furthermore, statistical analyses are carried out on specific subjects.

1.4 Origin and history

The publication of statistical overviews on occupational accidents and injuries is compulsory. In 1972 a new recording and reporting system has been developed. In due course several alterations have been made due to changes in recording conventions or information needs.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The analysis and publication of statistics on occupational accidents and diseases not only aim at financial purposes. The overviews and special studies are particularly made for use in prevention, rehabilitation, education and advisory tasks of the associations. From the beginning it was clear that the system could only in a limited way give insight in accident causes.

2.2 Intended users

The system should provide information to support and improve preventive activities at work place, firm and sectoral level, by means of education, safety regulations, etc.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

Annually some standard statistical overviews are published. Irregularly specific analysis are carried out, containing a more detailed consideration of safety aspects (e.g. as to sectors, causes, fatal accidents, trends in reported or recognized occupational diseases).

3.2 Methodology

Statistics on reported accidents are based on a representative 10% sample, whereas occupational diseases statistics are based on the entire population of cases reported and/or compensated. Occupational accidents are recorded by the employer on a form containing questions as to the employee, accident, work place, measures taken, etc. The form is sent to the association which administers the benefit or compensation claim. A sample of reported injuries is yearly codified and entered in the data base at the Federation institute.

3.3 Indicators

The recording and reporting system covers four aspects of the accident:

- firm,
- employee (name, age, gender, occupation),
- injury (type, place, actions taken, etc.),
- accident process (work place, machine, protective equipment used, etc.).

IV. Output and users

Next to a yearly publication with elementary statistical overviews some articles are published reporting on specific aspects.

The data yearly compiled in the system are only accessible for Federation experts. In special cases data are made available for researchers outside the institution.

Several categories of users may be discerned. Within the occupational association statistics are being used in safety inspections, accident investigations for educational purposes, or preparation of safety measures. Within firms accident statistics may fulfill comparative and

evaluative purposes for safety experts safety committees and occupational physicians. The data system has only a secondary function for epidemiological research purposes.

V. Critical evaluation

The system contains basic information on several aspects of accidents and occupational diseases, which are considered to be useful for preventive purposes. The reliability of the system is considered to be on a high level. Improvements have been made in the basic recording form and the codification of the accident process. Notwithstanding, vis-à-vis changes in production technology the restrictions of reporting systems based on employee data are becoming obvious.

Systems for Monitoring Working Conditions

related to Health and Safety

LUXEMBOURG

Extensive Descriptions

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Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden
Amsterdam

5 September 1990

**Statistic of occupational Accidents and Diseases
(The Labour Inspectorate)**

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Statistique des Accidents
Inspection du Travail
26, rue Zithe
L-2763 Luxembourg
Luxembourg

1.2 Institutional context

The Labour Inspectorate in Luxembourg is a part of the Ministry of Labour.

1.3 General Outline

Because of the mandatory notification of occupational accidents and diseases The Labour Inspectorate receives all data on accidents and diseases.

1.4 Origin and history

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The general aim of this statistic is provide information for the development of a basis for the controlling and preventive tasks of the Inspectorate.

2.2 Intended users

Policy makers, Labour Inspectorate, scientific research.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

A yearly report is produced

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

Not all data received by the Labour Inspectorate are used in the creation of the statistic. Except for the mining and steel-industry, from which all accidents are included, only accidents from a representative number of companies of the remaining sectors are included.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

Companies are required to inform the Labour Inspectorate about occupational accidents.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Relevant indicators are: frequencies by branch, injured part of body, absenteeism.

3.3.2 Other variables

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

Yearly reports are produced.

4.2 Accessibility

Information can be obtained through the reports.

4.3 Network integration ?

No network integration

4.4 Actual users and actual use

No information was available about the actual use of the data.

**Statistics of Occupational Accidents and Diseases
(The insurance Association)**

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Compte Rendu de l'Exercice 19..
Association d'Assurance contre les Accidents
125, Route d'Esch
L-2976 Luxembourg
Luxembourg

1.2 Institutional context

The 'Association d'Assurance' (insurance association) is a public body which is under the surveillance of the Government. It's general assembly is nominated by the Ministry of Labour.

1.3 General Outline

The statistics are produced by the association, which is responsible for the recording and reporting on occupational accidents and occupational diseases and their proper treatment in terms of benefit payments. Practically all working persons in Luxembourg are covered by this insurance system.

1.4 Origin and history

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The association is responsible for the recording and reporting on occupational accidents and occupational diseases and their proper treatment in terms of benefit payments.

2.2 Intended users

The Insurance Association, policy makers.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

A yearly report.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

Almost all employees are covered by this insurance system; exceptions are however very rare.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

Because of the mandatory notification of occupational accidents and diseases the insurance agency receives all data on accidents and diseases.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Relevant indicators: position in company, causes of accidents, sort of injury, branch.

3.3.2 Other variables

Age-group, gender, nationality, civil status, financial consequences.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

The output consist of a yearly report with a number of tables.

4.2 Accessibility

Information can be obtained through the reports.

4.3 Network integration ?

No network integration.

4.4 Actual users and actual use

No information was available about the actual use of the data.

Systems for Monitoring Working Conditions

related to Health and Safety

THE NETHERLANDS

Extensive Descriptions

Rienk Prins, Frans Verboon

Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden
Amsterdam

5 September 1990

Labour Force Survey

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Enquête Beroepsbevolking
Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS)
Hoofdafdeling Gezondheidsstatistieken
Postbus 959
2270 AZ Voorburg
Netherlands

Telephone: 070 - 694341

Telefax: 070 - 877429

1.2 Institutional context

The CBS is a Government institution, part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs

1.3 General Outline

The survey provides information about the working population of 15 years and older. The population is described by characteristics as gender, age, marital status, province, working time, economic sector and occupational class.

1.4 Origin and history

This survey is the successor of the "Arbeidskrachtentelling", it appeared the first time with the 1987 results.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

Providing information concerning developments on the labour-market (working and not-working labour force over 14 years old).

2.2 Intended users

The intended users are the Government institutions, scientific researchers and in general all the subscribers.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

Every two year

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

The whole working population over 14 years old.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

The respondents in the sample provide the data. The sample consists of 132.000 addresses each year spread over 12 months. The respondents are visited by specially trained interviewers of the CBS. The CBS then processes the collected data.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

- Description of job: wage-earners, self-employed, etc.
- Economic sector of activity of company
- temporary/steady job
- reason of temporary job
- work content: main activities
- managing activities (number of subordinates)
- actual working time
- working time according to contract
- number of days-off
- need for part-time/full-time
- reason part-time
- size of company
- working outside main job

3.3.2 Other variables

The demographic characteristics of all the members of the household and their place in it. Furthermore data are recorded concerning the persons in the household over 14 year old concerning their position on the labour-market in the past 12 months. Finally the community where the workplace is situated is recorded.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

Monthly, quarterly and yearly reports are produced. These are mainly series of tables. On request more extensive material is available.

4.2 Accessibility

The main figures are available to the public through the reports. Normally more extensive material is available, but the cost are relatively high and the conditions strict.

4.3 Network integration ?

There is no network-integration yet, due to privacy regulations and the psychological "fear-factor" with the data-providers. However such an integration is considered for the future.

4.4 Actual users and actual use

Potentially a large group of users, mainly civil servants and researchers. The actual use especially by policy makers is (probably) limited.

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

The instrument is very appropriate for the description of a population. As far as working conditions are concerned only a limited amount of physical or mental load indicators are described. The instrument does not give an insight in "consequences" of working conditions in terms of the (objective/subjective) health situation of the working population.

5.2 For what purposes?

Policy research in general, for instance if population size is requested for the description of "risk-groups".

5.3 How to improve it?

Faster publication of data, to ensure constant up-to-date data.

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

A high potential for generalisation.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

The instrument provides a lot of information, but due to bureaucratic procedures a lot of this information is only in a limited way available to scientific research.

Life-Situation Survey

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

De Leefsituatie van de Nederlandse Bevolking (19..)
 Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek
 Hoofdafdeling Gezondheidsstatistiek
 Postbus 959
 2270 AZ Voorburg
 Netherlands

Telephone: 070 - 694341

Telefax: 070 - 877429

1.2 Institutional context

The CBS is a Government institution, part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs

1.3 General Outline

The survey provides information on the life-situation in various parts of society, the experience and valuation of the life-situation and the use of collective means.

1.4 Origin and history

Results are published every 3 year since 1974. It was set up on request by the Social-Cultural Planning Agency. A strong need existed for information on the experience of wellbeing and the use of social care institutions.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The general aim is to contribute to the "development of a coherent vision on social policy" and furthermore it provides a view on the degree of general wellbeing.

One of the central elements is the provision of information about the connection of the factual and perceived life-situation of citizens.

2.2 Intended users

Governmental agencies, the Social Cultural Planning Agency and scientific researchers.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

The survey is done every 3 year.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

General survey of a sample of the Dutch population (over 17 years old) of round 4.000 persons.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

It is a constantly changing sample from the community registers.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Working conditions:

- shiftwork
- noise/stench
- physical load
- danger
- workrate
- monotony
- working level

Health indicators:

- perceived health (VOEG-scale)
- use of medicin / smoking / alcohol
- use of medical facilities
- jobsatisfaction
- perceived promotion-opportunities

3.3.2 Other variables

Age, gender, urbanisation level, education level, income (of head of household), social group (status).

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

Monthly, quarterly and yearly reports are produced. These are mainly series of (more-dimensional) tables. On request more extensive material is available

4.2 Accessibility

The main figures are available to the public through the reports. Normally more extensive material is available, but the cost are relatively high and the conditions strict.

4.3 Network integration ?

There is no network-integration yet, due to privacy regulations and the psychological "fear-factor" with the data-providers. However such an integration is considered for the future.

4.4 Actual users and actual use

Potentially a large group of users, mainly civil servants and researchers. The actual use especially by policy makers is (probably) limited.

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

The instrument provides a lot of information about the "independent" and "dependent" indicators. It creates the possibility of further analysis of consequences of working conditions for the health situation.

5.2 For what purposes?

The development of policies concerning the quality of working conditions and the social care institutions

5.3 How to improve it?

To avoid the use of out-of-date data the publication of the research results should be speeded up. Furthermore it would be useful to facilitate an easy use of the data by other scientific researchers.

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

A high potential for generalisation.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

The instrument provides a lot of information, but due to bureaucratic procedures a lot of this information is only in a limited way available to scientific research.

Sickness Absence - Informationssystem (ZVIZ)

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Ziekteverzuim-registratie-systeem (ZVIS)
Nederlands Instituut voor Arbeidsomstandigheden (NIA)
De Boelelaan 30-32
1083 HJ Amsterdam
Netherlands

Telephone: 020 - 5498611
Telefax: 020 - 462310

1.2 Institutional context

The ZVIS is a sickness-absence registration system developed within the frame of the NIA, an institute which concerns itself with many different aspects of working conditions. In order to maintain this registration system NIA is yearly subsidized by various institutions (Government, Social Security Organisations, etc.). Further NIA conducts various activities (training, advice, research) for the subsidized and market sector.

1.3 General Outline

It concerns a registration-system in which round 150 companies participate. Of each worker a number of characteristics is registered among which are also indicators for working conditions and health. One of the main goals of ZVIS is to provide the companies participating in the registration system with periodic detailed overviews of their own level of sickness-absence and of relevant comparative (branch) data.

Furthermore ZVIS serves as a basis for a network to determine national and sectoral levels of sickness-absence and provides an important data source for social scientific research.

1.4 Origin and history

In 1976 the CCOZ foundation was created. This was a scientific research institute with the main focus on sickness absence and disability. Part of the institutes activities was the maintenance of an absence registration system. In 1989 this institute has merged with the Safety Institute (VI) and was named NIA (see 1.1): the Dutch Institute for Working Conditions.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

To maintain and develop a growing database and to provide information for:

- companies to develop social management
- social scientific research
- the production of a periodic thermometer: to assess the level of sickness absence

2.2 Intended users

- Management/Personal managers of participating companies
- NIA-researchers (or other researchers)
- All other interested parties in the absence and disability issues.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

For the participating companies there is a possibility to receive monthly or quarterly and yearly an overview of their own absence-figures and of reference groups.

Every 3 months an assessment of the national sickness absence level is published in cooperation with several other bodies active in this field.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

The system consists of round 150 companies from the industrial sector as well as institutions from the non-profit sector. The population consists of all the workers employed with these companies and institutions.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

The participating companies provide a constant delivery of notifications concerning sickness, recovery and accidents of their employees. These notifications are processed by NIA into the database. The composition of the panel of participating companies is for a large part based on a theoretical sample of the total number of companies and institutions in the Netherlands.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Working conditions:

- working time
- shiftwork
- occupational level
- management level

Health indicators:

- sickness absence indices (percentage, frequency and duration)
- accident figures

3.3.2 Other variables

Age, gender, marital status, nationality, educational level.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

On the basis of ZVIS-data combined with absence data from some other sources (Social Security Agencies) every three months a representative view is provided of the national level of sickness-absence.

Scientific reports about research based on the ZVIS-database are regularly published, such as yearly analyses of absence characteristics and absence trends.

4.2 Accessibility

Under very strict conditions non-NIA social researchers are allowed limited access to the ZVIS-database. These strict limitations ensure the protection of the privacy of companies and employees, as is now required by law.

4.3 Network integration ?

No network integration.

4.4 Actual users and actual use

In view of the possibilities of the database the actual use could be extended, internally as well as externally. Outside NIA the database is only sporadically used by researchers.

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

Very useful to investigate several relations concerning sickness absence and several other registered variables. The system provides participating companies information to optimize their social policies.

5.2 For what purposes?

To generate data interesting on a macro-level (social security system) as well as the provision of data relevant for individual companies.

5.3 How to improve it?

Extension of the number of participants especially in the public sector.

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

There is a constant effort to keep the panel as representative as possible by a selective approach of potential participants.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

CBS - Occupational Accidents Statistics

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Ongevallenstatistiek
Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS)
Hoofdafdeling Gezondheidsstatistiek
Postbus 959
2270 AZ Voorburg
Netherlands

Telephone: 070 - 694341

Telefax: 070 - 877429

1.2 Institutional context

The Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) is responsible for the production of the statistics on occupational accidents and diseases. The CBS is a Government institution, in organisational terms belonging to the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

1.3 General Outline

The statistic on occupational accidents and diseases provides an overview of accident/disease related indices split up by several background variables. The statistic is based on all reported occupational accidents and diseases.

1.4 Origin and history

The statistic was created in 1967 to gain an insight in the number of occupational accidents within each occupational insurance agency.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The general aim of this statistic is to provide information concerning the material accident causes; the final goal is the provision of a framework for preventive policies.

2.2 Intended users

Mainly the Directorate General for Labour of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the labour Inspection and scientific researchers.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

A yearly report (in 2 parts)

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

- all economic sectors
- the total working population

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

In the companies accident notification-forms are used to describe the accident (sometimes the occupational insurance agency does this). These forms are then processed by personal of the Directorate General. The processed data are then transferred to CBS, which creates a yearly statistic.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

- occupational insurance agency
- sector of economic activity
- material causes of accidents
- incidence of accidents
- frequency of accidents
- sort of injury
- probable absence duration
- occupational illnesses

3.3.2 other variables

Age, gender, foreign worker.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

Publications concerning these data appear in the 'Maandstatistiek Gezondheid' (a monthly CBS-publication) and in a yearly report in two parts.

In addition more detailed information can be obtained from the Labour Directorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

4.2 Accessibility

The main figures are available to the public through the reports. Normally more extensive material is available, but the cost are relatively high and the conditions strict.

The original raw data are kept by the Directorate General and can be obtained under certain conditions.

4.3 Network integration ?

There is no network-integration yet, due to privacy regulations and the psychological "fear-factor" with the data-providers. However such an integration is considered for the future.

4.4 Actual users and actual use

The users of these statistics and detailed information are mainly the Labour Directorate, the Labour Inspection and scientific researchers. The actual use of the accident statistics on the policy making level is however limited.

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

In principle the data can be used to set up preventive policies, for instance to design regulations to ensure the safety of workers in specific workplaces.

5.2 For what purposes?

See 5.1

5.3 How to improve it?

The statistic is somewhat out-of-date, therefore a new classification of causes is currently considered. Furthermore an overview of accident-risks for specific occupations is missing, this is due to the inability to determine precise occupations on the basis of the current accident notification-form.

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

The content of the statistic should be tuned more to the specific wishes of potential users, for instance through introduction of the variable occupation.

Health Survey "The Netherlands Oké" (1981)

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

'Leeft Nederland Oké'
De Stichting Nederland Oké (in collaboration with
the department of Social Health of the University of Limburg)
Postbus 520
3700 AM Zeist
Netherlands

1.2 Institutional context

As a co-operation between the University of Limburg and the foundation 'Nederland Oké' research has been conducted on several aspects of health in the Netherlands, on the occasion of the 'National Health week' in the summer of 1981.

1.3 General Outline

In this research the focus was on the experience of and attitudes towards health and health behaviour of the Dutch population. The report is based on an extensive questionnaire about health and ways of living.

1.4 Origin and history

This was a one-time research as part of national health manifestation in 1981.

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

In this research the focus was on the experience of and attitudes (value patterns) towards health and health behaviour of the Dutch population and certain specific part-populations. Furthermore it was tried to show a relation between experiences and views about health and the way of living.

2.2 Intended users

No specific target group but the researchers stressed the importance of the results for developing policies concerning health education and publicity and preventive healthcare.

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

One-time research

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

The research dealt with 4 samples:

- population sample; aged 21 to 64 (N = 1250)
- education-sector sample (N = 250)
- healthcare-sector (N = 250)
- sample of non-active population (disabled, pensioners, unemployed; N = 250)

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

The datacollection was carried out by means of structured questionnaires by a specialized agency, the analysis and reporting was done by researchers of the University of Limburg.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

- occupation
- general wellbeing
- perceived health (VOEG-scale)
- sickness behaviour
- medical consumption
- use of alcohol
- smoking habits
- nutrition
- physical exercise
- notions about health (value patterns)

3.3.2 Other variables

Age, gender, socio-economic status.

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

The first report about this research has been published in 1981. Later reports have discussed the outcome in more detail. No information was available about the influence of these reports.

4.2 Accessibility

The reports are public, the raw data are not accessible.

4.3 Network integration ?

4.4 Actual users and actual use

See 4.1

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

The instrument provides the opportunity to study the relation between a number of indicators (see 3.3).

5.2 For what purposes?

It provides information for health-education and prevention.

5.3 How to improve it?

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

The survey consisted of a series of representative samples.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

Personal-Force Statistic (Health-Sector)

I. General context and structure

1.1 Identification:

Statistiek Personeelssterkte
Nationaal Ziekenhuisinstituut (NZI)
Oudlaan 4
Postbus 9697
3506 GR Utrecht
Netherlands

Telephone: 030 - 739317

Telefax: 030 - 739438

1.2 Institutional context

The "Statistiek Personeelssterkte" is produced by the National Hospital Institute (NZI). The NZI carries out applied scientific research on behalf of the intramural healthcare and related sectors. The institute supports policy developments on the level of the National Hospital Council as well as on the level of specific institutions.

1.3 General Outline

In the yearly statistic a great number of aspects of the work force in the intramural healthcare is dealt with. Furthermore attention is given to turnover and sickness absence.

1.4 Origin and history

This statistic is published since 1973 (for several sub-sectors some years later).

II. Missions and objectives

2.1 General aim

The aim of this statistic is to gather and disseminate information for policy purposes, concerning capacity and personal planning on the level of institutes as well as higher levels. This statistic provides among other things insight in the development of sickness absence levels of the employed.

2.2 Intended users

- National Hospital Council
- Management of hospitals.
- Health Department

III. Description

3.1 Periodicity

For every category of intramural institutions (general hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, etc.) there is yearly report produced.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Field of survey

The accumulated data are related to practically all the healthcare institutions in the Netherlands.

3.2.2 Organisation and technique

The data are gathered through a yearly survey held under all institutions. The data are then processed by the NZI.

3.3 Indicators

3.3.1 Basic indicators

Working conditions:

- occupation
- fulltime/parttime

Health indicators:

- sickness absence percentage, frequency and average duration

3.3.2 Other variables

Size of institution

IV. Output and users

4.1 Types of products and their influence

See 3.1

4.2 Accessibility

No acces to other parties

4.3 Network integration ?

No network integration

4.4 Actual users and actual use

The data are used on several different policy levels.

V. Critical analysis

5.1 Is it useful?

Yes

5.2 For what purposes?

To provide information for personal planning and the development of social policies.

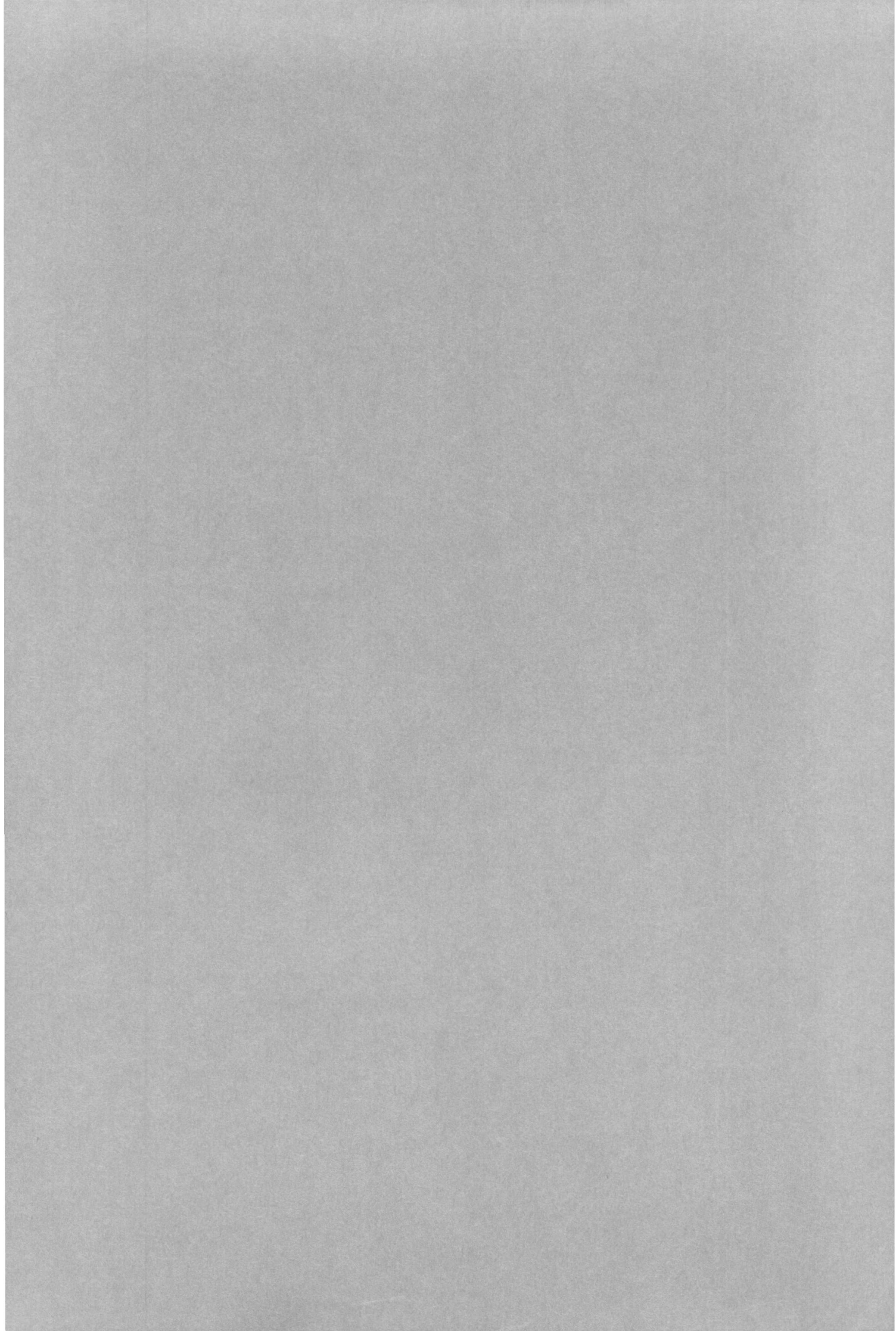
5.3 How to improve it?

5.4 Potential for generalisation?

It concerns a sector specific instrument.

5.5 Lack of connection between function and needs?

The instrument is developed on the basis of specific needs. This means that the needs are closely served by what the instrument has to offer.





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