

National strategies mapping

Country overview

BULGARIA

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1. Basic information	<p>Bulgarian document: Национална програма за безопасност и здраве при работа 2018-2020¹</p> <p>English document: National Programme for Occupational Safety and Health, 2018-2020 (NP OSH 2018-2020)²</p> <p>Former strategies:</p> <p>Национална програма по безопасност и здраве при работа (НПБЗР) 2016-2018³</p> <p>Стратегия за безопасност и здраве при работа 2008 - 2012 г.⁴</p> <p>Национална програма по безопасност и здраве при работа 2014 година⁵</p> <p>Национална програма по безопасност и здраве при работа - 2013 г.⁶</p>
2. Background and the perceived problem	<p>Over the last few years the efforts have been focused on practical enforcement in the country. Considerable progress has been made on ensuring occupational health and safety for workers because of the purposeful policy pursued by the government and the social partners.</p> <p>The following can be added to the positive findings from the application of the occupational safety and health legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most of the requirements and principles for ensuring health and safety at work contained in the Health and Safety at Work Act are applied in practice. ▪ Labour inspectors report that there is evidence of general improvement in the activities for ensuring occupational safety and health in the country. ▪ The European health and safety at work standards are a goal but also an achievement for many enterprises.

¹ <https://www.mlsp.government.bg/ckfinder/userfiles/files/dokumenti/strategii/NPBZR1820.doc>

² https://www.mlsp.government.bg/ckfinder/userfiles/files/TPOOUT/EN_TPOOUT%3DNORMATIVE%20DOCUMENTS/NPBZR1820EN.pdf

³ http://ncphp.government.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=265&catid=127&Itemid=527&lang=bg

⁴ <http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=457>

⁵ <http://www.strategy.bg/strategicdocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=901>

⁶ <http://www.strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=859>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of enterprises investing in safe technologies and working equipment is constantly rising. ▪ Considerable experience has been gained in preparing risk assessments and this has effect on the quality of assessments. The share of enterprises with implemented programmes for eliminating and minimising the production risks is increasing. ▪ Many enterprises have in place developed and approved internal statutory instruments – regulations on internal working procedures, work safety rules and instructions, wage organisation rules, etc. <p>The range of enterprises having occupational health services for their workers has been extended.</p> <p>Despite the upward trend in the number of enterprises which do fulfil their obligations to ensure occupational safety and health for their workers, the economic and social changes give rise to new challenges for employers, as well as for the entire system of ensuring occupational safety and health. In this context, the focus in the next period should be on improving the work of prevention services which are the most direct contributors to the working conditions of every workplace. It is also necessary to change the existing system for medical surveillance of workers, taking into account the changes planned in the medical assessment and workability assessment system, as well as to envisage measures to enhance the capacity of the relevant bodies and services concerned by the problem.</p>
3. Main characteristics and objectives of the OSH strategy (activity plan)	<p>Strategic Objective: Improving the occupational safety and health of every worker and every workplace</p> <p>Priority areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving the application of the OSH legislation 2. Prevention of occupational risks, including new and emerging risks; 3. Prevention of occupational diseases and occupational accidents.
4. Details of the strategy and activity plan	<p>Abbreviations used in the action plan:</p> <p>BAMI: Bulgarian Association of the Metallurgical Industry BBCMB: Bulgarian Branch Chamber – Machine Building CHRDRI: Centre for Human Resources Development and Regional Initiatives ECHA: European Chemicals Agency EEA: Environment Executive Agency FSPP: Fire Safety and Protection of the Population GLI EA: General Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency LC: Labour Code MD: Ministry of Defence ME: Ministry of Economy</p>

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	<p>MEEn: Ministry of Energy MEW: Ministry of Environment and Water MH: Ministry of Health MLSP: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy MoI: Ministry of Interior MTITC: Ministry of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications NCPHA: National Centre for Public Health and Analyses NF: National Federation NFP: National Focal Point NSSI: National Social Security Institute OHS: Occupational Health Service OPHRD: Operational Programme “Human Resources Development RHI: Regional Health Inspectorate RIEW: Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Water TUF: Trade Union Federation WCC: Working Conditions Committees WCF: Working Conditions Fund</p>
Axis description	
Priority Area 1. Improving the application of the OSH legislation.	
Developing national legislation in line with the better regulation principles, the EU law and the international standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonising the occupational exposure limit values with regard to chemical agents and carcinogens/mutagens, in line with the amendments to the occupational safety and health directives on protecting the health of workers with regard to risks related to exposure to chemical agents and carcinogens/mutagens Implementation: In accordance with the deadlines laid down by the European Parliament and the European Commission in the relevant directives <i>Responsibility:</i> MH, MLSP <i>Budget:</i> Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions. 2. Improving the quality and control of the activities of the occupational medicine services for workers and employees. Implementation: 2018-2019. <i>Responsibility:</i> MH, MLSP. <i>Budget:</i> Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions 3. Improving the system of compulsory preliminary and regular health checks of workers and employees Implementation: 2018-2020. <i>Responsibility:</i> MH/MLSP, social partners. Implementation 2018-2019.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Improving the system for training of representatives in working conditions committees and groups in enterprises Implementation: 2019

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	<p>Responsibility: MLSP, MH Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>5. Setting OSH requirements for blasting operations and operations with explosives, products containing explosives, ammunition and pyrotechnic products Implementation: 2020 Responsibility: MLSP, MoI, GLI EA Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>6. Setting minimum requirements for lighting at work Implementation: 2020 Responsibility: MLSP, MH Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>7. Improving the minimum OSH requirements for handling operations Implementation: 2019 Responsibility: MLSP Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>8. Improving the OSH regulatory basis in metallurgy, metal casting and the energy sector Implementation: 2019-2020 Responsibility: MLSP, MH, ME, MEn, GLI EA, social partners in the industry - BAMl, BBCMB, TUF "Metal Workers", NF „Metallurgy", OSH officials in enterprises, external experts Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>9. Drafting an Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 2 / 2004 on minimum OSH requirements in construction and assembly works Implementation: 2019 Responsibility: MRDPW/MLSP, social partners Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>10. Amending the legislation related to the State (Uniform) OSH Rules Implementation: 2018-2019 Responsibility: MLSP, MH, social partners Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p>

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	<p>11. Updating Ordinance No 12 of 27 December 2004 on the provision of health and safety at work with motor vehicles Implementation: 2018-2019 Responsibility: MLSP, MTITC, social partners Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p>
Ensuring effective and efficient control for compliance with OSH legislation	<p>12. Strengthening the administrative capacity of GLI EA Implementation: 2018-2010 Responsibility: GLI EA, CHRDR at MLSP Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>13. Provision of effective control Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: GLI EA Budget: Within the approved budgets of GLI EA</p> <p>14. Development of criteria to evaluate the likelihood of committing violations of the labour legislation and the gravity (risk) of control sites Implementation: 2018 Responsibility: GLI EA Budget: Project BG05M9OP001-3.004 “Optimization and Innovation in GLI EA”</p> <p>15. Joint participation of inspectors in national control campaigns and in (pilot) projects of the ECHA Implementation: According to approved national control plans and planned (pilot) ECHA Responsibility: RIEW, GLI EA, RHI Budget: Within the approved budgets of the relevant control bodies</p> <p>16. Investigation of accidents Implementation: 2018-2020 Responsibility: MoI, FSSP, MEW, MD, RIEW, GLI EA Budget: Within the approved budgets of the relevant control bodies</p>
Information support of the OSH policy	<p>17. Supporting software for online registrations of one-day employment contracts under Article 114a of LC Implementation: 2018-2020 Responsibility: MoI, FSSP, MEW, MD, RIEW, GLI EA Budget: Within the approved budget of GLI EA</p> <p>18. Processing and systematisation of statistical and operational information about occupational accidents and occupational diseases</p>

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	<p>Implementation: 18 month after the end of the reference phase Responsibility: NSSI Budget: Within the approved budget of NSSI</p> <p>19. Upgrading the Occupational Accident Information System with a Control Activities module Implementation: 2018 Responsibility: NSSI Budget: Within the approved budget of NSSI</p> <p>20. Processing and publication of information about temporary incapacity Implementation: 2018 - 2020 Responsibility: NSSI Budget: Within the approved budget of NSSI</p>
Addressing the challenges related to the application of legislation in SMEs	<p>21. Ensuring safety at work in enterprises, improving the workplace environment, the organisation of work and the management of human resources Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: MLSP/all enterprises in their capacity as employers Budget: Operation “Good and safe working conditions” under OPHRD 2014-2020</p> <p>22. Encouraging employers to improve the working conditions in enterprises, including in SMEs Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: WCF /employers Budget: Within the approved budget of the WCF</p>
Priority Area 2. Prevention of occupational risks, including new and emerging risks	
Extending the role of social dialogue for ensuring better protection against occupational hazards	<p>23. Improving the role of social dialogue at sectoral and branch level Implementation: 2018 - 2020 Responsibility: sectoral /branch working conditions council Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>24. Strengthening and extending the role of social dialogue for enhancing the motivation for OSH enforcement Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: social partners/WCF, EEA, WCC Budget: Within the approved budgets of the WCF and respective institutions</p> <p>25. Development and improvement of non-judicial methods for settlement of collective labour disputes. Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: GLI EA</p>

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	<p>Budget: Within the approved budget of GLI EA</p> <p>26. Organising competitive initiatives to award companies with achievements in the field of OSH in sectors with higher work-related traumatism – for example in construction</p> <p>Implementation: 2018</p> <p>Responsibility: MLSP, GLI EA, social partners</p> <p>Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p>
Developing and implementing practical tools for control of occupational hazards	<p>27. Updating the instructions on the control for application of Regulations REACH and CLP</p> <p>Implementation: 2018</p> <p>Responsibility: MEW/MH and GLI EA</p> <p>Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>28. Designing a specialized brochure/manual for OSH in handling chemical substances and reactants / sampling water samples from larger water basins and by climbing.</p> <p>Implementation: 2019</p> <p>Responsibility: EEA</p> <p>Budget: with the approved budgets of the respective institutions.</p> <p>29. Limiting the risk of asbestos-related illnesses</p> <p>Implementation: 2018-2020</p> <p>Responsibility: MH, NCPHA, RHI, GLI EA, OHS, NCPHA</p> <p>Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p>
Awareness raising and culture of prevention	<p>30. Improving the awareness and competence of those active in the area of ensuring OSH</p> <p>Implementation: 2018-2020</p> <p>Responsibility: NCPHA</p> <p>Budget: Within the approved budget of NCPH</p> <p>31. Improving the competence of managers and of those active in the integration of OSH management systems and quality standards</p> <p><i>Implementation: 2018-2020</i></p> <p><i>Responsibility: social partners</i></p> <p><i>Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</i></p> <p>32. Holding national events within the EU OSHA campaign “Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances”</p> <p>2018-2019</p> <p><i>Implementation: 2018-2019</i></p> <p><i>Responsibility: MLSP/MH social partners</i></p> <p><i>Budget: EU OSHA, MLSP-NFP</i></p>

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	<p>33. Holding national events within EU OSHA 2020-2021 campaign “Healthy Workplaces – Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders” Implementation: 2018-2020 Responsibility: MLSP/MH social partners Budget: EU OSHA - NFP</p> <p>34. Distribution of publicity and information materials via the EA OSHA national focal point network Implementation: 2018-2020 Responsibility: MLSP-NFP network Budget: EU OSHA - NFP</p> <p>35. Holding upskilling trainings in the field of accidents prevention and rescue Implementation: 2018-2020 Responsibility: MLSP, GLI EA, professional organisations Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p> <p>36. Holding meetings and training seminars on dangerous/hazardous chemical substances for the industry and the control bodies at central and regional level Implementation: 2018-2020 Responsibility: MEW/MLSP, MH, RIEW, GLI EA, RHI, social partners Budget: Within the approved budgets of the respective institutions</p>
Priority Area 3. Prevention of occupational diseases and occupational accidents	
	<p>37. Provision of health surveillance in economic sectors at risk Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: WCF/MH Budget: Within the approved budget of the WCF</p> <p>38. Rehabilitation and reintegration of workers with health problems and victims of occupational accidents or occupational diseases Implementation: 2018 – 2020 Responsibility: NSSI Budget: Within the approved budget</p> <p>39. Ensuring health surveillance in the Healthcare Sector Implementation: 2018 - 2020 Responsibility: NCPHA; social partners, MH, MLSP, Budget: Within the approved budgets of the WCF and of NCPHA</p>

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5. Actors and stakeholders	<p>The Council of Ministers determines the government policy in the field of occupational safety and health in the Republic of Bulgaria.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy designs, directs, coordinates and implements the government policy for ensuring occupational safety and health.</p> <p>The General Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency exercises overall control for compliance with the labour legislation on ensuring health and safety at work and on employment relations, as well as specialised control under the Employment Promotion Act and the other statutory instruments on employment and unemployment containing explicit provisions to that end.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health manages and coordinates the policy and activities on protection and improvement of health at work. The Ministry of Health includes following institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Health Inspectorates (RHI), ▪ National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA), ▪ National Centre for Radiobiology and Radiation Protection (NCRRP). <p>The effective trilateral cooperation at national, sectoral and regional level is an important factor for the implementation of the national occupational safety and health policy. The National Council on Working Conditions is a permanent body at the national level for coordination, consultation and cooperation in designing and implementing the policy for ensuring safety and health at work.</p>
6. Resources and time frame	<p>Time frame: 2018-2020</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Budget: see activity plan</p>
7. Evaluation/lessons learned	<p>The results obtained from implementing the annual National Occupational Safety and Health Programmes over the period 2008-2014 have proven the importance of the strategic planning approach in pursuing a nationally responsible policy aimed at ensuring well-being at work as part of the measures to improve the functioning of the labour market.</p> <p>The comparative analysis of results of 2016 against 2015 shows that the relative share of the enterprises which have taken measures to remove occupational risks and bring the working conditions in line with the statutory requirements remains constant. A detailed description of the evaluation is provided in</p>

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	chapter 4.1 <i>Results of control activities</i> of the National Programme for Occupational Safety and Health 2018-2020.
Ex ante indicators for the years 2012 to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of inspected enterprises ▪ Number of violations of compliance with the requirements and standards of the labor legislation e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OSH rules ○ safe work equipment ○ safe use of electricity ○ protective interlocking devices ○ personal protective equipment ○ prophylactic health checks ○ provision of sanitary services ▪ Quality of risk assessments ▪ Number of work related accidents ▪ Number of work related fatalities ▪ Number of work related diseases ▪ Number of workers covered by rehabilitation ▪ Number of trainings ▪ Number of information materials ▪ Number of information campaigns
8. Relationship to the EU Strategic Framework	<p>The Bulgarian National Programme for Occupational Safety and Health, 2018-2020 follows the EU-OSH Strategic Framework 2014-2020. It is related to all three challenges of the EU-OSH Strategic Framework.</p> <p>The priority area I of the Bulgarian OSH strategy is related to challenge 1 of the EU-OSH Strategic Framework. Challenge 2 is covered by the priority area II of the Bulgarian OSH strategy. And the strategic objective “Improving the occupational safety and health of every worker and every workplace” addresses vulnerable groups of workers (young or older workers, disabled workers, etc.) – challenge 3 of the EU-OSH Strategic Framework.</p>