

National strategies mapping

Country Overview

UNITED KINGDOM

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1. Basic information	<p>Strategy document: Helping Great Britain work well¹</p> <p>Former strategies: A strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond²</p> <p>All documents and more information see on the HSE-website³</p>
2. Background and the perceived problem	<p>Defining the perceived problem:</p> <p>The problems are summarised in six key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There needs to be broader ownership of health and safety. ▪ It is important to highlight and tackle the costs of work-related ill health. ▪ Wider recognition is needed of the business benefits that come with proportionate approaches to risk. ▪ Too many SMEs are still unaware that straightforward advice and simple guidance is available that can help them manage their health and safety responsibilities. ▪ We all need to horizon scan and 'design-in' effective risk management of new or emerging technologies and business models. ▪ There are benefits for Great Britain and British industries by promoting our health and safety approach around the world.
3. Main characteristics and objectives of the OSH-strategy (activity plan)	<p>Promote better enforcement of legislation on safety and health at work and consolidation in the autonomous regions, especially in small and medium enterprises.</p> <p>Encourage continuous improvement of working conditions of all workers with special attention to the prevention of occupational diseases and work-related diseases.</p>
4. Details of the strategy and activity plan Axis description	

¹ Helping Great Britain work well. Available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/assets/docs/hse-helping-great-britain-work-well-strategy-2016.pdf>

² A strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond. Available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/strategiesandplans/strategy.htm>

³ Health and Safety Executive HSE. Available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/strategy-document.htm>

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Six strategic themes	<p>Acting together: Promoting broader ownership of health and safety in Great Britain</p> <p>Tackling ill health: Highlighting and tackling the costs of work-related ill health</p> <p>Managing risk well: Simplifying risk management and helping business to grow</p> <p>Supporting small employers: Giving SMEs simple advice so they know what they have to do</p> <p>Keeping pace with change: Anticipating and tackling new health and safety challenges</p> <p>Sharing our success: Promoting the benefits of Great Britain's world-class health and safety system</p>
Details of the activity plan	
Strategic theme 1: Acting together : Promoting broader ownership of health and safety in Great Britain	<p>Quote:</p> <p><i>"Health and safety should not be a responsibility assigned to a particular individual or part of an organisation, but an integral part of everyone's role. There needs to be much broader ownership of the issues. This means engaging everyone who shares the responsibility for helping Great Britain work well, because they have a vital role in managing risk and preventing damage to individuals, businesses and the economy.</i></p> <p><i>Across each nation, region or sector, we need collective ownership that best reflects local circumstances. The regulators will retain their key roles, providing targeted advice and guidance for key audience groups and taking enforcement action when and where necessary. Encouraging others to take ownership of health and safety will be critical in making this theme successful. This means everyone collaborating to reach those who may have been less engaged"</i></p>
Strategic theme 2: Tackling ill health: Highlighting and tackling the costs of work-related ill health	<p>Quote:</p> <p><i>"Work-related ill health is a problem for every section of society, with conditions ranging from cancer and other long-latency diseases, to stress and musculo-skeletal disorders. Greater awareness of the harm, costs and preventability of work-related ill health should drive collective action to improve health outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>This will require long-term and coordinated action across all sectors, bringing in additional partners such as the NHS and others to support the substantial behaviour change and awareness programmes that will be required. A key element of this theme will be in earlier prevention, which is more cost-effective than trying to intervene when a person is suffering from more serious ill health. This will involve a greater focus on health issues at work, while continuing to ensure that maintaining standards around safety remains a priority."</i></p>
Strategic theme 3: Managing risk well: Simplifying risk	<p>Quote</p> <p><i>"Successful organisations understand that sensible and proportionate risk management is integral to delivering their business. This approach supports growth, enables innovation and protects an organisation's most</i></p>

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management and helping business to grow	<p><i>vital asset, its people. Positive outcomes can include reduced sickness absence, lower costs and a good reputation. Promoting this compelling business case should help even more businesses to make the most of the many benefits a good health and safety culture can bring. Sharing examples of practice, supported by targeted, relevant advice and information will allow the system to set a common understanding of what proportionate health and safety looks like. Health and safety professionals have an important role to play. Helping businesses of all sizes get it right in an efficient and effective way will build trust and improve standards.”</i></p>
<p>Strategic theme 4:</p> <p>Supporting small employers: Giving SMEs simple advice so they know what they have to do</p>	<p>Quote</p> <p><i>Reaching micro and small businesses can be difficult, but not impossible. Working together, much has already been done to help small businesses, but there are opportunities to work smarter. Already many large businesses and intermediaries have developed efficient supply chains and productive relationships by working with and supporting small businesses. Many organisations also provide free help and support to SMEs outside their supply chains through cross-sector initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>For SMEs, managing workplace risks shouldn't be complicated or costly. Making support available which is quick and easy for small businesses to understand, so that they can fulfil their obligations, remains a challenge for all sectors. It will also be important to identify who the key influencers are for SMEs, working with them to raise awareness levels about the peer and expert support that is out there.”</i></p>
<p>Strategic theme 5:</p> <p>Keeping pace with change: Anticipating and tackling new health and safety challenges</p>	<p>Quote:</p> <p><i>“Great Britain leads the world in anticipating and tackling the new health and safety challenges that come with social, economic and technological change.</i></p> <p><i>This ability to horizon scan, when combined with the deep knowledge and unrivalled expertise of the system, means that anticipating new health and safety challenges is an area where Great Britain can play a leading role, for example through HSE's world-leading research capabilities. They are already being put to use helping Great Britain, as well as countries around the world, to improve health and safety, as well as better business outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>To remain a world leader in risk management, Great Britain needs to develop high-quality capability, anticipating the workplace challenges of tomorrow and using the flexibility of our goal-setting approach to solve them in ways that enable innovation and the use of new technologies.</i></p> <p><i>Tackling the problems of tomorrow today is a responsible investment that protects workers, enables new and different approaches and provides the new knowledge, skills and expertise Great Britain can share internationally.”</i></p>
<p>Strategic theme 6:</p> <p>Sharing our success: Promoting the benefits of Great Britain's world-class health and safety system</p>	<p>Quote:</p> <p><i>“Everyone can take pride in Great Britain's world-class reputation for health and safety and promote its success at home and abroad. Creating a world-class system is a goal we can all unite around and benefit from</i></p>

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	<p><i>as a source of inspiration and achievement, and can also be pleased to support.</i></p> <p><i>This strategy has largely concerned itself with improving standards in Great Britain. But we should also look to share best practice and the latest thinking and innovation around the world. This can help influence health and safety systems overseas and make it easier for British businesses to expand into new markets and territories. The work can also bring commercial opportunities for selling British health and safety 'products' or consultancy.</i></p>
5. Actors and stakeholders	<p>The strategy was mainly developed by the HSE in collaboration Minister for Disabled People (covering HSE)</p> <p>Ministry of Employment and Social Security and the National OSH Institute. The detailed action plan practically includes the involvement of all institutions that are active in the field of OSH.</p>
6. Resources and timeframe	No information identified
7. Evaluation/lessons learned	
Ex ante indicators for the years 2015 to 2020	No indicators identified
8. Relationship to EU Strategic Framework	Strategic themes 3 and 4 relate well to Challenges 1 of the EU Strategic Framework, strategic theme 5 to Challenge 2.