



National inspection campaign on carcinogens

AUSTRIA

- > **DURATION: 2017-2019**
- > **SECTOR:** 1st wave – the majority of sectors with ‘preknowledge’ due to mandatory monitoring of health status; 2nd wave – selected enterprises e.g.: health care, transport services and couriers, construction of stainless steel pools, renovation of chimneys
- > **NUMBER OF INSPECTED ENTITIES: 600**
- > **NUMBER OF INSPECTORS ENGAGED IN THE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES: 35**



OVERVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN

The aim was to raise awareness and provide information to enterprises and at the same time achieve better compliance with the law, as well as collect good practices. The results of the 1st wave of the campaign demonstrated that 10% of companies exceeded permissible values for carcinogenic substances. On average 16 workers in every workplace were exposed to carcinogenic substances. In the 2nd wave of the campaign the inspection results showed that 10% of enterprises did not use carcinogenic substances and showed examples of good practices related to substitution of hazardous substances with safer alternatives. Follow-up inspections proved that 78% of the identified problems were solved.



PLANNING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The campaign priority area was selected based on an external database of occupational diseases from the resources of the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA) and on information from the EU-OSHA campaign concerning management of hazardous substances and the EU Action plan on carcinogenic agents. It was planned that 10% of the total number of inspections would relate to this campaign. For identification of the target group of entities for inspection, the labour inspectorate's database on economic sectors and numbers of workers was used.



ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Two inspections were carried out in each selected entity. The duration of inspection activities conducted in an inspected entity was between 2 and 4 hours. Actions in the inspectorate's office lasted shorter than 2 hours. Between 10% and 30% of the staff were involved in inspections. The appointed labour inspectors received additional training conducted by one trainer. During inspection activities the inspectors had the following: rationale of inspection activities, checklists, requirements for the preparation of information after inspections, specialist materials for labour inspectors and information resources for employers. At the phase of organisation and informing about the inspection results, the partner of the labour inspectorate was AUVA. Monitoring and coordinating activities involved three persons (coordinating the campaign, collecting and evaluating data).

CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT

The campaign results were evaluated on the basis of provided checklists, the number and type of legal measures issued by inspectors and implemented by employers after the inspections. The employers covered by inspections informed the inspectors about their follow-up activities. 20% of the entities were covered by follow-up inspections. The campaign results were published on the labour inspectorate's website.

