

Improving
Working Conditions
in Social Services

IWorCon



IWorCon Dissemination Event (WP2)
22 October 2024, 13:00 – 15:00 CET

**Improving working conditions in
social services:
Recommendations on risk
prevention and wellbeing at work**



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Short introduction to the project



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How to create & manage employer's organisations in social services (WP3)

- Build capacities of employers' organisations across EU countries
- Facilitate mutual learning by implementing study visits to employers' organisations in six countries
- Produce a guide with practical tips and examples on how to build and manage effective employers' organisations in social services



Improving working conditions (WP2)

- Develop recommendations on 10 priority topics impacting the sector's working conditions
- Academic input on each topic: Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA), KU LEUVEN
- 10 recommendations developed in working groups
- 1 report summarising all recommendations
- Further use in the framework of EU sectoral social dialogue

Agenda

- 13:00** **Opening remarks**
Sylvain Renouvel, Director, Social Employers
- 13:10** **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA): Presentation of OSH figures in health and social care**
Lorenzo Munar, Project Manager, Prevention and Research Unit
- 13:30** **The IWorCon research process**
Dr. Anne Guisset, Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA), KU Leuven
- 13:40** **Presentation of IWorCon recommendations: Focus on risk prevention**
- 14:10** **Break**
- 14:20** **Presentation of IWorCon recommendations: Focus on wellbeing at work**
- 14:50** **Conclusions and next steps**
Samantha Howe, Policy Assistant – Social Services, EPSU

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European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA): Presentation of OSH figures in health and social care

Lorenzo Munar, Project Manager,
Prevention and Research Unit



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Health and Social Care - OSH overview

IWorCon Dissemination Event - 22/10

Lorenzo Munar



Agenda

- **Update on EU-OSHA´s research project on the Health and Social care (HeSCare) sector**
- **OSH in figures report**
 - Introduction
 - OSH risks
 - OSH outcomes
 - OSH management
 - Drivers and obstacles – OSH Management
 - Worker participation

Research projects finalised – publications available

- Research project 1 – OSH in figures in the health and social care sector (statistical report)
 - To be published on 31/10
- Research project 2 – Mental health challenges in the EU health and social care sector during COVID-19: strategies for prevention and management (report)
 - Publication available at: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/mental-health-challenges-eu-health-and-social-care-sector-during-covid-19-strategies-prevention-and-management>
- Research project 3 – Digital platform work in the health and social care sector: implications for OSH (discussion paper)
 - Publication available at: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/digital-platform-work-health-and-social-care-sector-implications-occupational-safety-and-health>
- Research project 4 – Automatisations of (cognitive & physical) tasks in the HeSCare sector: implications for safety and health (report)
 - Publication available at: [Automation of cognitive and physical tasks in health and social care sector: implications for safety and health](#)

Ongoing Research projects

- Research project – Musculoskeletal Health (focus on primary prevention)(report)
- Research area project – Mental Health (focus on primary prevention) (report)
- Research area project – OSH in home care sector (report)
- Research area project – “EU-OSHA’s Workers’ exposure survey on cancer risk factors in Europe” data related to HeSCare sector
- Research area project – Work-related accidents in the HeSCare – Why are they so prevalent (and have increased in such a way over the last 10 years? (report)

Research projects planned for next year

- Research area project – Mental Health II (focus on secondary and tertiary prevention) (report)
- Research area project – Musculoskeletal Health II (focus on secondary and tertiary prevention) (report)
- Research area project – OSH in the residential (long-term) care sector (report)
- Research area project – OSH in the Healthcare sector (report)

OSH in figures in the HeSCare sector

- **Ambitious research project**
 - Review of studies and literature
 - Data processing and analysis
 - Key informant interviews
- **It includes**
 - Around 200 figures
 - Around 30 tables
 - Policy pointers
- **It will be published on 31/10/2024**
- **Six PPTs (including the figures, tables from the report) will be available soon**



Introduction – Data sources / surveys

- European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER);
- European Working Conditions Telephone Survey (EWCTS);
- EU Labour Force Survey (LFS);
- EU-OSHA – OSH Pulse survey 2022; and
- European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW).

Main subsectors comprising health and social care (HeSCare) activities (NACE rev 2)

Data presented at:

- Q (NACE code) sector level (Human health & social work activities)
- Subsector. Q.86, Q.87 and Q.88
- At country level by sector (Q. sector level).
- By company size
- By gender, by age, ...
- ...

Q86 - Human health activities
(Referred to as: *Healthcare*)

Q86.1	Hospital activities.
Q86.2	Medical and dental practice activities.
Q86.2.1	General medical practice activities.
Q86.2.2	Specialist medical practice activities.
Q86.2.3	Dental practice activities.
Q86.9	Other human health activities.

Q87 - Residential care activities
(Referred to as: *Residential care*)

Q87.1	Residential nursing care activities.
Q87.2	Residential care activities for mental retardation, mental health and substance abuse.
Q87.3	Residential care activities for the elderly and disabled.
Q87.9	Other residential care activities.

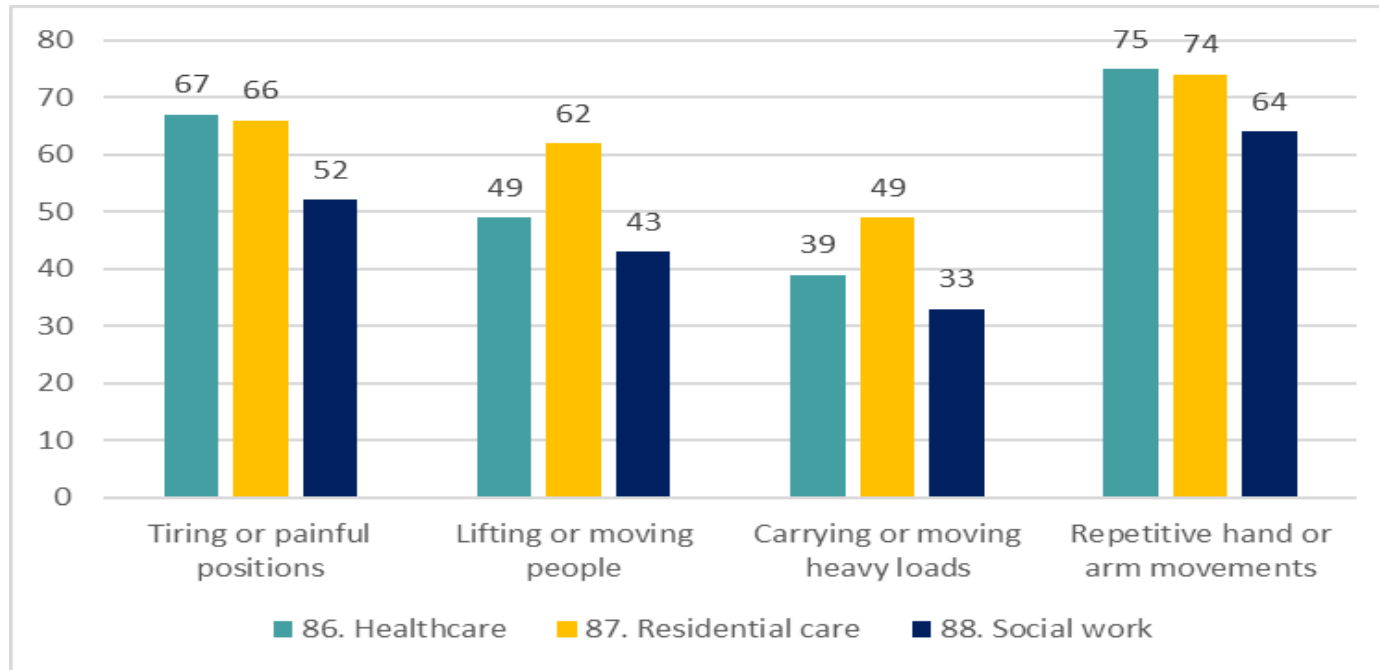
Q88 - Social work activities without accommodation
(Referred to as: *Social Work*)

Q88.1	Social work activities without accommodation for the elderly and disabled.
Q88.9	Other social work activities without accommodation.
Q88.9.1	Child day-care activities.
Q88.9.9	Other social work activities without accommodation n.e.c..

Source: Eurostat's NACE classification

Percentage of HeSCare workers working sometimes/often/always exposed to musculoskeletal risks, by subsector, EU-27, 2021 (%)

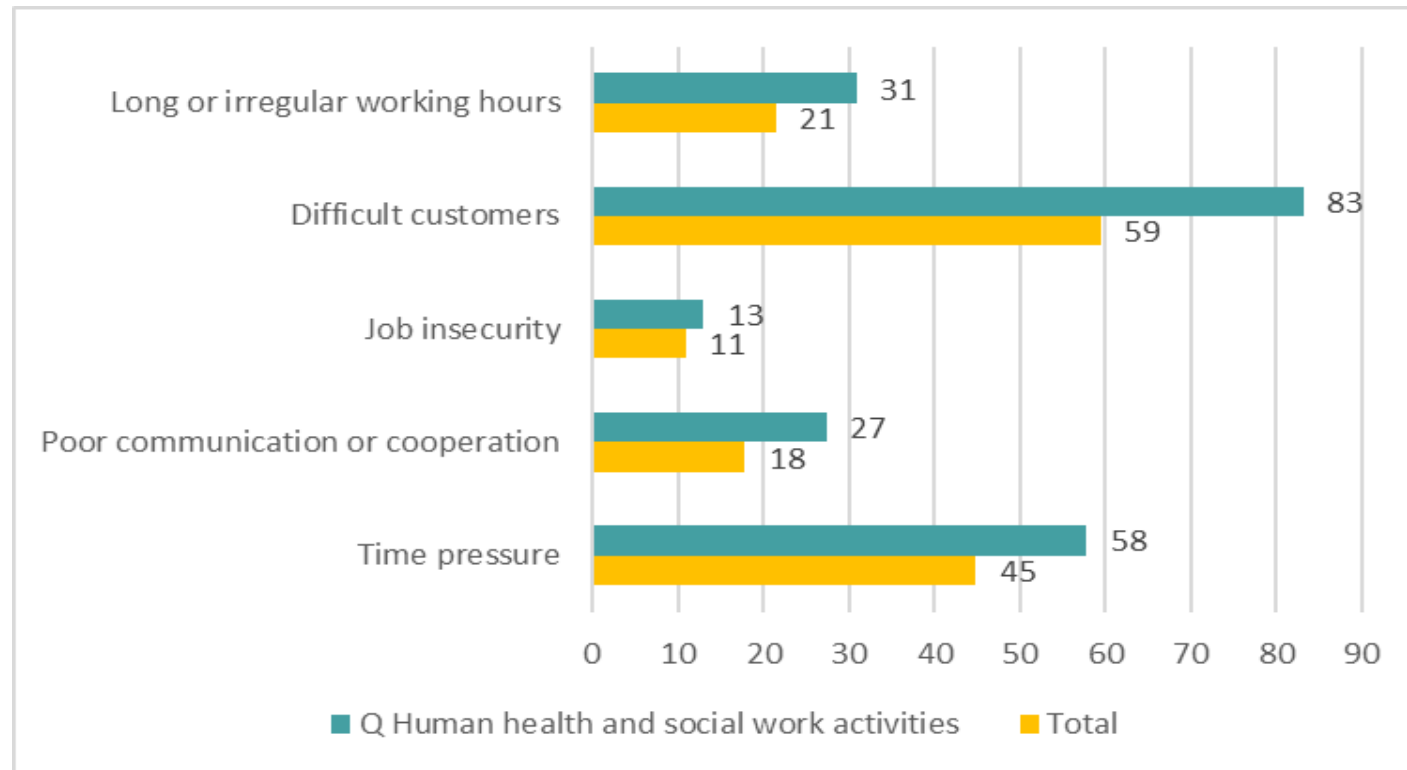
OSH risk



Source: TNO based on the EWCTS-2021
Base: All HeSCare workers in the EU-27.

Percentage of establishments indicating psychosocial risk factors, by sector, EU-27, 2019 (% indicating yes)

OSH risk

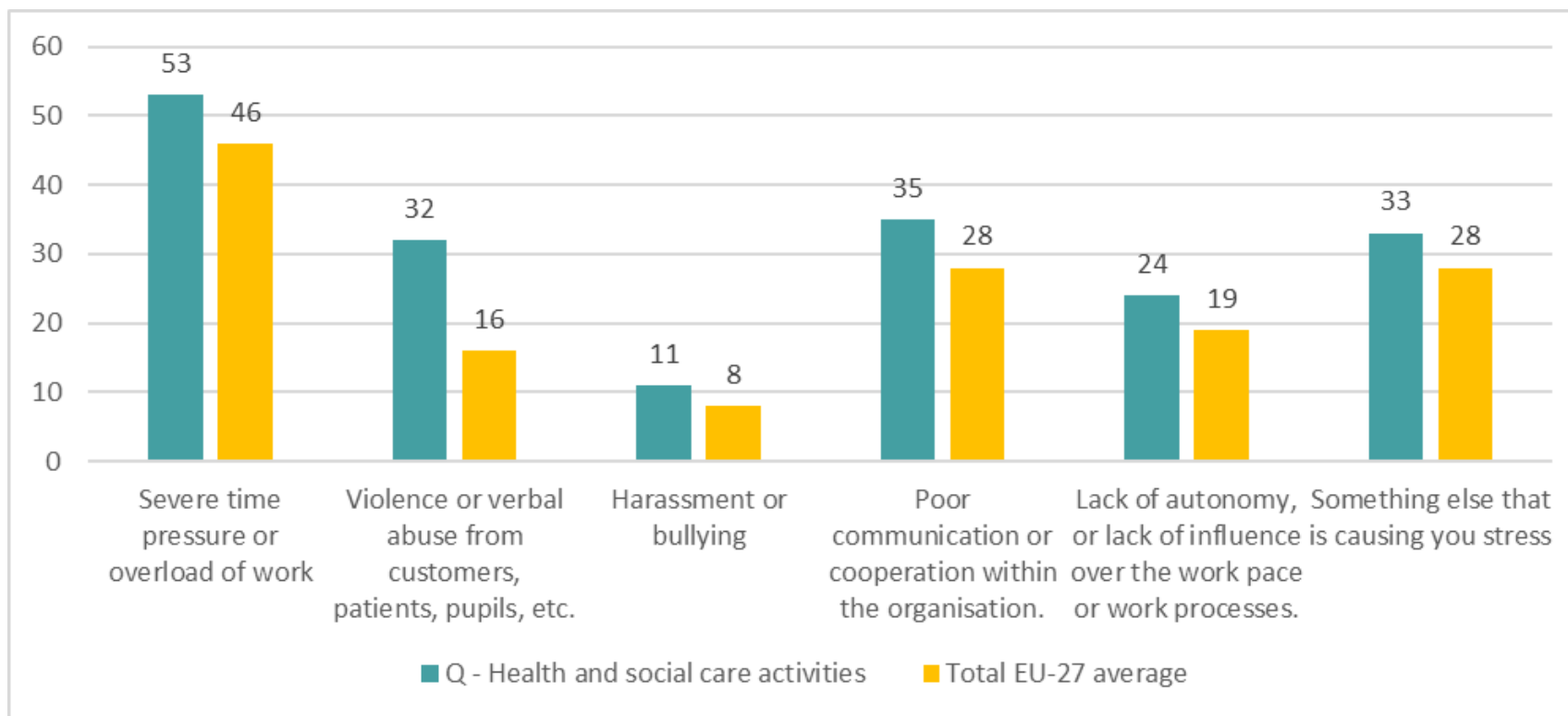


Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019

Base: All establishments in the EU-27.

Percentage of workers exposed to a selection of psychosocial risk factors at work, by sector, EU-27, 2022 (%)

OSH risk

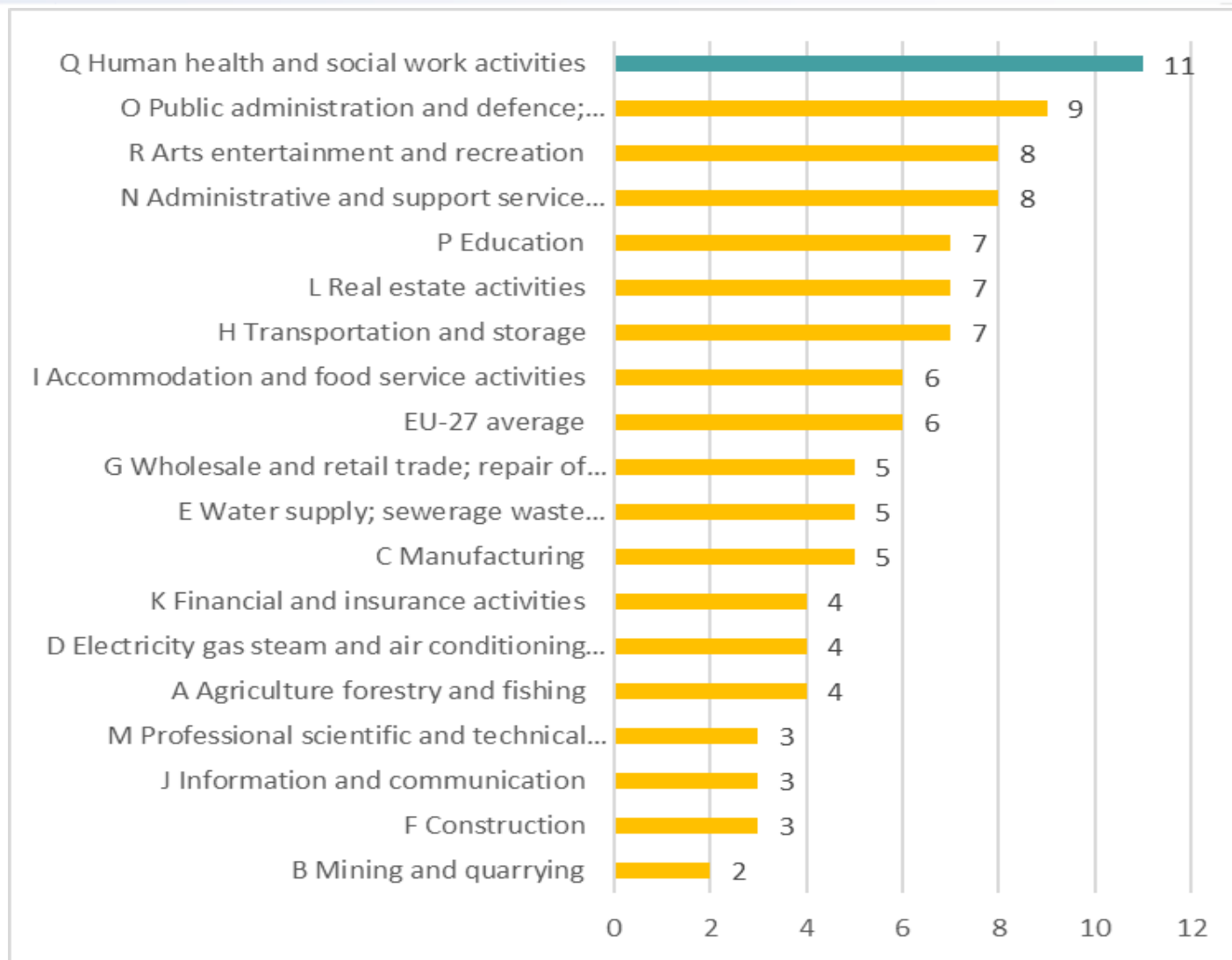


Source: Panteia, based on 'OSH Pulse 2022 – Occupational safety and health in post-pandemic workplaces'

Base: All respondents.

Percentage of workers subjected to bullying, harassment, ... by sector, EU-27, 2021 (%)

OSH risk



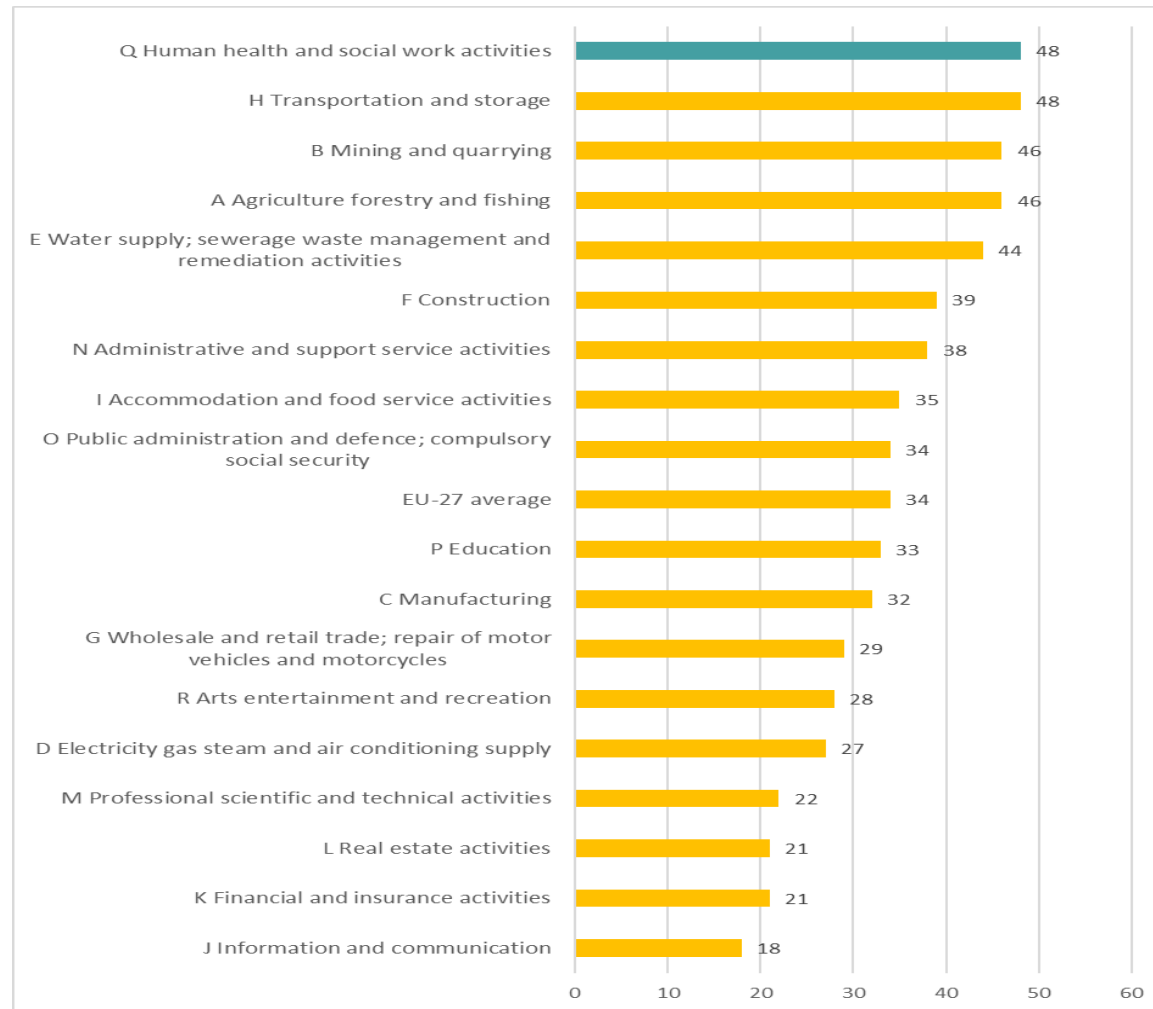
Source: TNO based on the EWCTS-2021

Base: All workers in the EU-27.

<https://osha.europa.eu>

Percentage of workers reporting that their health or safety is at risk because of work, by sector, EU-27, 2021 (%)

OSH outcomes

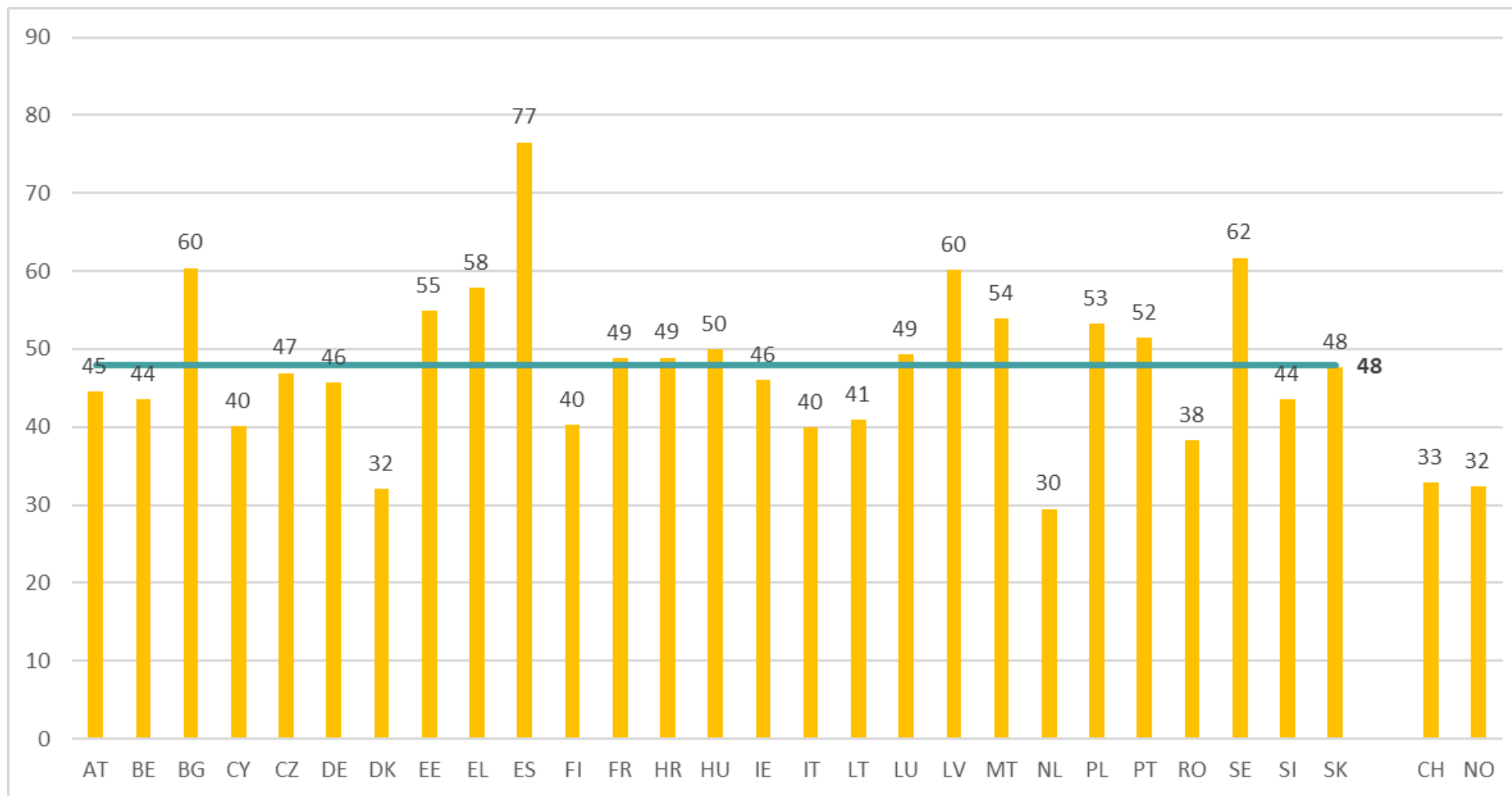


Source: TNO based on the EWCTS-2021

Base: All workers in the EU-27.

Percentage of HeSCare workers reporting that their health or safety is at risk because of work, by country (+ CH and NO), EU-27, 2021 (%)

OSH outcomes



Source: TNO based on the EWCTS-2021

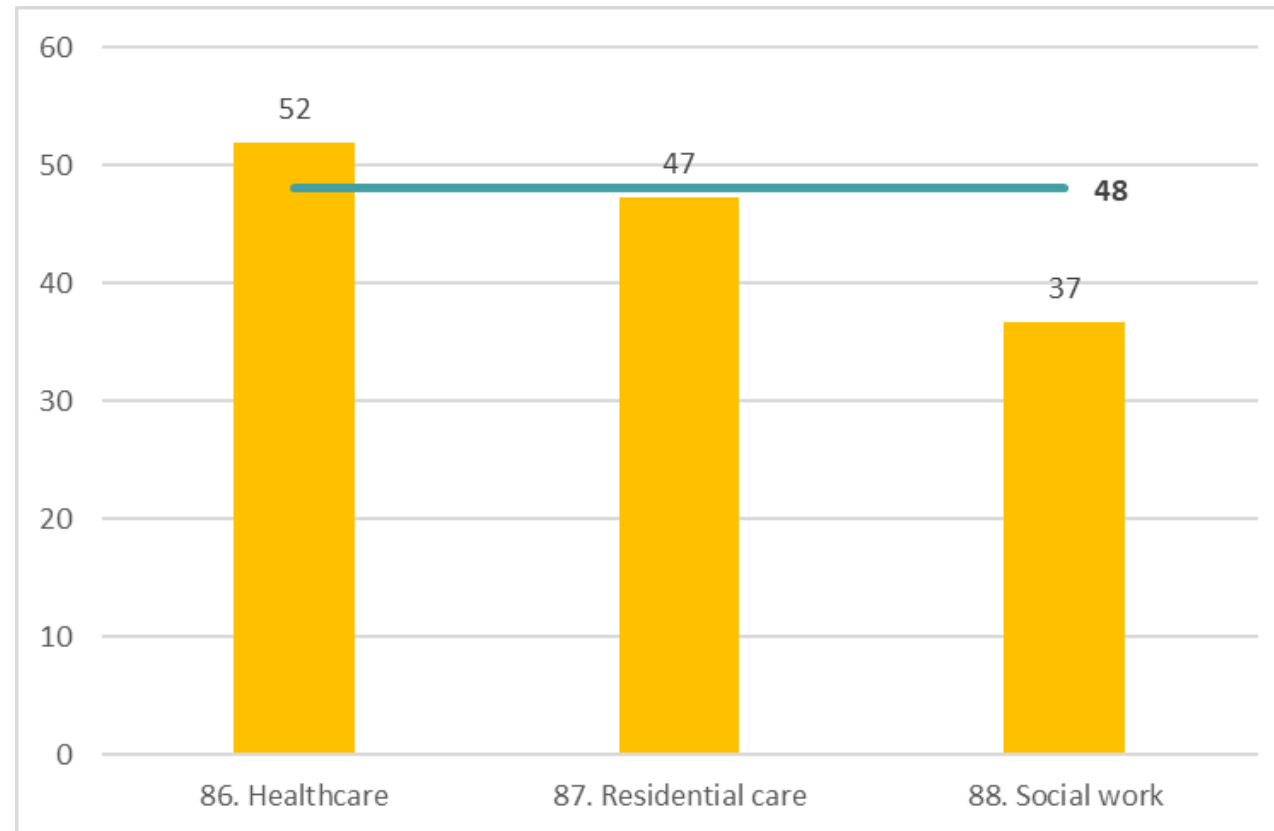
Base: All HeSCare workers in the EU-27, Switzerland and Norway.

The horizontal line indicates the HeSCare (NACE Q) EU-27 average.

<https://osha.europa.eu>

Percentage of workers reporting that their health or safety is at risk because of work, by subsector, EU-27, 2021 (%)

OSH outcomes



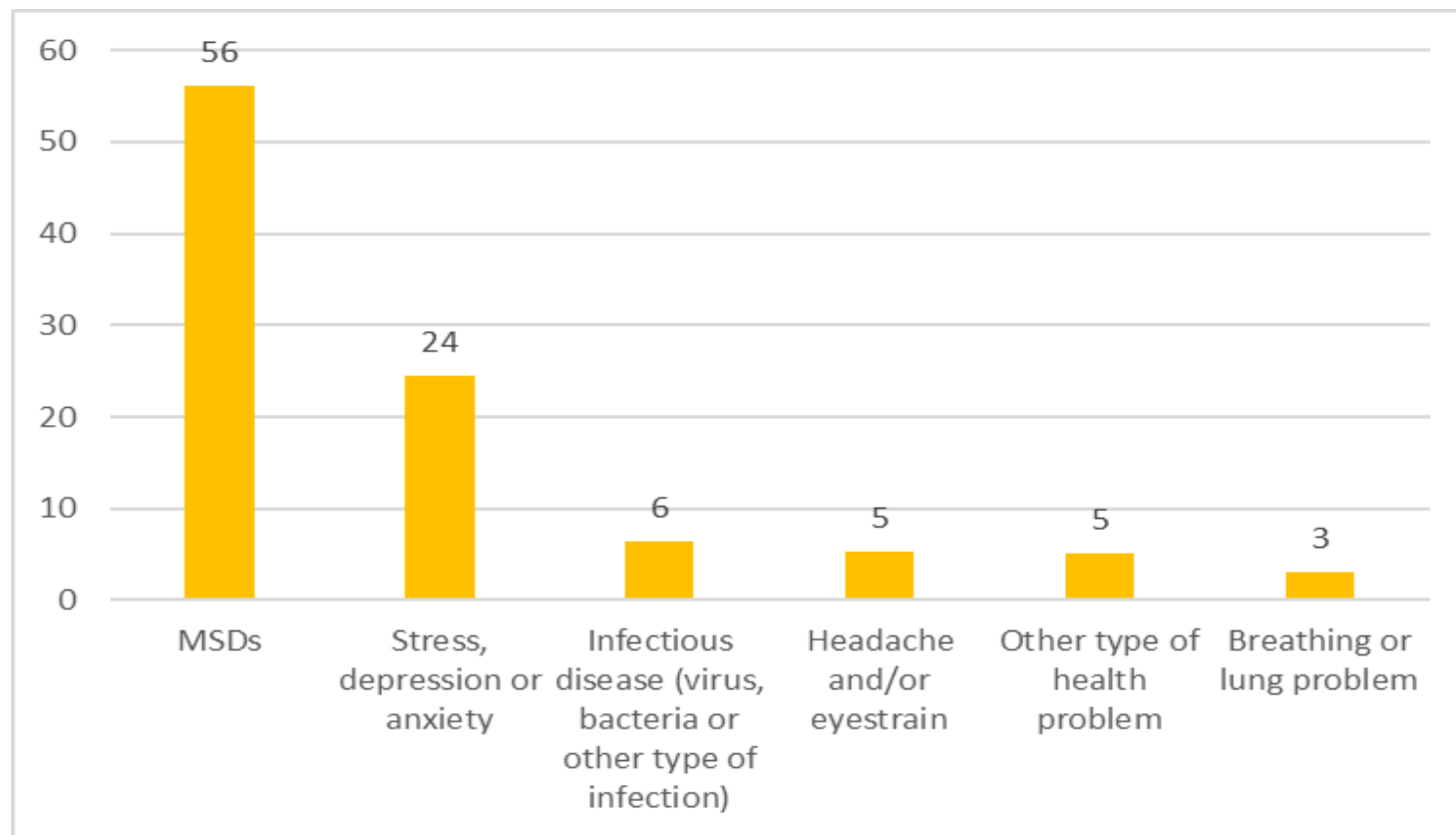
Source: TNO based on the EWCTS-2021

Base: All HeSCare workers in the EU-27.

The horizontal line indicates the HeSCare (NACE Q) EU-27 average.

Persons reporting a work-related health problem by type of problem in the HeSCare sector, EU-27, 2020 (%)

OSH outcomes

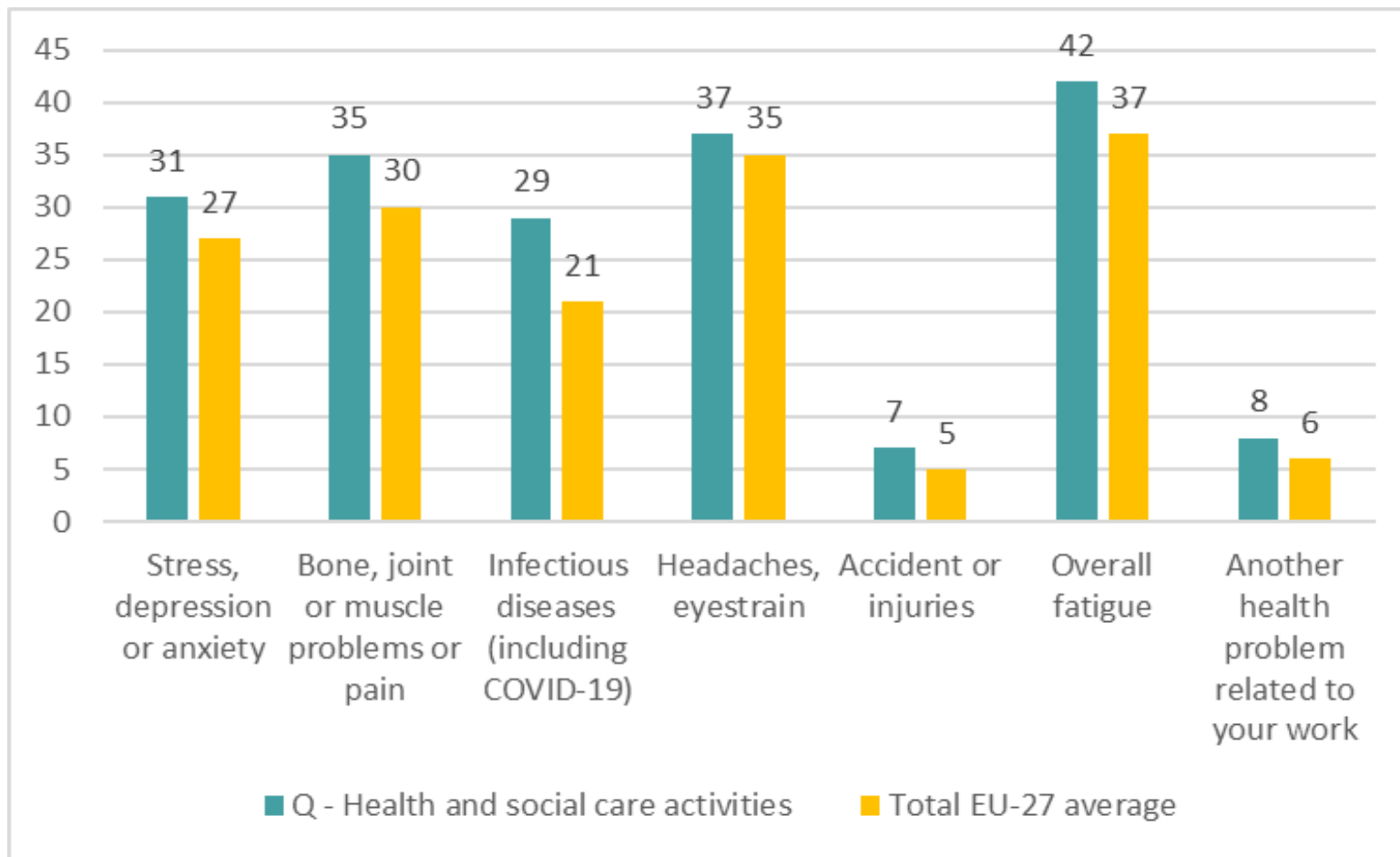


Source: EU Labour Force Survey, 2020

Base: % of total employed in the HeSCare sector, age group 15-64.

Percentage of workers indicating health problems caused or made worse by work in the past 12 months, by sector, EU-27, 2022 (% indicating yes)

OSH outcomes



Source: Panteia, based on 'OSH Pulse 2022 – Occupational safety and health in post-pandemic workplaces'

Percentage of HeSCare workers reporting health problems over the last 12 months, by subsector, EU-27, 2021 (% indicating yes)

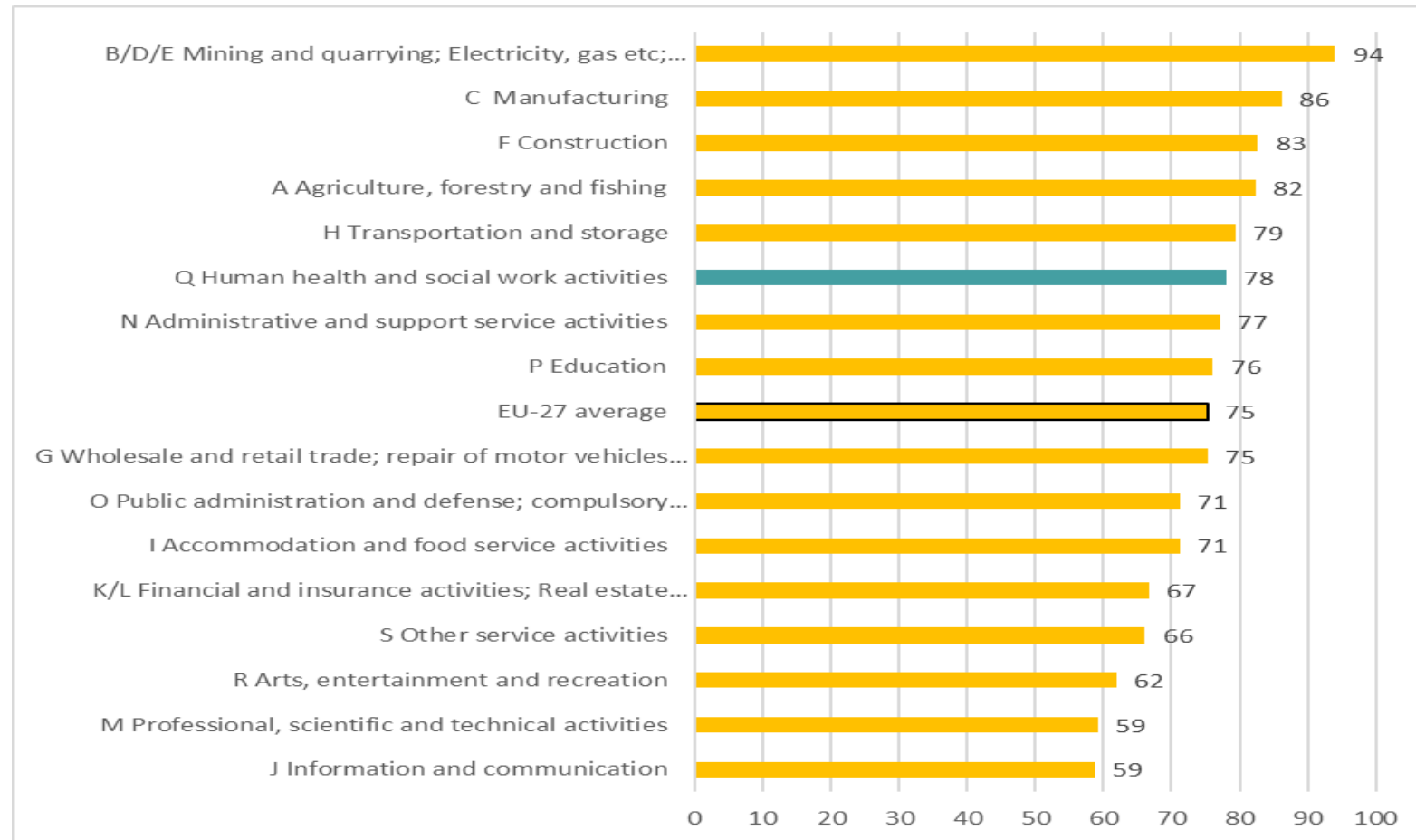
OSH outcomes

	Backache	Muscular pains upper limbs	Muscular pains lower limbs	Headaches, eyestrain	Anxiety
Healthcare	61	69	37	56	36
Residential care	60	66	41	52	40
Social work	56	64	41	58	42
Total HeSCare sector	60	64	39	55	38

Source: TNO based on the EWCTS-2021
Base: All HeSCare workers in the EU-27.

Percentage of establishments that regularly carry out workplace risk assessments, by sector, EU-27, 2019 (%)

OSH
management

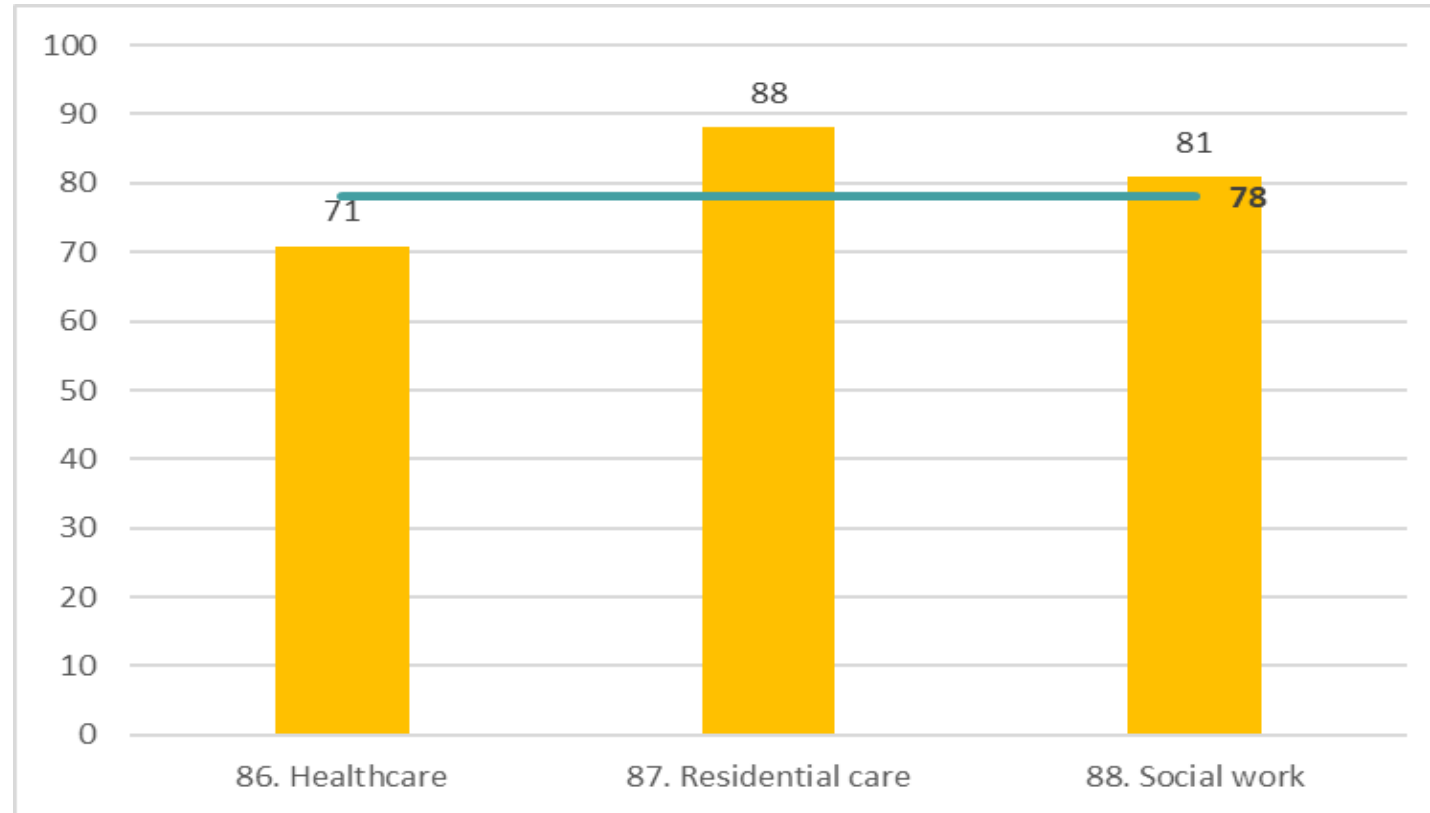


Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019

Base: All establishments in the EU-27.

Percentage of HeSCare sector establishments that regularly carry out workplace risk assessments, by subsector, EU-27, 2019 (%)

OSH
management



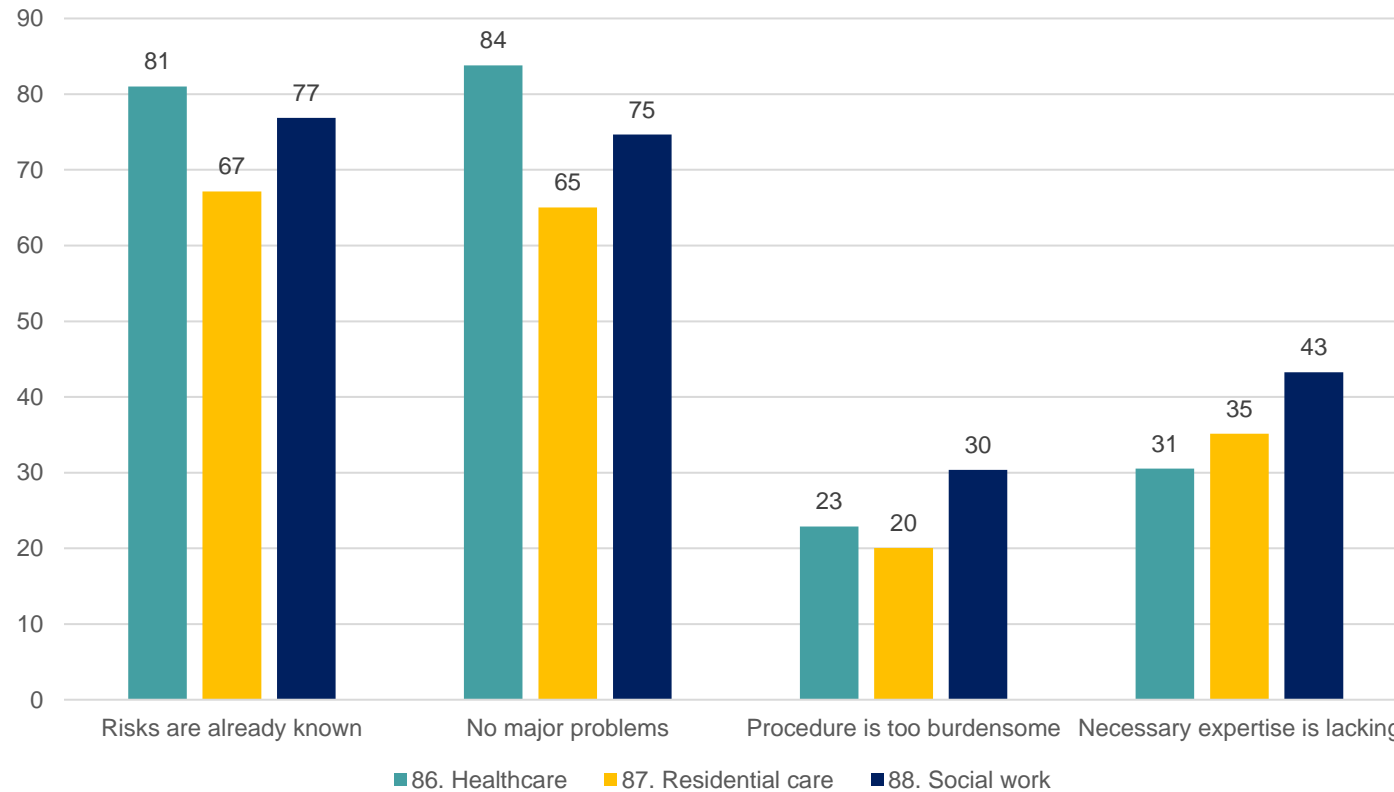
Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019

Base: All HeSCare sector establishments in the EU-27.

The horizontal line indicates the HeSCare (NACE Q) EU-27 average.

Reasons why workplace risk assessments are not regularly carried out, by subsector, EU-27, 2019 (%)

OSH management

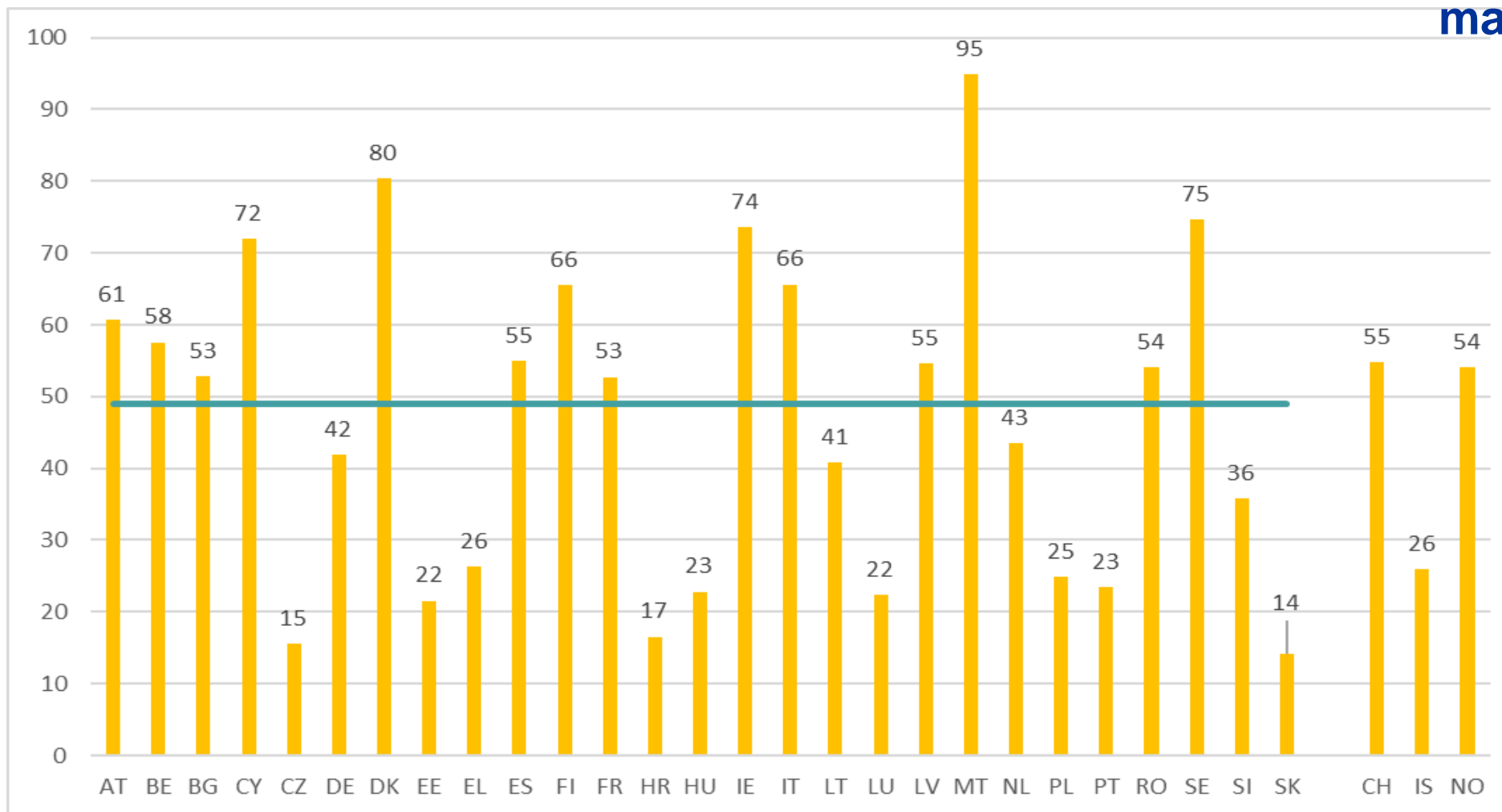


Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019

Base: Responses only of those HeSCare sector establishments that do not carry out regularly workplace risk assessments.

Percentage of HeSCare sector establishments with a presence of a plan to prevent work-related stress, by country, EU-27 (+ CH, IS and NO), 2019 (%)

OSH management



Source: Panteia based on ESENER-19

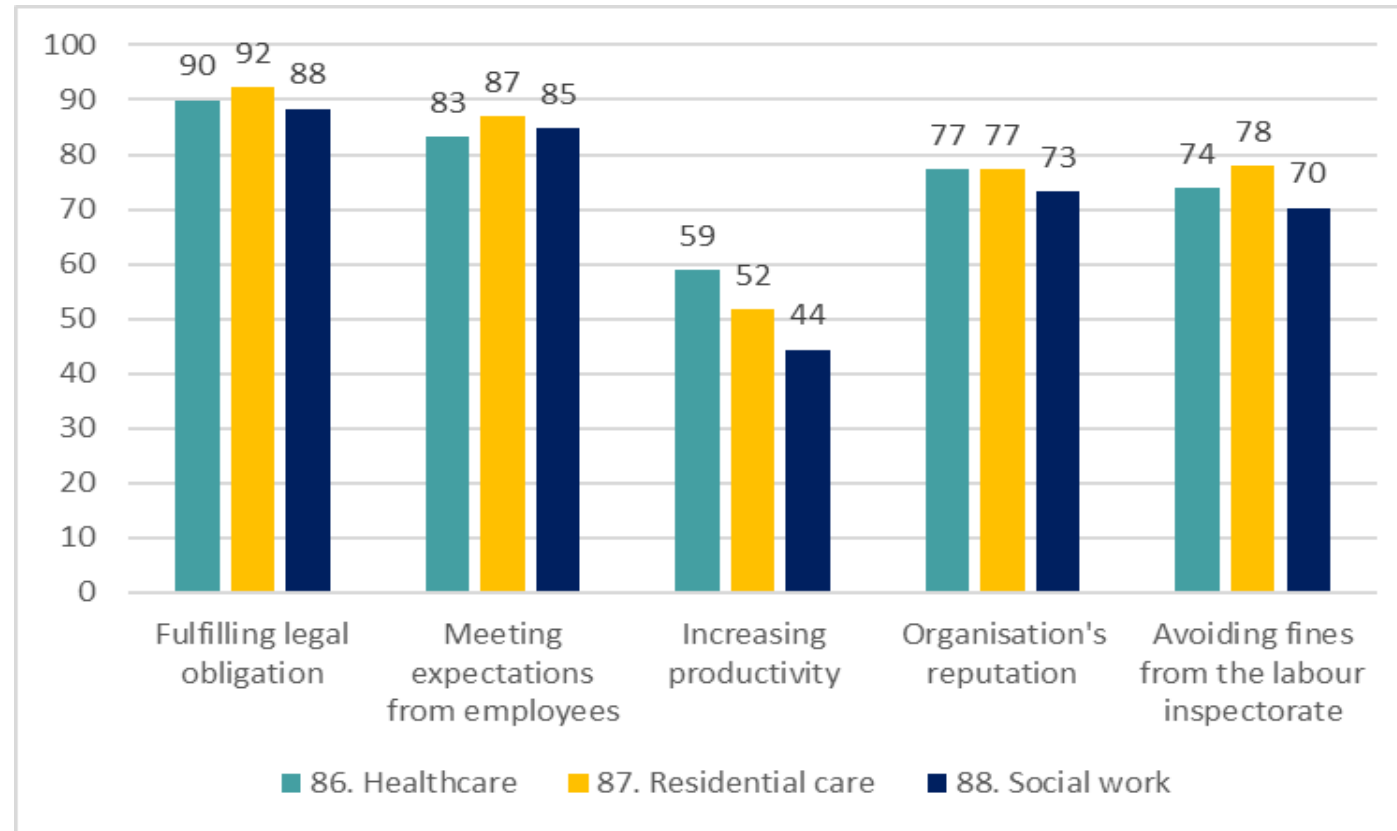
Base: HeSCare sector establishments with 20 or more employees in the EU-27, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway.

The horizontal line indicates the HeSCare (NACE Q) EU-27 average.

<https://osha.europa.eu>

Reasons given by HeSCare sector establishments for addressing health and safety, by subsector, EU-27, 2019 (% indicating major reason)

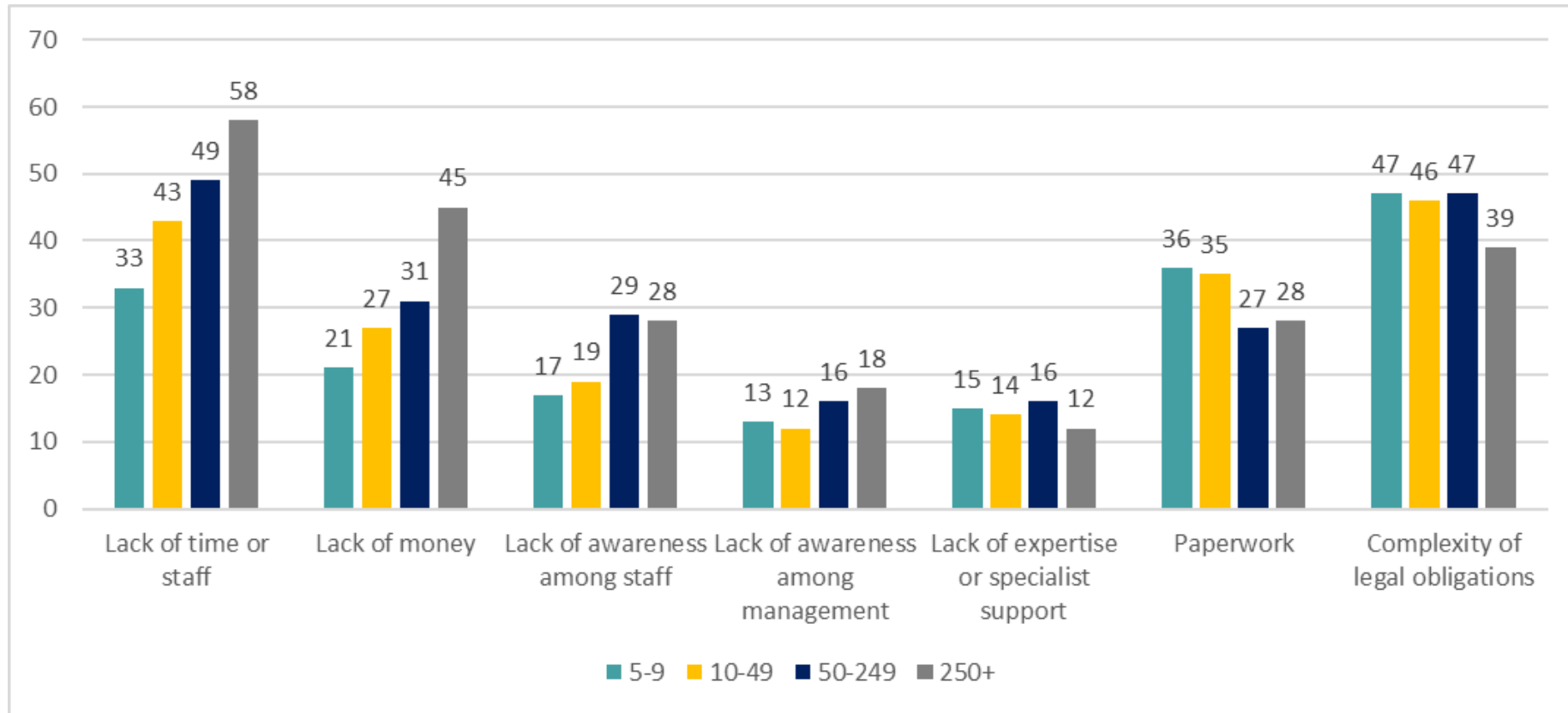
OSH
management



Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019

Base: All HeSCare sector establishments in the EU-27.

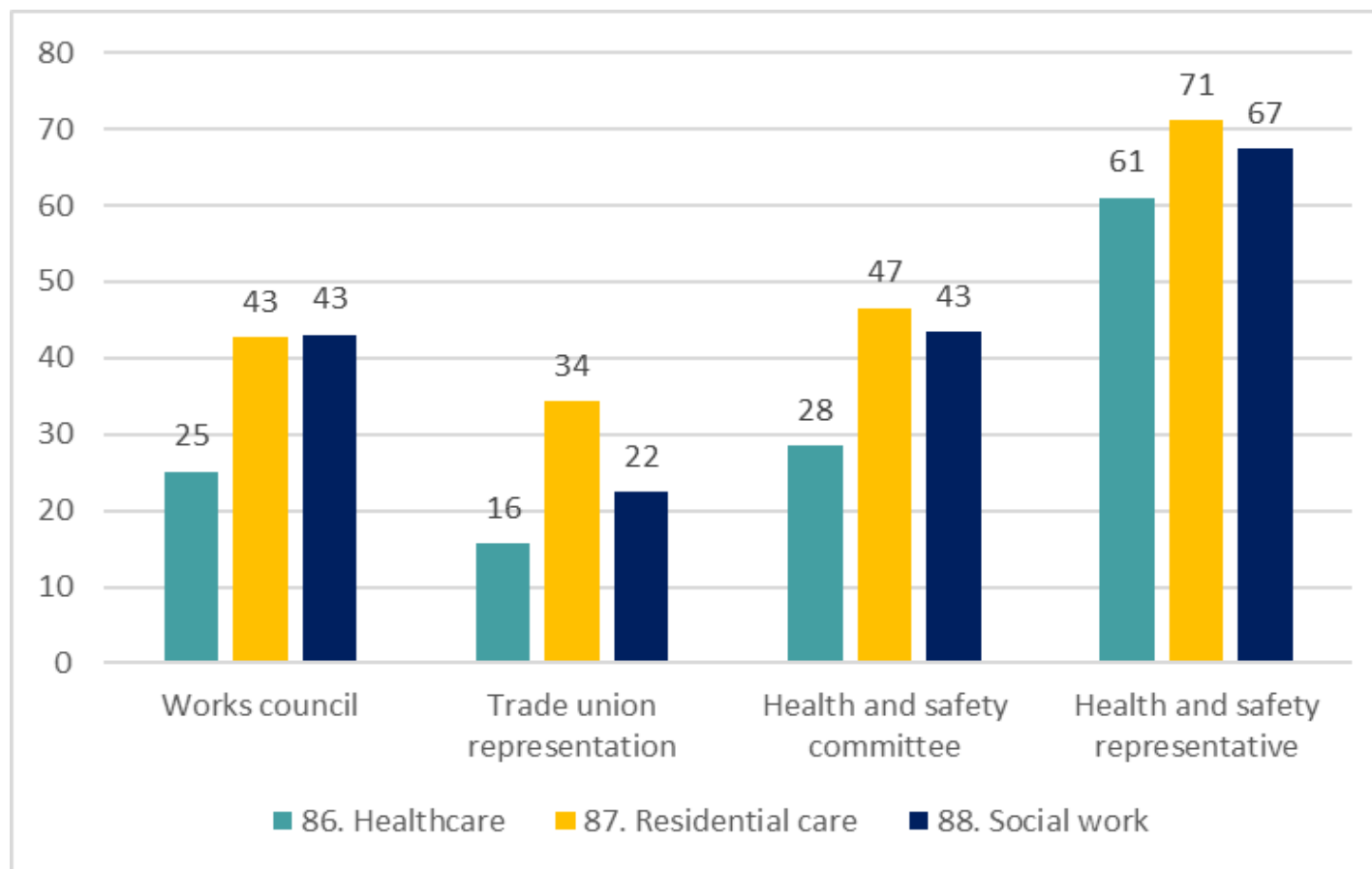
Difficulties for HeSCare sector establishments to address health and safety, by size EU-27, 2019 (% indicating major reason)



Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019
 Base: All HeSCare sector establishments in the EU-27.

Percentage of HeSCare sector establishments indicating forms of employee participation, by subsector, EU-27, 2019 (%)

Worker participation



Source: Panteia based on ESENER-2019

Base: All HeSCare sector establishments in the EU-27.

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European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)



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The IWorCon research process

Dr. Anne Guisset

KU LEUVEN

HIVA

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR
WORK AND SOCIETY

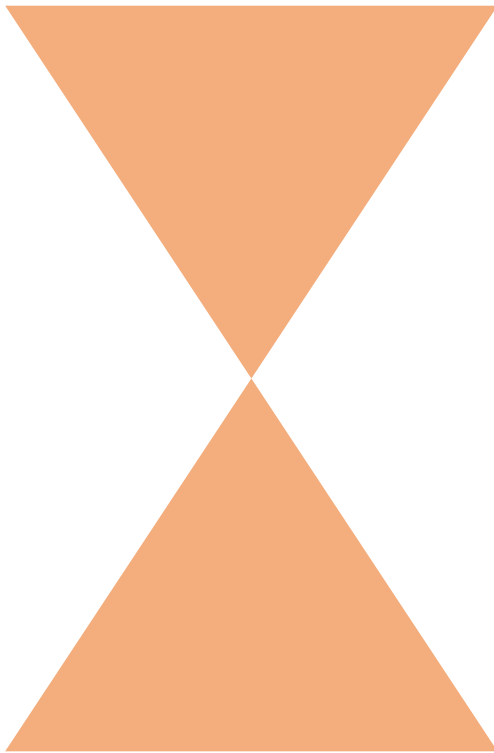


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1. Ordered list of topics

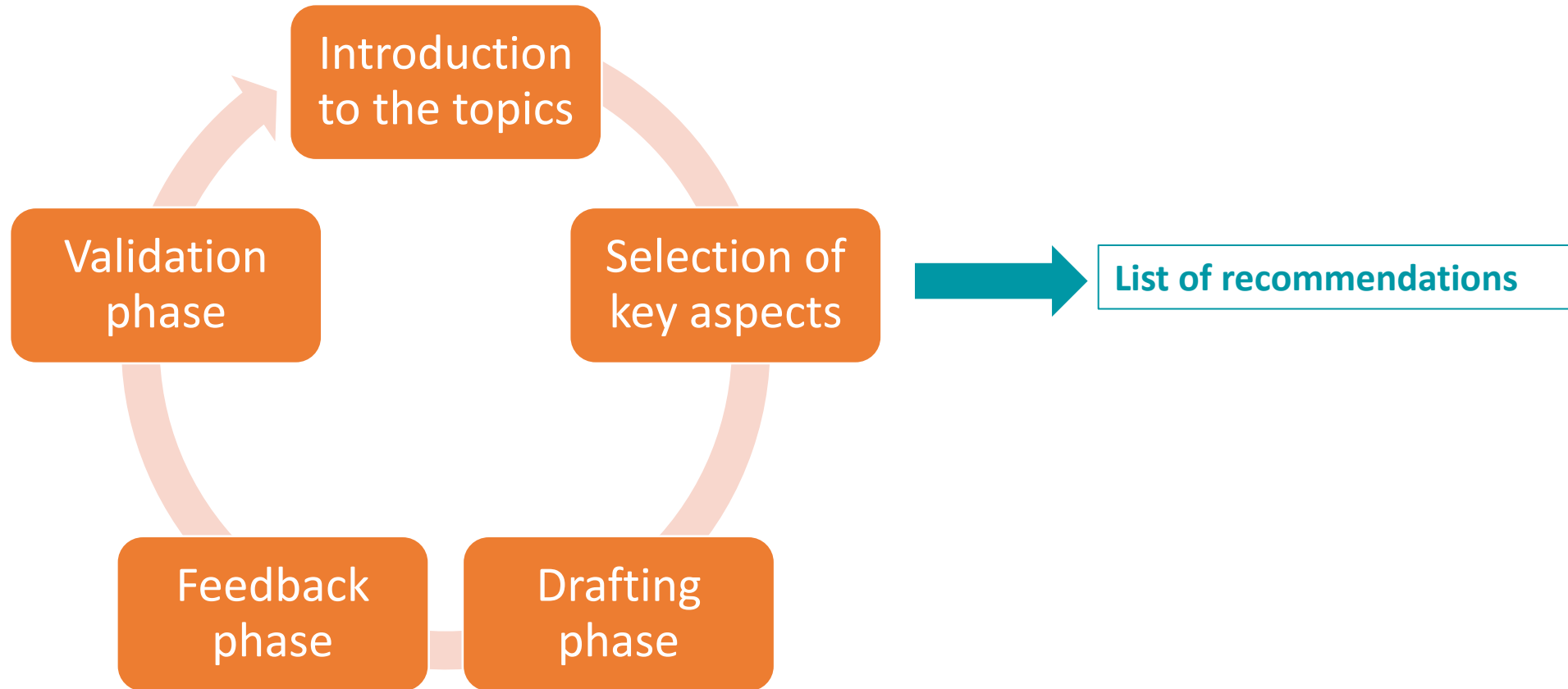


1. Skills and better jobs
2. Diversity management and gender perspective
3. Prevention of occupational de-integration and on job reintegration
4. Ageing at the workplace
5. Managing change and impact on the workforce

6. OSH risks assessment at organisation level
7. Physical health risks prevention (including MSDs)
8. Psychological health risks prevention
9. Work-life balance
10. Management's training on OSH risks prevention



2. Research Process





3. Success factors

- **Iterative:** The process involves multiple cycles of feedback and revision.
- **Participative:** Project partners are actively involved in all stages of the research.
- **Hands-on:** The goal is to deliver practical recommendations.



THANK YOU!



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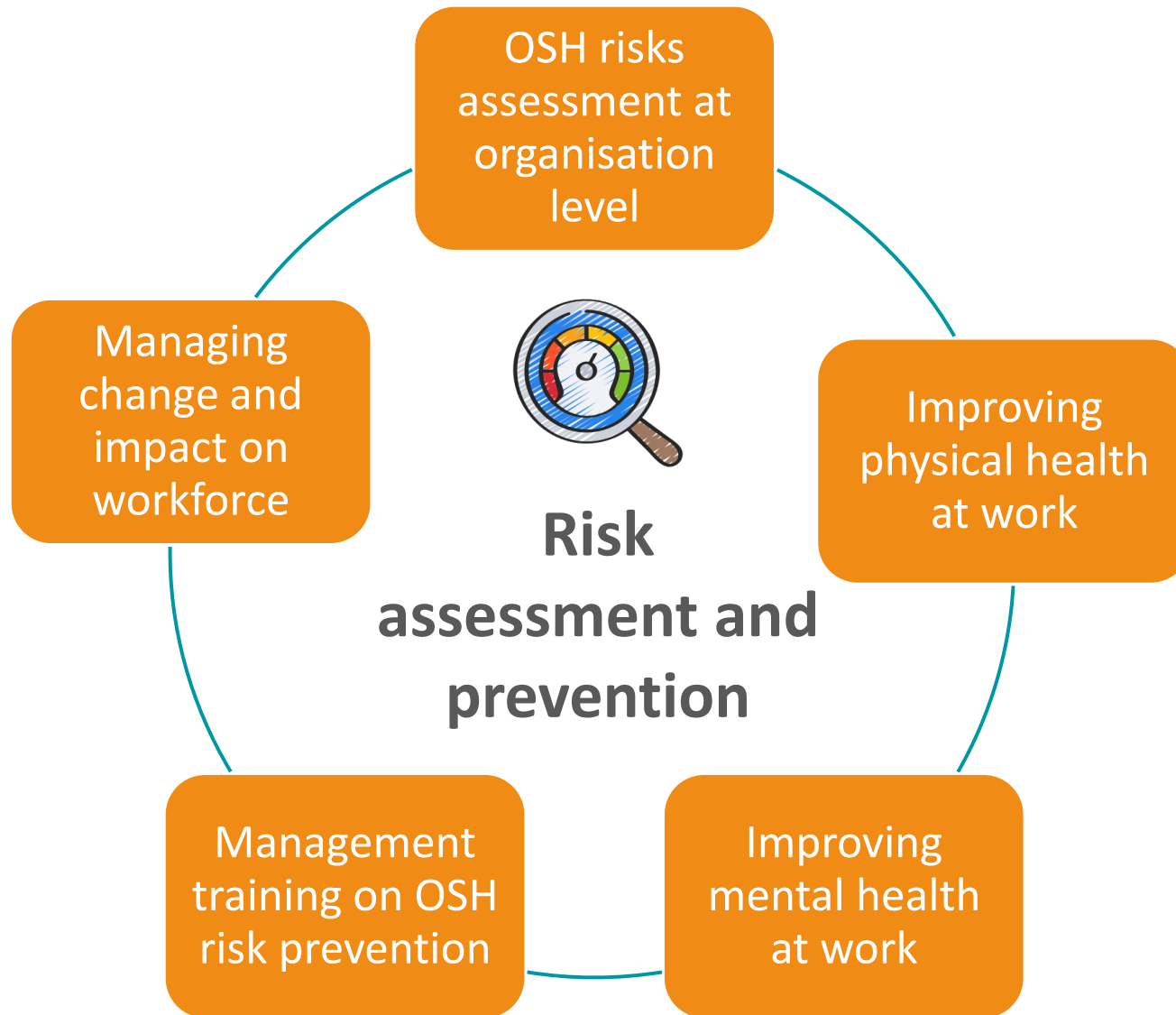


Presentation of IWorCon recommendations: Focus on risk prevention



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Recommendation 1: OSH risks assessment at organisation level

- Risk assessment is not an option
- Risk assessment is a collaborative work
- Objective assessment for work units but taking into account some workers categories in a particular situation
- Ongoing process

Recommendation 2: Improving physical health at work

- Many kinds of risk factors
- Prevention measures according to the Directive
- Focus on work organisation
- Adaptation of the workplace to the worker
- Training and prevention culture
- Communication

Recommendation 3: Improving mental health at work

- Risks assessment
- Awareness
- Work-life balance
- Social support
- Use technology
- Wellbeing culture
- Address barriers (reluctance)
- Bullying prevention
- Health check ups



Recommendation 4: Management's training on OSH risk prevention

- Content:
 - OSH specific skills; legislation – risks specific to social services-risks prevention process
 - Leadership skills; work organisation, social dialogue, prevention culture for all employees, spotting weak signals, change management

Recommendation 5: Managing change

- In social services, adaptation to change is the most requested skill according to CEDEFOP.
- Change must be managed, there are tools for this with 3 phases:
 - Unfreezing phase: address the fears
 - Change phase: workers concerned are taken on board in trainings / workshops...
 - Consolidation phase: make the new process a habit
 - Illustration: green and digital transition



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Break



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Presentation of IWorCon recommendations: Focus on wellbeing at work



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Recommendation 6: Preventing occupational disintegration and job reintegration

Preventing disintegration

- proactive HR measures (inform about health risks, detect early signs, manage conflicts, etc.)
- Organisational measures (restructuring work, staffing plans, open communication, etc.)
- Individual measures (job reviews, monitoring disengagement, etc.)

Reintegration

- Exit interviews, support during absence, individualised return planning, etc.

Recommendation 7: Work-life balance

- Building a work-life balance strategy
 - Clear policies to establish boundaries between work and personal life (re. working hours, breaks, right to disconnect)
 - Flexible work arrangements
 - Support for transitions (return from sick leave, maternity leave, etc.)
 - Time management training

Recommendation 8: Managing diversity and gender

- Addressing stereotypes and bias, communication barriers, resistance to change, etc.
- Diversity Action Plan
 - Analysis of workforce data, communication practices, management representation, recruitment practices, etc.
 - Define clear, measurable goals + actions to take
- HR measures: inclusive recruitment process, diversity in leadership, equal access to training, flexible work arrangements, etc.

Recommendation 9: Ageing at the workplace

- Improving working conditions for older workers
 - Work schedules, assistive devices, training, etc.
- Organisation of work
 - Autonomy, small teams, user-centred care...
- Age-related motivational elements
- Tackling age discrimination
- Age management

Recommendation 10: Improving skills leading to better Jobs

- Skills intelligence
 - Develop skills strategy
 - Partnerships with training providers
 - Monitoring systems
 - Feedback networks
- Training policies
 - Supportive learning culture
 - Minimum number of training hours per year
 - Cost-covering mechanisms
 - In-house training, mentoring, etc.

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Conclusions and next steps

Samantha Howe, Policy Assistant –
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