**In brief - The NFA’s research programme for Safety Culture and Occupational Accidents**

**Summary**

In 2019, 42,662 accidents with sickness absence were reported to the Danish Working Environment Authority, and occupational accidents made up 62 percent of the total expenses for compensation from Denmark’s Labour Market Insurance. Occupational accidents are a priority area in the ‘National strategy for working environment research’ as well as the ‘Tripartite agreement on prioritised national objectives for working environment efforts of 2021-2030’, where one of the overarching goals are: ‘Occupational accidents: A strong safety culture in workplaces, with fewer people suffering occupational accidents’. The research programme will contribute to that aim.

**Vision**

The vision for the research programme is to produce innovative research knowledge that can be transformed into action-oriented measures, tools and guidelines that help prevent occupational accidents within the prioritised industry groups in the ‘Tripartite agreement on prioritised national objectives for working environment efforts’. Generally, projects will be developed in collaboration with buyers of research-based knowledge products and tools.

The research area ‘Occupational Accidents and Safety Culture’ produces research of a high scientific quality, achieved among other ways through publication in recognised international journals with peer review and through collaborations with other reputable research groups, both external and within the NFA.

**Focus areas**

The focus areas of the research programme encompass the entire spectrum of the field, from identification of issues related to occupational accidents and safety, developing and testing instruments and disseminating evidence-based knowledge and tools to the prioritised industries. The Occupational Accidents and Safety Culture team aims to be an international leader within the following three focus areas:

1. Research on what works in terms of improving safety and preventing occupational accidents, including multi-pronged and orchestrated interventions as instruments in working environment efforts.
2. Research and development of validated, reliable and proactive tools that can predict poor safety or occupational accidents as well as contribute to building strong workplace safety cultures and preventing occupational accidents.
3. Research on companies’ systematic working environment efforts and their significance to occupational accidents and safety, including certified working environment management, as well as the role of working environment professionals in supporting companies’ systematic working environment efforts.

**Prioritised initiatives**

The ‘Occupational Accidents and Safety Culture’ research team aims to achieve an international leading position within the three selected focus areas through the following measures:

* Retaining and developing strong national collaborations, including interdisciplinary research in internal as well as external collaborations.
* Retaining and developing strong international collaborations by continuing to build on already established international networks.
* Further developing objective surveys and unique data such as ‘Safety Observer’ and the CAML (Certificeret ArbejdsMiljøLedelse) database.
* Ensuring that this knowledge also has a social impact by working actively to make sure that it gets applied to practice through an interactive research-to-practice approach.

**Competences**

The group has a high level of (organisational) sociological, psychosocial, ethnographic and anthropological competences. The group also has a high level of competences in relation to intervention research, implementation and research-to-practice, including a high level of qualitative competences. During the programme period, the research area will build upon the epidemiological and quantitative approaches and methods through collaborations and other means.

To be an international leader on selected areas such as safety culture and knowledge on what works in relation to preventing occupational accidents (intervention research), it is crucial to participate in international networks and research consortia. The intention is to ensure the greatest possible scientific impact as well as knowledge sharing and efficiency in research on safety and accident prevention.