



# AN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY AND THE COVERAGE OF MICRO ENTERPRISES – DOES ONE-SIZE FIT ALL?

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# Content

1. EU-OSHA
2. ESENER-2
3. ESENER-2 Follow-up study
4. ESENER-3 Outlook


# 1. EU-OSHA - Who we are

*The European Union body responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant information to serve the needs of those involved in safety and health at work.*

- One of the 40 **EU agencies**
- Governed by **European law**
- Mostly **financed** from the general EU budget
- Independent in the execution of its **mission/tasks**
- **A tripartite network organisation**, closely linked to EU actors and national networks through the national focal points

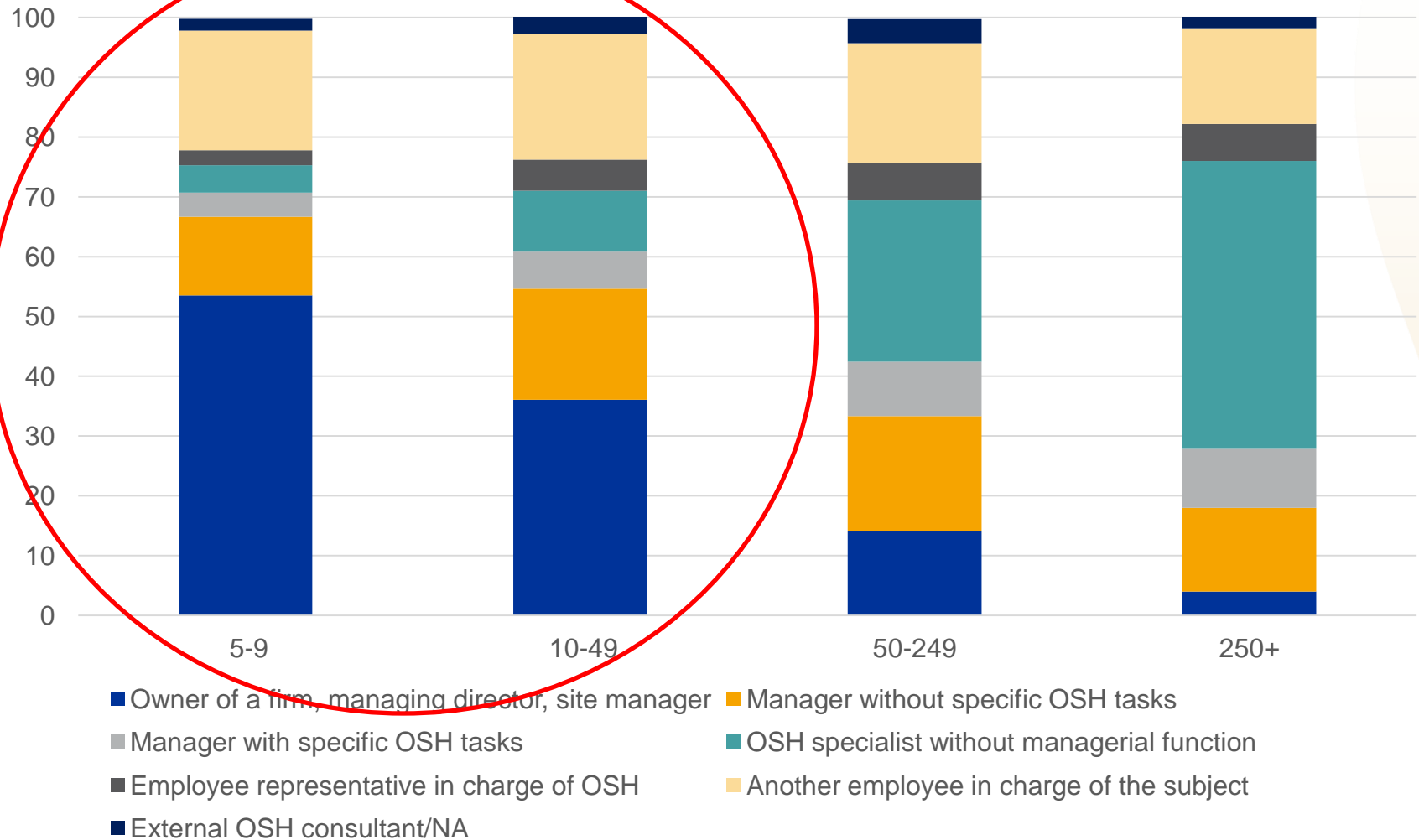


## 2. European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) - changes

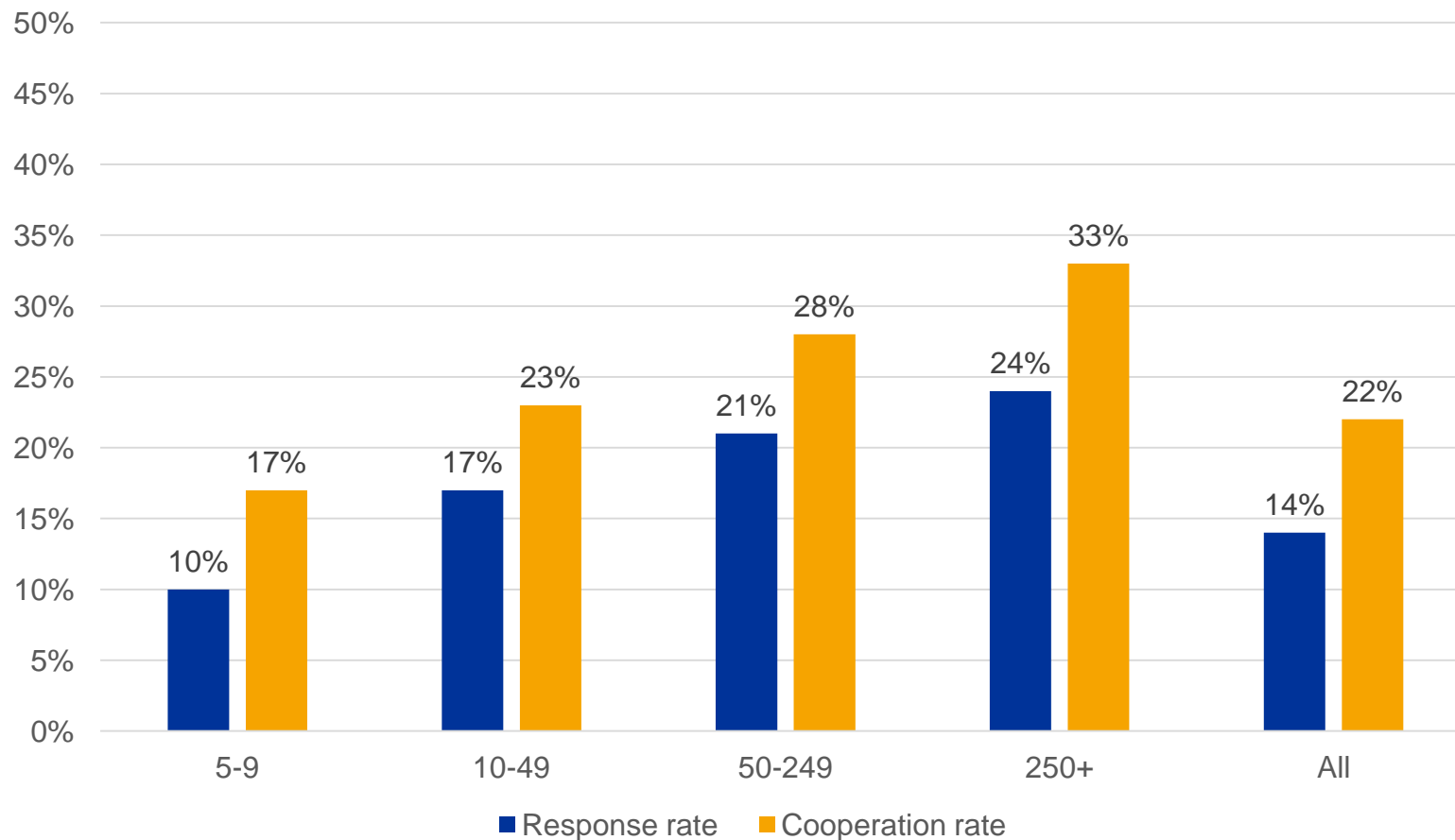
Greater geographical coverage	ESENER-1 (2009)	ESENER-2 (2014)
Countries	Total of 31: EU-28 + Turkey, Norway, Switzerland	Total of 36: ESENER-1 + <b>Albania, Iceland, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia</b>
Establishments surveyed	30,000	49,320
National versions of questionnaire Adapted for language and national OSH terminology	41	47
Increased proportion of workplaces covered	ESENER-1	ESENER-2
Smallest business size	10 workers	<b>5 workers</b> 
Sector	All, including public, <u>except</u> agriculture and fishing	All, including public <b>and</b> agriculture and fishing

## 2. ESENER-2 Respondent EU28 (in %)

*'Person who knows most about safety and health at the workplace'*



## 2. ESENER-2 Response and cooperation rates, by establishment size.



Response rate: % completed interviews from all touched addresses

Cooperation rate: % completed interviews from eligible contacts

## 2. Response rates

- Little knowledge about self-selection effects ('good OSH performers')
  - lack of information on non-participants or benchmark data
- Only indication from data:
  - All OSH provisions (risk assessments, information etc.) are taken less often by micro and small establishments (MSEs) than by larger workplaces
  - Notable country differences

### Non-response bias?

### 3. ESENER-2 Follow-up study

- Impact of expansion of survey universe in ESENER-2
- Informed by and structured around the **TSE**
  - Focus on **measurement error** - inclusion of **micro establishments**.
- *Are the survey questions applicable to micro establishments (their respondents)?*
  - i. review ESENER-1 and -2 questionnaires and relevant background information.
  - ii. an initial assessment of capability based on ESENER-2 interview responses.
  - iii. in-depth qualitative interviews (28) with respondents from micro establishments in Spain and Romania.



### 3. ESENER-2 Follow-up study

- More difficulties to reach micro establishments:
  - Partly **no regular office hours**.
  - Target persons in MSE is often the **boss** (very busy)
- **OSH in micro is handled differently:**
  - OSH often considered **not relevant** by micro (services):
    - **Uncertain** about OSH obligations.
    - **Less formalized** approach to OSH, measures taken **ad hoc/on demand**.
  - For most respondents in micro, OSH is **not their main task**, but an obligation (motivation?).
    - Often no person specialised on OSH within the establishment.
    - OSH frequently **outsourced**.
  - Small dependent units often **not allowed to participate**.
  - OSH commitment highly dependent on **owner/site manager**

### 3. ESENER-2 Follow-up study

- *‘Small establishments didn’t know **who is in charge of health and safety**, sometimes it seemed that they hear about it for the first time. Even managers of such establishments sometimes didn’t know about this topic’*
- *‘Identification was more difficult in small companies, which rely on **external providers** for the health and safety at work issues. In some cases our study was treated as some kind of **inspection**, considering that the small companies are frequently unaware of the requirements for the health and safety at work and feel **uncomfortable** about the issue.’*
- *‘In many institutions with multiple organisations there is only 1 person that is in charge for more organisations. Others are mostly not adequate to talk about the topic nor authorized’.*

Source: ESENER-2

# Conclusion and recommendations

- **One-size does NOT fit all - develop survey methods and content that are appropriate for the smallest as well as the largest businesses.**
- **Recommendations**
  - Details of the **supply chain** position of all establishments and the influences on their OSH decisions and procedures.
  - Respondents' **understanding** and **interpretation** of key concepts and terms, and its implications for survey development –prompts, hints, clarity,...
  - **Qualitative follow-up** for some establishments (micro) exploring survey answers and workplace practice – ideally including brief interview with a worker.
  - Collection of sufficient **contextual detail** for meaningful data analysis and interpretation.
  - Intensive efforts to **convert** micro establishment **refusals** during or after the survey.

## Next steps – ESENER-3

- **Cognitive test:** **done**
- **Master questionnaire (translation):** **Q4 2018**
- **Pilot test:** **Q1 2019**
- **Fieldwork:** **Q2-Q3 2019**
- **First findings:** **Q4 2019**
- **Launch event:** **Q1 2020**

### **ESRA 2019, 15-19 July, Zagreb**

*‘Business surveys and the changing data environment- how can we know best about businesses?’*

<https://www.europeansurveyresearch.org/conferences/overview>

# Discussion

- **How to develop survey methods for all business size classes?**
- **Comparative information,... by not asking exactly the same?**

# THANK YOU!

[www.esener.eu](http://www.esener.eu)

<http://oshwiki.eu/wiki/Category:Statistics>