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## ***SCAFFOLD Project\****

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### **Research Guide for the Country Reports**

In the project application the framework and the use for the research, and especially for the country reports is described as follows:

The construction sector in general, but also the scaffolding sector, undergoes impacting changes based on an internal open market and the free movement of workers. The impact concerns the overall working conditions and forms of employment. Some of these tendencies have a measurable negative impact. Bogus self-employment or the activities of letter box companies undermine working conditions in general. More specifically, bogus self-employment often excludes workers from health and safety services or from OSH training. In consequence, working conditions are less favourable for workers, less safe, resulting in higher accident rates. Furthermore, the landscape of the European vocational education/training structures for the training of scaffolders results in a kind of fragmented workforce as well as differing working conditions and, by this, undermines a level playing field for economic activities.

A proper analysis of these changes and the actual situation is needed to formulate proper policy concepts for various areas which the EU is legally responsible for or is active in a more coordinating function, namely working conditions, occupational safety and health, standardisation or skills needs and vocational education.

More specific objectives of the action are the publication of a research report that shall provide information about the overall economic situation of the sector, the working conditions in the sector with some focus on occupational hazards, the training systems in the participating countries and in Europe, more specifically the OSH training, the changes in the technical composition of scaffolds and used tools and the related standardisation work, but also regarding digitisation and robotisation in scaffolding activities and later the use of scaffolding. Possible perspectives of gender equality will be discussed in general, but especially in connection with technological innovation and possible changes in the work organisation of scaffolding work. For the country reports the question of gender equality shall be cross section task.

After having compiled the research report and based on the insight this report provides, we will prepare Policy Recommendations for the various fields that shall serve for improved discussions between the social partners of the sector and within the EFBWW affiliated unions. Finally, one more ambitious and focused objective is the assessment of the preconditions and the feasibility of the establishment of a European OSH Certificate for Scaffolders and first steps in the creation of such an OSH Certificate.

The country reports shall build on desk research and some interviews of stakeholders from training centres, trade union experts and / or experts from employer federations and possible other stakeholders. The steering group is responsible to create contacts to experts and shall support the respective person that is elaborating the country

report with material and information on the relevant aspects of the country report. The country reports can be written in the respective mother tongue and will be translated into English.

Regarding the structure of the country report, the Steering Group has worked out the following structure. For the single chapter of the report, the listed items are not exclusive and it is obvious that the researchers will not find the same quality standard for the respective aspect, maybe sometimes no information.

Especially in connection with the respective framework conditions, the country reports shall also provide a picture of the “scaffolding culture”. This can be served in the format of a more descriptive part of the report.

The Steering group also agreed that this guide is provisional and should be discussed and shall, where appropriate, adopted during the research process.

**1. The overall economic situation of the sector:**

- 1.1. General economic figures
- 1.2. the development of the economic performance over the last years
- 1.3. Relevant framework conditions
- 1.4. Labour market conditions
- 1.5. Forms of employment
- 1.6. Gender Equality

**2. Working conditions**

- 2.1. Accidents and their development
- 2.2. Special attention to the ergonomic working conditions
- 2.3. Prevention action of Unions or authorities
- 2.4. Framework conditions like weather conditions, traffic, climate, interaction with other trades or work activities – and the specific prevention measure
- 2.5. Recognised occupational diseases for scaffolders?
- 2.6. Level of absence, number recognised occupational diseases (by type)
- 2.7. Improvements in technical or organisational prevention concepts

**3. Training systems**

- 3.1. Forms of apprenticeship
- 3.2. Basic information about the training system
- 3.3. Types of certificates
- 3.4. Length of training and additional or specialized trainings
- 3.5. Curricular what is in in terms of practical and theoretical knowledge and skills
- 3.6. What has changed over the last years?
- 3.7. Are there any planning to change in the near future?
- 3.8. Trade union or employer positions

**4. OSH Training**

- 4.1. For scaffolders
  - 4.1.1. Special courses - content?
  - 4.1.2. Regularly repeated?
  - 4.1.3. Length?
  - 4.1.4. Organisational framework
- 4.2. Precondition to work as scaffolder or casually trained
- 4.3. What is the training content for?
  - 4.3.1. the competent person / advisor
  - 4.3.2. the user of scaffolds
  - 4.3.3. the trainer
- 4.4. Other aspects

**5. *Technical composition of scaffolds and used tools***

- 5.1. Description of the type(s) of scaffoldings mainly used in the country
- 5.2. New technics
- 5.3. New tools or machinery used in the scaffolding work
- 5.4. Are drones used in scaffolding work and, if yes how (descriptive)?
- 5.5. Are there any discussions or practical steps to use robots or co-bots in scaffolding work?
- 5.6. The ergonomics of any new type of tool or machinery

**6. *Social Dialogue***

- 6.1. Does an employer organisation exist?
- 6.2. Which trade union(s) represent scaffolders
- 6.3. Does a specific structure or social dialogue exist for the Scaffolding sector
- 6.4. Do specific collective agreements exist for the sector?
- 6.5. If yes, description of the content
- 6.6. Does a paritarian organisation exist? If yes, please describe
  - 6.6.1. its functions
  - 6.6.2. Its financing
  - 6.6.3. its work modus