



Reducing Respirable Crystalline Silica Dust Effectively



Project carried out
with the financial
support of the European
Commission

INVITATION

E-seminar – Workshop 1 – Thursday 21 January 2021

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

EFBWW and FIEC herewith invite you to the first workshop in the framework of the social partner project “Reducing Respirable Crystalline Silica Dust Effectively”. This online workshop will take place **on Thursday 21 January 2021** from 10:00 until 13:30 CET.

The overall aim of the workshop is to present the project, its concept, aims and expected deliverables. We also intend to gather information on the exposure to RCS dust in construction activities and good prevention practices for specific occupations. Furthermore, we like to discuss with all participants our draft concept for the mapping of construction activities and present the next project activities.

The target group of this workshop consists of social partners, prevention authorities and other experts.

Attendance is free of charge and there are no restrictions on the number of participants from affiliated members of EFBWW and FIEC. Simultaneous translation will be offered in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish upon registration.

We kindly ask you to register online using the following link: [registration form](#)

We look forward to receiving your registrations!

With kind regards,
Rolf Gehring, EFBWW Political Secretary OSH
Christine Le Forestier, FIEC Director Social Affairs

Programme

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Interpretation: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Moderated by: Christine Le Forestier (FIEC) and Rolf Gehring (EFBWW)

10:00 **Welcome** word by the project leaders

10:10 **Project – background, content, aims**

10:20 **RCS – health effects and prevention** - *Ann-Beth Antonsson, OSH expert, Sweden*

10:40 **Project Research – Status Report** – *Reinhold Rühl / Olaf Wirth – Ökopol, Germany*
Q + A / Discussion

11:10 Coffee break (after the first session)

11:20 **Tunnel construction – Difficulties and good examples** – *(Martin Sonnberger)*

11:40 **Dust emission properties of hand-operated power tools for construction sites**
(Norbert Kluger and Dieter Höber – BG BAU, Germany)

Q + A / Discussion

12:15 Coffee break (after the second session)

12:25 **CONSTRUCTIV – Prevention Concept and experiences** - *(Willem Van Peer - tbc)*

11:50 **Mapping of construction activities** - *Reinhold Rühl / Olaf Wirth – Ökopol, Germany*
Q + A / Discussion

13.30 **End of the seminar**

Summary of the project "Reducing Respirable Crystalline Silica Dust Effectively"

The EU provides a relatively comprehensive legislative framework for the protection of workers' health. High attention is paid to hazardous substances and they are regulated in a number of Directives. The high importance of the topic is also proven by the fact that the EU Commission gave the fight against work related cancer diseases priority in its strategic framework and by the decision of EU-OSHA to choose Dangerous Substances as the topic for their 2018 – 2019 campaign.

With the revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive an Occupational Exposure Limit Value (OELV) of 0.1 mg/m³ for respirable crystalline silica was established. The European Social Partner organizations for the Construction sector consider the practical implementation of this new limit value as a challenge. The proper implementation of the legal framework remains difficult, especially in a work environment that permanently changes. This continuous change is one of the main characteristics of construction work. Furthermore, construction work presents a very high diversity in types of work processes or equipment used, to name the most relevant aspects. Therefore, the levels and circumstances of exposure can vary significantly as well. With respect to this situation, the European social partners EFBWW and FIEC established an ad-hoc working group to support the implementation of the new occupational limit value for Respirable Crystalline Silica.

The working group elaborated the concept for this project, which constitutes one initiative as part of further implementation activities. Good practices and experiences are available at national level and we can build our project on these experiences as well as on some

guidance material already existing on national levels. In a first step we will map the diversity of construction activities and processes. Each activity shall be marked as green (limit values is to keep), orange (difficult to keep the limit value) or red (currently not possible to keep the limit value). The guidance part shall describe the technical and organizational measures to achieve the best level of prevention. The main deliverable, a 'Guidance –Map', shall be available on 10 languages and will be directed to social partner organization on national levels but especially to company level. The overall action shall be carried out by the European Social partner organizations EFBWW and FIEC in collaboration with some national prevention institutions, directly involved in the project steering group.