



Survey on Health and Safety in the Circular Economy (wastewater and waste)

Aim of the survey:

Europe is moving towards a circular economy, which means moving away from a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) to a more sustainable model that treats waste as a resource (reduce, reuse, recycle). The transition towards a circular economy impacts on many workers in waste management and waste water treatment. The working conditions in these sectors can be challenging and demanding, posing risks to workers' health and safety. Yet their work is often overlooked and the health and safety aspects of the transition towards the circular economy are under-researched. To address this research gap the European Public Service Union (EPSU) has commissioned a study from the Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU) on health and safety in the circular economy. The aim of this survey is to complement desk research and ensure that the voices of workers in the circular economy and their unions will be included in the final report.

Contact persons:

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Completed survey to be returned to:

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Deadline:

- 21st of February 2020

For workers:

1. In what sector(s) do you work?

2. Who do you work for?
 - A) a private company
 - b) a local authority
 - c) a government/municipally-owned utility
 - d) other, please specify

3. Name of company and/or local authority?

4. How long have you worked in this job?
 - a) Less than a year
 - b) Between 1 and 2 years
 - c) Between 2 and 5 years
 - d) Between 5 and 10 years
 - e) More than 10 years

5. Could you describe the main 2-3 tasks in your job?

6. To what extent do you have concerns about your health and safety as a consequence of your work?
 - a) No concerns
 - b) Some concerns
 - c) Many concerns

7. If you have concerns can you describe them?

8. To what extent do you experience any or all of the following as a consequence of your work?
(please tick one answer for each)

	Not at all	To some extent	To a great extent
Work-related stress			
Injury			
Exposure to hazardous substances			
Physical stress or strain			
Mental health issues			

9. Have you ever been in a situation in this job where you have felt that your health and safety at work has been put at risk?
- a) Never
 - b) Sometimes
 - c) Often
10. Are you exposed to hazardous substances?
- a) Never
 - b) Sometimes
 - c) Often
11. Do you feel that you have adequate protective clothing and equipment?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know
12. How often in the past 12 months have you received health and safety training for your job role?
- a) Never
 - b) Once
 - c) Twice
 - d) 2-5 times
 - e) More than five times
13. Do you feel the training is adequate?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know
14. Has your organisation recently changed ownership (for example change from public to private or the other way around)
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know
15. If yes, would you say that the change in ownership has had any impact on health and safety at work?
- a) No impact
 - b) Some impact
 - c) Great impact
16. Has there been any change to the organisation of your work or work processes in the past two years?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know

17. If yes – has this change had an impact on your working conditions?

	No impact	Some impact	A great impact
Working conditions			
Employee numbers			
Working time			
contracts			
Pay			
Other terms and conditions			

18. Have these changes had an impact on your health and safety?

	No impact	Some impact	A great impact
Exposure to hazardous substances			
Physical work			
Protective clothing or equipment			
Other health and safety			

19. Do you have a Health and Safety rep in your workplace?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) I don't know

20. How aware are you of the circular economy?

- a) Not at all aware
- b) A bit aware
- c) Aware

21) Name: (optional)

22) Nationality (optional)

23) Gender (optional)

24) Age (optional)

For Trade Union Representatives

1. What is the sector of the relevant workplace?
2. Could you estimate the composition of the workforce in terms of age, gender and migrant status?

	None	Under 25%	25-45%	46-54%	55-75%	75% plus
Women						
Workers under 25						
Migrant workers						

3. Is the workplace?
 - a) a private company
 - b) a local authority
 - c) a government/municipally-owned utility
4. Name of company / local authority?
5. How would you describe labour turnover in this workplace?
 - a) High
 - b) Average
 - c) Low
6. Could you describe the main occupations at the workplace?
7. How concerned are you about worker health and safety in this workplace?
 - a) Not concerned
 - b) Concerned
 - c) Very concerned

8. To what extent do workers experience any or all of the following as a consequence of their work? (please tick one answer for each)

	Not at all	To some extent	To a great extent
Work-related stress			
Injury			
Exposure to hazardous substances			
Physical stress or strain			
Mental health issues			

9. Do you think that protective clothing and equipment and health and safety training for workers are adequate?

	inadequate	Neither adequate or inadequate	Adequate
Protective clothing and equipment			
Health and safety training			

10. Has the organisation recently changed ownership (for example change from public to private or the other way around)

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) I don't know

11. If yes, would you say that the change in ownership has had any impact on health and safety at work?

- a) No impact
- b) Some impact
- c) great impact

12. Has there been any change to the organisation of your work or work processes in the past two?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) don't know

13. If yes – has this change had an impact on the working conditions of the workers at the workplace?

	No impact	Some impact	A great impact
Working conditions			
Employee numbers			
Working time			
contracts			
Pay			
Other terms and conditions			

14. How many accidents have there been in the workplace in the past 12 months? What have been the main causes of these?

15. How aware are you of the circular economy?

- a) not at all aware
- b) a bit aware
- c) aware

16. Has your organisation (public or private) or local authority introduced circular economy patterns?

- a) yes
- b) no
- c) I don't know

17. If yes, was this negotiated with the trade union?

- a) yes
- b) no

18. If yes, what has this involved?

19. Has the circular economy had any impact on any of the following working conditions?

	No impact	Some impact	Significant impact
Working conditions			
Employee numbers			
Working time			
contracts			
Pay			
Other terms and conditions			

20. Have these changes had an impact on any of the following in terms of workers' health and safety?

	No impact	Some impact	Significant impact
Exposure to hazardous substances			
Physical work			
Protective clothing or equipment			
Other health and safety			

21. If the circular economy has not been introduced have there been any discussions about this with management?

- a) Yes
- b) No

22. Can you say what implications you think that the circular economy might have for the workers that you represent?