

Introduction

In order to examine the present situation in Germany concerning work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and establish the current state of knowledge regarding suitable areas for prevention and potential preventive strategies, Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV) commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Arbeitsmedizin und Umweltmedizin (DGAUM) to identify and prioritize relevant prevention issues and areas for action. Within DGAUM the project was implemented by the Institute for Occupational and Social Medicine of Aachen University Clinic, the Institute for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine of the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, and the Freiburg Research Institute for Occupational and Social Medicine. The entire project was divided as a literature study into four different work packages:

WP1: Overview of work-related musculoskeletal disorders structured according to affected areas of the body and diagnoses, and their prevalence in various fields of activity/occupational groups (Aachen)

WP2: Attribution of the respective occupational stress/risk factors to MSDs (Aachen)

WP3: Documentation of indices and indicators concerning the effects of particular MSDs when determining prioritization of relevant prevention topics (Mainz)

WP4: An overview of potential prevention strategies evaluated for particular MSDs and a listing of nationally and internationally prioritized and planned prevention activities, together with main research focuses (Freiburg)

The insights gained from the findings of the individual work packages are to be used for prioritizing MSD prevention issues for a campaign planned by the German statutory accident insurance providers and the DGUV.