

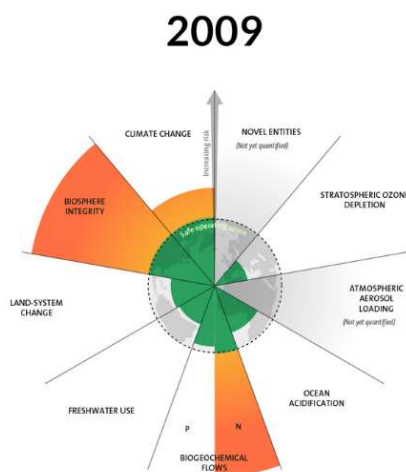
EU Green Deal – climate change implications for OSH

EUROSHNET, Kraków, 13 June 2024

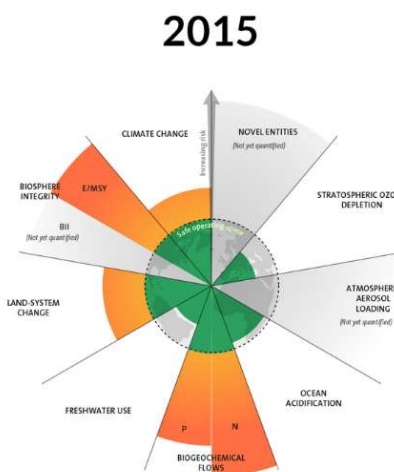
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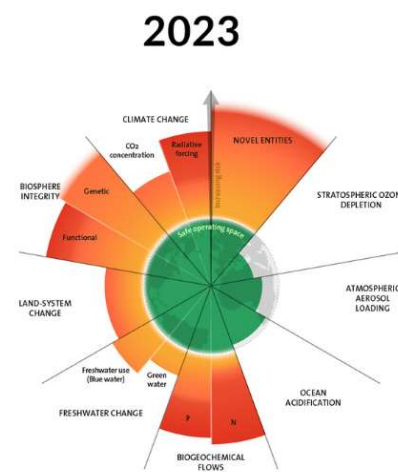




7 boundaries assessed,
3 crossed



7 boundaries assessed,
4 crossed



9 boundaries assessed,
6 crossed

[Stockholm
Resilience Centre -](#)



World in transition
Europe in adaptation
OSH under pressure

Cracow, Poland, 13-14 June 2024



EU Green Deal – what is that all about?

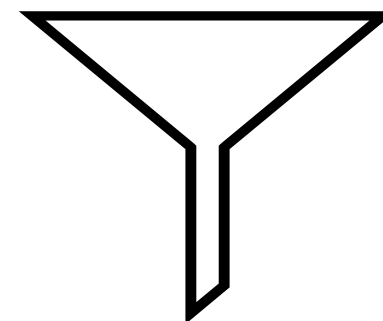
- presented by the European Commission in **2019** for **climate neutrality**
- **Examples of current affairs:**
 - 'Hottest summer ever?' [Euronews](#)
 - EU Elections 2024: Energy and climate [CarbonBrief](#)
 - Clean technologies [IEA](#)
 - Climate actions increase Europe's energy security [Euronews](#)
- Term sustainability covers **ecological, economical and social sustainability**

How climate change affects worker safety and health?

- **Climate-related occupational risks:** (Schulte et al., 2016)
 - increased ambient temperature; air pollution; ultraviolet radiation exposure; extreme weather; vector-borne diseases
 - industrial transitions; emerging industries; changes in the built environment
- **Topics related to OSH:** physiological and mental health effects; effects of “geo-engineering” (new business e.g., for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere)
- **How to ensure worker health and safety:** anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and mitigation
 - => research, policy development, surveillance, risk management,.

Various disciplines as examples => systemic view

- **Psychology:** Climate anxiety; weather effects on mood
- **Physiology:** Rising temperatures => physical performance and recovery; heat stress
- **Occupational Medicine:** Workers with chronic illnesses
- **Industrial Management, engineering:** Circular economy; new risks, new forms of production
- **Organisation and management:** Sustainability culture?
- **Sociology:** The position of societal groups in climate change (e.g. indigenous peoples in Arctic regions)



The aspects and knowledge of all disciplines is needed to form a systemic view

Implementation: Workplaces have a crucial role

Working life extends broadly across societal functions

- education, culture, health and social care
- transportation and energy
- financial and insurance sectors
- maintenance and industry
- Appr. **75% of all Europeans are engaged** in the workforce (Eurostat, 2024)



The levers and critical structures of the working life:

- boards
- customers
- HR
- occupational safety
- management
- occupational health care

26.6.2024

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The role of OSH: something old, something new

- **raising awareness**; providing guidance
- assuring **management commitment** and strategy
- fostering **sustainability competence**
- **implementing practices**; risk assessments, managing exposure to heat, preventing slipperiness
- **innovating new ways**: sustainability audits/walk-arounds; sharing lessons learnt, peer-based group discussions,..?

Workplace greening activities:

Transportation
Energy usage
Raw materials
Food choices
Infrastructure maintenance
Recycling
Procurement
Investment activities

(e.g., Yong et al., 2020; Finnish Panel for OSH, 2022; Schulte et al., 2016; EU-OSHA, 2023)

Welcome to elaborate the theme further 😊

Climate Change and Work:

How can work organizations take an active role?

24th – 26th of September 2024
Hanaholmen Hotel, Helsinki region, Finland

[Register](#)



[Climate Change and Work: How can work organizations take an active role? - NIVA Education](#)

References (in order of appearance on text)

- [Hottest summer ever? Experts reveal what could be in store for Europe in the next few months | Euronews](#)
- [EU election 2024: What the manifestos say on energy and climate change - Carbon Brief](#)
- [Rapid rollout of clean technologies makes energy cheaper, not more costly - News IEA](#)
- [Climate action will boost energy security in Europe by 8% by 2030, IMF Says | Euronews](#)
- [Statistics | Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#) (Total Employment in 2023 in Europe)
- [Schulte, P.A. et al. 2016. Advancing the framework for considering the effects of climate change on worker safety and health. J Occup Environ Hyg. 2016 Nov 1; 13\(11\): 847–865.](#)
- [Finnish Panel for OSH. 2022. Impact of climate change on occupational safety has not yet been widely identified | Work-life knowledge service | www.worklifedata.fi](#)
- Yong et al. (2020). Pathways towards sustainability in manufacturing organizations: Empirical evidence on the role of green human resource management. Business Strategy and the Environment, 29(1), 212-228.

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**Thank you
Merci
Vielen Dank**

@AnnaMariaTeperi

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