

OSH national prevention programs The Netherlands

Assessing experiences



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Who are you?

Business card

- Name
- Background
- Why at this workshop?



OSH Covenant; what is it?



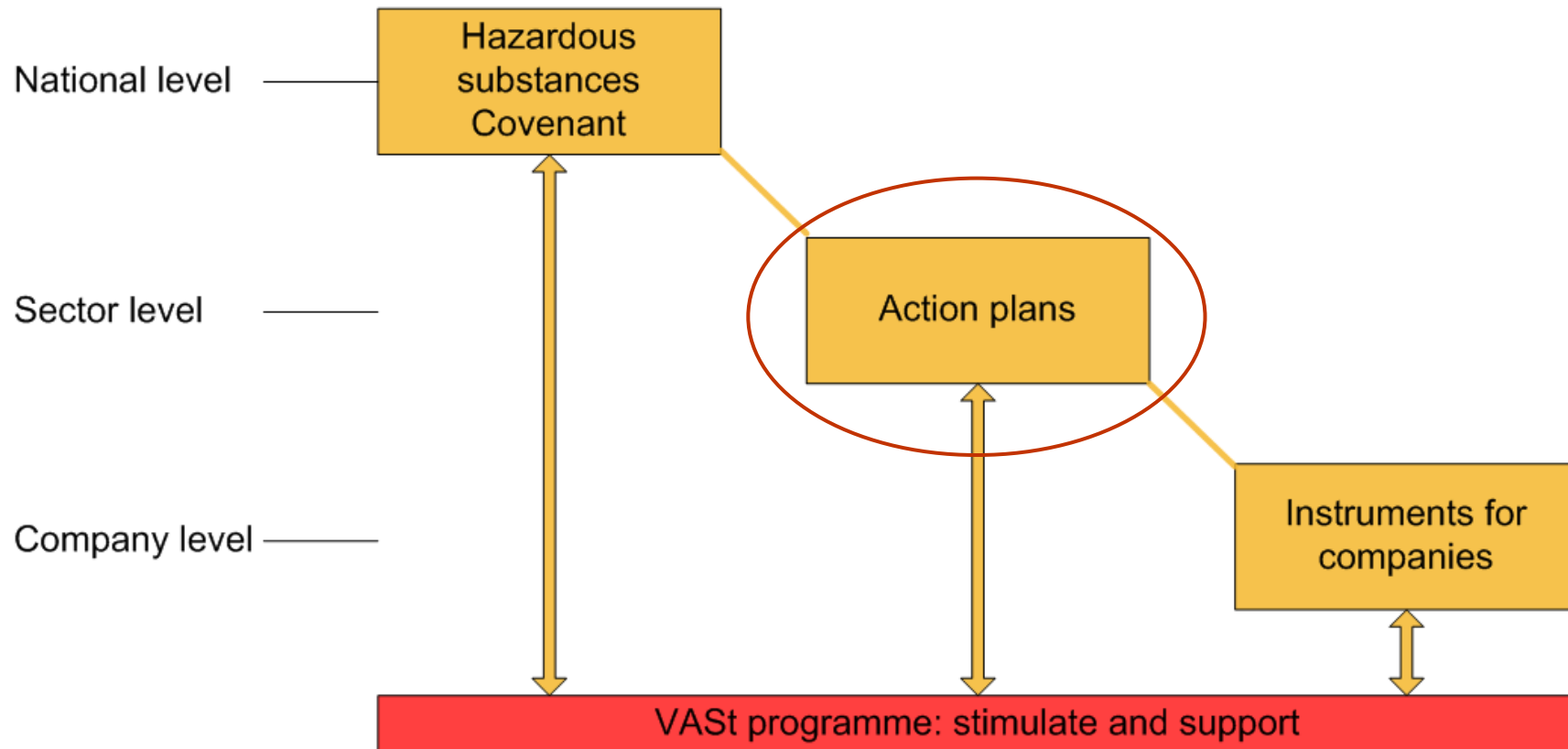
- An agreement between social partners on improvement of working conditions in their sector
- An addition to legislation and
- Intended to stimulate commitment within sectors and enterprises
- OSH covenant program executed in NL between 1999-2007
- 69 covenants were implemented in 55 sectors
- An average covenant ran for 3,6 years
- The covenants covered appr. 3,5 million workers; 52% of all Dutch workers
- Costs were shared between ministry of social affairs and social partners; total investment was 251 Meur; 33% funded by ministry of social affairs, 67% funded by sectors

OSH Covenants; the results



- During 1999-2005 sickness absenteeism lowered with 28% in covenants sectors; 2,5 times more than in non-covenant sectors; Dutch enterprises saved 450 Meur (conservative assessment)
- 53 sectors defined targets on sickness absenteeism of which 58% were fully realised and 29% partially
- Targets on lowering OSH risks were only fully reached for 19% and 31% partially
- Improvement OSH infrastructure in sectors
- More respect for interests of all stakeholders; social partners, labour inspection, ministry of social affairs
- More tools and good practices available

VASt programme; four levels



VASSt programme; the results

- concentration on sector level
- develop and execute action plan
 - dangerous substances used in sector
 - reinforcing the position of the sector in the chain 'producer, distributor, end-user'
 - reinforcing the working conditions knowledge infrastructure on dangerous substances
- 24 action plans (aim 13)
- most sectors aimed at risk assessment instruments and tools

Digital Risk Assessment; what is it?

- Administrative burden for SME's is too high
- Therefore digitize risk assessment
- Electronic checklist with automatic ranking and plan of measures
- Maintenance and update is easy
- Easier to fill in for employers
- "Marginal check" sufficient to get R.A. approved
 - agreed on by social partners (employers & employees)
 - Labour Inspectorate involvement
- Dutch government financed 50% of the costs for a sector organisation
- Presently more than 130 digital risk assessments have been produced for sectors



Digital Risk Assessment; the results



- Entrepreneurs value simplification and computerisation positively
- It saves time and is well-synchronised with business practice
- Internet is not a dominant information source for small entrepreneurs; peer entrepreneurs are more important
- TNO found that only 7 out of 35 branches with digital risk assessment tools devoted on their websites extra attention to risk assessment and only 12 of them link to www.rie.nl with all digital risk assessments available
- Each month appr. 5000 downloads
- Risk assessment builds on a preventive pro-active approach, whereas small entrepreneurs have a reactive approach
- They want immediate solutions, not analyses

Questions national prevention programs

- Are there any similar approaches in your country?
- What are the characteristics of these approaches?
- Can we define any key success factors?
- How can we assist one another?



Next steps

- What will you do next week if you return to your country?

