

# Studio Delphi per l'identificazione delle priorità di ricerca in medicina del lavoro in Italia

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## KEY WORDS

Research priorities; occupational health; Delphi study

## SUMMARY

*«Delphi study for the identification of research priorities in occupational medicine in Italy». The aim of the study was to identify the research priorities and strategies in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Italy with a high degree of consensus. Based on the Delphi technique, a two-phase questionnaire was sent to experts at Universities, Local Health Units (ASLs) and Trade Unions. In the first phase, experts were requested to indicate three research topics in the OSH sector. A total of 27 topics for both universities and ASLs and 18 topics for Trade Unions were identified. In the second phase, experts were requested to assign a score from one (low relevance) to five (high relevance) to each topic previously identified. On the basis of a mean score reported for each topic, two ranked lists of priorities, one referred to universities and ASLs the other referred to Trade Unions, were formulated. The highest priority identified by universities and ASLs was occupational carcinogenesis, followed by quality in occupational medicine. Workers' information, education and participation was also identified with a high degree of priority. For Trade Unions, occupational cancers as well as training, information, participation and prevention awareness had the highest priority. Trade Unions also identified small-industries and occupational accidents as topics with high priority for research development. This study allowed a high degree of consensus to be reached regarding the research priorities in the OSH sector in Italy. Differences in the topics identified, or regarding the mean score of topics commonly identified, were related to the origin of the expert recruited to this study (University, ASLs or Trade Unions) and, for universities and ASLs, to the geographical area. In the authors' opinion, the full transfer of existing scientific data to occupational health practice and the harmonization of the priorities identified by this investigation are crucial if the research needs in the OSH sector in Italy are to be met.*

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