

Research Priorities in Occupational Health in Italy

Iavicoli et al. (2001)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

occupational health

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - Italy

Why was it conducted at all?

There has been a call for a more rational use of the resources available for research development in the occupational health sector. Rapid changes in the workplace and concomitant health risks require an adequate response on the part of the scientific community.

What was the objective?

to find a broad consensus on research priorities and strategies in the field of occupational health and safety in Italy

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 27 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to state briefly in random order three occupational health issues that in their opinion should be given priority in research activity, resulting in list of 27 priority topics grouped together into five areas. Step 2: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate each topic

Which stakeholders took part?

Occupational safety and health specialists. Delphi round 1: 175 participants: 75 from local health units and 100 from academics. Delphi round 2: 203 participants: 102 from local health units and 101 from universities.

How were stakeholders recruited?

A list was made of all the university professors, lecturers, and researchers engaged in this field, as well as the directors of prevention departments in local health units that are part of the National Health Service. Two groups composed of all the academics in the field of occupational health and all the local health prevention services were targeted. In this context, 131 university professors, lecturers, and researchers from Italian occupational health departments or institutes took part in the study together with 179 directors from NHS local health unit prevention departments, evenly distributed all over the country.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.