

STRATEGY
2016-2025

STAMI

NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH



STRATEGY
2025

REVISED
2021





Introduction

The National Institute of Occupational Health in Norway (STAMI) works to provide Norwegian working life with the best possible outset for preventing work-related health problems, illness, and injury. STAMI is designated to stimulate Norwegian working life to develop sound working environments characterised by job commitment, well-being, and good work organisation, thus contributing to good occupational health, productivity, and competitiveness.

The development of knowledge in the working environment field is international. STAMI embodies Norway's primary means of contributing to and disseminating scientific knowledge of special national relevance in this international interchange. Similarly, STAMI is the body that interprets, retrieves and communicates relevant knowledge to Norway from the international research front. In sum, all nations should gain more than they individually contribute. Knowledge in this exchange must maintain a high international quality, and this should characterise STAMI's activities.

No other bodies in Norway have the collective expertise to perform STAMI's tasks. STAMI is nevertheless unable to carry out its social mission alone and must cooperate with businesses, the different parties involved in working life and the working environment authorities within the framework of tripartite cooperation to achieve its goals.

STAMI's strategy is our most important overall instrument to ensure that our activities are based on the needs of working life and maintain a high quality. Research and knowledge development are time-consuming activities, and research strategies should therefore have longer horizons and effective periods than what is common in other fields. At the same time, research strategies must have the necessary flexibility to be able to deal with new developments and any changes during the effective period. The current strategy at STAMI has incorporated these elements and will be a governing document for the Institute's profile for the next 10 years. The strategy will be followed up, inter alia, with two five-year action plans.

During the development of STAMI's strategy, we have assessed and participated in international evaluations of future research needs relating to the working environment and occupational health, reviewed recommendations from assessments under the auspices of the Research Council and been in dialogue with our target groups through STAMI's advisory council. We have also enjoyed broad participation from STAMI's foremost resource – our own employees. The strategy is built on a sound knowledge of the current risk situation and developments in Norwegian working life and seeks to consider conditions that are expected to affect working life in the years ahead and which may impact working environment and health.

Working life is in continuous development, and there is much to indicate that we are on the verge of a period of change and transition in Norwegian working life. This will lead to new knowledge requirements in the field of working environment and health. At the same time, considerable knowledge requirements in relation to current working life remain unsatisfied. With this strategy, STAMI should be well equipped to meet and satisfy the knowledge requirements of the period before us.

Oslo 20.09.2016

Pål Molander
Director STAMI



Addenda in connection with the review of 2021

STAMI's strategy for the period 2016–2025 was subject to an internal mid-term assessment in 2021. The main conclusion from the mid-term assessment is that STAMI has worked well in line with the strategy and that several of the specific strategic objectives have either been reached or are in the process of being achieved. The direction provided by the strategy remains a sound course for STAMI's activities and is in line with the needs of a changing working life. Although several operational strategic goals have been achieved, the strategy is also considered to indicate a clear overall direction that has enabled STAMI to act and initiate work in areas where it has been assessed to be required or appropriate, without it being specifically mentioned in the strategy document.

STAMI's strategy is thus not exhaustive but points, especially where R&D activities are concerned, at certain subject areas which needs special strategic focus or pioneering work. This does not disqualify other extremely relevant activities in areas that are considered more well established but still require effort. The overall perspective in the strategy combined with operational planning in general satisfies this in a balanced way.

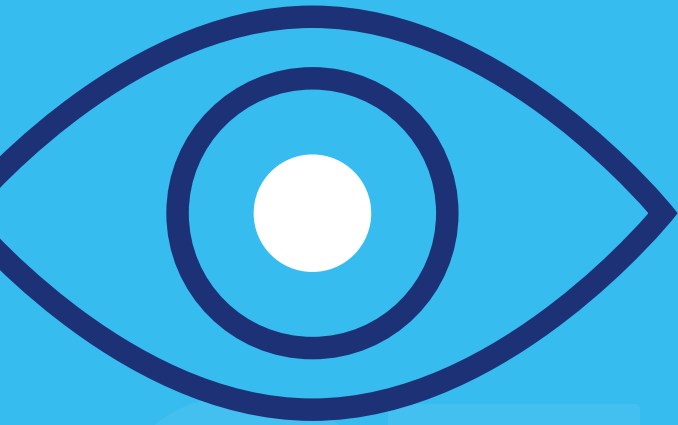
The strategy document has been updated in connection with the mid-term assessment, in line with the conclusion therein. Achieved objectives in certain subject areas which are no longer evaluated as needing special attention or priority are no longer highlighted. This does not necessarily mean that the activity is reduced or

ended, rather that STAMI considers the topic more mature and established and that it consequently does not need special attention from the Institute's management beyond what is usual at any given time. This has given room to point towards some new areas that require such special attention, as well as tightening focus on strategic objectives that are already established. The document has additionally been updated with indicative descriptions of new functions for STAMI which have arisen during the period, and which require strategic attention. An example of this is "The working environment programme" that came about as one of the measures under "The agreement regarding a more inclusive working life", and which has entailed a significant strengthening of STAMI's activities.

In sum, the revised strategy document now constitutes an operational tool that will point in the right direction for STAMI's work throughout the strategy period and will facilitate knowledge production and dissemination in line with the development and needs of working life.

Oslo 01.12.2021

Pål Molander Director STAMI



Vision

A Norwegian working life capable of preventing illness, promoting good health, and creating value through the development of sustainable working environments.

Purpose

STAMI is the national research institute in the field of working environment and occupational health. STAMI will motivate and facilitate knowledge-based prioritisation in Norwegian companies and the working environment administration.

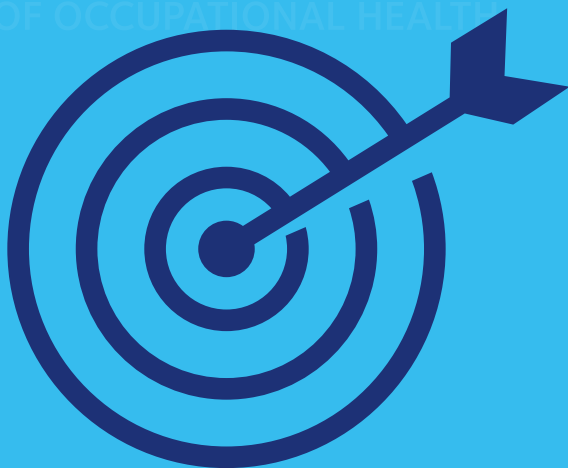
STAMI will contribute to, and retrieve knowledge from, international research on working environment and occupational health, to the benefit of Norwegian working life



Objectives

To produce, refine and disseminate knowledge about working environment and occupational health by:

- creating new knowledge through relevant research projects
- maintaining an overview of and interpreting the international scientific knowledge front
- monitoring and trends and identifying new risk factors in Norwegian working life
- presenting knowledge of risk factors and preventive measures to Norwegian working life
- contributing to knowledge-based exercise of authority
- educating and upskilling occupational health and safety personnel





Value base

STAMI's organisation and activities shall be characterised by quality, relevance, integrity, academic independence and power of execution.



Management and personnel policy

STAMI will aid the development of its own work and working environment based on the knowledge we make available to working life in general. STAMI will seek to utilise knowledge in the field to promote quality, productivity, job commitment and health through planning, organising and implementing the work in the best way possible



STAMI's social mission and framework

STAMI is an administrative body with special authorisations under the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion (AID). This form of association shall ensure STAMI's academically free and independent role, while at the same time confirming STAMI's national role and administrative responsibility.

STAMI is the national research institute and the national science-based knowledge locus in the field of working environment and health. STAMI will produce, refine, and disseminate knowledge about the working environment and occupational health.

STAMI bases its activities on research, and apportions its resource investment between research, working environment surveillance, education, knowledge dissemination and other administrative and working life supporting activities. STAMI will contribute knowledge to the international research front relating to the working environment and retrieve and disseminate knowledge to the benefit of Norwegian working life. In this way, STAMI will contribute to knowledge-based measures and priorities in Norwegian businesses, with the authorities and in employer and labour organisations.



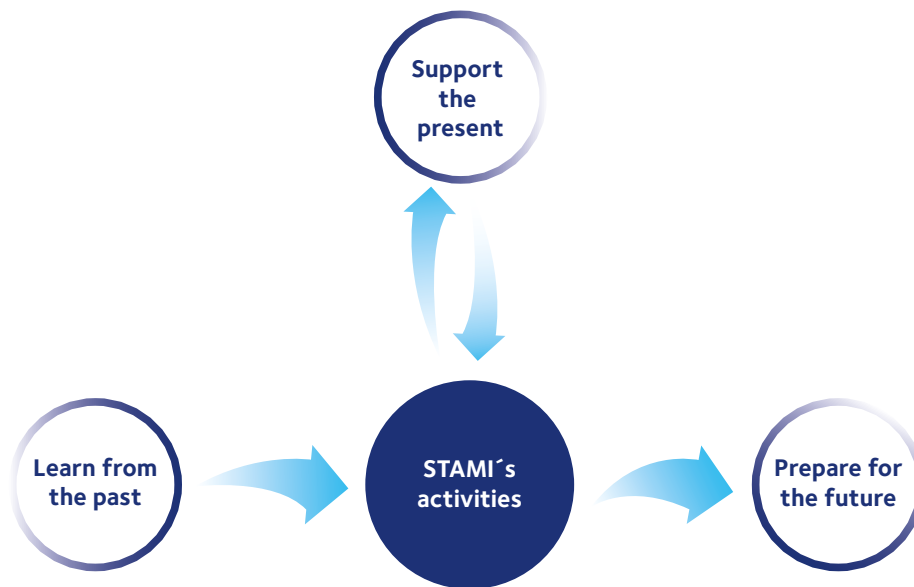
The various activities are continuously developed in line with new or altered needs and partially overlap and underpin each other. Seen as a whole, these activities enable STAMI to fulfil its social mission in the best interests of Norwegian society and working life. All activities at STAMI are based on sound scientific tradition through the multidisciplinary integration of knowledge about the working environment and health.

STAMI will strive for a good balance between knowledge and research needs relating to the working environment and health and other tasks, as well as possess sufficient professional contingency capacity to effectively be able to assess issues from Norwegian working life and initiate required activity when appropriate. STAMI's contingency function shall be given high priority.

Over time, STAMI should have an appropriate distribution of resource investment between research tasks and other tasks, as well as seek to utilise the synergy effects inherent in these partially overlapping functions.

IN LINE WITH THE TIMES

During the strategy period, both Norwegian and international working life will face change and transition. Technological and digital development will contribute to many work operations changing and will mean a great deal of work and service production may be automated, interactive or independent of location. One effect of this may be that new forms of association and an increased degree of remote work may emerge in working life. We stand, moreover, on the threshold of a green transition, through which new technologies and industrial processes will be developed, while others are phased out or changed. Internationalisation and migration are also expected to continue increasing. Skills requirements in relation to the performance of work are increasing. On the other hand, there are demographic issues in Norway linked to both entry and exit from working life, which may lead to challenges in meeting the need for qualified labour and thus affecting employment patterns. Altogether, this may lead to new forms of work and work organisation in many Norwegian enterprises.



The importance of the working environment in creating proper conditions for good, productive work is well documented, and has traditionally been a Norwegian advantage. Experience shows that changes often bring about new and unforeseen work environment challenges, or that former challenges can reappear in a new guise.

From such a perspective, it is important that STAMI creates knowledge to prevent any negative working environment effects of these changes, and thus contributes to sustainable, productive transitions. In this context, STAMI may rely on valuable expertise from both experience and current efforts as a basis for being able to anticipate future challenges and propose solutions.

During the strategy period, STAMI will maintain a flexible and proactive approach to emerging needs for knowledge, and initiate activity in step with changes in Norwegian working life. This shall ensure that it is possible to implement preventive activities in parallel with the courses of development in working life.

At the same time, it is important to recognise that working life has been in continuous change for a long time, and that there still are great needs for knowledge and communication as well as a significant prevention potential in respect of working life as we know it today. The development of scientific expertise is extremely time-consuming and requires long-term perspectives to ensure good quality.

In the current strategy period, STAMI will attempt to strike a good balance between the further development of established areas of expertise and the development of new such areas, where the input factors must be guided by the knowledge needs and developments in Norwegian working life.

STAMI will base the selection of activities, and especially research activities, on the following criteria:

- knowledge needs and developmental trends
- national importance
- potential for prevention
- scope and severity
- scientific potential and significance

- possibility of implementation in the form of resources and expertise

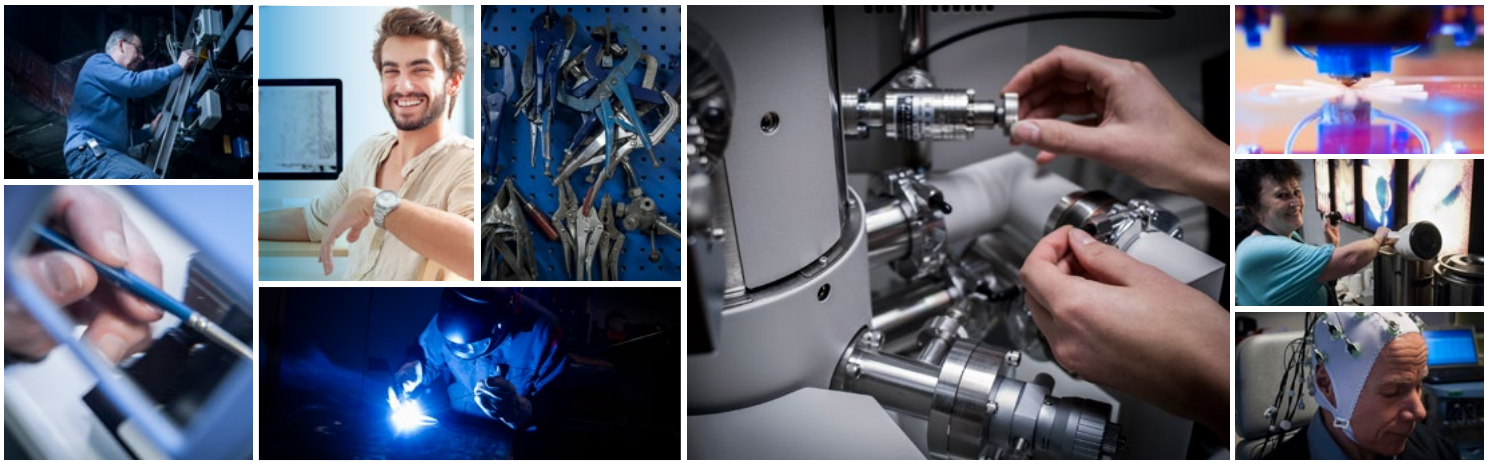
STAMI will endeavour to exploit the potential of digitalisation to fortify and streamline all our focus areas, and will prioritise bolstering efforts as a means to this end..

STAMI'S STRENGTHS

STAMI's main strengths are consistently vigorous interdisciplinary scientific expertise within most of the subject areas relevant to working environment and occupational health, as well as the ability and tradition of integrating this multidisciplinary knowledge into a whole. The knowledge that is integrated and gathered under one roof at STAMI would, in a typical university organisation, have been spread between several different faculties with no tradition or infrastructure for collaboration.

Results from, and consequences of, work environment and health research have the potential to create conflict between opposing parties. One of STAMI's strengths is the ability to develop, implement and communicate results from knowledge development and research projects in working life in a balanced, academically independent, and quality-assured manner. This requires a constructive dialogue with companies, the social partners involved in working life and the working environment authorities. One important prerequisite is that STAMI's employees have a good understanding of STAMI's independent and neutral role and a high degree of role awareness in their work. Understanding and mastering the context in which working environment research is carried out is a prerequisite of STAMI being able to carry out its social mission in a manner that inspires confidence. STAMI's funding model supports this.

STAMI's ability to understand the public administration's tasks and needs is also considered a strength and is essential when carrying out tasks relating to, and in support of, the administration. The ability to balance and master the combination of academic independence and the role as subagent agency ensures good knowledge of both the cultures and mechanisms of science and administration. This provides a solid platform for STAMI's tasks performance.



STAMI's most important expertise and support competencies are:

- knowledge about Norwegian working life and its agencies
- sound, informative dialogue with the parties involved in working life and the authorities
- high degree of role awareness
- knowledge of important working environment exposures, mechanisms and health effects, and the associations between these
- high scientific standard and expertise
- wide range in methodological knowledge and infrastructure
- national and international network and collaborative constellations
- the ability to combine research, surveillance, education and working life and administrative support functions in an independent, quality-assured, resource-efficient manner
- the ability to translate research into advice and guidance in preventive activities, through communication and education
- quality-assured, professionally independent, balanced, comprehensible and engaging dissemination and communication

STAMI'S TARGET GROUPS

STAMI's target groups are Norwegian working life and parties of significance to Norwegian working life. The core target groups are represented in STAMI's advisory council, which is a key forum for dialogue with these parties.

BUSINESSES

Norwegian businesses constitute a key target group and end user of STAMI's knowledge development and dissemination. Fulfilment of STAMI's social mission is linked to the application of available knowledge in these organisations. Business Managers, union representatives and safety representatives form a particularly important target group in the light of their roles in developing the working environment. As part of its dissemination activities, STAMI will develop and offer research-based measures and tools that are suitable for direct use in individual organisations, and which will support the local parties' work in developing good working environments. The working environment programme under the

Agreement on a more inclusive working life (IA agreement) and the website "The working environment portal" will be important means for reaching the end users.

PARTIES INVOLVED IN WORKING LIFE

The social parties involved in working life jointly set the premises for most efforts to improve working environments and the development of knowledge in the field, both centrally and in the individual organisation. The parties involved in working life are therefore key target groups for the Institute's work, and important advisors in relation to STAMI's activities and priorities. STAMI should be able to engage and motivate the parties to effort through knowledge-based dialogue. The working environment initiative will be an important arena for interaction in this dialogue between the parties.

THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITIES

In addition to research-based knowledge development of direct relevance to the working environment authorities, STAMI carries out several tasks relating to, and in support of, the public administration.

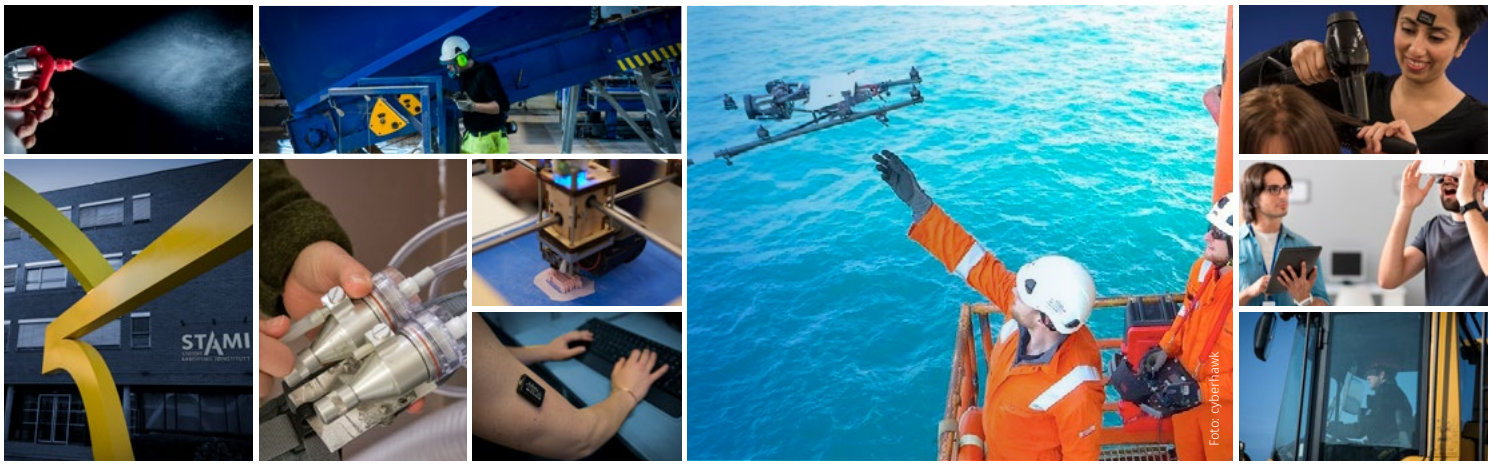
STAMI communicates specialist knowledge to the working environment authorities as a basis for the development of legislation and regulations and provides knowledge and knowledge development as a basis for the authorities' strategies and priorities. The working environment initiative is an important arena for developing and strengthening interactions between STAMI and the other authorities in the field.

POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS

The Institute will contribute value-neutral knowledge to policy and decision-makers at societal level so that priorities of importance for work and occupational health are made on the best possible basis.

HEALTH AGENCIES

STAMI is the central academic community for information, education, advice, and guidance in the field of working environment and health. The primary health service and the occupational health service are thus important target groups. STAMI has been assigned the function of coordinator for cooperation and joint knowledge development between the occupational medicine departments at the health institutions and will be a link between the departments and the working environment authorities.



RESEARCH COMMUNITIES

To other research communities, both nationally and internationally, STAMI shall be an attractive partner for collaboration within the Institute's specialist fields. STAMI embodies Norway's primary means of contributing knowledge to the international research front and is responsible for making knowledge from the international research front available to Norwegian working life.

STAMI'S FUNDING BASIS

There is a long tradition in Norway for working environment and health research to be predominantly publicly funded. This helps secure levels of investment and independence. The possible consequences of working conditions upon health can be severe, and the field possesses the potential for conflict between parties. Therefore, the field is not especially suitable for the commission market. In addition, experience shows that the market for knowledge development on prevention in general, including working environment research, is limited. Public funding of this activity has therefore proved to be both necessary and effective in Norway as in most other comparable countries. The funding of STAMI through the ministry's letter of allocation is the main Norwegian means of contributing to the international production of knowledge on the working environment and occupational health.

Nevertheless, STAMI is dependent on external co-funding of research projects, usually through public funding in research council programmes, in EU framework programs or other national or international research funds. Access to such funding in the field of working environment and occupational health is currently scarce, however, both nationally and internationally. To ensure proper economic conditions for STAMI, research projects will therefore often be co-financed, with contributions from both STAMI's basic funding and from external funding sources. Such co-financing requires that the external funding is granted in a contribution context, and that the project has a general interest beyond the potential special interest of contributors. Such projects should therefore generate positive professional ripple

effects for both STAMI, Norwegian working life and society in general. The knowledge generated in these projects must be openly published and made available for general use. Such conditions must be documented for every project in STAMI's research administrative systems, by elaborating on the projects' working environmental relevance, social benefits and plans for publication and dissemination.

To avoid any uncertainty about potential cross-subsidisation of STAMI through the basic funding, STAMI does not carry out so-called commission projects, where the client has special interests in the project and a greater control over hypotheses, choice of method and publication of results. This market is anyway extremely limited in the field of working environment and health and would, in certain cases, result in suspicion about the independence and quality of the results.

STAMI has a social mission that extends beyond pure research, and STAMI's other activities are mainly funded by public basic funding, except for certain educational or working life support services that are offered at cost as there is no well-functioning commercial market for these services.

STAMI can thus be seen as a public instrument placed at the disposal of Norwegian working life to develop knowledge aimed at creating sound working environments and promoting employees' health, and thereby contributing to a sustainable and competitive Norwegian working life.

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

STAMI participates as the Norwegian representative in international scientific fora dealing with working environment and occupational health, thus ensuring that knowledge from Norway and STAMI is made available for international application and, likewise, that international knowledge is made available to the Norwegian working life. STAMI's contingency role, which gathers and facilitates knowledge for Norwegian working life, shall be prioritised and rests on a significant international network and commitment.



Research

The working environment field is extremely wide and embraces a raft of specialist disciplines. On an international scale, STAMI is one of the smallest national research institutes on occupational health. This means that STAMI's prioritisation criteria for its own research must be significantly focused to be able to maintain international quality.

STAMI's social responsibility encompasses more than our own research, and we have a responsibility to possess or absorb science-based knowledge from international quality-assured literature. STAMI's research expertise should strike a balance between performing our own research and following up on, interpreting and evaluating research carried out by others. Thus, STAMI's priorities must safeguard long-term needs for knowledge and expertise within the sector area.

With a risk-based main approach, STAMI will build and disseminate knowledge about the impact of the working environment on health, sick leave and absenteeism, and shed light on the positive effects of working environment conditions on, among other things, job satisfaction, job commitment, belonging and well-being. This knowledge must contribute to uncovering and clarifying both risks and benefits.

STAMI'S RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Through relevant, effective and quality-assured research at a high international level, STAMI will make scientific contributions within our field of activity and seek to publish our work in leading international peer-reviewed journals. Our research activities shall support and align with STAMI's other tasks.

STAMI will emphasise the utilisation of its full range of expertise through cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary research projects. STAMI's research strengths and advantages are breadth of methods and infrastructure that covers, inter alia:

- epidemiology and health knowledge
- characterisation of exposures at workplaces and in
- experimental laboratory studies
- chemical, physical, biological, psychological, and other health-related measurements
- human, animal, and cellular models.

STAMI aims to build further based on these advantages. STAMI's research strategy provides scope for studying working environment conditions in the broadest sense, and

the project portfolio should reflect this as far as possible. Due to resources, STAMI's main priority must however be narrowed down and aimed at working environment conditions of importance for health, focusing on exposures and outcomes, as well as the underlying mechanisms that govern these relationships. Knowledge of causes presupposes both knowledge of risk conditions and mechanisms, and STAMI will strive for such a holistic approach in all our projects. STAMI has a special responsibility for facilitating prospective and longitudinal studies when possible.

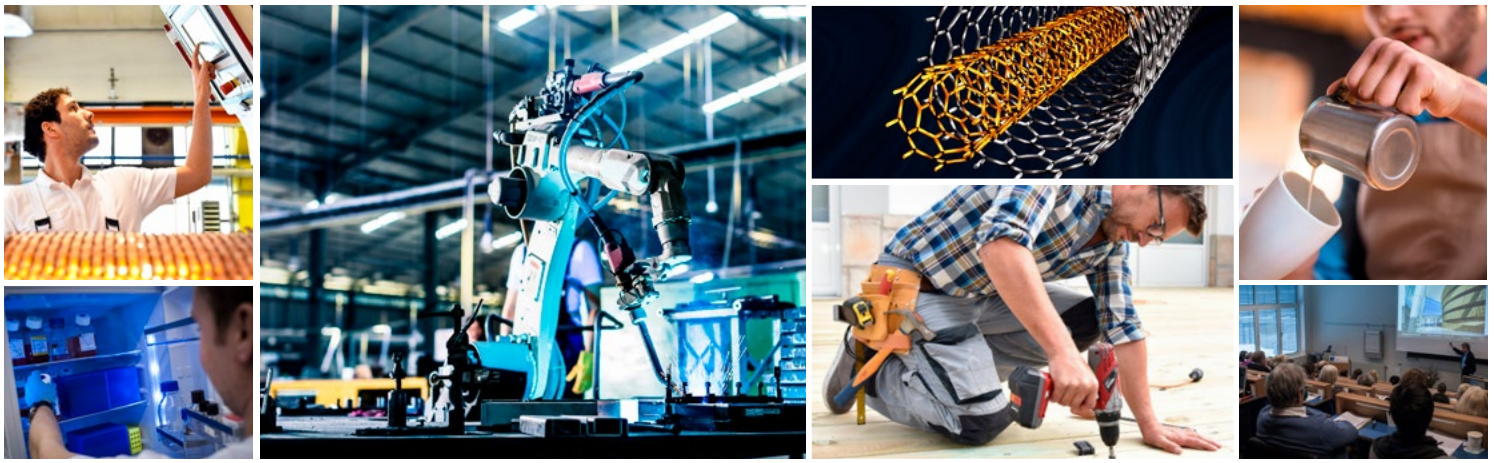
During the strategy period, STAMI will give priority to developing knowledge about the following exposures, including relevant mechanisms and health outcomes of such exposures:

- psychosocial and organisational conditions
- physical (including mechanistic) conditions
- chemical and biological conditions

Exposures can often be understood as risk-oriented, and it is therefore necessary to specify that positive effects of working environment conditions and initiatives are included in the category psychosocial and organisational conditions.

In addition to this overall main approach, which allows studies within a broad thematic spectrum of working environment issues, STAMI will, during the strategy period, specifically seek to build new expertise or increase the level of activity linked to the following issues of importance to working environment and occupational health which require special strategic attention:

- new technologies and organisational forms including:
 - green technologies and new material
 - digitalisation
 - design of office premises
 - remote work and developments in types of work, employment, and association
- working time arrangements
- working conditions for immigrants, migrant workers and guest workers
- the importance of the working environment in relation to social inclusion and increased employment
- injuries and accidents
- development of biomarkers for exposure and impact
- evidence synthesises studies of interventions and effects of measures
- European collaborative projects under EU framework programmes



Monitoring of the working environment

Through National Occupational Health Surveillance (NOA), STAMI monitors trends and risk factors in the working environment of significance for occupational health, injuries, and accidents, as well as for work-related sick leave and withdrawal from work among employees in Norway. The factual basis must be adapted to accommodate the respective needs of the authorities, involved parties, businesses and occupational health services for quality-assured information.

NOA must ensure that the parties involved in working life and the working environment authorities have a shared, suitably adjusted, objective knowledge base, divided as far as possible by occupation and industries/sectors, to use as a platform for the tripartite dialogue on working environment.

NOA's analyses of the working environment in Norway must be of high standard and based on the use of up-to-date, quality-assured national data sources and scientific methodology. The factual basis obtained will contribute to effective prevention both nationally and locally at individual workplaces and provide a basis for the authorities' and working life's priorities.

During the strategy period, STAMI will maintain particular focus on:

- describing status and trends in the working environment every three years through the preparation of the Factbook on working environments and health (the Factbook), including the further development of the Factbook's format and content in line with the development of digital dissemination solutions
- developing and increasing the availability of monitoring data in a dynamic, user-friendly electronic format as a supplement to the Factbook
- strengthening and developing the data basis for the monitoring system, increasing, among other things, the potential for dividing at profession/industry/sector level
- strengthening the strategic collaboration with the monitoring system's data provider and collaborative partners
- assuring the quality of the indicators in the monitoring system through scientific analyses of the connection between risk factors in the working environment and health outcomes
- increasing the use of the factual basis as a foundation of STAMI's communication activities
- strengthening the cooperation with other European surveillance bodies to further develop existing surveys on working environment and occupational health



Communication and education

Communication and dissemination activities are important tools for maximising the utilisation of knowledge from STAMI in Norwegian working life. STAMI will achieve this through clear communication, accessible research dissemination and research-based courses and seminars.

STAMI will follow government communication policy and work for full transparency, accessibility, and a high level of integrity. STAMI wishes to facilitate, to the greatest extent possible, direct interactions via suitable channels between the experts, the knowledge and the Institute's various target groups.

STAMI's overall communication efforts includes all target groups and shall be aimed at the end users to a greater extent than previously; this includes dialogue with employees and managers in Norwegian businesses. STAMI's communication shall both enhance and increase the Institute's visibility and strengthen the Institute's role in the Norwegian public sphere by working to retain and strengthen its role as a reference point for both lexical and practical knowledge of Norwegian working life in the Norwegian media, among the Norwegian public, for Norwegian businesses and for people in general.

COMMUNICATION AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

Our communication activities shall make STAMI visible as the national research institute and knowledge agency in our field, and clarify our role as a leading provider of knowledge to the parties involved in Norwegian working life.

Our communication activities shall be readily accessible in a format that facilitates and stimulates the application of knowledge through scientifically based measures to the benefit of Norwegian working life and individual businesses. During the strategy period, STAMI will place particular emphasis on developing dissemination strategies that increase the availability and application of knowledge from STAMI in working life, through adaptations of both the messages and the various means of dissemination.

Priority measures in STAMI's communication and reputation building are:

- increased dialogue with target groups
- increased availability of knowledge and tools, including
- keener focus on communication with end users
- increased use of new communication technology and

new, integrated communication channels, including infographics, films, and e-encyclopaedias, to strengthen our role as the national scientific reference point for both lexical and practical knowledge of the working environment, popular dissemination of our own and others' scientific work and evidence syntheses of relevance for Norwegian working life

- strategic reputation building by means of increased visibility and activity in several arenas
- contribute to maximising the advantage of collaboration spaces, synergies and communication channels through partnership in the "Agreement of Including Working life" (IA) working environment programme, including the development of the website "The working environment portal" and industry-specific, science-based digital tools and measures

EDUCATION, COURSES AND SEMINARS

As an important part of the Institute's government assignment, STAMI has a special responsibility for education and upskilling of personnel in the field of working environment and occupational health. STAMI's courses and seminars are research-based and aimed in particular at personnel in occupational health and safety services. The university and college sector has only fragmented and limited scope for providing this type of education.

Priority measures in STAMI's educational activities are to:

- provide relevant, quality-assured and research-based courses and seminars
- establish course and tuition opportunities on multiple platforms by means of e-learning and digital interfaces
- increase course and teaching collaboration in the Nordic countries through, among others, NIVA and Nordic sister institutes
- seek to develop and offer a formal educational programme to provide competence in the field of working environment and occupational health in collaboration with a university or college
- seek to establish more specialisation opportunities at STAMI through strategic collaboration with relevant professional association



Other public administration support functions

STAMI is a government agency and an administrative body with special powers, but the Institute does not make administrative decisions. An important part of STAMI's government assignment is nevertheless to perform task close to, and in support of, public administration. STAMI's knowledge development shall contribute to knowledge-based management in the working environment field, and knowledge disseminated by STAMI is of direct relevance to the other working environment authorities. STAMI shall provide and convey specialist knowledge to the working environment authorities as a basis for the drafting of laws, regulations, strategies, and priorities. STAMI has support functions for, and cooperates closely with, the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, the Petroleum Safety Authority, and parts of NAV, and shall assist the ministry in professional matters when necessary. STAMI's contingency function shall ensure that the working environment authorities are updated as soon as possible on new and emerging risks that may impact Norwegian working life.

During the strategy period, STAMI will continue to develop its collaboration with the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority in setting knowledge-based inspection priorities and studying the effects of different measures in the supervisory work, as well as contribute to realising the potential of the IA working environment programme alongside the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, the Petroleum Safety Authority and NAV.

Certain tasks in the border area between research and the exercise of authority have been delegated to STAMI. These administration-related tasks would drive up costs if the supervisory authorities were to carry them out themselves, as this work requires specialist, scientific expertise that is best managed and cultivated in a scientific setting. Nor would pure research and specialist environments in, for example, the university and college sector, the institute sector or the consultancy industry with limited administrative expertise, agency experience and understanding of roles, be able to solve such tasks in a cost efficient manner. STAMI, on the other hand, may utilise the synergies of affiliation, organisation, competence and experience to perform such tasks efficiently and with a high degree of quality in addition to its other responsibilities.

Examples of such tasks are:

- national surveillance of the working environment and health and contribution to knowledge-based supervisory priorities
- management of the centre of expertise for specialist advice to the occupational health service in Norway
- regulatory toxicology and knowledge basis for the setting of limit values
- national exposures register for working environments involving chemicals (EXPO)
- national working hours register
- laboratory functions on behalf of the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority
 - method development when new types of exposure data are needed
 - reference laboratory function
- coordination of cooperation and knowledge development within the field of occupational medicine
 - occupational medicine policlinic
 - national register of occupational medical examinations
 - occupational medical guidelines
 - assessments of work-related illness in connection with occupational injury compensation for NAV
- contingency function when new requirements for knowledge arise
 - cluster investigations of the connections between work and health
 - alert function
 - centre of expertise for specialist advice to the occupational health service in Norway
- the IA working environment programme
- specialist support to the ministry and supervisory agencies
- evidence synthesis
- improved knowledge basis when carrying out long-term, prospective studies
- statistical development in the field
- representative in advisory bodies, committees, networks, and organisations both nationally and internationally



Other working life support functions

STAMI shall map relations between work and health, assess risks and propose preventive measures. STAMI's activities shall motivate and enable Norwegian working life and Norwegian businesses to build sound, sustainable working environments, prevent injuries and promote good health. All knowledge disseminated by STAMI should be directly relevant to working life. STAMI will prioritise direct contact with businesses in need of advice and support, either directly or through the occupational health service, and facilitate giving advice accommodated to the users.

During the strategy period, STAMI will maintain its focus on developing approaches and tools that, on the best possible basis, facilitate the application of relevant knowledge in Norwegian workplaces.

As the national research and knowledge agency in the field of working environment in and occupational health in Norway, STAMI performs specific services, provides advice and carries out investigations as support for industries and companies, if there is no commercial quality-assured market for these services. The commercial market for such services is small and decreasing. During the strategy period, STAMI will continue

giving high priority to consultancy and support functions for businesses and industries, including the occupational health service, which often represents others.

STAMI shall prioritise the following tasks and services in support of working life:

- assessment, guidance, and advice
- national working environment library
- advisory service for pregnancy and the working environment
- advice related to the choice of sampling strategies for exposure mapping
- rental of sampling equipment for exposure mapping
- chemical service analyses and interpretation thereof
- facilitation of data extraction and graphics from NOA
- facilitation of data entry, data extraction and graphics from EXPO
- education and dissemination activities
- development and provision of tools to develop good working environments through "The working environment portal" and the IA working environment programme

