Foundation

Learning and Developing Occupational Health

Annual Report
2023 - 2024

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1. The foundation LDOH

The mission of the Learning and Developing Occupational Health Foundation is to support professionals all over the world through capacity development and good quality education on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). The foundation has the aim to promote Universal Occupational Health Coverage (WHO).
LDOH experts are mostly working in international teams including various universities and other institutions. They have good connections with many national and international organizations in the field, especially ICOH, WONCA, IOHA, ILO, ENETOSH, NVAB, IOMSC, ACOEM and EASOM. For more information about the foundation, visit the website https://ldoh.net/.

LDOH staff have a high level of expertise in:

1. Occupational and work-related diseases: research, diagnosis, health surveillance, prevention, notification systems
2. Evidence-based OSH practice, practice guidelines, online OSH information, and online/blended education
3. Occupational health care in different forms such as primary and community health care activities for workers' health (basic occupational health services), expert-based occupational health services, and clinical occupational health specialists
4. Occupational health care in agriculture

Main activities are:

- Development and organization of education and training
- Consultancy and advisory services for the development of diverse forms of occupational health care, especially basic occupational health services
- Organization of international collaboration, projects, meetings and congresses
- Dissemination of good quality OSH education online

International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) activities

LDOH was active and well-visible in the ICOH scientific committees on Education, on Effectiveness of Occupational Health Services, and on Agriculture.

2. Members of Board, Staff, International Advisory Board

A new Board of LDOH

April 2024, Marten van Til and Teake Pal resigned as Chairperson respectively Board member of LDOH, after 10 years of successful activities for the foundation. The LDOH staff are very grateful for all their efforts during this long period of time. Mariëlle van Aalst and Carel Hulshof started respectively as Board member/Treasurer, and new Chairperson of the LDOH Board.

Mieke Lumens, Secretary of the Board, continued her Board membership, Frank van Dijk continued his advisory position on the Board.

Given the decision of several staff members to stop activities in the LDOH, mainly because of retirement reasons, the task group on work and health in Agriculture has been dissolved in April 2024. The task groups LDOH Online and BOHS continue their activities. They will also support the promotion of the unique book and course materials on agriculture that LDOH recently developed. We are considering spending more attention on health surveillance as a new topic for the foundation.

In 2023 and 2024 we had several meetings and consultations discussing goals, activities and future opportunities for LDOH. We are still looking for sustainable alliances with universities, professional associations, and schools of public/occupational health responsible for professional education. One bottleneck is the focus on research in universities and the focus on national practice in most national institutions. International capacity building and collaboration deserve more attention. A second problem is a lack of funds and manpower in most national and international organizations. A third issue is the low visibility and poor international representation of the needs of informal workers, workers in small companies, self-employed, farmers and agricultural workers, who mostly have no access to any form of protection and health promotion through occupational health care.

We decided to continue the work of the foundation, discussing new activities such as starting a series of webinars in 2025 such as on BOHS, health surveillance, guideline development, and agriculture. The internationalization of the staff of the foundation will continue. Suvarna Moti from Mumbai, India, top expert in BOHS, has been welcomed as new member of the staff.

Members of the Board until 15 April 2024
Marten van Til (chair-treasurer)
Mieke Lumens (secretary)
Teake Pal (member)
Frank van Dijk (advisory member as chair International Advisory Board)

Members of the Board from 15 April 2024
Carel Hulshof (chair)
Mieke Lumens (secretary)
Mariëlle van Aalst (treasurer)
Frank van Dijk (advisory member as chair International Advisory Board)

Members of the staff 2023, until 15 April 2024
Yohama Caraballo-Arias (reliable information, communication, Latin America, ACOEM)
Mieke Lumens (occupational hygiene, education, Central-Asia, IOHA)
Gert van der Laan (agriculture, occupational diseases, coordinator Central-Asia, Türkiye)
Teake Pal (chemical exposure and effects, clinical occupational medicine)
Marrit van der Meer (online education & information, coordinator task group LDOH Online)
Frank van Dijk (reliable information, LDOH online, BOHS, agriculture, ICOH, WONCA)
Marten van Til (occupational health services)
Maarten Verberk (agriculture, coordinator task group Agriculture)

Members of the staff from 15 April 2024
Yohama Caraballo-Arias (information, communication, Latin America, ACOEM, IOMSC)
Carel Hulshof (health surveillance, practice guidelines, occupational health services, NVAB)
Mieke Lumens (occupational hygiene, education, IOHA)
Suvarna Moti (BOHS, IAOH-India, ICOH)
Mariëlle van Aalst (guideline development, NVAB)
Marrit van der Meer (online education & information, coordinator task group LDOH Online)
Frank van Dijk (reliable information, LDOH online, BOHS, agriculture, ICOH, WONCA)
Maarten Verberk (agriculture)

Members of the International Advisory Board in 2023 and 2024
Claudio Colosio (Milan, Italy)
Roberto Lucchini (Brescia, Italy; Miami, USA)
René Mendes (Curitiba, Brazil)
Katja Radon (Munich, Germany)
Norbert Wagner (Singapore)
Frank van Dijk (Leiden, Netherlands) (chair)

3. Projects, publications, education and website

Projects

Book and article on OSH online, how to find reliable information

In 2021 we published a scientific article on this topic in the Annals of Global Health. In total 357 downloads were noted by the journal (accessed 10 February 2025). Most downloads were in 2021 and 2022. In 2023 60 books 'Occupational Safety and Health, how to find reliable information' (third edition, 2016) were downloaded from our website (46 English, 14 Spanish), 64 books were downloaded in 2024 (19 English, 44 Spanish, 1 Turkish). The recently added 'Glossary for OSH terms' (English version) has been downloaded 22 times in 2024.

Book and course on Work and Health in Agriculture

November 2022, we published the evidence-based textbook 'Work and Health in Agriculture, for primary, community and occupational health care' (Verberk MM, Van Dijk FJ), 151 pages. In 2023, 87 books were downloaded, in 2024 24 books. In addition, we published a comprehensive set of educational materials on basic occupational health care in agriculture in July 2023. These materials are designed to be used together with the textbook 'Work and Health in Agriculture' and include a teacher's manual with interactive materials for classes, and a section on teaching skills, presentations and assignments. These materials are the foundation for a course of 3-4 days for primary health care professionals, also appropriate for occupational health professionals. In 2023, 16 sets of educational materials were downloaded, and in 2024 20 sets. The intention is that a local OSH expert team will adopt this course, adapt it to the local conditions and execute and evaluate the course, when possible, in collaboration

with the LDOH. The challenge for LDOH is to find interested teams in several countries. We have sent printed copies of the final book version to many experts in the world. In addition, we offered copies of the book and materials during international congresses in 2023, such as by Sashikala Chandrasekar (ICOH chair SC Agriculture) in Australia to the vice-director of ILO (right picture), and by Gert van der Laan in Türkiye to Shengli Niu, representing ILO at that congress (left picture).

October 2023, we developed a flyer for the promotion of the book on agriculture and the course materials. The flyer was distributed, for instance, at the ICOH Congress in Morocco, May 2024. We started consultations to translate the book and learning materials in Spanish.

Primary health care and workers health, BOHS

In September 2022 we published our Repository for publications on Basic Occupational Health Services and similar innovations worldwide, based on systematic literature searches. This online repository is downloadable free-of-charge and contains records of 189 papers published between 2000 and 2022. The publications are divided in those using a global perspective, and those using a country or regional perspective dealing e.g. with Brazil, Thailand, or southern Africa. All records contain bibliographic information, show the global or country perspective, the abstract or a short description of the content, and a link to the abstract or the full text publication. In 2023, 14 copies of the repository were downloaded, in 2024, 18 copies.

In February 2023 we published the article 'A Repository for Publications on Basic Occupational Health Services and Similar Health Care Innovations' in the journal Safety and Health at Work. The article is free of charge downloadable. The journal noted 75 readers (accessed 10 Feb 2025). In the article it is mentioned that occupational health services are not available for more than 80% of the global workforce. Especially informal workers, workers in

agriculture and in small enterprises, and self-employed workers do not have access. Basic occupational health services (BOHS) are proposed by WHO, ILO, ICOH and WONCA (family physicians) as part of a solution for those workers, integrated in primary or community health care. As quality information on this topic is difficult to find, an open access bibliographic database, a repository, has been developed based on systematic literature research. Operational and evaluative research material is still scarce. Examples of records of publications are shown. The conclusion is that the repository can inspire pioneers by showing practices in different countries and can be used for reviews and in-depth analyses. International collaboration for the promotion of occupational health coverage must be intensified.

Much time has been invested in 2024 in the development of a second enhanced edition of the Repository for BOHS publications. Publication of this repository and a related scoping systematic review article is foreseen in March resp. August 2025.

In Morocco, we organized attention for BOHS through a semi-plenary lecture of Suvarna Moti attended by more than 80 participants, and by organizing a Special Session on BOHS including contributions from India, China, Italy, Iran. Southern Africa, Thailand, the Netherlands, and Brazil. We published a comprehensive report of this session in the ICOH Newsletter, August 2024. We decided in Morocco to start an international working group on BOHS. The foundation LDOH is in the position to take initiatives in good collaboration with ICOH leadership.

We try to stimulate discussion about new forms of basic occupational health care in the Netherlands and Europe as well, stimulated by current discussions on how to reorganize occupational health care given rapidly decreasing numbers of occupational physicians. LDOH participated in discussions in the NVAB (Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine). In a meeting of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) Section of Occupational Medicine in 2024, occupational health care in the Netherlands has been described as in transition. Today, occupational health care is mainly organized for workers in large and medium-sized companies. A transition is needed to make the public and primary health care system better equipped to support workers and enterprises in case of problems at work caused by - often chronic - diseases, and in the prevention of common work-related diseases. Occupational physicians and other OSH experts are needed for supporting primary and community health care, and for handling referrals of complex cases.

Online library of education in Occupational Safety and Health

The e-library contains descriptions and links to about 90 high-quality e-lessons, e-modules and e-courses. All materials are well-described, and most are accessible free of charge. Visit the e-library: https://library-education-osh.ldoh.net/.
In 2023 and 2024 we decided to continue our e-library without the option to include new materials, given a shortage of manpower. Efforts to collaborate with schools of public/occupational health in the continuation of the e-library, did not succeed.

Publications

Articles, books, reports and other papers published with LDOH staff as first author or co-author.

July 2024, we developed a complete list of 38 publications by LDOH in the 10-year period from the start in June 2014 until July 2024. We published this list on our website https://ldoh.net/publications-ldoh .

2023

Van Dijk FJ, Moti S. A Repository for Publications on Basic Occupational Health Services and Similar Health Care Innovations. Saf Health Work. 2023; 14: 50-58. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10024225/. Article, free of charge. February 2023.

Verberk M, Van Dijk F. Work and Health in Agriculture. Course materials for primary, community and occupational health care professionals. These include not only a Teacher's Manual (60 pages: content of 13 classes), but also presentations, checklists, assignments, evaluation forms, and a teaching skills paper. https://shop.ldoh.net. Course materials, free of charge. July 2023.

2024

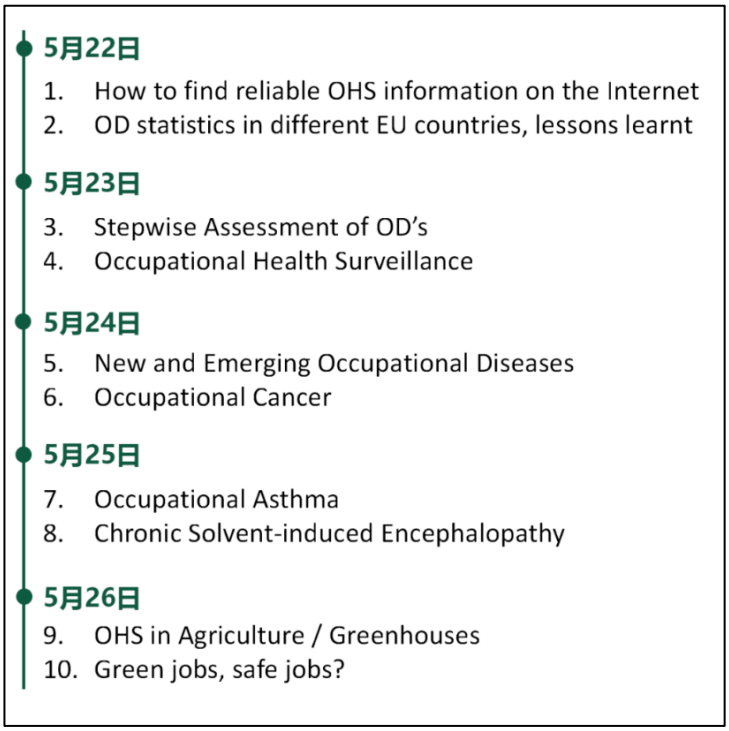
Moti S, Van Dijk F. Report on the Special Session 'Bottlenecks and Solutions in Starting and Progressing Basic Occupational Health Services (BOHS)' at the ICOH Congress 2024 in Morocco. ICOH Newsletter; 22, no 2 August 2024: 30 - 36. https://www.icohweb.org/site/pdf-viewer/viewer.asp?newsletter=icoh_newsletter_vol22_no2.pdf

Education and presentations

Project Beijing as an example (Gert van der Laan, Claudio Colosio)

The aim of the project was capacity building of occupational disease diagnosis and prevention through international expert consultation. Approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Peoples Republic of China. Project Leader: prof. Min Zhang. Experts: prof. Gert van der Laan (LDOH) and prof. Claudio Colosio (Uni Milano).

May 22-26, presentations by Gert van der Laan at Peking Union Medical College.



May 30, a workshop was presented for 40 primary health care physicians attending a one-week medical training course and their teachers. The LDOH training course for Work and Health in Agriculture (textbook, classes, assignments etc.) was well received. Questions were raised about the burden of Occupational Diseases in Europe after closing of the mines. In China especially pneumoconiosis is recognized. In Europe musculoskeletal disorders and Work Stress/ depression rank high as well as contact dermatitis and occupational respiratory disorders. The high number of asbestos-related cancers was mentioned.

May 30 afternoon, workshop Peking Union Medical College Hospital (Min Zhang, Claudio Colosio, Gert van der Laan). What is your occupation? Detection and Prevention of Occupational Diseases. Prevention, a human right. Assessment of Occupational Diseases. Experiences with OSH in hospital workers during COVID-19 outbreak. Psychosocial and ergonomic issues in agriculture. New and Emerging Occupational Diseases. Discussion.

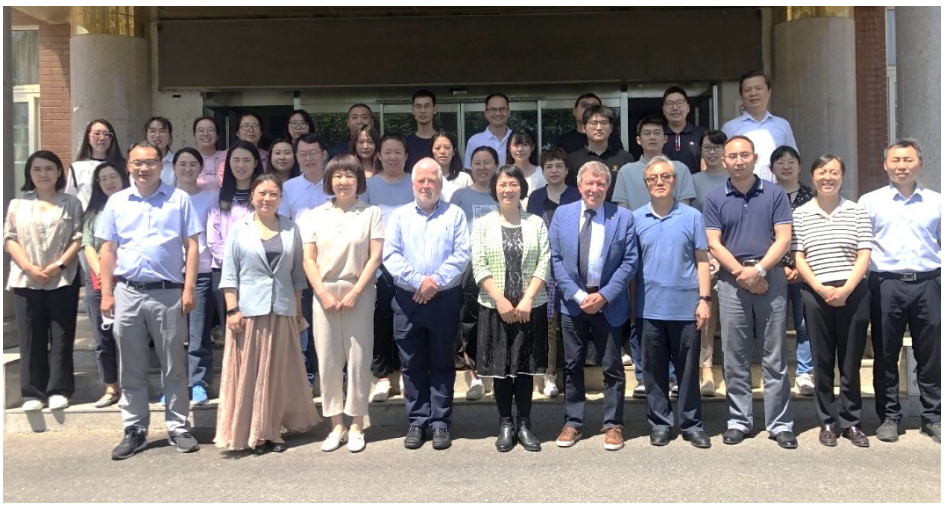
May 31, Clinical conference with general physicians. Two cases with complex medical conditions were discussed in detail. Differential diagnostic issues were illustrated by internet searches in medical literature.

May 31 and June 1, Claudio Colosio provided four lectures at Peking Union Medical College focusing on the ILO List of Occupational Diseases and the Guidance Notes (2022).

June 2, the National Center of Occupational Safety and Health (NHC) hosted a meeting called *'The Foreign Consultation Program of Peking Medical College Academic lectures on Occupational Health'.* We prepared two lectures 'Occupational Disease statistics in different European Countries, lessons learnt' (Gert van der Laan, LDOH), and 'Towards Universal Coverage: Basic Occupational Health Service' (Claudio Colosio, Uni Milano). We shared experiences on occupational diseases statistics and on occupational health services.

Foreign Consultation at National Center of Occupational Safety and Health (NHC)

This meeting was attended by around 25 professionals of the NHC Staff. The example of Italy was well received in which around 60 hours of training in Occupational Medicine is included in the curriculum for all medical students enhancing knowledge on Occupational diseases among all medical professionals in Italy. High level equipment for characterizing dust exposure in air and lung tissue was demonstrated. On the campus, a specialized hospital for pneumoconiosis with 300 beds is situated.



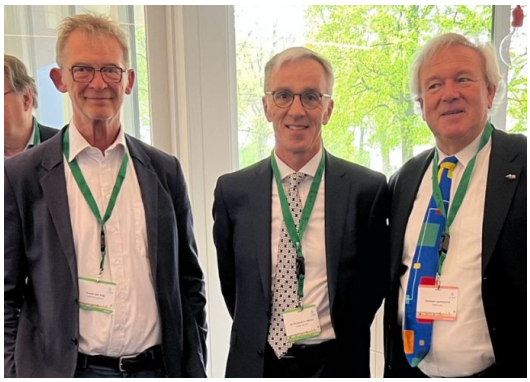
National Center of Occupational Safety and Health (NHC) Beijing

EASOM 2024

At the 23rd EASOM Summer school meetings in Amsterdam (European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine, 29-31 August 2024), commemorating the birth of this scientific society 30 years ago, Piet Kroon, Andre Weel and Frank van Dijk (all staff of LDOH) were honored by a Certificate of Appreciation for their long-term contribution to EASOM.

Presentations

Presentations in 2023



Heron R, Van Dijk F, Spanjaard H. Lecture. International Collaborations for Global Health Equity - the role of IOMSC and CIB and others. Occupational Health days for occupational physicians in the Netherlands. NVAB (Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine). May 2023.

Heron R, Van Dijk F, Spanjaard H. Two interactive workshops. A wider perspective on issues of work and health. Occupational Health days for occupational physicians in the Netherlands. NVAB (Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine). May 2023.

Van Dijk F. Lecture. Evidence-based practice guidelines and searching for information in literature and websites. Scientific basis for professional quality in occupational health practice. Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine (NVAB) 19-6-2023. Visit of Chinese delegation from the First Hospital of Hunan University of Chinese Medicine to NVAB. June 2023.

Presentations in 2024

Van Dijk F, Moti S. Online lecture. Opportunities and Challenges in Basic Occupational Health Services and similar innovations in health care. SOM IOMSC Webinar on Basic Occupational Health Services. 21 March 2024.

Moti S. Online lecture. BOHS: working toward occupational health care for informal workers. SOM IOMSC Webinar on Basic Occupational Health Services. 21 March 2024.

Moti S. Semi plenary lecture. Basic Occupational Health Services – Challenges and Opportunities for Universal Occupational Health Care. ICOH Congress 2024. Marrakech, Morocco. May 2024

Moti S. Lecture. Is Basic Occupational Health Services progressing beyond general medical care at the workplace in Informal sector in India: A scoping review. ICOH Congress 2024. Marrakech, Morocco, Special Session BOHS. May 2024.

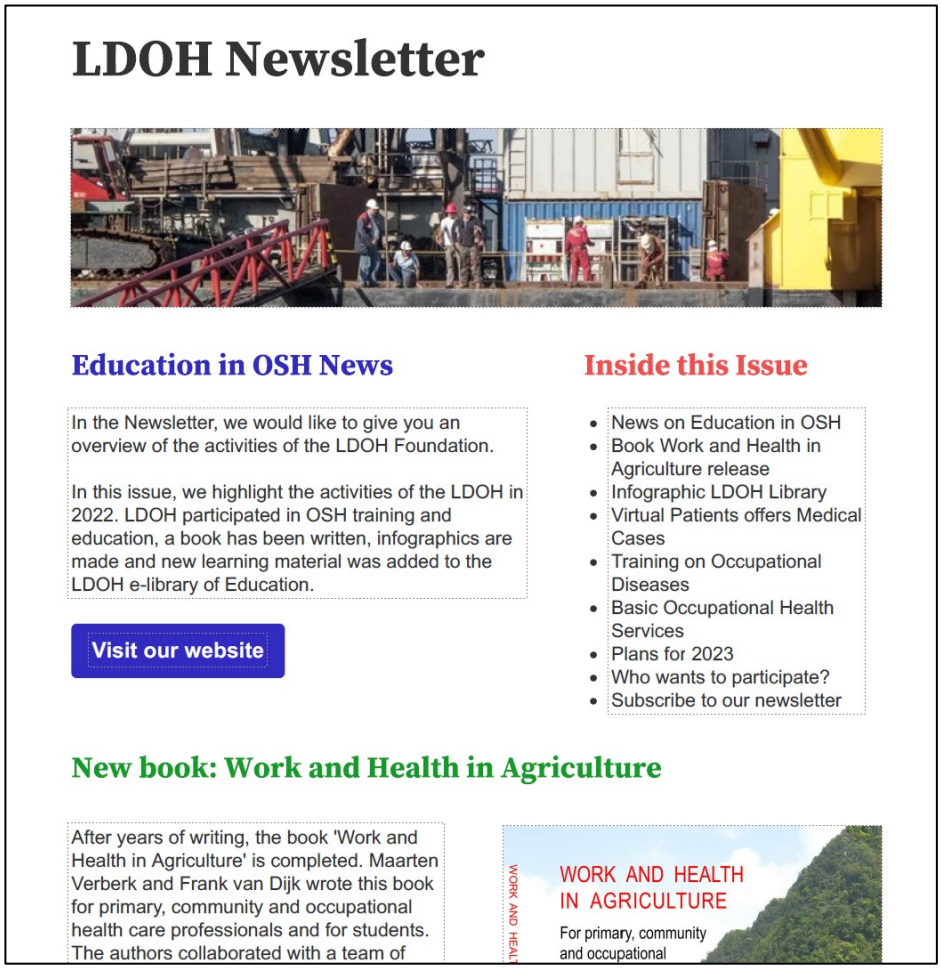
Van Dijk F, Moti S. Lecture. Opportunities in Basic Occupational Health Services and similar innovations in health care. A global View. ICOH Congress 2024. Marrakech, Morocco. Special Session BOHS. May 2024.

Van Dijk F, Sulistomo A, Caraballo-Arias Y, Moti S, Zungu M. Lecture. OSH education in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. A role for international collaboration. ICOH Congress 2024. Marrakech, Morocco. Special Session 72. May 2024.

Van Dijk F. Short contribution. Occupational health care in the Netherlands in transition? European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) Section of Occupational Medicine, Meeting in Amsterdam. 11 October 2024.

Website and online newsletter

The LDOH website **www.ldoh.net** has been restyled in 2023 and 2024. There is direct access to the e-library of OSH Education and to the LDOH web shop. Maintenance of the website is still a lot of work. We added the Glossary of OSH terms (2016) to our web shop, and the Turkish version of our book 'Occupational Safety and Health, how to find reliable information' (third edition, 2016).



LDOH Newsletter

Education in OSH News

In the Newsletter, we would like to give you an overview of the activities of the LDOH Foundation.

In this issue, we highlight the activities of the LDOH in 2022. LDOH participated in OSH training and education, a book has been written, infographics are made and new learning material was added to the LDOH e-library of Education.

Visit our website

Inside this Issue

- News on Education in OSH
- Book Work and Health in Agriculture release
- Infographic LDOH Library
- Virtual Patients offers Medical Cases
- Training on Occupational Diseases
- Basic Occupational Health Services
- Plans for 2023
- Who wants to participate?
- Subscribe to our newsletter

New book: Work and Health in Agriculture

After years of writing, the book 'Work and Health in Agriculture' is completed. Maarten Verberk and Frank van Dijk wrote this book for primary, community and occupational health care professionals and for students. The authors collaborated with a team of

WORK AND HEALTH IN AGRICULTURE

For primary, community and occupational

The Newsletter, prepared in November/December 2022, has been published in January 2023 and resulted in a peak of downloads of LDOH books and e-materials in the same month.

4. Financial results

See the Annual Financial Reports 2023 and 2024 under 'About us', at the LDOH website.