

1 Article

2 Quality of Graduate Health and Safety Education 3 Programs: A General Model Illustrated with 4 Examples of Nine (post)Graduate Courses in Europe

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17 **Abstract:** Research into professionalization in health and safety has recently gained in interest.
18 Graduate training is one of the factors that determines or conditions the role of the safety
19 professional, thus intervene in the professionalization process. This article is the result of a
20 workshop and the discussions of nine academic directors of safety education programs about
21 quality evaluation. This article introduces the issue with a historic overview of safety education,
22 presents a synthesis of nine selected education programs, discusses quality evaluation of health
23 and safety education programs, propose a quality evaluation frame and finally, proposes a process
24 for designing a quality safety education program with an associated model of the learning
25 objectives. The outcomes are interesting for everyone who is interested in health and safety
26 education and quality evaluation and will give insights into how safety professionals are educated.

27 **Keywords:** occupational health and safety education, quality of health and safety education, health
28 and safety education best practices
29

30 1. Introduction

31 While safety as a domain was developed in the beginning of the 1900s, and in some countries
32 even earlier (Gulijk et al., 2009; Swuste et al., 2010), in most Western countries safety professionals
33 were only organized in professional associations groups after the World War II (Hale and Booth,
34 2019; Hudson and Ramsay, 2019; Madsen et al., 2019; Provan and Pryor, 2019; Swuste et al., 2019;
35 Wright et al., 2019). This professionalization created a need for vocational courses on occupational
36 safety, often in combination with occupational health/hygiene. In the 1970s, in various Western
37 countries, safety became safety science; at the same time, some academic safety related research
38 groups started at universities. Somewhat later, these academic groups organized specific courses for
39 people who already had a higher education background in other areas. These courses (called here
40 postgraduate courses) were developed mainly on safety, and sometimes in combination with health
41 and environment (Swuste and Sillen, 2018). The most prominent groups were located in Germany -
42 Wuppertal, UK - Aston, Birmingham - London, France - several Institutes Universitaires de
43 Technologie, Belgium - Leuven, Sweden - Stockholm, Finland - Tampere, Australia - Ballerat, and

44 the Netherlands - Delft (Neved and Booth, 1982; Hale and Kroes, 1997). Triggered by major accidents
45 in high-tech-high-hazard sectors these courses addressed both occupational safety and safety in
46 these sectors. While most courses now run for one or more decades, reflexions about quality
47 assessment of these courses and programs has not been an issue in academic safety journals. As an
48 attempt to bring up the issue of quality evaluation in these postgraduate courses, nine course
49 directors of various European countries organized a workshop where they focused the discussions
50 on three research questions:

51

- 52 1. What is the history, content, and program of each postgraduate safety course?
- 53 2. How is quality of the postgraduate safety course assessed currently?
- 54 3. How can the postgraduate safety course quality be assessed?

55

56 Finally, the three initial research questions merged into one research question: how do we build
57 a quality safety education program to train and educate the safety professionals for their current jobs?
58 The results of this discussion are presented in this article. The group of the nine program directors
59 was named TRANSFORM, which stands for Training Research And Novel Safety For
60 ORganizational Management, and is meeting on a regular basis to discuss safety training and
61 education.

62 2. Materials and Methods

63 The first meeting of the nine directors/coordinators, who are also the authors of this article, was
64 held for two days in October 2018 at MINES ParisTech in Sophia Antipolis (France). The selection of
65 participants of the meeting was largely accidental, and related to participation in international safety
66 conferences, like the Spanish Occupational Risk Prevention (ORP), the Portuguese International
67 Symposium on Occupational Safety and Hygiene (SHO), and the European Working on Safety
68 Conference (WOS). The nine directors are from the academic world, they have research activities
69 and the nine programs are associated to an academic institution.

70

71 The main objective of the workshop was to share experiences among European directors of
72 safety education programs, in particular about courses' quality evaluation. The first day of the
73 workshop was spent on the presentation of the nine programs by their directors. The elements of
74 those presentations were used to illustrate the discussion of this article, with the intention to
75 appreciate the diversity and to learn from each other rather than to « compare » programs.”

76

77 Prior to the meeting, a literature search was conducted amongst scientific literature data
78 systems from 1950 till present, using 'safety' AND 'education', AND 'graduate' AND 'postgraduate
79 courses' as search terms. This search only generated a limited number of articles. The data of this
80 literature search were used to present the topic and invite the participants to discuss. This discussion
81 about safety education with nine directors of safety education programs came up with a proposal for
82 a process and a model to build a quality safety education program. This is presented in this article
83 and illustrated with aspects of the nine European safety education programs. The next part of this
84 article will present first a historical overview of safety education programs.

85 3. Results

86 3.1. Safety courses and safety education: origins

87 The American author Heinrich was one of the first authors writing about the incorporation of
88 occupational safety in academic curricula. As many authors of his time, Heinrich believed a safe
89 production process equalled an efficient one. Therefore, he strongly advocated to start safety courses
90 at colleges and universities, and to integrate these safety courses in engineering courses. Safety had
91 to be recognized as a profession, with suitable curricula leading to graduate and postgraduate

92 degrees. His plea for a special curriculum on safety was important as safety could be developed in
93 its own right, not burdening the existing and already overcrowded education in relevant adjacent
94 domains. In safety curricula, the prevention of accidents was the main target, as well as causes of
95 accidents (Heinrich, 1956).

96 After Heinrich's call for education in the safety domain, literature went "silent" for some time. The
97 next reference to education came from the famous British Robens report (Robens, 1972). This report
98 stressed the need for safety to play a major role in the design of installations and production
99 processes, and to include safety and health items in syllabuses and examinations of engineering
100 institutions.

101 From the early 1980s onwards more articles appeared, observing a common disinterest in safety and
102 health in higher education institutions and again stressing the need for graduate education on these
103 topics, including process safety. Not surprisingly, an increased 'safety illiteracy' was noticed,
104 amongst for instance chemical student, on topics as reliability engineering and safety in general.
105 Also, line and safety and health managers in companies lacked necessary competences (Hale, 1984,
106 1987; Hale et al., 1989, Nolan, 1989, 1991; Culvenor and Else, 1997; Toft et al., 2003; Hill and Nelson,
107 2005; Rouhof et al., 2009; Saleh and Pendley, 2012). In that period, the scientific content of the safety
108 domain was considered to be rather low, safety was too descriptive. But high profile major accidents
109 from the 1970s-1980s onwards in the process industries, the nuclear sector, transport sectors, and the
110 up- and downstream oil sector had given evidence that technology and organisations could fail
111 sometimes (Le Coze, 2013; Swuste et al., 2018a,b, 2019). Originally, a simplistic view on safety had
112 focussed on a soluble technical part, simple technical fixes, and a non-soluble human part. Later this
113 approach had changed in a view of safety as a separate problem, separable from normal production.
114 And the complex nature of safety was recognized changing the emphasis on technical, man/machine
115 and human factor aspects, often in complex mutual interactions. Later in the 1980s, the focus shifted
116 to organizational issues, and the re-integration of safety in line and staff management (Carthey et al.,
117 1994; Hale and Kroes, 1997; Hale et al., 2005).

118 The notion of the complex nature of safety was a main argument behind the 1994 Amsterdam
119 conference 'Education and Training: The gateway to quality in occupational health and safety'
120 (ETOH, 1994; Safety Science, 1995). There were worries about the effectiveness of preventive
121 measures, and about their implementation. But these topics were only relevant when practitioners
122 were well trained and educated to advice on these control measures. The quality of this education
123 would guarantee a professional expertise of these practitioners. This would justify attention to
124 education in safety and health. This topic, including the quality of education was, according to the
125 conference organizers, not a very glamorous topic for research in universities (Verbeek and Kroon,
126 1995). Safety is, for a large part, an empirical based domain. This justified a focus on practitioners
127 with company experience. Education in this domain to bachelor, of master students, without any
128 work experience is difficult. Therefore, safety and health education favored postgraduate courses
129 with an emphasis on learning by doing instead of learning facts, and on discussions as essential
130 elements in learning (Dijk, 1995; Saari, 1995; Kletz, 2006). A postgraduate qualification was regarded
131 essential since those specialists must be capable to address new problems by applying knowledge
132 and skills to situations not previously encountered. Problem solving, in contrast to rule-following,
133 seemed best trained at a postgraduate level (Chimote, 2010; Wybo and Van Wassenhove, 2016).

134

135 Academic education went through some evolutions, the European Bologna declaration (Bologna
136 Declaration, 1999) was a major one to enhance transparency and quality comparisons between
137 educations systems of European member states. Its main purpose is to facilitate transfer of workers
138 and learners across borders, by making educational qualifications transparent and easy comparable.
139 The declaration has introduced a different approach towards education. Traditionally education,

140 modules and programmes were designed from the content of the course. Teachers decided and
141 planned on the content, and then assessed its content. This teacher-centered approach, characterized
142 as the 'empty vessels model', had a focus on teacher's input and assess how well students have
143 absorbed the material presented. Students were seen as 'empty vessels', and needed to be filled with
144 information. In contrast, the declaration has introduced a student-centered approach, focussing on
145 what students are expected to be able to do after successfully finishing their education, leading to
146 learning outcomes (Fitzpatrick et.al., 2009). With the introduction of a European Credit Transfer
147 System (ECTS, 2009) the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET,
148 2009) and a European Quality Framework (EQF, 2008) the size, quality, and duration of education is
149 characterized.

150 3.2. Academic safety, health (and environment) education: dispersion and heterogeneity

151 A survey in 2011 amongst 90 European courses on safety, health (and environment) from 18
152 different countries had shown a large variability amongst courses analyzed (Arezes and Swuste,
153 2012). This variability in course duration and content was also noticed earlier in the 1994 Amsterdam
154 conference (Verbeek and Kroon, 1995). This variability can partly be understood from the rapid
155 increase of safety, health, hygiene (and environment) courses in the 1990s on postgraduate level,
156 organized by non-university and commercial organizations, organisations without any research
157 tradition. An example is Portugal, hosting 29 post-graduation courses on safety and health. This
158 number of courses is relatively high, compared to Northern European countries and considering the
159 country dimension (Arezes and Swuste, 2013).

160 A few articles deal with individual courses on safety, health (and environment). In Western
161 Australia, near Perth the postgraduate course had limited the number of students to 24 per course, to
162 ensure ample opportunities to discuss topics during the course (Spickett, 1985). Another example
163 from Australia comes from undergraduate education in chemical engineering from the University of
164 Melbourne. Groups of three till four students are given a well-known safety case study like Bhopal,
165 Buncefield, Longford, Flixborough, or Piper Alpha. The group prepares a five-minute presentation,
166 focussing on what has happened, what were the causes, and solutions. Other students comment and
167 provide an extensive review one week later (Shallcross, 2013a,b).

168 In Tel Aviv, Israel, a master program was initiated in 1987 on occupational health, including three
169 different disciplines; occupational physicians, industrial hygienists, and psychosocial workers. The
170 program is a two-year study, and accommodates about 30 students per class. The program consists
171 of two parts, being the first an integrative teaching of these three disciplines to create a similar
172 knowledge level on occupational epidemiology, health, hygiene and safety. The second part is
173 specific teaching for each discipline, for example, work-related diseases are a topic for physicians,
174 measurements and exposure for hygienists, and work organisation and work-related behavioral
175 topics for psychosocial workers. Groups with different disciplines have to implement a
176 multidisciplinary health program in a factory. The program is evaluated using interviews and
177 questionnaires with teachers, and students (Ribak et al., 1995).

178 In the UK, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) developed a program to introduce risk concepts
179 into undergraduate engineering courses for the Engineering Department of the University of
180 Liverpool (HSE, 2009). One of the reasons to start this initiative is a remark of Lord Cullen in his
181 report on the 2000 Hatfield rail accident: "Education of engineers should deliver professionals who
182 understand their professional responsibilities for the safety of the public, including the need to act
183 on safety critical defects, and who can apply the principles of risk management" (Office of Rail
184 Regulation, 2006).

185 In Delft, the Netherlands several courses were initiated; Chemistry and Society (1976 - 1979),
186 Industrial Hygiene (1979 - 1985), and Management of Safety, Health and Environment (MoSHE,

187 1989 - present). The first two courses were organized by the Chemical Engineering Department of
188 the then Technical Highschool of Delft (THDelft), and were compulsory at bachelor level. Chemistry
189 and Society was drawn from a similar initiative at the Sub-faculty Chemistry of the University of
190 Leiden, eight years earlier. At the Delft course, social and societal aspects of the process industry
191 were discussed. Three years later an optional course on Industrial Hygiene started, later changing its
192 name to Chemical Risk Management (1985- 2005). The course content was based on Patty's
193 handbook Industrial Hygiene (Patty 1978, 1979, 1981), and Lees handbook of Loss Prevention in the
194 Process Industries (Lees, 1980), with risk identification, assessment, quantitative risk assessment,
195 loss prevention and management as main topics. Next to presentations, project learning was part of
196 the course with visits to chemical companies and discussions with stakeholders. (Lemkowitz and
197 Zwaard, 1988; Lemkowitz, 1992).

198 The Dutch post graduate MoSHE course also has a limited number of students per course, not
199 exceeding 20. While many courses are structured around hazard sources, risks, vulnerable objects,
200 management, and laws and regulation, the MoSHE course explicitly pays attention to the
201 recognition and analysis of solutions and preventive measures (Hale, 1987; Swuste and Sillem, 2018).
202 The student is primarily responsible for his or her own learning process. One of the modules
203 addresses management of change, focussed on a team assignment which is presented at the end of
204 the module to a panel of participants' supervisors or managers. The students are put under realistic
205 high pressure. During this module, not the speaker is leading sessions, but trainees, who discuss
206 with the speaker items relevant for their group assignment. Deliberately the subject of the
207 presentation, being 'how to initiate and realize lasting behavioral change without authority', is not
208 structured any further, to allow the team as much freedom as possible and to leave the interpretation
209 of the subject to the discretion of the team. The idea is to learn while doing (Swuste and Arnoldy,
210 2003; Wybo and Van Wassenhove, 2016).

211 In this part, we presented the evolution in time of safety science and, at the same moment, the
212 (somehow difficult) growing awareness of the need of education in this domain with the creation of
213 safety education programs. Nowadays, a lot of programs exist, created by universities, schools and
214 private commercial organisations. In the following part, we will present more in detail nine
215 programs, each program is directed by one of the TRANSFORM research group members. The last
216 part of this article will deal with quality evaluation and building a quality safety education program.

217 3.3. *Presentation of nine European postgraduate safety education programs*

218 The first part of the article presented the development of safety education and some examples of
219 programs found in the literature. Those programs showed a large variability. (Post)graduate
220 education for safety is necessary as industry needs special educated professionals. This part of the
221 article presents a synthesis of nine actual safety education programs. Each TRANSFORM research
222 group member is also director/coordinator of a safety education program. We will see that these
223 programs show also some important variability. Those differences between the programs are a
224 result of the realities and specific contexts in their countries: the financial models of the programs are
225 different, academic organisations are different, legal context is different.

226 3.3.1. *Brief presentation of nine safety post-graduate programs*

227 Table 1 and the appendix A presents information about the nine programs, three are from the south
228 of Europe, Spain (Balearic Islands and Barcelona) and Portugal, five from the West Europe,
229 represented by France (2 programs), UK, Belgium, and the Netherlands, and one from Finland. Each
230 program name has at least « Safety » or « (Occupational) Risk » in its name, except the program in
231 Portugal called « Human Engineering », but that includes the word safety in the course secondary
232 title "Ergonomics and Occupational Safety Engineering". We will compare later on in this article the
233 content of the programs. We can consider five programs as MSc programs (Finland and UK propose

234 several levels), two are post-Master Programs (in France, the « Mastères Spécialisés »), one is a
 235 professional program of 3 months and another one a post-graduate two-year program that has only
 236 professional candidates with a work experience. It is also important to highlight that in Finland, one
 237 can complete nine years of study on safety, from Bachelor to PhD.

238 **Table 1:** Presentation of the nine safety education programs of the TRANSFORM members.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Program name (in English, *translated if necessary)</i>	<i>Academic host</i>	<i>Level, length</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Credits (ECTS)</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>Finland</i>	<i>Safety Engineering *</i>	<i>Tampere University</i>	<i>Minor and major in three programs: Bsc, Msc (Tech), PhD</i>	<i>Bsc (3 years) Msc (2 years) PhD (4 years)</i>	<i>180 120 40 + doctoral thesis</i>	<i>Free for EU citizens Msc. tuition fee for non-EU/EEA citizens 12 000 €/year (Scholarships available) Open university 15€/credit: 1800€ - 2700€</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>Occupational Risk Prevention*</i>	<i>University of the Balearic Islands</i>	<i>Msc</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>1830 €</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Safety Sciences*</i>	<i>University of Antwerp</i>	<i>Msc</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>939 €/year</i>
<i>UK</i>	<i>Occupational Health & Safety Management</i>	<i>Loughborough University</i>	<i>Postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma, Msc</i>	<i>7 months, 14 months or 26 months</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>11500 £</i>

<i>Country</i>	<i>Program name (in English, *translated if necessary)</i>	<i>Academic host</i>	<i>Level, length</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Credits (ECTS)</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>Nanotechnology and Occupational Risk Prevention*</i>	<i>Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona Tech (UPC)</i>	<i>Professional program</i>	<i>3 months</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>480 €</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>Human Engineering*</i>	<i>University of Minho</i>	<i>Msc</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>1500€/year</i>
<i>The Netherlands</i>	<i>Management of Safety, Health and Environment</i>	<i>Delft University of Technology</i>	<i>Post graduate</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>25000 €</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>Safety Engineering and Management</i>	<i>Institut National des Sciences appliquées (INSA) Toulouse</i>	<i>Post Master</i>	<i>13 months</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>9000 €</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>Industrial Risk Management*</i>	<i>PSL University - MINES ParisTech</i>	<i>Post Master</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>12500 €</i>

239 When looking to the creation years of the programs, we have several decades of difference: one in
240 the 70s, two in the 80s, two in the 90s, two in the years 2000 and two in 2013. The oldest one was
241 created in 1974 (Safety Engineering, Finland), the most recent one in 2013 for Safety Sciences
242 (Belgium) and Nanotechnology and Occupational Risk Prevention (Spain).

243 The tuition fees of these programs also differ. Some programs are subsidized, some are bound to
244 fixed tuition fees of their host university, and other programs are freer to fix the respective fees. The
245 fees are paid by students themselves or paid by the companies (for the professional students and for
246 students with apprenticeship programs). Scholarships are available for the non-EU-citizens in
247 Finland.

248 The reasons for the creation of a safety program were multiple. It can be to offer mandatory training
249 established in Spanish Law 31/1995 in collaboration with Labour Authority (Spain), to fulfil the
250 needs of the industry (UK, France and Finland) and public sector or to promote new scientific
251 research and findings on new risks emerging from nanotechnologies (Spain). The creation of one
252 program was an objective of the project «United in Safety» which was developed on the initiative of

253 the General Secretariat of the Benelux Union, with support from the European Regional
 254 Development Fund and the Provinces of North Brabant and Antwerp (Belgium). In the Netherlands,
 255 the creation of the MoSHE program was an answer to a lack of structured safety training. In
 256 Portugal, the driver was to create one of the first occupational health and safety academic programs
 257 in the country.

258 Each program has known important evolutions. The evolutions concerned content (syllabus
 259 modification), organisation and level of the programs. The reasons for those evolutions were
 260 multiple: (a) an increase of syllabus and adaptation of the program on demand of the participants
 261 (Spain at Barcelona), to introduce manager aspects (France, the Netherlands), (b) as a result of the
 262 implementation of the Bologna Agreement (Portugal, Spain at Balearic Islands), (c) an evolution
 263 from a MSc to a post-MSc program, delocalization, introduction of industry financed apprenticeship
 264 program (France), (d) as a result of an evolution in the origin of the candidates (UK), (e) because of
 265 an imbalance between the current number of credits (ECTS) and the actual study load (Belgium), (f)
 266 syllabus modification due to knowledge and regulation evolutions (Spain at Balearic Islands), (g)
 267 syllabus modification and introduction of new scientific insights in safety from the 70s on to now
 268 and (k) remodelling the program entirely into an international master program for 2019 (Finland).

269 3.3.2. Candidates and alumni

270 Table 2 illustrates the number of students per cohort and the total number of alumni of the nine
 271 programs (counted academic year 2017-2018). For the candidates, it is possible to see that all have at
 272 least a Bachelor degree and for some programs a MSc is needed. The background of the candidates
 273 can vary but OHS, chemistry, engineering, law, health or psychology are dominant. Three programs
 274 admit in majority (or exclusively) professionals.

275 **Table 2:** Presentation of the candidates and alumni of the nine programs

Country	Program name in English (*translated if necessary)	Candidates	Students per cohort	Alumni since creation
Finland	Safety engineering *	From young and inexperienced to professionals	10-15	>400 (Msc)
Spain	Occupational risk Prevention*	University degree (Chemistry, Engineering, Psychology, Law or Health, among others)	max 30 (presential) max 100 (blended)	265
Belgium	Safety sciences*	Students with bachelors or master degree / professional bachelors in safety	20	79
UK	Occupational Health & Safety Management	Only professionals: background of OHS and must have a company role, age 24-55	20	850

Country	Program name in English (*translated if necessary)	Candidates	Students per cohort	Alumni since creation
Spain	Nanotechnology and occupational risk prevention*	Professionals with a background of technical and medical areas of occupational health and safety, age 30-55, origin Spain and Latin America	60	185
Portugal	Program on human engineering*	Mainly background in engineering, half of them have a work experience, average age of 30, origin Portugal	max 20	>300
The Netherlands	Management of Safety, Health and Environment	Only professionals from companies or administration/government	max 20	300
France	Safety Engineering and Management	Msc, background in engineering, two-thirds with professional experience, average age of 28, from 5 continents	max 20	150
France	Industrial Risk Management*	Msc, mainly background in OHS, none or very few work experience, origin France and some students of the north of Africa (in the past some Chinese students due to a collaboration with University of Tongji, Shanghai, Chine)	30	230

276 Regarding the nine programs, the selection process of candidates differs only slightly. Most of the
 277 programs have a selection with a jury (composed by the program directors, members of steering
 278 committees, industrial partners, etc.). Evaluation criteria are motivation, HSE background, soft skills
 279 (open to others, etc.) and for some programs, work experience (having a job as HSE in a company is
 280 even mandatory for some programs).

281 In Portugal, they establish a selection score, which is the sum of individual scores on several points.
 282 These items are composed of (a) professional experience and relevance of the roles in the domain of
 283 OHS; (b) relevance of the background degree; (c) other degrees completed by the candidate; (d)
 284 other post-graduate programs completed; (e) relevant publications in the area of the program; (f)
 285 involvement in research projects in the same domain; (g) training programs attended by the
 286 candidate; (h) experience at teaching OHS topics in Universities; and (i) experience at teaching OHS
 287 in other education levels.

288 While there is some degree of diversity in most of the nine programs in terms of backgrounds, age,
 289 gender or nationality, the serious selection processes of students guarantee a high level of students'
 290 motivation, what in turns, might explain the rare event of failure in finishing the programs.

291 The next part of this article presents a reflexion on quality evaluation of academic safety, health and
292 environment education, by proposing a model for building a quality safety education program.
293 Information and details of the nine HSE programs are used to illustrate the model.

294 3.4. Quality evaluation of (post)graduate Safety, Health and Environment education.

295 Quality assurance and quality enhancement have become key areas of modern higher education. It
296 is a common understanding that evaluation of education quality is necessary to justify its existence
297 and budgets involved as well as to improve future education activities. The assurance typically
298 refers to accountability and to the need to demonstrate conformance to external quality
299 requirements. The enhancement, on the other hand, refers more to the internal need to improve the
300 current level of education (Jacob, 2013). Therefore, the comprehensive assessment of quality covers
301 both the external and the internal points of view as well as provides guidelines for the external
302 quality assurance agencies (ESG, 2015). In this study, we highlight the enhancement of quality of
303 higher safety education.

304 Evaluating the quality of education is a challenging topic. In practice, almost all the program
305 coordinators are already familiar with quality evaluations. In contrast, there are hardly any scientific
306 evaluation studies, presumably due to the lack of tradition and financial constraints. Another reason
307 may be a lack of consensus on what to evaluate (Heath, 1982; Hale, 1984; Alliger and Janak, 1989;
308 Mann, 1996; Kennedy et al., 2013; Van Dijk et al., 2015). Quality of education in safety and health can
309 be viewed from different angles - from the perspective of the participants, of the management of the
310 program, of the companies where participants are working, of the government, etc. Quality is a
311 relative concept, and its operationalization is somehow dependent of the interest of the considered
312 actor.

313 3.4.1. Quality of education

314 Although quality is a complex concept and no unanimous definition exists, the definitions of quality
315 typically consist of inputs, processes, outputs, the administrative system and the level of excellence
316 of actors (Hazelkorn et al., 2018). Akareem & Hossain (2016) conclude that the quality of higher
317 education stand for the multiple views of point, such as the quality of learning environment, the
318 quality of academic staff, the learning outcomes, how well the education "service" fulfils the
319 pre-defined requirements, how much the academic staff increase the students' learning, the
320 performance of the program vs. price, etc. In addition, the position of the evaluator (learner,
321 academic staff, external employer, etc.), plays an important role for the perception of the quality of
322 higher education.

323 In the case of safety, a possible definition of quality of education can be derived from a definition on
324 quality of health care:

325 '*Quality of safety and health education is the degree to which organisations providing these trainings and*
326 *educational programs will increase the likelihood that desired educational goals are reached, and are consistent*
327 *with current professional and academic knowledge'* (IOM, 2001).

328 This definition represents the idea of "manufacturing based quality" (Garvin, 1988) and it implies
329 that educational goals or 'learning objectives' should be set beforehand, and courses should present
330 the state of the art, both in knowledge development as in professional practice. We will retain this
331 idea of satisfying the learning objectives for our quality evaluation frame presented in the discussion
332 part of this paper.

333 3.4.2. Quality assessment

334 Almost 60 years ago, Donald Kirkpatrick from the Wisconsin University, US, and co-workers published a paper
335 on assessing quality of trainings (Kirkpatrick, 1959a,b, 1960a,b; Catalanello and Kirkpatrick, 1968). Generally,
336 training actions cover a timespan of days or weeks. His assessment is also applied to education, covering a much
337 longer period. In this paper, the term education will be used, which also includes training. Despite the focus on
338 learning outcomes, instead of the wider view on quality, literature still refers to Kirkpatrick's levels, because
339 they are simple and easy to understand (Liebermann and Hoffmann, 2008):

340 1. *Reaction: do trainees like the program? The trainees' evaluation is based on the assumption that a satisfied*
341 *student will learn more and better than one with discontent. Most educational programs use this*
342 *perspective for their course evaluation (Bollmann et al., 2018). The 2011 survey on post graduate*
343 *education in safety and health in Europe supports this conclusion (Arezes and Swuste, 2012). The*
344 *limitations of this tool are clear: students lack a knowledge overview, and will primarily judge the form of*
345 *the program, and not its content. Measuring the reaction of trainees does not evaluate learning (Heinrich,*
346 *1956; Kirkpatrick, 1959). Some teachers animate very well, without offering much content or even teaching*
347 *reliable content, and also the other way around.*

348 2. *Learning: do trainees understand the facts, principles, theories, models, and approaches presented?*
349 *Classroom activities as individual performances, quizzes, discussions and written tests are evaluation*
350 *techniques to assess actual learning. Many programs have some sort of examination, either at the end of the*
351 *program, or several times during the program. Most examinations are testing knowledge. In some*
352 *examinations or evaluations, skills and attitudes are assessed. A complication is that evaluation tools in*
353 *practice are mostly restricted to so-called 'internal tools', only monitoring reactions of trainees and*
354 *individual teachers.*

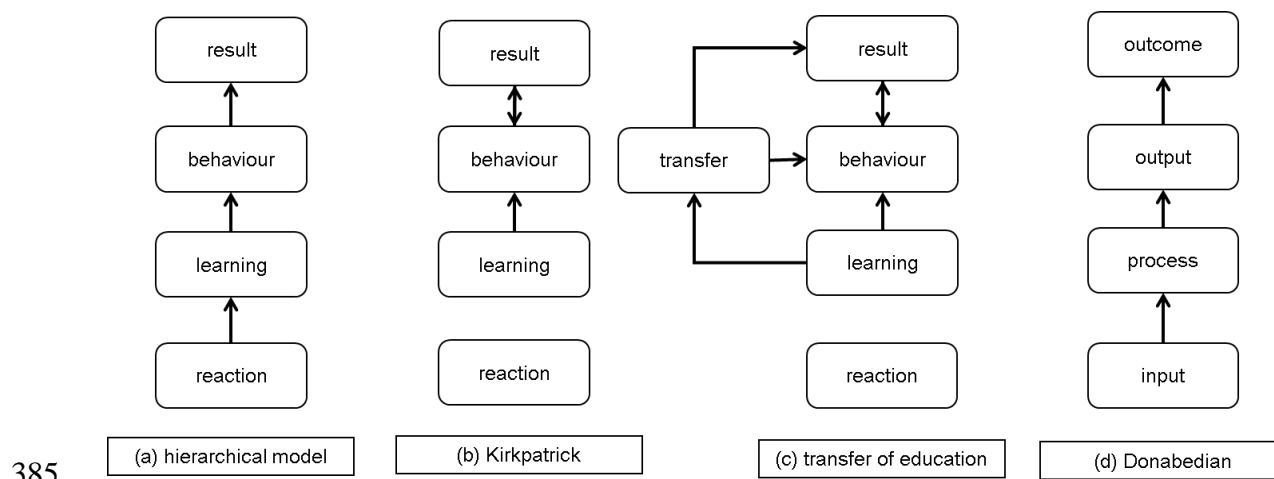
355 3. *Behaviour: do students apply models, tools, approaches of the program in their jobs? An evaluation may*
356 *include a before and after education survey, preferably some time, say six months after finishing education.*
357 *An adequate tool to evaluate this level can be a performance appraisal instrument specifically designed to*
358 *verify the students' behavioural impact. This impact should be consequence of the educational goals or*
359 *learning objectives. Not many safety education providers and organisations organize such an evaluation.*

360 4. *Results or impact: are workers, companies or organisations healthier or safer as a result of activities of the*
361 *students or postgraduates who successfully finished their education? Such an evaluation implies one or*
362 *more measurements of health, or safety. For safety, accident, and incident frequencies are used as*
363 *indicators. Nice examples on the level of workers' education are studies from Yu et al. (2017) and of*
364 *Chatterjee and Agrawal (2017). Of course, studies should take care of biased safety outcomes (Kirkpatrick,*
365 *1977). Only accidents as an indicator can be unreliable as this indicator is subject to all sorts of variations.*
366 *Accident processes, of more specifically accident scenarios, and quality of barriers preventing accidents*
367 *might be regarded as better indicators. Another example is the incidence of e.g. occupational and*
368 *work-related diseases before and after education e.g. skin diseases, musculoskeletal diseases or burnout.*

369 Kirkpatrick's levels are mainly output and outcome oriented, and lack a quality evaluation on the
370 content and processes offered in the course. These aspects are highlighted more by Donabedian
371 (1966), from the University of Michigan, US, with his input-process-output-outcome scheme. Here
372 the input or infrastructure refers to state of the art of knowledge provided by the course and the
373 quality of the teachers. A course organiser should have an overview of the domains taught during
374 the education, allowing to select up to date teachers and giving feedback. Donabedian addresses as
375 well the process part and the immediate outputs of the process: (a) the relevance and quality of the
376 selected educational activities and learning materials: are these conform with the learning objectives,
377 complete and valid, and (b) the quality of the teaching performance such as of interactive learning
378 and of learning by doing: are all participants involved in active learning?

379 3.4.3. Transfer of education

380 The logic of Kirkpatrick's first hierarchical levels (a) has been questioned. A positive reaction of
 381 trainees does not include an evaluation of learning in the sense that the trainees have understood
 382 principles, models, essential facts, theories and techniques taught (Kirkpatrick, 1959b, Mann, 1996).
 383 Therefore, the (b) and (c) presentations in Figure 1 do not show an arrow between reaction and
 384 learning. Next to these presentations Donabedian's model (d) is shown.



386 *Figure 1. Educational models (Alliger and Janak, 1989; Mann, 1996)*

387 But the relation between learning and behavior on the job is not obvious. Therefore, in literature in
 388 the 1990s more emphasis has been put on the transfer of education. Transfer of education can be
 389 evaluated as the degree to which trainees effectively apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes
 390 gained in education, in their jobs. For such a transfer, the trainee has to feel a need to improve, and
 391 recognize his or her weakness. Endorsing factors at the workplace of the trainees are, for instance,
 392 working in an encouraging climate, receiving help from someone interested and skilled, and the
 393 opportunity to try out new ideas (Kirkpatrick, 1960a).

394 3.4.4. Transfer at different levels of education

395 Learned behaviour should be in accordance with actual job conditions of the participant. Therefore,
 396 education should be connected to the practical settings of the trainees, including teaching awareness
 397 about the conditions needed for acceptance of interventions, and accounting for possible resistance
 398 against changes. Involving the working environment into education, or the other way around has
 399 shown to be effective (Swuste and Arnoldy, 2003). Unfortunately, much of the education fails to
 400 transfer to job settings (Mann, 1996; Liebermann and Hoffmann, 2008). Transfer of learning has to be
 401 evaluated assessing if the educational goals or learning objectives are met or not.

402 A well-known problem in graduate and undergraduate student education is the lack of actual job
 403 experiences. This difficulty is reinforced in Safety by the difficulty of showing the results of the job:
 404 to a mechanical engineering student, the lecturer can show a car or a plane, but how to show a
 405 non-accident, successful "product" of their future work? Various techniques are used to compensate
 406 for this lack of job experiences such as role playing, using representative situations in daily life of the
 407 students, virtual reality, site visits and internships or curricular practices focused on health and
 408 safety issues at companies. For secondary and higher education in safety and health, but also in
 409 graduate education, the focus in the transfer process can be more on practical aspects. For example,
 410 the French post-graduate course in "Safety Engineering and Management" founds its educational
 411 approach on the phases one and two of Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory (Kolb, 1984): the
 412 "Concrete experience" convinces the student that an issue exists, that it is important and that its
 413 handling is necessary; for instance, an accident is introduced. Then "Reflective observation" aims to
 414 involve the student in the solution of the issue introduced in the previous step; For example, the

415 lecturer asks students to suggest ways to avoid the accident and asks the class to discuss the
416 proposals.

417 Transfer for post-graduate education differs from non-graduate higher education in SHE (safety,
418 health and environment), due to its goal to teach trainees not only 'facts' but also in critical
419 reflection. An example is the Dutch post-graduate course (MoSHE). The vision is that a postgraduate
420 safety and health expert is a direct advisor of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a company or
421 organisation. He or she should provide functional leadership to risk management of SHE processes,
422 implement with colleagues a proactive SHE management, and be responsible for the quality of SHE
423 advices, having access to relevant reliable SHE expertise and sources. He or she should be
424 independent, understanding cross-border influences, being able to analyse problems and provide
425 solutions to situations not yet occurred before. There cannot be critical reflection without a
426 willingness to discuss one's own and divergent points of views on the topic concerned and a
427 requirement is having an overview of models, metaphors, and theories of safety science for an
428 analysis of problems encountered at a meta-level. Of course, the overview of safety science is tested
429 during homework assignments and at the final examination (Swuste and Sillem, 2018).

430 3.4.5. Evaluation of outcomes

431 Behaviour and results (impact) are interdependent since people will tend to continue behaviors that
432 are perceived to be effective while not always being so (Alliger and Janak, 1989). Evaluating the
433 impact is difficult, and sometimes even impossible. In a before-after study design, e.g. a comparison
434 of safety records in one year before and in one year after the education may show a decrease in
435 figures. A causal relation between the education and accident figures remains highly questionable,
436 due to statistic variability and different forms of bias. In an interrupted time series design a series of
437 measurements is performed before and after, followed by a trend analysis (Schelvis et al., 2015). The
438 causal relation between « safety » and some major largely used safety KPIs (Key Performance
439 Indicators) can already be difficult to establish and is debatable, so going one step further looking to
440 safety education seems very ambitious.

441 Another possibility to evaluate results is an orientation to job relationships between middle
442 managers and front line workers (Kirkpatrick, 1960b, 1977, 1978). There are also some comments on
443 levels proposed. Many evaluation studies that have evaluated education using Kirkpatrick's levels
444 have reported a different effect on different levels. Because of difficulties to assess levels three and
445 four, often due to organizational disinterest of the organisation in which course participants are
446 working, evaluation of education remains mostly limited to the first two of Kirkpatrick's levels
447 (Kennedy et al., 2013). On the other hand, Kirkpatrick's model may never have been meant to be
448 more than a first, global heuristic for education evaluation. As such it has done well (Alliger and
449 Janak, 1989).

450 3.4.6. Quality certification

451 The standard of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has become the fastest
452 growing certification practice. Quality of educational programs in safety, including the quality of the
453 trainers and teachers of these programs is seen as a tool in ensuring a sufficient and transparent level
454 of education in this field. The question remains whether these certification systems are serving a
455 purpose, when accredited teachers teach certified educational programs, organized by certified
456 educational institutes, and audited by certified trainers, and certified auditors. There is some
457 madness in this system, sometimes called 'ISO madness', creating a heavy administrative burden
458 resulting in a mainly paper reality (Hale and Storm, 1996; Gundlach, 2002; Swuste, 2011).

459 Besides certified quality systems, from a study on 90 European programs on safety, health (and
460 environment), 'internal' tools, such as the students' and teachers' evaluations and internal audits

461 count for 66% as quality systems adopted by the program organizers. Only 13% of the programs use
462 an external audit as a quality tool. Considering the identified differences within European countries,
463 authors of the survey concluded that harmonisation of (post)graduate courses on safety, health (and
464 environment) still have a long way to go (Arezes and Swuste, 2012).

465 3.4.7. Quality evaluation of the nine HSE programs

466 For most of the programs, the coordination board or steering committee of the program uses inputs
467 or quality evaluations to change some issues and reflect about the future of the program. Those area
468 rather informal discussions and advice. On the other hand, (external) accreditations are formal
469 (quality) procedures who deliver an authorization to deliver the courses and the program. These
470 inputs and evaluations can include:

- 471 • Activity reports, self-assessment of the program (SWOT analysis);
- 472 • Inputs of companies and industries (formal and informal meetings);
- 473 • Inputs of Authorities or Governmental institutes;
- 474 • Inputs of professional organisations;
- 475 • Overall quality system evaluation/audits by the host university;
- 476 • Audit and accreditation by educational associations (e.g. Conférence des Grandes Ecoles in
477 France), professional associations (e.g. Institution of Occupational Safety and Health in UK) or
478 private (international) companies;
- 479 • Audits and accreditation by governmental agencies;
- 480 • External evaluators assessing the quality of what the students produce and report to senior
481 management of the host University;
- 482 • Students' evaluations;
- 483 • Surveys on jobs of Alumni.

484 Some programs (Spain, Balearic Islands) have a real intern quality assurance system with a quality
485 manager and a quality commission. For transparency, the results of the evaluations are visible on a
486 public web site: <https://www.uib.eu/study/master/MSLA/resultats.html>

487 In Finland, the quantitative and qualitative evaluations of the programs and the learning are
488 mandatory for the students, otherwise they will not be graduated. In addition, all the graduates
489 evaluate the whole degree program and the frequent alumni and student meetings provide feedback
490 about the pertinence of the program and about the topical challenges. The university also follows the
491 employment rate of the graduates and how well the job positions fit with the graduate program.

492 General evaluation of the education program by students addresses following topics: The contents
493 of the program, the pertinence of the program regarding the student's professional project, the
494 infrastructure (classroom, availability of computers, library,...), the follow up by the director of the
495 program, help given for internship, tutoring, workload of the program, duration of the program,
496 general value for future career.

497 For each course of the program, a specific evaluation can be done:

- 498 • Content quality of the course: pertinence of the topic for safety studies, pertinence of the topic
499 for the students' professional project, duration.
- 500 • Didactic quality of the teacher: quality of the pedagogic approach, the content of the course has
501 been announced, the content of the course has been respected, quality of the
502 documentation/support (book, pdf, Power Point), quality of the evaluations, difficulty of the
503 course, workload of the course.

504 This student evaluation is the first level of the Kirkpatrick model. This is often done on-line and is
505 often structured in a general evaluation and a program specific evaluation. It is admitted that this

506 kind of first Kirkpatrick level evaluation is not so useful because sometimes it turns out to be rather
507 binary. For several program directors, a discussion with a set of students at the end of the program is
508 far more useful.

509 The second level of Kirkpatrick's model deals with testing the knowledge of the students, most of the
510 time by examinations. Group discussions, presentations, projects, written exams, multiple choice
511 questions, final thesis presentation, and all those forms of knowledge testing are employed by the
512 nine programs. One has to be aware that written exams to evaluate knowledge on a short period at
513 the end of a program are generally not effective for real knowledge transfer. And this could be a
514 critic for typical NEBOSH trainings.

515 The third level of Kirkpatrick's model could be associated with alumni surveys and collaborations.
516 The final professional thesis presentation can be seen as a second level evaluation, but we can
517 consider it also as an evaluation of the students' competencies in a professional workplace
518 (internship), so it is third level.

519 Last and fourth level, the impact on society « Are workers, companies or organisations healthier or
520 safer as a result of activities of the students or postgraduates who successfully finished their
521 education? » is very difficult to evaluate. No program has this kind of evaluation. The follow up of
522 the careers and the professional success alumni have can only suggest that they do a good job in
523 making the world safer.

524 We can conclude that most programs use the first two (or even three) levels of Kirkpatrick's
525 evaluation.

526 **4. Discussion and proposal of a quality evaluation frame, a quality safety education program** 527 **building process and a model for learning objectives**

528 Quality evaluation of safety education programs is complex. Kirkpatrick's model is interesting, but it
529 has its limitations as it is very output orientated. There is also no guarantee that first level
530 satisfaction of the learners is associated with effective second level learning. Kirkpatrick's model has
531 to be seen as a first, global heuristic for education evaluation. It is more interesting to look at the
532 transfer of learning. Transfer of education can be evaluated as the degree to which trainees
533 effectively apply the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes in case studies but also in real life, in
534 their apprenticeships and in their jobs.

535 To be able to transfer knowledge and skills to work settings needs, on behalf of the learner, what we
536 call a meta-cognition. The complexity of safety issues demands also a capacity of critical reflexion.
537 We have to form safety practitioners equipped to deal with broad range issues and thus having good
538 research skills such as: (a) identify relevant contemporary literature, (b) critically evaluate existing
539 practices and (c) make recommendations based on evidence. Critical reflexion (objective analysis of
540 facts to form a judgment) and meta-cognition (knowing about knowing or thinking about thinking,
541 generally higher-order thinking skills) are important skills for safety professionals. Learners (and
542 future professionals) must know where to find new knowledge and must be enrolled in a
543 continuous learning process. A good quality education program should be able to form the students
544 to those capacities and they should be included in the learning objectives of a safety education
545 program.

546 But how to teach and evaluate critical reflexion? Teaching is done by giving an overview of the
547 theoretic safety science field, to have discussions, to change opinions, to be confronted with counter
548 arguments. As example, the post-Master program in "Safety Engineering and Management" (France),
549 welcomes students from many countries, accompanies them on the first day in the Toulouse subway

550 where they identify the many safety systems; they then discuss differences in safety systems
551 according to their country. They immediately perceive that there is no "Silver bullet".

552 Actually, learners with professional experience are perhaps more able to develop those capacities
553 than young students without any experience. Maybe one can ask him or herself if we can teach
554 safety to students without experience? We can discuss about the need of experience and work
555 experience to follow a safety education program. It is true that professionals have a more structured
556 approach to education and they can more easily transpose theoretic aspects to real world context.
557 But young unexperienced students with good motivation and an excellent education program can be
558 formed as good safety professionals. As they move on in their professional career, they can lay back
559 on their theoretic courses. Former students of the Industrial Risk Management program (France) say
560 that the courses they had were useful in their career and made sense sometime after graduation.
561 Nevertheless, the best situation is to have candidates with professional experience or young students
562 with an industry-financed apprenticeship that alternates courses with work experience in their
563 company.

564 The knowledge transfer can also be initiated when the students are professionals and when asked to
565 apply the content of a course or module in their company. This application is evaluated by the
566 teachers. The quality of the teachers or speakers is very important for the quality of a training
567 program. It can be difficult to find and select people with safety sensibility to give courses. In some
568 programs, the speakers must be from the host university faculties. This makes it difficult to select
569 relevant speakers for a safety education program. And university speakers may lack professional
570 experience and knowledge. Some program directors argue that examination boards of thesis are
571 important for quality evaluation of the program. No inbreeding has to be done and external views
572 are necessary. In the same way, using peer reviews to evaluate the safety education programs could
573 be a good way to do quality evaluation.

574 Quality evaluation has some pitfalls to avoid. Paperwork (certification of trainees, teachers, courses,
575 and organisation) can hinder a real quality evaluation. In France, there are a lot of evaluations for
576 certifications (CGE, MS, RNCP, SMBG), the presentation of the safety education program is for every
577 evaluation adapted to the evaluation grid used. Some evaluations are only applied on the form and
578 not the content of the education program.

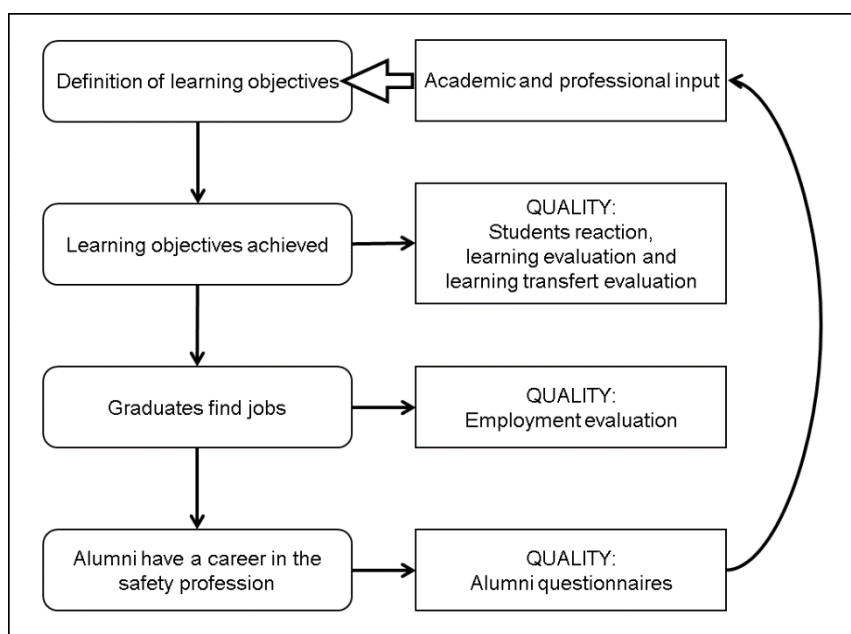
579 In the following section we will present a general frame for quality evaluation of a safety education
580 program, jointly with two of its key elements, a process for building a quality safety education
581 program and a model for defining safety education learning objectives.

582 *3.4. Safety Programs Quality Evaluation: Framework, Process and Model*

583 Quality evaluation of a safety education program can be defined as the satisfaction of achieving the
584 learning objectives for the learners or students (based on the IOM definition we presented in the
585 beginning of previous section). When the learning objectives are well defined and when their
586 realization is evaluated, one can assume students to be well trained, and therefore quickly find a job
587 after graduation and have a good career in the safety profession. Job questionnaires to follow up
588 alumni provide a good evaluation tool in this regard. They can furthermore support (re)defining the
589 learning objectives to correspond with the competences demanded for the safety professional and
590 the needs of companies in the domain of safety. Quality measurement is then done by assessing the
591 students' reaction (Kirkpatrick level 1) and the effective learning (Kirkpatrick level 2), assessing
592 learning acquisition and certain level of transfer (real life case studies, final professional thesis
593 presentation - Kirkpatrick level 3) and by assessing the employment after graduation. Alumni
594 following up and profession questionnaires allow defining and updating the learning objectives.
595 Important to mention here, isolating the direct effect of the quality of the program from other
596 external effects that influence (1) the ability to find job, and/or (2) the possibility to follow a career in

597 safety profession could be difficult. Both (1) and (2) can be affected by a number of factors which can
 598 be external to the education program, as for example, student's personal situation, preferences (e.g.
 599 geographical ones), economic cycle, etc... The research on professionalization of safety contributes
 600 to define those learning objectives: what is the reality of the profession and how to train and educate
 601 to form a good safety professional? Last but not least, academic and professional inputs allow to
 602 prospect future developments of the profession: professionals inform about new industrial needs
 603 and academics bring in new scientific research developments. This feedback serves to adapt the
 604 learning objectives. So we see that the quality of a safety education program starts with the
 605 definition of the right learning objectives.

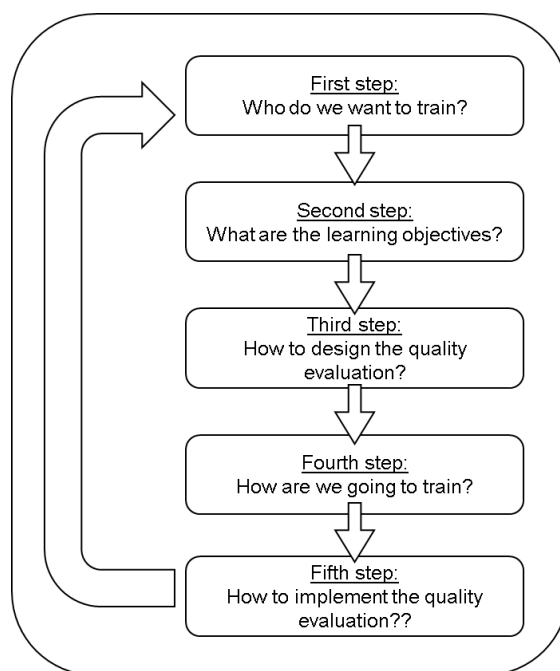
606 A special word must be given on industrial collaborations. There are multiple industrial
 607 collaborations in the nine programs. The collaboration can be through academic cooperation,
 608 lecturers by safety professionals from industry that, for some programs, constitutes almost 50% of
 609 the total lecturers. A professional network promotes multiple cooperation agreements with
 610 companies/organisations (company visits, field work, work placements, host lecturers, subjects for
 611 master thesis, internship placement). Academic internships under agreements are signed with
 612 several companies. Advisory boards, coordination boards or steering committees are composed of
 613 industry representatives. Students can be professionals from companies. Contacts with alumni,
 614 « after work » with students and alumni help to establish a bridge between educational and
 615 professional career. The "Industrial Risk Management" program (france) organizes a yearly
 616 conference held by the students for a public of professionals. The quality of the industrial
 617 interactions and collaborations is very important for the quality of the safety education program.



618

619 *Figure 2. General frame of quality evaluation of a safety education program*

620 Having in mind this general frame, represented in figure 2, the questions that rise together are how
 621 to develop such a safety education program and how to evaluate its quality. To address those
 622 questions we will propose a general process for building a quality safety education program (fig 3).



623

624

Figure 3. Process for building a quality safety education program

625 The first step is to define what kind of professional we want to form. The safety profession domain is
 626 large and several options are possible: do we want to form an occupational safety and health
 627 specialist? Or do we want to form an industrial (process) safety specialist? Do we want a manager, a
 628 technician, an « expert »? Does the professional have to be aware of adjacent domains like
 629 environment, security, quality? The industrial needs, the regulatory and social context will influence
 630 the choice of the objective. Next step is to make a precise set of job descriptions (e.g. drawn from the
 631 alumni questionnaires and employment evaluations (see fig 2) and to identify the competencies
 632 associated with these jobs. Those competencies will define the learning objectives of the training
 633 program. As we believe this is a central point for quality we propose below a model of learning
 634 objectives definition (fig 4). Third step consists in defining the most important quality indicator, the
 635 learning evaluation design. How to be sure that the student has achieved the learning objectives? To
 636 be effective, this step has to be a mix between Kirkpatrick level 2 and level 3; students must be
 637 evaluated on their learning but also on their behaviour. Other adequate quality indicators are
 638 student satisfaction (Kirkpatrick level 1), job finding after graduation, career evolution. Fourth step
 639 is to organise the education program, how do we train the students that they can achieve the defined
 640 learning objectives? What kind of pedagogics, what infrastructure, how to organise the planning,
 641 finding the right teachers, financial aspects. This step will encounter generally some or even huge
 642 practical constrains and can limit the ambitious objectives of the starting point. Last step is the
 643 implementation of the education program evaluation followed by the analysis of its results in order
 644 to detect and correct deficiencies and/or identify improvement needs. This last step will connect
 645 with the first one forming a cycle for continuous improvement.

646 The quality of a safety education program depends on achievement of the learning objectives. This
 647 means that those learning objectives must be defined in an adequate way. Discussions with the nine
 648 directors of safety education programs reached a consensus about knowledge, capabilities and
 649 competencies¹ and thus learning objectives. We will present next the model for the definition of the
 650 learning objectives of a safety education program that arose from these discussions.

¹ There is such confusion and debate about the concepts of knowledge, skills, capabilities, capacities and competence that it is impossible in the scope of this paper to identify or impute a coherent theory. We consider

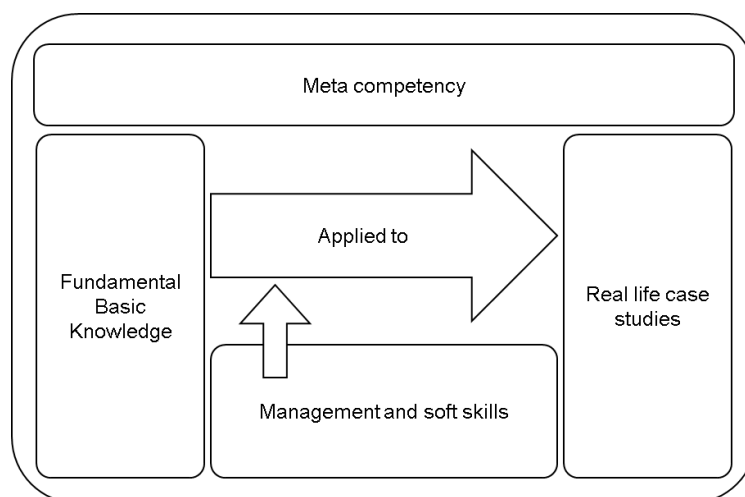
651 Generally, three categories can be identified (figure 5). First, the « technical » competencies of the
652 domain going from specific risk evaluation methods like HAZOP to REACH regulation.
653 Fundamental basic knowledge includes not only “technical engineering” knowledge: it comprises
654 equally of knowledge from science and engineering, but also from the social sciences and
655 humanities (human factor and human error models, risk behavior models etc). These can be defined
656 as the basic fundamental knowledge and capabilities for the safety professional. Some organisations
657 have done an inventory of basic knowledge for the safety profession. The Australian Safety Institute
658 developed a Book of Knowledge for the Occupational Health and Safety professional. « The OHS
659 Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals was developed in response to the need to
660 define the collective knowledge that should be shared by Australian Generalist OHS Professionals as
661 a basis for understanding the causation and control of work-related fatality, injury, disease and
662 ill-health. » (<https://www.ohsbok.org.au>).

663 The second category is the management and soft-skill competencies needed as a safety professional.
664 The safety profession has an important relational aspect. A safety professional is in contact with a lot
665 of stakeholders in the company (if not all of them). He or she has to be able to communicate well
666 with field operators as with CEO and board members. Intercultural aspects may influence
667 day-to-day work, oral presentations and written reports are created and communicated on regular
668 basis. These elements have to be integrated in the program: some theoretical elements can be given
669 in the beginning of the program but students apply this while doing the case studies.

670 The third and last category can be defined as meta-competency: constructing meta-cognition
671 (knowing what we know, being able to learn new things and in autonomy), acquiring a global vision
672 (being able to understand complex realities and being able to establish connexions), developing
673 critical thinking and transferring new scientific insights into the profession.

674 Consequently, this model of figure 4 could also be taken as a guideline for the design of a graduate
675 or post-graduate safety education program. Fundamental basic knowledge can be acquired in
676 autonomy by the student, courses are on-line (MOOCs), in books or in technical guides. The
677 program has several case studies where the students have to apply this fundamental basic
678 knowledge and where they present their results. Teachers and professionals assist students in this
679 work. This work can be individual or in group. While doing the case studies, students acquire
680 management and soft skills. It is preferable to dispense in the beginning of the year a course on
681 project management, group work and team management. Those close interactions and discussions
682 between students, academic teachers and professionals help the student to develop his
683 meta-competency. The student is primarily responsible for his or her own learning process. This
684 model is based on a student centered pedagogic approach.

that Knowledge is about theory and concepts, Capability is being able to do something with this knowledge and competency is the mobilisation of his capability in a professional context.



685

686 **Figure 3.** Model of safety education learning objectives: technical applied competencies, management and soft
 687 skills and meta-competencies for the safety professional

688 3.4. Illustration of the safety education building process

689 The previous safety education building process (figure 3) can be illustrated with data from the nine
 690 safety education programs.

691 First of all, we can look at the program objectives (first step in the process figure 3: who do we want
 692 to train?). The program objectives of the nine programs are generally aimed to form future safety
 693 professionals, but the domain specification may vary: occupational safety, occupational health,
 694 industrial (technical/process) safety. So the scope is in majority occupational safety and health and
 695 industrial safety. Some programs furthermore include security as an additional domain. Security,
 696 cybersecurity, several aspects of environment etc. are sometimes the object of some courses. The
 697 people trained are supposed to be directly operational or are supposed to be ready to be
 698 incorporated into the companies, probably with a short term of practices. The scope of the nine
 699 analysed programs can vary. The objective of a program can be to train students into generalists
 700 with a broad view on safety, who, because of that generalization, can join the labour market in
 701 functions such as researcher, policy maker, staff member, manager, etc. in the various domains of
 702 safety (Belgium, the Netherlands). Safety and risk involves all sectors: transportation (air, rail,
 703 road...), energy (nuclear plants, oil and gas platforms, refineries, dams, fuel cells...), production
 704 (pharmaceutical, agribusiness, manufacturing...), construction, waste disposal, etc. For that reason,
 705 for most of the programs it is difficult to incorporate courses on the technical aspects of those
 706 domains due to a lack of time. Students have already that technical baggage from previous
 707 education or it is admitted that new safety professionals have to work hard in the beginning of their
 708 career to master the technical aspects of their professional sector. But on the other hand, a program
 709 can be far more specific and aim to form people to be able to prevent occupational risk related to
 710 nanomaterials (Spain, Barcelona). We can say that most of the programmes aim to form managerial,
 711 engineering and/or scientific staff with responsibilities for occupational health, occupational safety
 712 and industrial safety. It gives them the academic knowledge and skills to evaluate operational
 713 requirements against health and safety policies which have to respond to a changing regulatory,
 714 social and economic climate.

715 When it comes to look at more precise learning objectives (second step of the process fig 3), to have
 716 an idea, we can take a look at the syllabus or program contents. Topics like occupational safety,
 717 industrial hygiene, ergonomics, applied psychosociology, law and compliance are frequently cited.
 718 The program in Portugal calls this - considering subjects as Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and
 719 Hygiene - « Human Engineering » which is a designation that had its origin linked to the usual

720 designation in the US of « Human factors engineering ». Regarding the contents of the nine
721 programs, we can identify five general important categories in the fundamental basic knowledge: (a)
722 Law and regulation, compliance (b) Risk management, risk tools (qualitative and quantitative
723 approach), (c) Management systems, strategy, planning, performance measurement, audit and
724 review, training and communication, (d) Crisis and emergency management and (e) Human,
725 Organizational and Social factors of Safety. Other courses are domain specific or more technical,
726 amongst them we can cite: Occupational Safety, Occupational Health, Industrial Hygiene,
727 Toxicology, Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Process, Structural and Functional Safety / Safety
728 Engineering, Fire Safety, Statistics, Industrial Ventilation, Computer and Network Security,
729 Cybersecurity, Ergonomics and Applied Psychosociology, Environmental Safety, Quality
730 Management and Integrated Management Systems, Public Safety and Crime Prevention and
731 Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability. It is interesting to notice that the program on
732 Human Engineering in Portugal is certified by the Portuguese Authority of the Working conditions
733 (ACT) as one of the programs qualified to train senior OHS practitioners, according to Portuguese
734 law. But this accreditation obliges the adoption of a specific structure and contents for the academic
735 education program. Something similar occurs in the case of the MSc program of the Balearic Islands
736 (Spain), which is accredited by the Labour Authorities and grants to its graduates with the
737 recognized professional competences according to Spanish Law. Similarly to the Portuguese
738 program, this authorization imposes some content and structure in the program.

739 Once the learning objectives established, a reflexion on how to evaluate the satisfaction of those
740 learning objectives has to be made (step three of the process fig 3). The quality of an education
741 program depends on the satisfaction of achieving the learning objectives for the learners or students.
742 Several programs have final thesis, several projects, internships with final evaluations, exams.
743 Almost all programs use teamwork to realize projects in real life industrial or working context. The
744 students use tools and scenarios like the ones they will have to deal with as practitioners. Peer
745 assessment is often used, students evaluate presentations and reports of their fellow students and
746 discuss about it with the teachers. We already discussed and presented more in detail in the previous
747 section the quality evaluation tools of the nine safety education programs.

748 When it comes to the pedagogic approaches or how to train (fourth step of the process fig 3), many
749 of the programs apply the phenomenon based learning and teaching. The teaching is based on the
750 selected real-life phenomena and learning cases. The phenomena are studied as complete entities, in
751 their real context, and the information and skills related to them are studied by crossing the
752 boundaries between subjects. Teacher and students reflect the learning cases on the theoretical
753 frameworks and practices. The students also practice and use tools and scenarios like the ones they
754 will have to deal with as practitioners and experts. This corresponds with the model in figure 4. In
755 addition, the Flipped Classroom (or blended learning) approach and project based learning is
756 applied. For example, the content of studies may be delivered outside the classroom by videos and
757 digital literature, or the students prepare to teach the content for their fellow students. Several
758 programs have courses on methods of (safety) research/ research methodologies, redaction and
759 (scientific) writing courses. A lot of programs use guest lecturers of the professional world. More
760 than academics, senior professionals can confront real life problematics and theoretical frameworks,
761 which is a strategy to prepare students for the operational context. On the other hand, academics can
762 bring an overview and a critical reflexion on practices. This balancing between theory and practice
763 stimulates critical reflexion of future practitioners. The Industrial Risk Management program
764 (France) begins with an outdoors activity consisting in three-days of integration in ancient military
765 barracks on an island in the Mediterranean Sea. It proposes also a « risk and decision » stage of three
766 days where they have to interpret a road-book, march 15km per day and are camping in tents in the
767 nature. Another course use a role play with a real fatal occupational accident as a case study,
768 organized and supervised simultaneously by an occupational physician, a labour inspector, a
769 prevention engineer and an union representative. More and more, online resources are being used in
770 the analyzed programs. One program (Safety Engineering and Management, INSA Toulouse,

771 France) is a partially autonomous online learning program (videos, slides in pdf, reading material,
772 videos and webpages, exercises and multiple-choice tests). The interaction with professors and with
773 collaborative strategies through discussion forums complement autonomous learning. Other
774 programs propose blended learning, traditional teaching and online courses (Spain, Balearic
775 Islands). Education programs are more than just a compilation of courses. Several programs have
776 special events: one day happenings, lecture evenings, study days or seminars where current
777 teaching, research results, industrial as well as public sector collaboration is promoted or where
778 guest speakers intervene followed by debates. Excursions to companies, authorities and other
779 research centres and universities are also organized. Some programs organize immersions in
780 companies where analysis and/or measurements are done in real work contexts. One program
781 organizes a study trip of one week to the Arabic United Emirates. Most of the programs are situated
782 in a university campus or research institute with dedicated rooms and library, except for the online
783 program at Barcelona in Spain.

784 Regarding the implementation of the program quality assessment focused towards continuous
785 improvement (fifth step of the process figure 3), most of the programs actually analyse the results of
786 their corresponding quality assessment systems in order to detect deficiencies, propose corrective
787 actions and/or identify improvement needs. An example that entails a good deal of transparency is
788 the program at Balearic Islands in Spain. The Industrial Risk Management program (France)
789 introduces every year minor changes in the curriculum and especially in the teaching techniques.

790 5. Conclusions and perspectives

791 One of the conclusions that can be drawn from this study is that quality evaluation of a safety
792 education program concerns several aspects. A solid quality evaluation could be done by peer
793 review, by checking several KPI in three domains:

- 794 • Organization and infrastructure: a safety education program should be supported by a research
795 group or laboratory, student selection and follow-up must be effective, students' careers must
796 be followed up,...
- 797 • Pedagogy: safety education needs a focus on transfer of education. The didactics and
798 pedagogics are specific to safety (applying knowledge, the use of critical reflexion, meta
799 learning, connexion to the real world, being reflexive, learning to learn,...).
- 800 • Contents: safety education quality is measuring the achievement of learning objectives.

801 To create high quality safety education programs, we need a deeper understanding about
802 management of safety as a profession. We need more studies about the real professional situation of
803 safety practitioners, their professional context, the difficulties they meet. Learning objectives must be
804 defined regarding 1. the safety « fundamentals », 2. the new insights in safety sciences and 3. the
805 professional context of safety practitioners. The safety fundamentals or basics could be presented in
806 a good quality handbook or by online learning modules.

807 Safety education programs have known an important increase in number in several countries. In
808 Portugal, there is a general competition between Universities. In France, there is also some
809 competition among safety education programs. In the future, it is likely that several programs will
810 disappear by lack of candidates and, therefore, lack of means and resources. A cooperation (or
811 co-competition) among international programs could be a good idea to share best-practices, (online)
812 learning modules. The creation of a European Master in safety education is maybe too ambitious,
813 but organizing a European student seminar on safety could be a first step. A future research
814 perspective could deeply explore the third level of quality evaluation as defined in the Kirkpatrick
815 model. Several ways have to be explored. These possibilities can range from an auto-evaluation of
816 students in their final thesis, by asking what courses they have applied in their apprenticeships, to
817 observation of their work conditions as safety practitioners.

818

819

820 **Conflicts of Interest:** "The authors declare no conflict of interest."821 **Appendix A: summary of the nine safety programs**

822 FINLAND

823 *MSc Program on Safety Engineering at the Tampere University*

824 Enterprises and public organizations need highly qualified professionals with a thorough
 825 understanding of safety management, safety engineering and risk management. Since 1974, the
 826 Tampere University has responded to this demand by two years and 120 credit points Master
 827 Program on Safety Engineering. The safety studies consist of 20 ECTS minor studies and 30 ECTS
 828 major studies together with 30 ECTS Master of Science thesis. In addition, students may freely select
 829 their complementary safety studies in a chosen area and the elective 30 ECTS minor module, such as
 830 information security, health science, industrial management, reliability engineering, security
 831 governance, etc., to direct their expertise towards a desired career path or a field of interest. Further,
 832 the Tampere University will start new international master program in Security and Safety
 833 Management in 2019.

834

Main Topics	% of time
Safety engineering	4,2
Safety and risk analysis methods	4,2
Safety and risk management	12,5
Environmental risk analysis and management	4,2
Individual research and development project in safety engineering and management	4,2
Complementary studies on safety	12,5
Elective transferable skills	8,3
Elective minor module	25
Masters of science thesis	25

835 Table 3: Time spent on topics Finland (percentage)

836 BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN

837 *MSc Program on Occupational Risk Prevention at the University of the Balearic Islands*

838 The program was created in 1997 as a specialization (post-graduate) program in Occupational
 839 Health in collaboration with Labour Authority. In 2008, it was approved as an official MSc Program.
 840 Since the beginning it was offered by the Science Faculty with the collaboration of several other
 841 schools (Psychology, Social Sciences, Engineering and Law schools). The candidates are admitted
 842 with any degrees. The main goal of this program is to provide training at a postgraduate level in the
 843 field of OHS (considering subjects as Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Hygiene) in order to
 844 provide companies with qualified practitioners. The length of the program is 1 years, with 60 ECTS,
 845 with a master dissertation where students must develop an example of any professional work at
 846 their choice. The program has an eminent professional character.

847

Main Topics	% of time
Occupational Hygiene & Medicine	15.0
Work Safety	10.0
Ergonomics	10.0
Training and Communication	5.0
Organizations issues and Legal Framework	20.0
Practicum	13.3
Master's Thesis	10.0
Specialization module (Compulsory at least to study one of the three subjects)	16.7
Work Safety	16.7
Occupational Hygiene	16.7
Ergonomics	16.7

848 Table 4: Time spent on topics SPAIN 1 (percentage)

849 BELGIUM

850 *Master's degree course in Safety Sciences, University of Antwerp*

851 The University of Antwerp, has offered a two-year Master's program in Safety Sciences (with 60
 852 credits per year) since the academic year 2013-2014. The program is characterized by its
 853 interdisciplinary and integrated approach of the main domains of safety, i.e. occupational health and
 854 safety/well-being at work, security and crime prevention, environmental safety, quality and public
 855 safety. These domains are examined from the perspective of various disciplines, such as engineering

856 science, law, sociology, psychology, criminology and economy. The objective of the program is to
 857 train students into generalists with a broad view on safety, who, because of that generalism, can join
 858 the labour market in functions such as researcher, policy maker, staff member, manager, etc. in the
 859 various domains of safety. At the moment, the Master of Safety Sciences is working towards a
 860 potential remodeling of the two year program into a one year program. Therefore, no new students
 861 are currently enrolled.

862 UK

863 *Postgraduate Program in Occupational Health & Safety Management, Loughborough University*

864 The program began in the 1980s as a response to ICI to develop a Postgraduate Diploma award for
 865 Plant Managers. It soon evolved into an open program including an MSc for any individual who has
 866 a significant safety management role in their respective organisation and is therefore geared for
 867 mature working students. The course is based in the University School of Business and Economics
 868 and is taught both by university staff and guest lecturers. Applicants are required to have a relevant
 869 first degree or equivalent professional experience. The course is delivered as a series of 5 day taught
 870 modules and distance learning. Students come from not only from the UK but also many attend
 871 from the EU and beyond. The Diploma award requires 13 months of part time study and the MSc 25
 872 months. Typically, 40-50 students join the course each year.

873

Main Topics	% of time
Health and Safety Law	13.0
Risk Management	13.0
Physical Hazards	13.0
Occupational Health Hazards	13.0
Human Factors	13.0
MSc Project	33.0

874 Table 5: Time spent on topics UK (percentage)

875 SPAIN

876 *Course on Nanotechnology and Occupational Risk Prevention at the Technical University of Catalonia,*
 877 *Barcelona TECH*

878 The course was created in 2013 based on the Good Nano Guide Course developed by Oregon
 879 University. During the last five years, the necessity to update the course incorporating new results
 880 from scientific research, has split the initial one module one lesson structure into three lessons per
 881 module. At the same time, the weight of biological issues in the syllabus has increased. The course
 882 is offered by the Industrial Engineering School although external instructors coming from medical
 883 field play an important role. In general all alumni hold a degree in one of the following areas:

884 Medicine, Engineering, Chemistry, Law or Psychology. The main goal of this program is to
 885 disseminate practical knowledge to address occupational risks of nanomaterials. The length of the
 886 program is 3 months, with 2 ECTS. The program has an eminent professional character.

887

Main Topics	% of time
Nanotechnology and nanomaterials.	10
Toxicity of Nanomaterials.	15
Occupational medicine for nanomaterials.	15
Assessment of occupational exposure to nanomaterials.	10
Control banding methods.	15
Exposure controls for nanomaterials.	15
Efficacy of control measures.	10
Regulatory framework for nanomaterials.	10

888 Table 6: Time spent on topics SPAIN 2 (percentage)

889 PORTUGAL

890 *MSc Program on Human Engineering at the University of Minho*

891 The program was created in 1992 as a specialization (post-graduate) program and in 1994 it was
 892 approved as a MSc Program. It was the first MSc and postgraduate program in the area of OHS
 893 offered in Portugal. Since the beginning it was offered by the School of engineering with the
 894 collaboration of several other schools (Medicine, Psychology, Sciences, Social Sciences, Economics &
 895 Management schools). The candidates are admitted with a degree in Engineering, Ergonomics,
 896 Psychology, or holding degrees in related fields. The main goal of this program is to provide training
 897 at a postgraduate level in the field of OHS or Human Engineering (considering subjects as
 898 Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Hygiene) in order to provide companies with qualified
 899 practitioners. The length of the program is 2 years, with 120 ECTS, but in the 2nd year the structure of
 900 the program has only 1 course and the dissertation, which is based on research work.

901

Main Topics	% of time
Occupational Hygiene & Medicine	16.7
Work Safety	14.6

Ergonomics	10.4
Organizations issues	8.3
Research Methodologies	8.3
Dissertation	41.7

902 Table 7: Time spent on topics PORTUGAL (percentage)

903 THE NETHERLANDS

904 *Post graduate course Management of Safety Health and Environment (MoSHE) of the Delft University of*
 905 *Technology*

906 MoSHE started in 1989 as a separate post graduate course, because mainstream education at the
 907 TUDelft was already overcrowded, leaving no room for safety related topics. Course members are
 908 coming from various industrial sectors, and governmental organisations. All have a university
 909 degree, either a bachelor of a master in a technical, science, or sociotechnical domain. The course
 910 length is two years with a study load of 60 ECTS. MoSHE has 10 modules (one week) every month,
 911 including project work at an external company. Course members finish home work for every
 912 module. For this homework course members have to apply one of more topic of the module to
 913 problems encountered in their company, or organisation. The final part of the course is a thesis,
 914 based upon research in their company, or organisation. This thesis will be the basis for the final oral
 915 examination.

916

917	Main Topics	% of time
918	occupational safety	33
919	process safety	8
920	occupational health	8
921	environment	10
922	risk management	17
923	academic skills	6
924	personal methodology (1)	11
925	statistics	6
926	others	2

929 Table 8: Time spent on topics NETHERLANDS(percentage) ¹learning process of course members
930 and their unique professional development

931 FRANCE

932 *Post graduate course Safety Engineering and Management (SEAM) of the National Institute of Applied*
933 *Science (INSA) Toulouse*

934 SEAM started in 2008 as a separate postgraduate course (13 months) divided into two parts: 7-month
935 lectures plus 6-month internship (75 ECTS). It aims to provide skills to specify, to design and to
936 maintain safe products (such as planes, trains, cars, etc.) and safe facilities (such as nuclear plants or
937 offshore platforms) considering the economic and societal constraints. It mainly enrolls students with
938 professional experiences who want to formalize, to deepen and to expand their knowledge, by
939 interacting with people (students or lecturers) from other industrial sectors. More than half of the
940 lecturers come from industrial sectors. The first part (lectures) offers 9 modules (see list below). A
941 module takes three consecutive weeks (5 ECTS). It concerns a specific topic (see the titles below).
942 Each module begins with the introduction of a project, developed in groups (2 or 3 students) and
943 presented at the end of the module. This project encourages students to adopt a participative
944 attitude because the knowledge offered by the course is directly used in their projects. During the
945 modules, industrial case studies are also addressed during a day. In order to take advantage of the
946 time made available by the lecturers to exchange, students access before these meetings to online
947 resources that gradually replace the formal courses. The second part is a 6-month internship in a
948 company concluded by a report and a defence. <http://www.safety-engineering.org/>

949

950	Main Topics	% of time
951	Qualitative approach	6
952	Quantitative approach	6
953	Toxic Risks for Human and environment	6
954	Process Safety	6
955	Designing for Safety	6
956	Functional Safety	6
957	Safety Management	6
958	Human and Organizational Factors	6
959	Internship	46

962

963 Table 9 :Time spent on topics FRANCE 1 (percentage)

964 FRANCE

965 *Post Master course Industrial Safety Management (IRM) of MINES ParisTech*

966 The IRM program was launched in 2004, by the Center for Research on Risks and Crises (CRC) of
 967 MINES ParisTech, in collaboration with industry and public agencies. The close relationship
 968 between students and teaching staff means that help and support are readily available to all
 969 participants. The program includes 500 hours of teaching time. Most of the students have a one year
 970 apprenticeship with an industrial partner, working on a practical problem for this industrial partner.
 971 Half of the IRM's teaching staff is active professionals. The Post-Master's degree in Industrial Risk
 972 Management (IRM) is designed to teach students new technical, organizational and human skills.
 973 Exercises and group work ensure that students understand the challenges they will face in the
 974 workplace. Our students come from a wide diversity of backgrounds: they include engineers and
 975 graduates in other disciplines, young professionals and experienced managers, from France and all
 976 around the world. This cultural mix is also one of the strengths of the IRM training. A study trip and
 977 a public conference at the end of the theoretical courses are strong moments of the program for the
 978 students.

979

980	Main Topics	% of time
981	Regulations and compliance	8
982	Concept, methods, models and tools for risk management	10
983	HSE management systems	6
984	Human and organisational factors	8
985	Management of emergencies, crises and business continuity	4
986	Management and leadership	4
987	Internship	60
988		
989		

990 Table 10: Time spent on topics FRANCE 2 (percentage)

991

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