



How can companies respond to the impacts of a changing world of work on employee health, in particular in the face of the growing importance of mental demands at work?

How can both public health policy as well as labour policy and the social security systems ensure a supporting infrastructure for companies, especially for small and medium-sized companies?

How can health policy and labour policy and the respective social security sectors improve their co-operation in order to efficiently invest public resources with a view to optimise economic competitiveness and social cohesion?

How can labour and health policymakers collaborate to ensure that companies are enabled to manage the challenges due to the consequences of demographic change on the labour markets in the future?

How can support for employees affected by poor health, caused among other factors by mental demands at work, be improved given the limitations of many health care systems in Europe?

These and other questions are the focus of the “Joint Action on mental health and well-being (2013-2015)”. A specific project (thematic area) of this Joint Action concentrates on the promotion of health in the context of mental demands at work.



A key milestone of this Joint Action in this area is the organisation of a structured exchange of experiences between the participating countries. To this end the German Government, represented by the Ministries of Health and of Labour and Social Affairs, hosted a **European exchange conference** which took place in **Berlin**, at the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, from the **29th until the 30th October 2014**. Main organiser and leader of this thematic project of the Joint Action is the BKK Federal Association in Germany, one of the umbrella organisations of the Statutory Health Insurance Funds.

Goal of the Conference

This conference prepared a structured exchange of experiences to support the key stakeholders outside companies to improve their cross-sectoral co-operation. The first step in this process is to share existing solutions and identify the most important unanswered challenges. In this way, the conference will contribute towards improving coordination and collaboration among those responsible for mental health at the workplace like health and labour policymakers.

The overall goal is to incorporate the results into a European policy framework, promote mental health in its variety and become part of a European frame of reference for future measures in the field of public health.