

Preventing MSD

- The case of repetitive strain injuries in Denmark

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Prevention of repetitive strain injuries

- Repetitive work is embedded in technology and work organization
- Traditional ergonomic interventions (adaption of workplace to workers) do not remove the strain
- Difficult to make objective standards which can be enforced by authorities

Conclusion:

- Prevention has to be integrated in long term technological and organizational development

The Danish action plan to combat repetitive work 1993 - 2000



A motion in the Danish Parliament requiring action against RSI in 1992

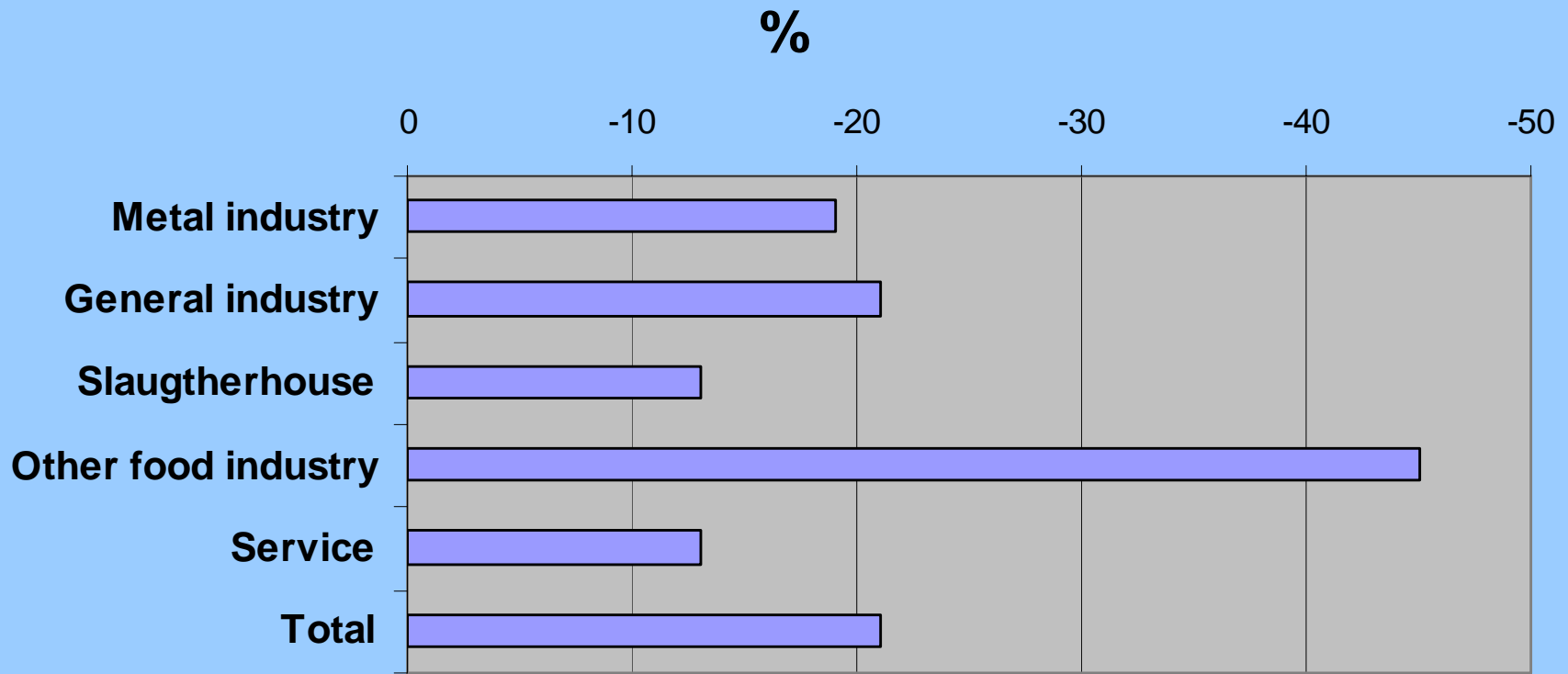
An agreement between the Confederation of Danish Industries and the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions in 1993

Objective:
Reduction of hazardous repetitive work by 50%

Main activities:

- Each company required to make a local action plan and forward it to sectoral work environment councils
- Local actions supported by a. o. education, information, an investment fund, and research

Reduction in the prevalence of repetitive work



A sample of 49 companies

Hasle, Hansen & Møller, Economic and Industrial Democracy, 25 (1): 75-101

Conclusion

- It is possible to reduce the strain from repetitive work
- A combination of automation and work organization most effective
- Voluntary joint actions between the labour market parties make the effort legitimate and give priority
- Pressure from the State and enforcing authorities necessary for the labour market parties
- It is not possible to trace the reduction in the prevalence of reported RSI (mainly to reporting bias cause by compensation rules)