Preface

The “story” of this book started from the acronym HSEQ (health, safety, environment, quality). Some mail was exchanged between the editors and Springer about the key topics in HSEQ in the spring of 2012. An intensive one-day workshop was then arranged by the team of incoming editors to further develop the ideas in a more structured form. Quite soon, the editors’ first key thoughts for a book were outlined in the form of a mind map (Fig. 1).

![Fig. 1 General illustrated approach for the book](image)
The writing process of the book chapters was planned and conducted, keeping in mind the mind map’s set of contemporary trends and prerequisites, all of which are typical of the basic work approach of the editors as experts and actors in this field.

Figure 1 comprises the following points of emphasis, opened by a bit wider, though short way:

1. Occupational safety and health management (OSHM) is a specific sector of an organization’s multidisciplinary expertise and management but simultaneously, it has to be “organically” involved in all managing activities of each workplace.
2. Each organization’s entire resources contributing to holistic quality are needed, requiring broad and transparent participation at both individual and organizational levels.
3. Contemporary excellence in management strongly appreciates OSHM.
4. Appreciation of OSHM is based on both generic legislation and an organization-specific set of drivers for achieving competitive responsibility and public image.
5. The action of authorities and role of regulation try to widen OSHM’s channels, to find synergies and, furthermore, evidence of the effectiveness of policies.
6. The insurance sector is an important institution touching and supporting all work organizations, as far as all risks, losses and asset management are concerned.
7. An organization strives to achieve its own OSHM culture, embedded as an essential element in its culture.
8. The European mainstream model has been strongly influenced by the history of Nordic countries’ style of participation in tackling the challenges.
9. A cluster of driving forces, especially social responsibility, sustainability, well-being at work, productivity and general global contexts such as business, workforce and environment, encourages and even forces work organizations and key stakeholders to communicate and collaborate.
10. The key stakeholder role in all work organizations is played by the triple structure of the state, federations of employer associations and workers’ unions. The management approach is supported and encouraged by the stakeholders’ ecosystem, of which the mentioned triple entities are among the members.
11. Integrated risk management is an important concept; being linked with it is a key factor, concerning as well OSH issues and actors as a general good practice in management and finally, a desired goal of every citizen. A widely integrated HSEQ management system is an answer and a practical tool to handle future challenges.
12. The increasing importance of an organization’s recognition of the network value and its influence in the development of commonly shared work systems—not only supply processes and “pure” business—is vital in the “new” OSHM.
13. Quantitative and qualitative, research-assisted development and innovation provide an increasingly significant opportunity and a stakeholder partner of work organizations.
14. Health, safety and well-being (at work, too) need to be cared for and maintained by each employee himself or herself, as well as by society on a 24/7 basis.

15. One key enabler for all of the above points is the expanding availability and utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs), interfacing with people by means of desktop, portable and mobile devices. The digital operating environment is increasingly becoming a necessity in OSHM and HSEQ.

The chapter authors broadly represent universities, a research institute, the insurance sector and a public regulation body, and lastly, work organizations, companies and external stakeholders. Additionally, close industrial collaboration was guaranteed in many ways in the cases realized without any direct participation of companies. As the editors, we warmly thank all the authors presented in the list of contributors. Also, we express gratitude to numerous people who contributed to the book, organizations involved, their managers, experts, employees, entrepreneurs, partners, research and development (R&D) project organizations and key stakeholders. Finally, we appreciate Mrs. Maria Lindholm’s skilful aid in processing the final phases of the manuscript.

We editors really hope that this book’s “story” be continued by readers. The chapters are aimed to offer readers, both from industry and academia, new views and tools to go forward with OSHM.

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Vantaa, Finland
Helsinki, Finland

Seppo Väyrynen
Kari Häkkinen
Toivo Niskanen