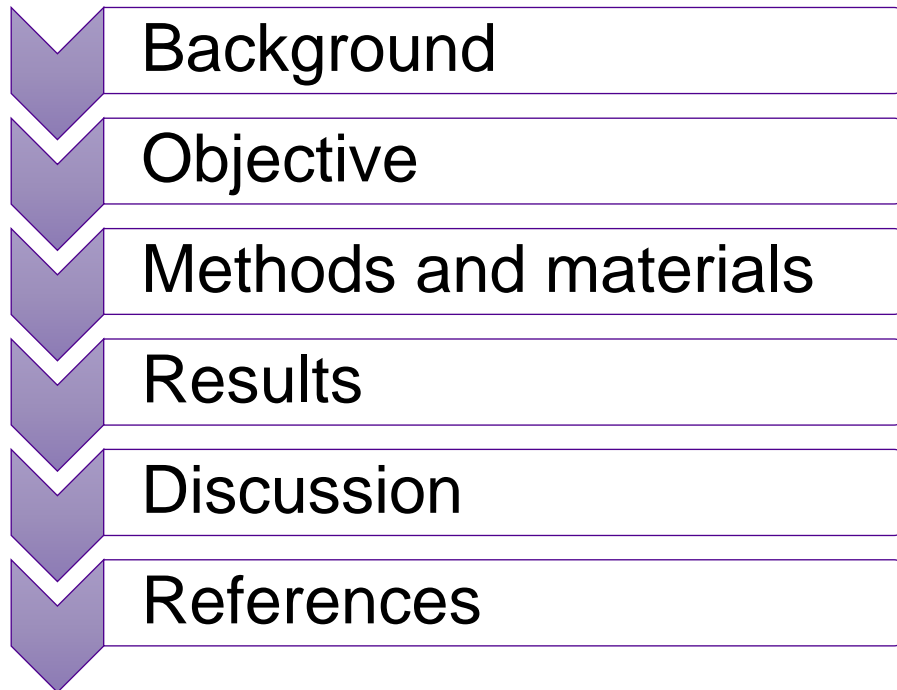


Identifying Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment Development Needs in Finnish Case Companies

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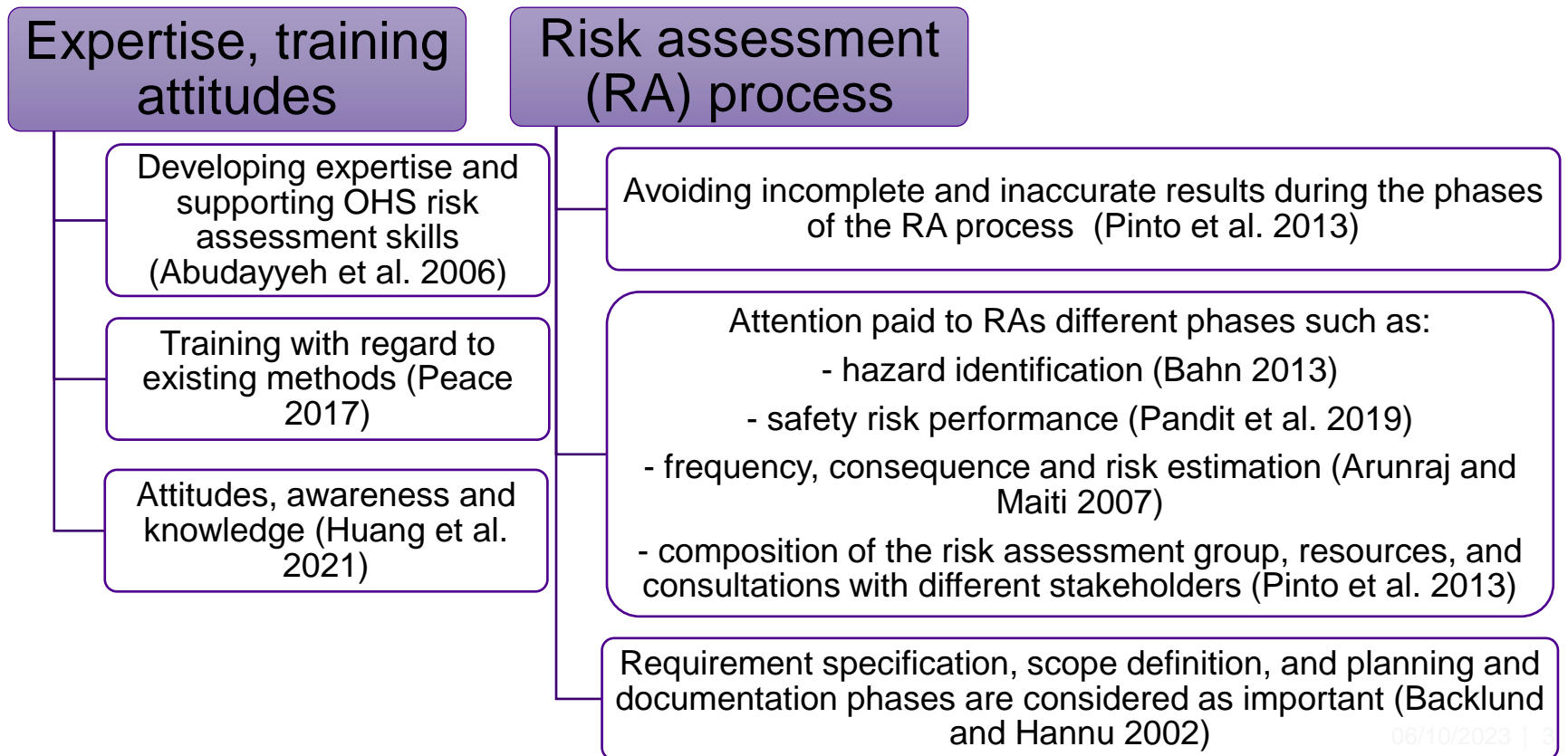


Structure of presentation



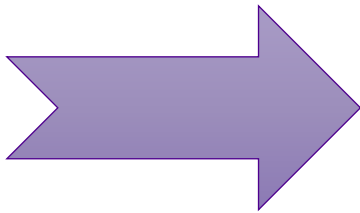
Background

- Legislation obliges an employer to ensure safe working conditions for its employees (23.8.2002/738 2002; 89/391/EEC 1989)
- By reducing work accidents and improving the health and safety of working conditions, the productivity and competitiveness of the workplace are improved and the workers' ability to work is supported (Aldana 2001; Shearn 2003; Leitao et al. 2018)



Objective

- Risk assessment is a key element of occupational safety management
- Developing both OHS risk assessment skills and OHS risk assessment processes' phases



Identifying OHS risk assessment development needs in three Finnish companies using a questionnaire

Methods and materials

- Questionnaire for examining staff perceptions and their levels of competence related to OHS risk assessment (designed in the larger project, Rantala et al., 2022)
- The final questionnaire is published in Appendix A of the paper, only for the questions addressed in this study

The main themes of the questionnaire

Why risk assessment is carried out?

What experience the person has in carrying out risk assessment?

Investment in risk assessment

How to further develop risk assessment?

Case companies

Company	Industry	Number of employees	Number of respondents
Company A	Transport services	80	22
Company B	Industrial maintenance services	450	32
Company C	Public, educational, cultural services	5000	294

Results

Why risk assessment is carried out

- 263 responses (N = 348), open question
- Responses focused on:
 - Anticipating and identifying harmful elements and hazards and reducing the risks arising from them
 - A comfortable and safe working environment was acknowledged as part of improving occupational safety for employees, customers, and other stakeholders
 - A few respondents had not heard of risk assessment or felt that the results of such assessment did not lead to action.

What experience the person has in carrying out risk assessment

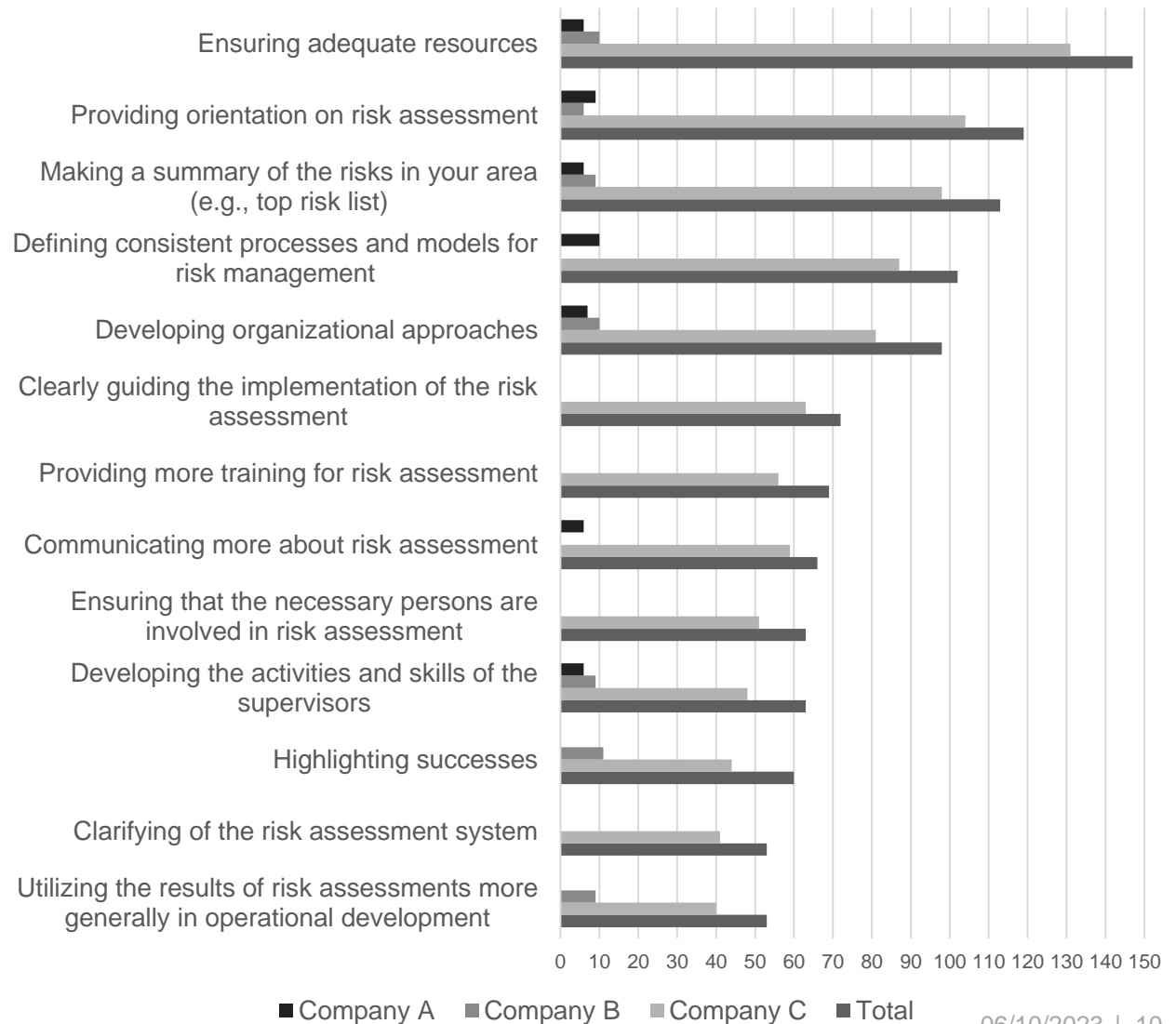
- The risks associated with respondents' own work were recognized
- In the risk assessment, the risk or risk factors were identified, which led to corrective actions
- The respondents did not understand all the terminology and concepts used in OHS risk assessment.
- More than half of the respondents thought that they can not use their company's risk assessment form or tool and that they had not received sufficient training

Investment in risk assessment

- Almost all the respondents agreed that they would improve safety at work by taking part in risk assessments
- Respondents highlighted the importance for workers, experts, and persons with decision-making powers to participate in risk assessment
- Half of the respondents pointed out that not enough time had been set aside to prepare for the risk assessment
- Investment in risk assessment skills was considered low though respondents were of the opinion that that the risk assessment leader had the necessary skills and training
- Shortcomings were in communication, participation of different stakeholders and organizational review

How to further develop risk assessment

- The five ways respondents would like to develop OHS risk assessment at their workplaces
- Company-specific graphs are missing if replies are less than six



Discussion

- Development of risk assessment should focus on:
 - Training and raising awareness
 - Resource management
 - Communication
 - The comparison of risk assessments at different locations
- Further research
 - Suitability for different industries
 - Applicability should be tested in companies of different sizes and outside of Finland

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Thank You!