The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), a leading global chartered professional body for safety and health at work, is reopening its research fund in 2022. IOSH is making an international call for research proposals (in English) from experienced researchers to explore and influence the adoption of occupational safety and health as a universal, basic and fundamental right at work. The requirement is for diverse and inclusive research that has global reach and focuses on both high-income countries (HICs) and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It invites proposals that explore any of the following aspects of occupational safety and health (OSH) delivery:

- organisations from high-, medium- and low-risk sectors;
- services provided for formal and informal sector workers; and
- service delivery from a multi-disciplinary approach.

**Background**

Despite recognition of OSH as a basic human right, with the recent adoption by the International Labour Organization (ILO) of a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work, 80% of the global working population still does not have access to basic OSH services, the scope of which is clearly outlined in the ILO’s conventions. Where these services are implemented, they vary in scope, content and quality of service delivery, and disparities are experienced between HICs and LMICs, as well as between occupational sectors and models of work. IOSH has long called for OSH to be recognised as a fundamental right at work.

**Research objectives**

New research is necessary to explore, globally, the scope, reach, and effectiveness of OSH service delivery to workers in order to understand the influence of country economic status (e.g. HICs vs LMICs), national policy, laws and regulations (such as the ratification of ILO conventions), organisation size (e.g. large, medium, small and/or micro), models of work (e.g. formal and informal), and occupational sectors. This research will help us support international efforts over the next decade to embed social elements of sustainability, which require decent work, effective OSH management, the prevention of modern slavery, and protection for those in the informal economy.

The call involves a one-stage application process, offering a budget of up to £150,000 (GBP) – approximately R3 million – to deliver the project. The deadline for applications is 23:59 (GMT) on Monday, 28 November 2022. For more information on how to apply, visit www.iosh.com/osh-research22