

The role of safety observations in safety management (SafeObs)

Research project presentation

Noora Nenonen (project manager)

noora.nenonen@tuni.fi

Background

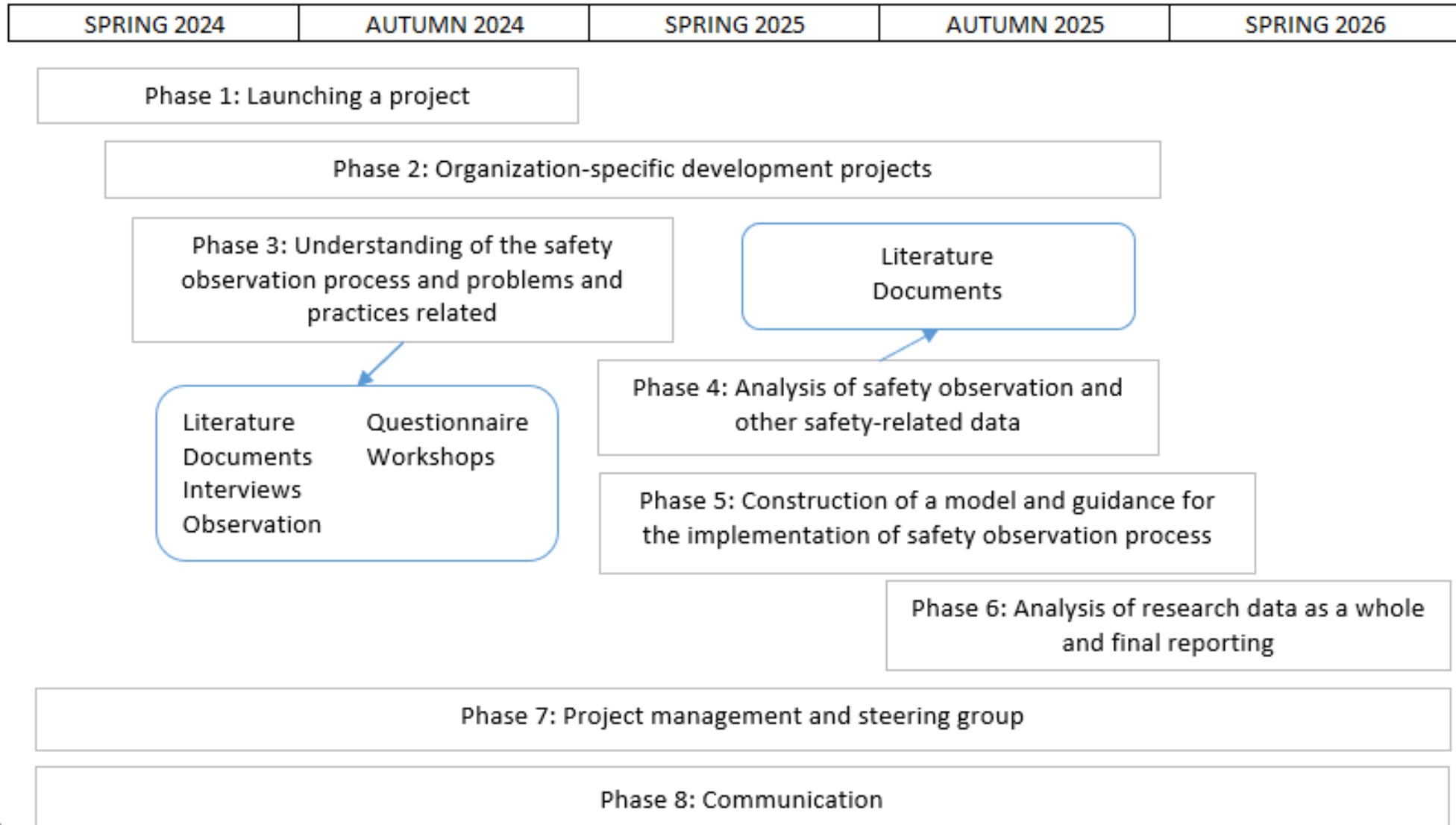
- Safety observations have long been an important tool in safety work at workplaces
- They are used to report faults and defects that may cause risk or hazard to safety or health (cf. Occupational Safety and Health Act 738/2002, section 19)
- Various benefits are pursued, safety observations have potential to e.g.,
 - Produce proactive information for safety management
 - Reduce accidents at work
 - Act as a predictive measure
 - Increase and maintain safety-related attentiveness and hazard identification skills
 - Support employee participation in safety work
 - Develop safety culture
 - Complement risk assessment
- However, many issues raise questions in the practical implementation of safety observations and more research is also needed

Objectives and results

• Objectives

1. Form an understanding of the safety observation process
 2. Identify and describe problems and good practices related to the safety observation process
 3. Find out what information can be obtained by analyzing safety observations
 - Information obtained, links to safety, utilization, including positive observations
 4. Produce guidelines and practices for the implementation of the safety observation process
- The research produces a model for the implementation of safety observations. The model considers key stages, problems and benefits.

Phases and preliminary schedule



Research project information

- Schedule: 1.2.2024-31.5.2026
- Major funding: Finnish Work Environment Fund
- Research group
 - The Centre for Safety Management and Engineering (CSME), Industrial Engineering and Management, Tampere University
 - Noora Nenonen
 - Johanna Pulkkinen
 - Maria Lindholm
 - Jouni Kivistö-Rahnasto
 - <https://research.tuni.fi/safety-en/>
- Participant organizations
 - Neste Oyj
 - SSAB Europe Oy
 - Tampere University
 - Telinekataja Oy
 - VR-Group Oyj
- Other cooperation organizations
 - Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
 - LocalTapiola
 - The Centre for Occupational Safety