

The National Research and Development Institute for Occupational Safety (INCDPM) - "Alexandru Darabont"

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▪ Short history

The National Research and Development Institute for Occupational Safety (INCDPM) - "Alexandru Darabont" is accredited by the national authority for scientific research (ANCS) as a Romanian national research legal entity of public interest.

It was set up in 1951, as Institute of Hygiene and Labor Protection by Decision of Romanian Academy Board and Executive Committee of General Confederation of Labor.

The Government Decision 406/1998 reorganizes it as national institute, coordinated by Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family, thus representing the only national institute of research and development in safety and health at work area in Romania.

As of April 16, 2013 INCDPM Al. Darabont is coordinated by the Ministry for National Education.

▪ Organizational structure and personnel

INCDPM Al. Darabont is organized in four departments, a certification body and administrative compartments.

The Department for Work Systems includes the following laboratories:

- Laboratory for Safety and Health at Work Management
- Laboratory for Work Systems Ergonomics
- Laboratory for Safety at Work Synthesis

The Department of Work Atmosphere and Environment includes the following laboratories:

- Laboratory of Chemical and Biological Risks
- Laboratory of Noise and Vibrations
- Laboratory of Environmental Physics

The Department of Technical Work Equipment includes the following laboratories:

- Laboratory of Mechanical Risks
- Laboratory of Electrical Risks

Department of Personal Protective Means includes the following laboratories:

- Laboratory for Personal Protective Equipment

- Laboratory for Protective Ointments

The certification body ICSPM-CS was set up 1995 by Order no.179/09.11.1995 of the Ministry of Labour. ICSPM-CS product certification body is accredited nationally by RENAR - accreditation certificate no. 077-C/22.01.2007 and is notified body in Europe, with the identification number NB 1805.

ICSPM-CS certification body has technical and procedural, autonomy while being represented legally and financially by INCDPM.

INCDPM Al. Darabont has research personnel with different background (chemistry, chemical/ electrical/mechanic/ civil /aircraft engineering, physics, psychology, biology, IT, law) and expertise in all areas of occupational health and safety, management systems, social responsibility, environmental protection.

▪ **INCDPM Strategy**

INCDPM Strategy established the main objectives and key performance indicators for all important directions of activities. The strategy is meant to contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy of creating a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in EU.

For the year 2013 the main objectives are presented below.

Objectives for research and development activities

For the research and development activities each department has its own specific objectives and performance indicators structured on the following seven strategic directions:

- Research on occupational hazards, their impact on the health and safety, prevention and combating the risks, especially the new and emerging ones
- Extension of the research for the prevention of industrial pollution and reducing environmental impact
- Research on substantiation of national regulatory system and policy on health and safety at work
- Applied research to establish general requirements for safety and health at work and the work environment to improve safety and health
- Research on the establishment of health and safety requirements for products and equipment used in the work and development of products (personal protective equipment, technical equipment) in accordance with current technical progress in order to increase the competitiveness of Romanian products on the European market
- Applied research to support Romanian enterprises, in particular SMEs to improve working conditions and compliance with legislative requirements
- Developing a culture of prevention through training for health and safety at work, and environmental protection.

Objectives for technology transfer:

- Improving cooperation between the institute and industry, particularly through the development of public private partnerships
- Increasing the number of technologies and products transferred to industry by improving technology transfer activities

- Increasing the number of patents granted
- Increasing the income from patents
- Improving the marketing activity, namely for technology transfer activities
- Further development of the website, to present the offers in a clear and attractive manner, both in Romanian and in English.
- Developing e-learning platform for continuous training
- Developing strategic partnerships and visibility

Objectives for strategic partnerships and visibility:

- Improving cooperation between the institute and industry, particularly through the development of public-private partnerships
- Extending partnerships with institutes and universities, both in Romania and abroad and applying for membership in specialized international organizations
- Raising awareness of the economic importance of research in the areas of pollution prevention and health and safety performance, to avoid injury and ensure their employees wellbeing at work
- Raising awareness of industries manufacturing personal protective equipment and industrial machinery on the importance of research to ensure economic and social benefits and increased competitiveness of their products on the European market
- Increase the participation of experts from the institute in specific meetings of professional organizations
- Increase visibility by organizing national and international actions to popularize scientific research results.

▪ **Research activities**

An overview of the results of research activities is presented below.

The main areas of research and development include:

- Research for continuous improvement of safety and health at work - eliminating the causes of accidents and occupational diseases, lowering the level of risk when elimination is not possible, creating well-being at work;
- Development of technical solutions to eliminate / reduce risk factors of industrial pollution of the environment
- Development of standards in health and safety at work and environment
- Certification of safety for work equipment and personal protection equipment
- Development of a high level training curricula in the field of occupational health and safety for courses at postgraduate and doctoral level

The main types of projects include those financed by EU funds (FP7, TC OSH, POSDRU POSCCE) and those financed by national public or private funds. The values of these types of projects are presented in table 1.

Table 1. Project Value INCDPM 2007- 2012

Project type	Project value (Euro) / year					
	2007	2008	2009	2009	2011	2012
National public funding	1703925	1218240	484346	327147	835470	1990789
EU funds: FP7, TC-OSH, POSDRU, POSCEE	20745	21873	41184	300303	1030203	1188234
National private funds	447182	355199	446583	559443	255200	741926
Total project value	2171852	1595312	972113	1186893	2120873	3920949
RD project value	1459168	962239	901828	1124764	1715891	2668945
Share RD (%)	67	60	92	94	81	68

- **Technology transfer and training activities**

An important part of the activities of INCDPM AI. Darabont consists of technology transfer (applying patents of INCDPM), OSH training, and performing specific tests for equipments (not included in the certification process). The incomes from this type of activities are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Technology transfer and Training INCDPM 2007-2012

Technology Transfer, Training	Annual incomes (Euro)					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Patent deployment	45490	184000	50000	77287	45000	16407
Training courses in OSH	277013	183 992	1058542	107344	59419	24571
Production of protection ointments	46498	40614	20528	9014	12529	13452
Specific tests (certification excluded)	5141	6605	5449	6692	3085	2749
Total	374142	415211	1134519	200337	120033	57179

- **Membership in national and international networks**

Starting from 1966 INDCPM “Alexandru Darabont” is the national centre of the International Information Centre in the OSH area (ILO-CIS), a body belonging to the International Labor Organization.

From 2001 the Institute hosts the Focal Point of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work which administrates the permanent service of information in the OSH area and provides implementation of the Agency projects and activities in Romania.

The institute includes the Certification Body (identification number 1805) notified by the European Commission for implementing the certification procedures in accordance with the directives 89/686/EEC- Personal Protective Equipment and 98/37/EC- Machines with no.077C/22.01.2007 on Directive 73/23/CE and other work equipment used in the work process.

INCDPM is a member of the Romanian Association for Standardisation - ASRO, coordinates 6 Technical Committees of Standardization and is member of other 14 technical committees.

The institute is notified by the Ministry of Environment to perform environmental impact studies and is registered in the National Register of study elaborators for environment protection.

▪ **Publication and dissemination activities. Prizes**

The results of the research carried out were published in specialized journals and presented in congresses or conferences. The institute has its own review entitled: Risk and Security that is open to authors at national level.

INCDPM also participated in invention and innovation fairs where its patents earn several prizes.

Between 2007 and 2012 publication and dissemination activities included:

- 13 articles (ISI)
- articles in national and international journals
- 80 participations in international conferences
- 5 gold medals, 7 silver medals, 2 bronze medals for innovations at exhibitions in Brussels, Geneva, Numberg, Seoul, Zagreb, Bucharest.