

## **Overview of the topic “Interactions with other agents and contextual factors”**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this talk is to summarise the latest studies about the effects of noise with other agents in the workplace. A number of studies regarding co-exposure to noise and chemicals such as solvents, heavy metals and pesticides have been published in the period under review (2014-2017). A significant part of these studies has investigated the sensitivity of either clinical or experimental measures to identify the auditory dysfunction associated with co-exposure to noise and chemicals. Other aspects that have been investigated include the effects of co-exposures on central auditory functions as well as on pure-tone thresholds, including mid-to-low audiometric frequencies. Current research in the field proposes that permissible exposure limits for chemicals such as solvents may not be safe enough for the auditory system and that hearing conservation programmes should include chemical-exposed workers regardless of noise exposure levels. A discussion about how to translate these research findings into practice and the needs for further research will be addressed.