



■ Press release ■

## 13 Catalan hospitals work together to minimize the health risks of a substance called formaldehyde used in pathological anatomy services

The FormalCat project is the result of a collaboration between Catalanian Government (through the Department of Business and Employment and the Catalan Institute of Health), National Institute for Safety and Hygiene at Work and MC MUTUAL.

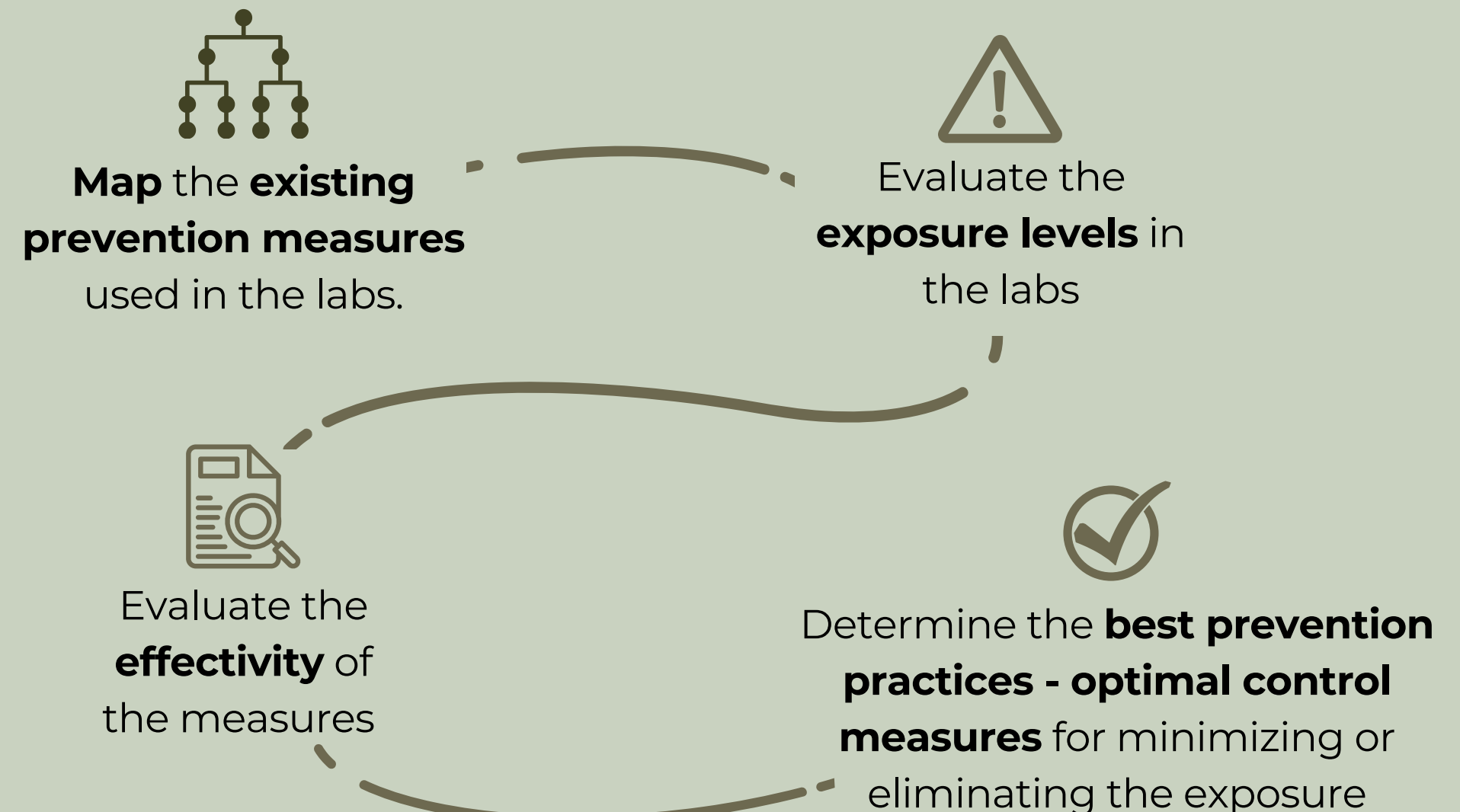
### AIM

Evaluate existing prevention measures, their effectivity and the level of formaldehyde exposure in different Pathological Anatomy laboratories.



**13**  
Catalan  
hospitals

## EVALUATION Methodology



→ **FORMALCAT** STUDY  
HEALTH WORKERS EXPOSURE  
TO FORMALDEHYDE

Salut/Institut  
Català de la Salut



## CONCLUSIONS

Given the **carcinogenic status** of the formaldehyde and the fact that for certain tasks the **limit values are exceeded**, immediate action for **better management practices** is required.

" Formaldehyde contamination can have several **causes** [...] tasks undertaken under **uncontrolled conditions** [...] such as formaldehyde **splashes on tables** [...]"

### Sources of contamination identified

- **Poorly sealed containers**
- Existence of **small spills from the containers** [...]

## RECOMENDATIONS

"Corrective measures that **avoid spillings...**"

"In order to eliminate the source of contamination it is crucial to implement good working practices such as **keeping the surfaces free from splashes, keep the containers closed as much as possible** [...]"

"[...] it is necessary to undertake these tasks under **controlled conditions such as CLOSED SYSTEMS** [...]"



→ CLOSED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

# SAFETY HANDLING OF BIOPSIES

"Addressing the challenge in the healthcare sector for safety handling biopsies by avoiding exposure to toxic formaldehyde vapours and spills"



Endoscopy nurses  
easily perform  
**500.000 biopsies** in  
their career

→ GENDER-RESPONSIVE RESEARCH

# SEX DIFFERENCES in FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE

Need for representing  
**life stages** as well as  
**reproductive status** for  
both men and women

