



# Hungarian Institute of Occupational Health (HIOH)

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# Who we are

- ◆ Hungarian Institute of Occupational Health as a public law institute is a research and specialist organization in the field of occupational health within the portfolio of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.



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# History

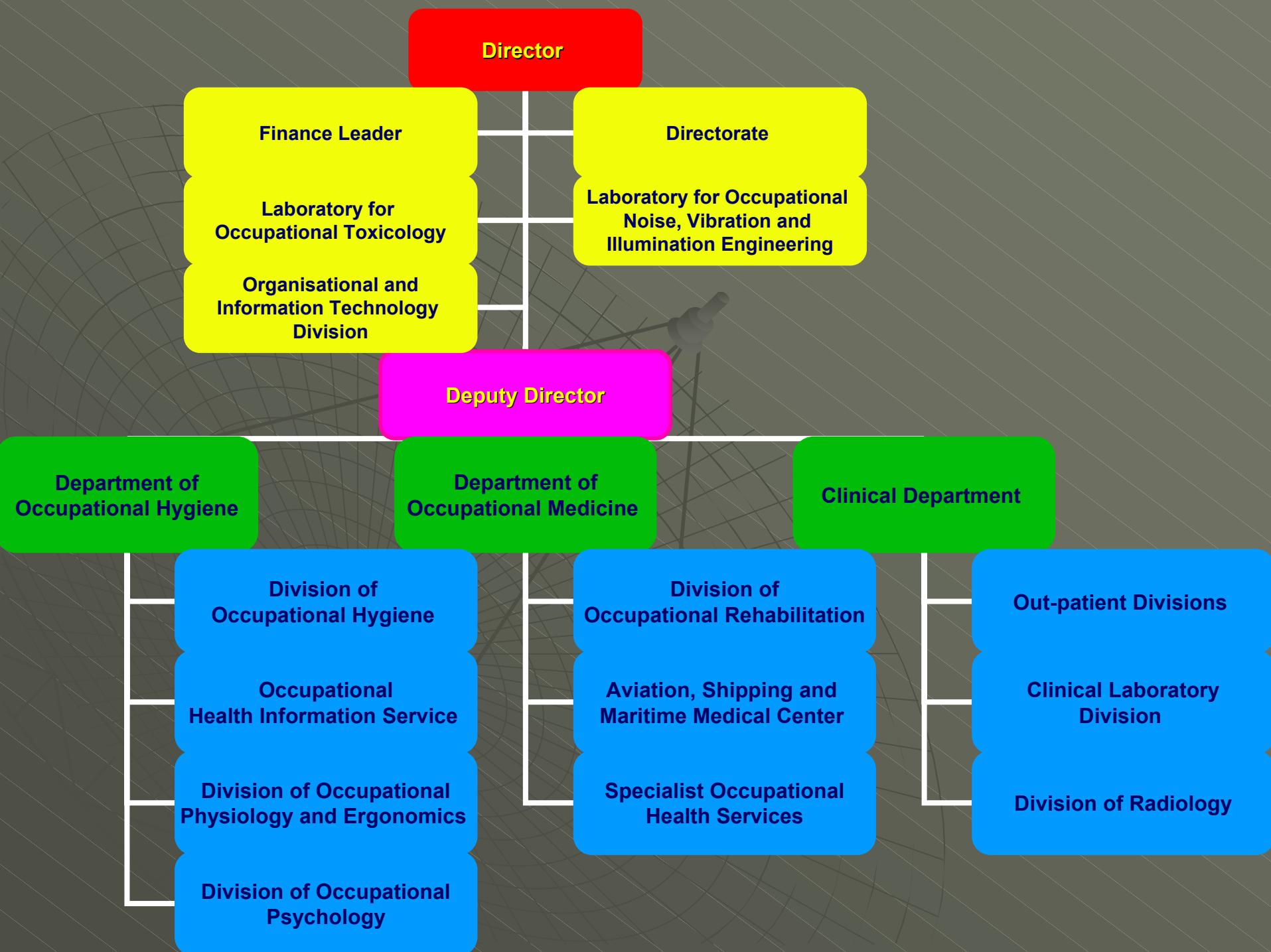
- ◆ The Institute was formed in 1940 as Examination Station of Occupational Diseases and was re-named in 1949 as National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH). From 1998 till the end of 2006 NIOH functioned as part of the Fodor József National Center for Public Health.
- ◆ In December 2006 there was a fundamental change in the legal provisions concerning OSH supervision in Hungary that set up legal framework essential for the organisational *integration of workplace safety and health at work*.



## *Structure of HIOH*

- ◆ HIOH is structured into laboratories and departments, and each department into divisions. A total workforce of 102 is divided into 10 specialist divisions, 2 laboratories and the administration unit (board and senior management team).

*The next chart shows how HIOH is organised:*



# What we do

## *Strategic goals:*

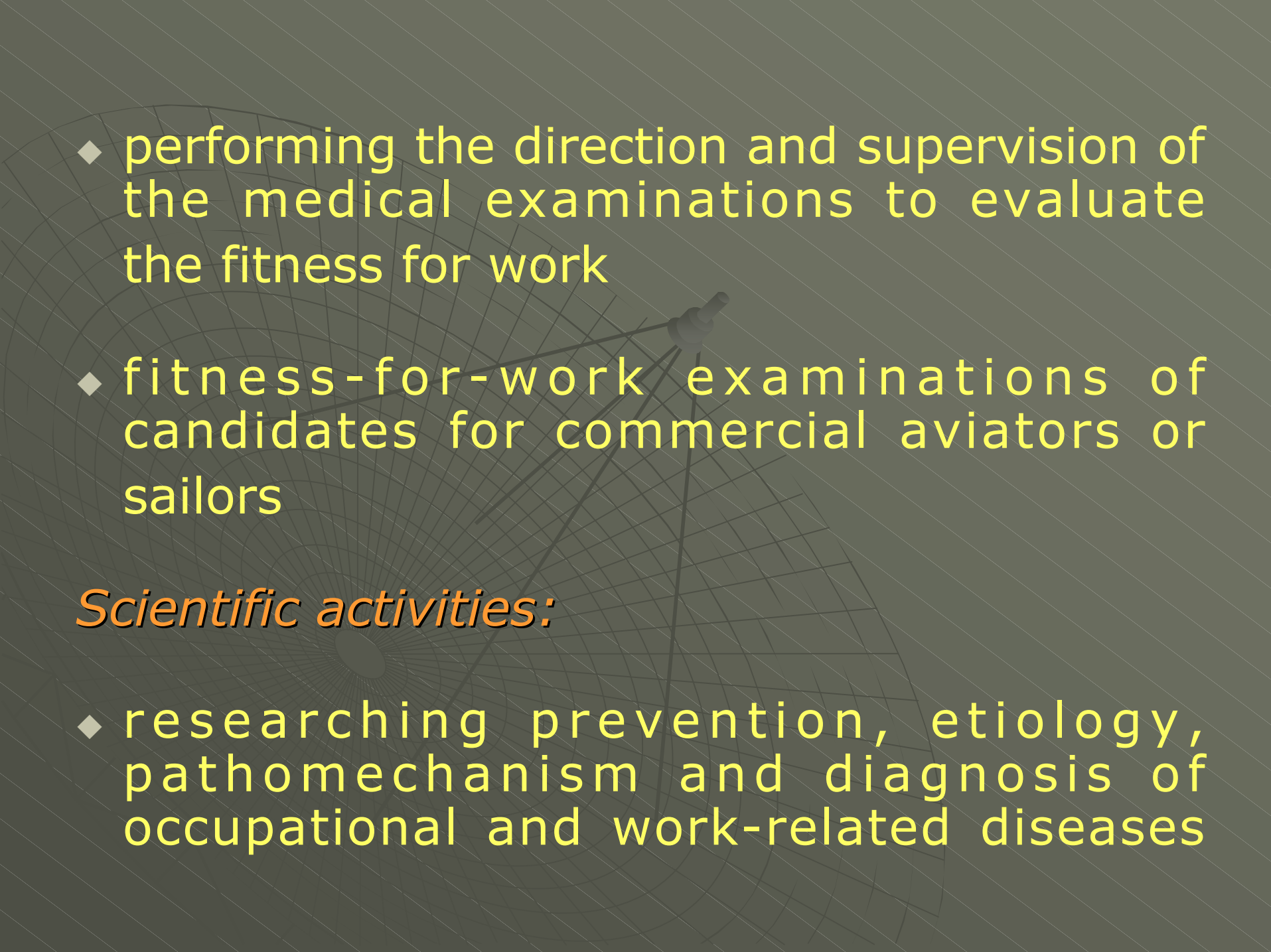
- ◆ generation of database on occupational diseases
- ◆ detection of links between occupational environmental exposures and health effects
- ◆ control and prevention of occupational diseases
- ◆ providing authorities with information for promoting occupational health

- ◆ controlling new occupational hazards, exploiting new opportunities
- ◆ experimental studies

*Professional activities:*

- ◆ elaborating conditions for maintaining at optimal (or near-optimal) level of the relationship between worker and strain (physical, physiological and mental) arising from workplace pathogenic (physical, chemical, biological, psychosocial and ergonomic) and risk factors



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- ◆ performing the direction and supervision of the medical examinations to evaluate the fitness for work
  - ◆ fitness-for-work examinations of candidates for commercial aviators or sailors

### *Scientific activities:*

- ◆ researching prevention, etiology, pathomechanism and diagnosis of occupational and work-related diseases

- ◆ retrospective, cross-sectional and prospective epidemiological analyses of employee morbidity and mortality
- ◆ development of new methods for prevention including risk management

### *Education and professional training tasks:*

- ◆ organising education courses, workshops, meetings and conferences to occupational health and safety professionals
- ◆ providing preparatory consultations for specialist exams

## *Education and professional training tasks:*

- ◆ preparing information materials especially for occupational health physicians and the mass media
- ◆ our experts are lecturers at universities and educational institutions

# *International relationships*

- ◆ *HIOH has abundant, wide-scale international relations of both scientific and professional importance:*
  - linkages with the relevant organisations of the European Union
  - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
  - World Health Organisation
  - United Nations Environmental Programme
  - International Labour Organisation etc.



# Future plans and programmes

- ◆ during the last five decades, HIOH has been engaged in a variety of occupational health research projects. In the process of consolidating the existing functions of the Institute, the HIOH forges new initiatives on the following aspects:
  - by means of the organisational integration of workplace safety and health at work set up by law in 2006 making the authority supervision of enterprises even more effective in order to improve and maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all employees



# Future plans and programmes

- ◆ improving the practice of occupational hygiene and the knowledge, competence and standing of its practitioners
- ◆ providing a forum for the exchange of occupational hygiene information and ideas
- ◆ promoting the application of occupational hygiene principles

# Future plans and programmes

- ◆ to train professionals in occupational health and industrial hygiene who will be capable of evaluating the work environment and its work hazards, and of proposing appropriate methods of prevention and control
- ◆ to train independent researchers in the field of work environment and occupational health and safety