



BELGIAN CENTER

FOR OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

Three (four) Nonprofits Working to Improve Occupational Health for Underserved Workers



BeCOH

Belgian Center for
Occupational Hygiene

Steven Verpaele – President

10 April 2019

NVvA-symposium, Zeist, NL

Content

- Overview BeCOH
 - Founders
 - Memorandum of Association
 - Structure



Founders

- The idea was to join forces for better quality and expertise in the field of Industrial/Occupational Hygiene In Belgium – (Europe).
- As we were further discussing the form of the association we thought it would be nice to share our goals with the rest of the world → reason for starting the VZW (or non profit association in English)



- Four founders in Person: Steven Verpaele, Msc; Prof dr ir Mia Eeckhout; Jonathan Jouret and Inge Scholtis



Founders

- 3 but later 2 (1 party gave his resignation because of Conflict of interest)
- Current founders as a company




- RIC bvba represented by the managing director Mr. Tom Sandra
- Q Mineral bvba represented by the founder Dr. Gilles Mertens



Memorandum of Association

- Published in the Belgian official journal in May 14th 2014
- Article 3 – Goal
 - The Association aims to promote occupational hygiene and aims to be a point of contact for companies and institutions in order to inform them concerning standards, sampling strategies and analysis methodologies.
 - At the request of companies the Association will perform sampling, analysis and reporting in the context of occupational hygiene.
 - The Association will comply with the quality requirements as stated in EN 17025.
 - The Association wants to make full use of the members' competencies, expertise and infrastructure in order to provide expert answers to submitted questions.
 - The Association will also participate in research projects on various topics in the field of occupational hygiene.
 - The Association can undertake all activities that can promote this goal.
 - The Association can also perform commercial acts as far as the profit is used for the purpose for which it was founded.

 **Luik B** In de bijlagen bij het Belgisch Staatsblad bekend te maken kopie na neerlegging ter griffie van de akte

Voorhouden van het Belgisch Staatsblad → *14304496* → Griffie

Neergelegd 12-05-2014

Ondernemingsnr.: 0552603258

Benaming (voluit): Belgian Center for Occupational Hygiene

(afgekort): BeCOH

Rechtsvorm: Vereniging zonder winstoogmerk

Zetel: Abdijstraat 13
8470 Gistel
België

Onderwerp akte: Oprichting

Uittreksel uit de statuten en akten:
De ondertekenden:

Verpaale Steven, Abdijstraat 13, 8470 Gistel
Eeckhout Mia, Langendries 6, 9620 Zottegem
Jouret Jonathan, Jean Monnetstraat 8, 9600 Ronse
Scholts Inge, Akkerstraat 100A, 2940 Hoevenen

Qiminel BVBA, Koning Albertstraat 157, 2800 Mechelen, vertegenwoordigd door Mertens Gilles
RICO BVBA, President Kennedypark 26, 8500 Kortrijk, vertegenwoordigd door haar zaakvoerder Cima
Consultancy BVBA, Bajuwstraat 11, 9510 Belegem, vertegenwoordigd door haar vaste vertegenwoordiger Tom Sandra
ADHESIA SERVICES vzw, Oude Graanmarkt 10, 1000 Brussel, vertegenwoordigd door Boeve Lode

verklaren bij deze akte een vereniging zonder winstoogmerk op te richten, overeenkomstig de Wet van 27 juni 1921, gewijzigd door de Wet van 2 mei 2002, die rechtspersoonlijkheid verleent aan de verenigingen zonder winstoogmerk, de internationale verenigingen zonder winstoogmerk en de stichtingen, waarvan zij de statuten als volgt samenstellen:

ARTIKEL 1
De vereniging draagt de naam: Belgian Center for Occupational Hygiene, afgekort: BeCOH

ARTIKEL 2
De zetel van de vereniging is gevestigd te Abdijstraat 13, 8470 Gistel en ressorteert onder het gerechtelijk arrondissement West-Vlaanderen.

Hij kan slechts verplaatst worden door de algemene vergadering mits deze bovendien de regels in acht neemt zoals vereist voor een statutswijziging en beschreven in deze statuten.

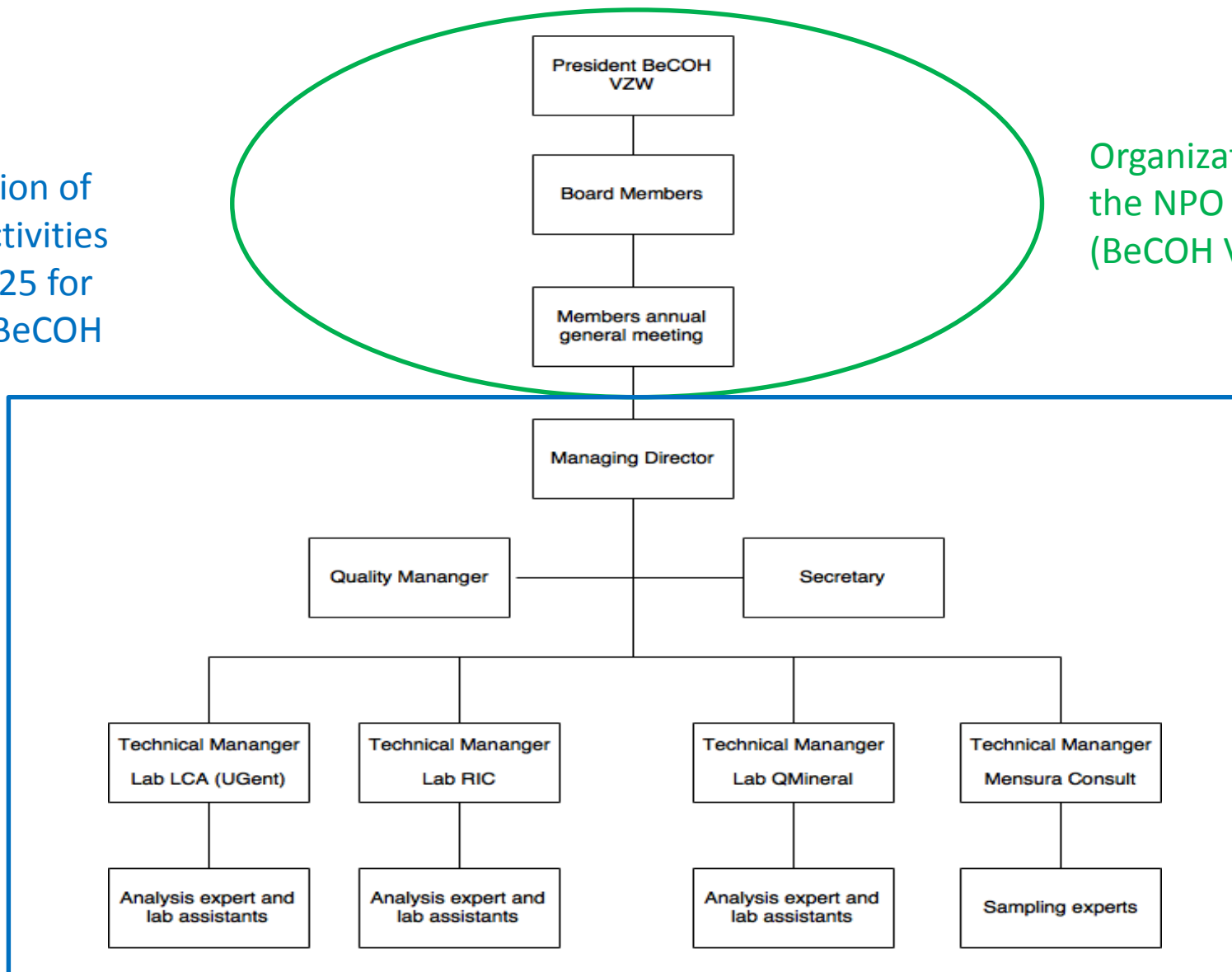
Bijlagen bij het Belgisch Staatsblad - 14/05/2014 - Annales du Moniteur belge



Overview structure BeCOH VZW

Organization of
the lab activities
cf EN 17025 for
the NPO BeCOH
VZW

Organization of
the NPO
(BeCOH VZW)



Overview structure BeCOH VZW

- Each founding member has 1 vote in the meeting
- The board members are appointed for a period of 5 years
- The association can be validly represented by the President himself → important when working with volunteers!



MOU – WHWB and WHWB-US

- Signed on 15 September 2017 by
 - Marianne Levitsky, President - On behalf of Workplace Health Without Borders
 - Mary O'Reilly, President - On behalf of the US Affiliate of Workplace Health Without Borders
 - Steven Verpaele, President - On behalf of Belgium Center for Occupational Hygiene

The purpose of this MOU is to **provide the framework** for these charitable entities to work together to **improve occupational health for under-represented workers by reducing recognized risks in their work environment**



MOU – WHWB-UK

- Signed on 23 January 2019 by
 - Kevin hedges, President - On behalf of Workplace Health Without Borders
 - Peter Baldwin, Chair - On behalf of the UK Affiliate of Workplace Health Without Borders
 - Steven Verpaele, President - On behalf of Belgium Center for Occupational Hygiene

The purpose of this MOU is to **provide the framework** for these charitable entities to work together to **improve occupational health for under-represented workers by reducing recognized risks in their work environment**



MOU – WHWB and WHWB-US

WHWB Mission

Vision: Our vision is for workers everywhere to go home each day from work at least as healthy as they arrived.

Mission: To engage occupational health professionals to ensure workers and employers throughout the world have the knowledge and means to prevent work-related disease (and injury).

Focus: On underserved worker populations who face health hazards on the job and who do not have the resources or means to effectively protect themselves.

Become a Member – at any of our various branches in Canada, US, UK or Australia.

www.whwb.org or branch websites

BeCOH Laboratory Mission

As a committed non-profit organization, BeCOH is always looking for partners (both in the academic world and in industry) to carry out scientific research.

As a research partner, the laboratory offers customized analysis as well as consultancy. Scientific and industry-driven research topics are examined from analytical point of view.

The laboratory will comply with the quality requirements as stated in ISO 17025.

BeCOH wants to make full use of the members' competencies, expertise and infrastructure in order to provide expert answers to submitted questions.

It can undertake all activities that can promote this goal and can also perform commercial acts as far as the profit is used for the purpose for which it was founded.



Memorandum of Understanding



First Joint Project

- June – December, 2018
- Developing World Outreach Initiative (DWOI) Grant
- Aristides Medard, B.Sc., Tanzania, East Africa & Jennifer Galvin Ph.D., CIH Co-Authors of Grant
- Silica Exposure to Stone Crushers
 - With/without water to reduce dust
 - Women, Youth and Children in Workforce

Projects Welcome



Lab Provisions

- Sampling pumps with loading stations
- Flow Calibrator
- Harnesses to perform personal measurements
- Cyclones for silica sampling
- PVC filters
- XRD and FT-IR Analysis



Training and Mentoring



Contact Information steven@becoh.be, www.becoh.be - jengalvin@sbcglobal.net, www.whwb-us.org



Stone Crushers Project

- **Aim**
 - Evaluate the silica exposure and ergonomic practices in the informal stone-crushing work sector in Tanzania
- **Objectives**
 - Identify the different tasks performed by the stone crushers
 - Measure the breathing zone exposure to respirable dust and silica
 - Inform the workers about the results and provide training and information sessions to protect themselves from exposure risks

Stone Crushers team

- Jennifer Galvin, leading the team
- Aristides Medard, project manager
- Egan Galvin, stage manager
- Steven Verpaele, BeCOH, lab/equipment

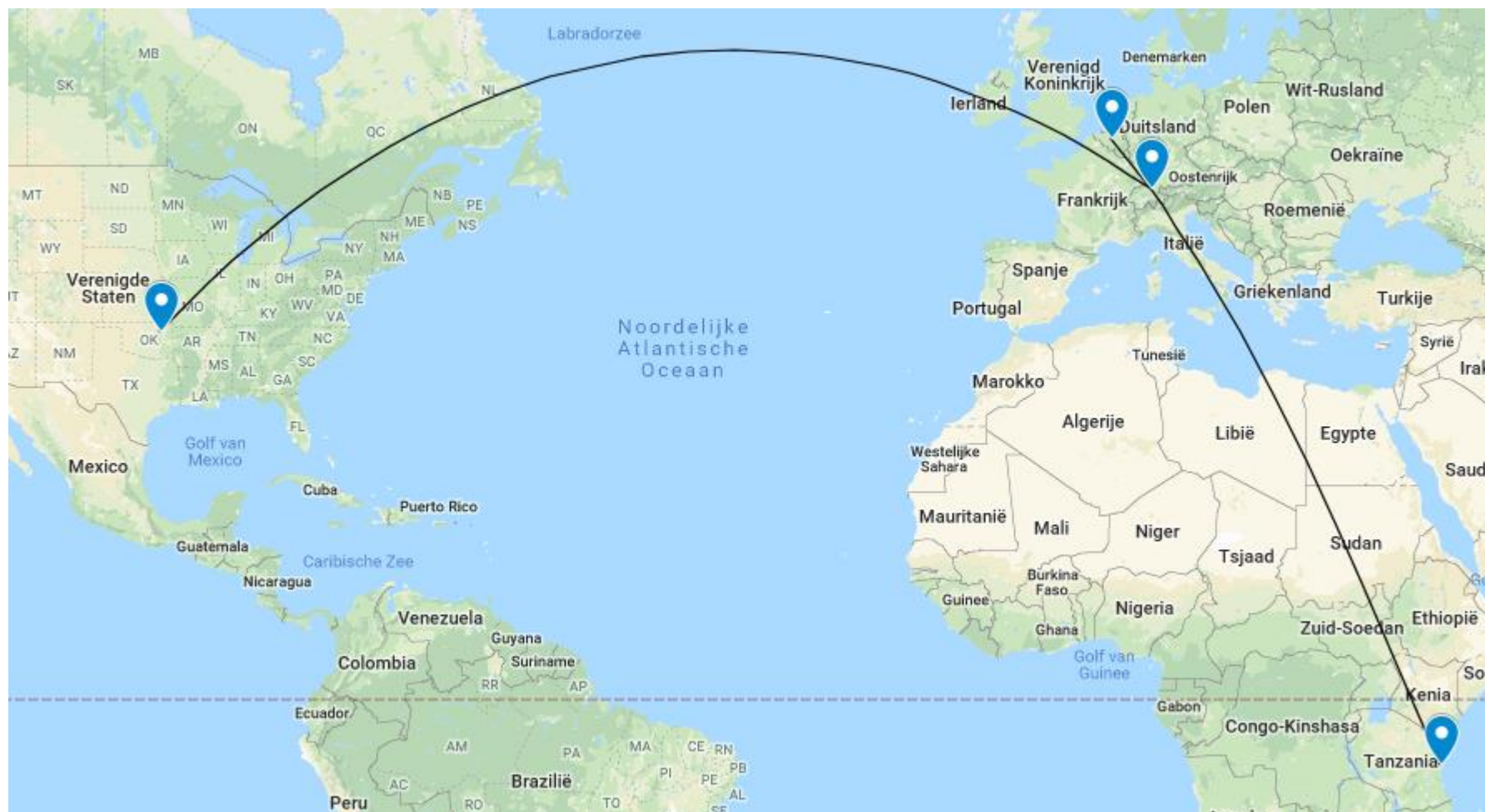




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Stone Crushers team



Stone Crushers Project kick-off

OSHA VISIT



- Draft Collaborative Agreement at OSHA's request for help with Sustainable OH Program
- OSHA requested help getting OSHA inspectors certified (IOHA) via OHTA training
- Budget drafted for WHWB OHTA Training requested for two courses, two weeks in a row.
- Budget has been provided, awaiting approval from OSHA.

Stone Crushers Project kick-off

Muhimbili University Visit



- A presentation to students and staff was given by J.Galvin on careers/general information on Toxicology and Industrial Hygiene
- Meeting with acting Dean of the School of Public Health → Universities involvement in projects focusing on disease prevention

Stone Crushers Project kick-off

Muhimbili University Visit



- Presentation on IH Monitoring and Measurements to students and staff
- 6 students offered to help with air sampling
- 2 students requested to be mentored
- Sustainable cooperation by teaching students, setup of an IH laboratory, equipment delivery and providing help with internal analysis and external analysis

Stone Crushers Project kick-off

Site visit



- Identification of SEGs
- Identification of background exposure → non worksite exposure
- Bulk samples taken for further identification in the initial assessment step



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Projects Egypt





Project Egypt



Projects Egypt

National Research Center and the Air Pollution Laboratory



- A presentation on OH training programs and cooperation with OHTA
- Meeting with the director of the Air Pollution Laboratory
→ first step in sustainable cooperation and possibilities to build an IH lab and train lab technicians



Projects Egypt

Acknowledgements



**International Affairs Committee
Micro Grant Subcommittee
Project Proposal Review Team
Rationale for Micro Grant Funding 2019
February 5, 2019**

Training Video of Air Sampling Process for Sampling Silica During Brick Production in Developing Countries

The idea of a video on silica air sampling is brilliant: the video can be reproduced into multiple languages and can be used to educate a huge number of workers, technicians, and managers (“This is the age of You Tube”). If methods change, the video can be updated due to its production technique. The educational potential is multi-continental (“Brick kilns are common in Asia, Africa, and South America”) as is the research/implementation team (Asia, Africa, Europe, ILO). The amount requested is *modest* given the scope of the project. There is no request for consultant fees. **Although the applicants only asked for \$2,000, the review team decided to supplement the project with an additional \$242 for a total of \$2,242 for the project.**



Project funding

Cooperation within EU



AIR SAMPLING FOR A BETTER
WORLD
AN INNIATIVE BY BECOH &
<https://content.sysmex.nl/whwb>
SYSMEX

Thanks for your attention
QUESTIONS???



becoh.be



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steven@becoh.be



+32(0)496 28 96 88