

# ***Safety Culture in Practice: From Barriers to Opportunities in the Construction Industry***

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# Background

The construction industry is one of the most high-risk sectors where fatalities and serious injuries are more common than for other sectors.

In October 2024, the Swedish government appointed the Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise to identify factors promoting safety culture and safety behaviour within the construction industry.

# Aim

The purpose of the report is to contribute with knowledge regarding factors that can promote a sustainable safety culture and sustainable safety behaviour at workplaces within the construction industry.

## We wanted to know more about

- Relationships between different factors at the societal, organizational, and individual levels and safety climate and safety behavior
- Which factors can promote or hinder safety climate and safety behaviors?
- Is there a discrepancy between the way those with formal responsibility act, in relation to what is actually required by laws and statutory regulations?
- How can the preventive work related to safety be strengthened?

# Method

**Participants:** Skilled workers, owners, contractors, construction client, project engineers, designers, project managers, site managers, CEOs, safety coordinators, HSE officers etc.

**Questionnaires:** Safety climate (NOSACQ-50), and safety behaviours

**Interviews:** Focus on success factors related to safety, responsibility and roles in complex projects etc.

**Skilled workers:** carpenter, plumber, concreter etc.

**Owners, contractors or construction client:** The person or company who initiate and finance for the project.

**Project engineers, designers or project managers:** A designer is responsible for creating the technical blueprints, drawings, and specifications that guide the construction process. They ensure that the building is functional, safe, and compliant with regulations.

# Participants, survey (n=352)

**Gender:** 71% men/ 27% women

**Age:** 21-78 years (48 years)

37% work in an office located outside the construction site

26% work in an office located on the construction site

36% work practically on the construction site



## Most of the respondents:

27% were skilled workers or had a work environment role (25%)

53% were employed at companies with >250 employees

54% worked at construction sites where 1–49 people were working together

# Participants, interviews

20 individuals were interviewed

Gender: 16 men/ 4 women

Age: 21-65 years (46 years)



# Results

## Comparisons between groups

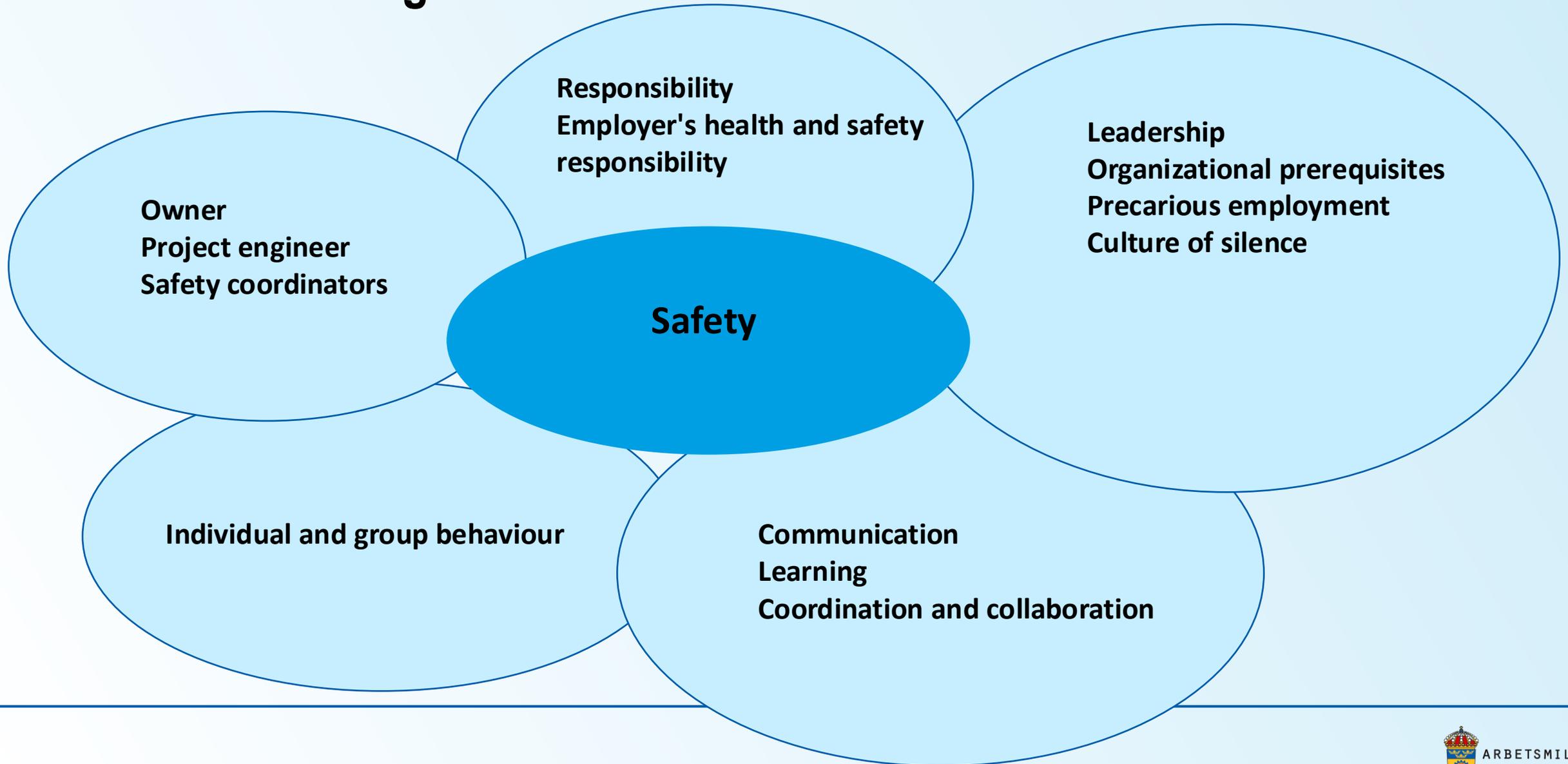
Faktors	Safety climate	Safety behaviour
Company size	No sig. differences	No sig. differences
Construction site size	No sig. differences	No sig. differences
Subcontractors (never/sometimes or often/always)	No sig. differences	No sig. differences
Foreign labor on the construction site (yes/no)	<b>Sig. differences</b> ↓	No sig. differences
Occurrence of undocumented labour (yes/no)	<b>Sig. differences</b> ↓	<b>Sig. differences</b> ↓

Always: 54%  
Often: 27%  
Sometimes: 16%  
Never: 1%

Yes: 69%  
No: 27%

Yes: 19%  
No: 80%

# Concluding results...



**Thank you for listening!**

Please contact me if you have any questions

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