



*Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats  
Europäischer Gesteinsverband  
European Aggregates Association*

## ***EU “Silica” Social Dialogue Agreement:***

### ***Initial quantitative results***

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European Aggregates Association***



5th Atlantic Alliance Conference  
25-26 September 2008  
Lansdowne Resort, Leesburg Virginia

Session 8  
Silica & Diesel:  
Occupational Health Challenges

# EU-27 countries



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## European Union - *Key Facts*

- 493 million inhabitants
- 3.5 million square kilometres
- 23 official languages
- 25% of the global economy

## The first EU *multi-sectoral* Social Dialogue Agreement



**Aggregates** (UEPG), **Cement** (Cembureau), **Industrial Minerals** (IMA-Europe),  
**Mines** (Euromines), **Natural Stones** (EuroRoc), **Ceramics** (Cerame-Unie),  
**Foundry** (CAEF/CEEMET), **Glass fibre** (APFE), **Special** (ESGA),  
**Container** (FEVE) & **Flat Glass** (GEPVP), **Mineral Wool** (EURIMA),  
**Mortar** (EMO), and **Pre-cast Concrete** (BIBM)  
**with their Unions' representatives** (EMCEF & EMF)

## Based on national occupational exposure limits

Country	Quartz , mg / m <sup>3</sup>
Austria	0,15
Belgium	0,1
Bulgaria	0,07
Cyprus	10k/Q
Czech Republic	0,1
Denmark	0,1
Estonia	0,1
Finland	0,2
France	0,1
Germany	No OEL
Greece	0,1
Hungary	0,15
Ireland	0,05
Italy	0,05

Country	Quartz, mg / m <sup>3</sup>
Lithuania	0,1
Luxembourg	0,15
Malta	Refer to UK
Netherlands	0,075
Norway (non-EU)	0,1
Poland	0,3
Portugal	0,05
Romania	0,1
Slovakia	0,1
Slovenia	0,15
Spain	0,1
Sweden	0,1
Switzerland (non-EU)	0,15
United Kingdom	0,1

## The Agreement and Good Practice Guide in 20 languages at

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_dialogue/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm)

Published in the OJ 2006/C279/02

All documents & tools at

NEPSI website

<http://www.nepsi.eu>



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## Process





## Deliverables

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- ▶ **Compliance** with H&S European and national standards and directives which remain applicable at all times
- ▶ **Quantitative, bottom-up reporting** thanks to a form to be filled-in once every 2 years at site level and consolidated at company, country and sector levels, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

*Ad hoc electronic database system developed*

- **Site input of data, online, password protected**
- **Automated calculation of 7 Key Performance Indicators**



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## Identified Challenges for Aggregates Sector

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- Due to the security aspects the complexity of the system was handled more easily by big companies
- One member reported via the 'wrong' European trade body
- One member reported via another member
- Some reports came from members who had joined after the implementation date
- One member enrolled three subsidiary regional trade associations
- Data collection highlighted necessary improvements to reporting software





## Benefits of the Agreement

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- Major increase in *awareness* of RCS and its potential health effects
- *Minimising exposure* to RCS by applying the Good Practices
- High level of *worker protection* without over-restrictive legislation - HSE, the British regulator, considers the Agreement as equivalent to the silica aspects of its 'COSHH Essentials' national legislation.
- *Improved public image* of a responsible industry
- Promoting *better relations* with stakeholders



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## Results (15 industries, 27 EU countries)

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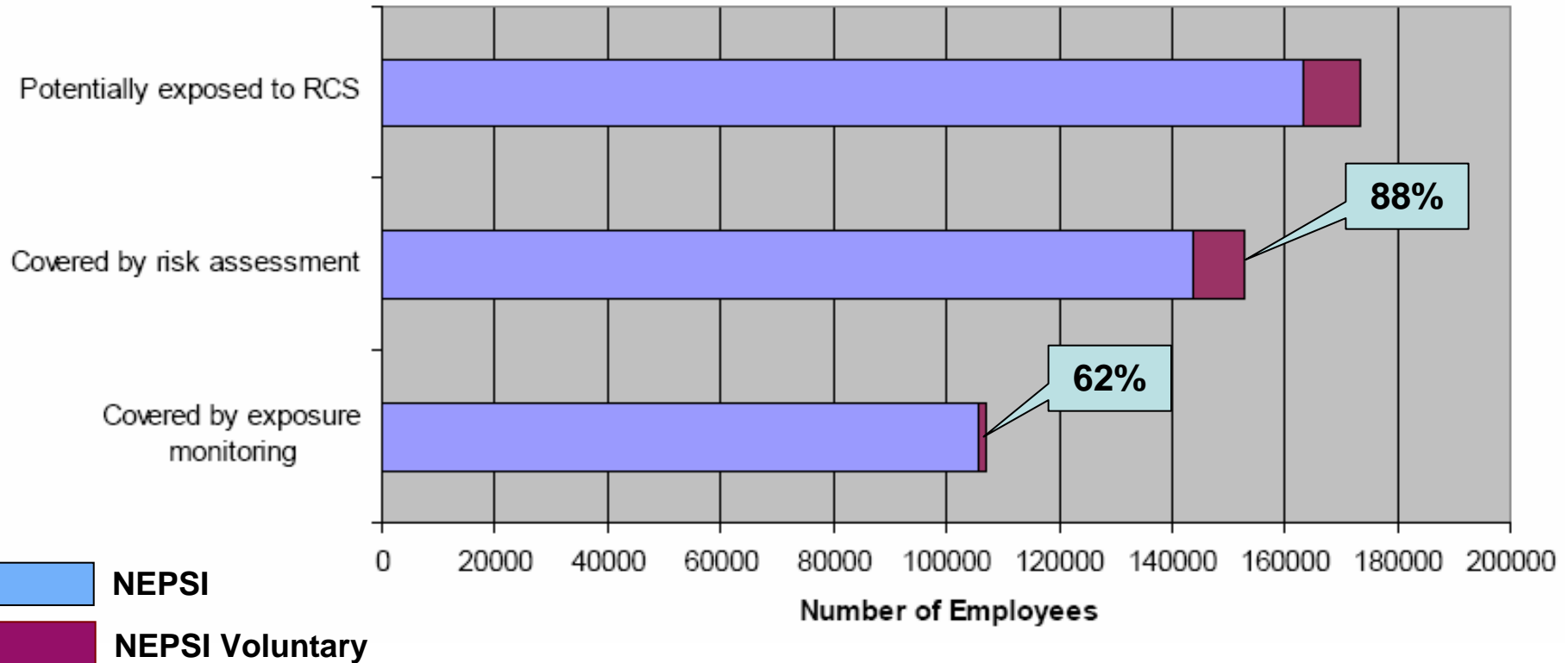
- 4,707 sites reported (incl. 121 EU / non-EU voluntary)
- 428,698 workers covered (31,033 were from UEPG)
- Total number of reported employees estimated to be potentially exposed to Respirable Crystalline Silica is 173,239 (40.4%)



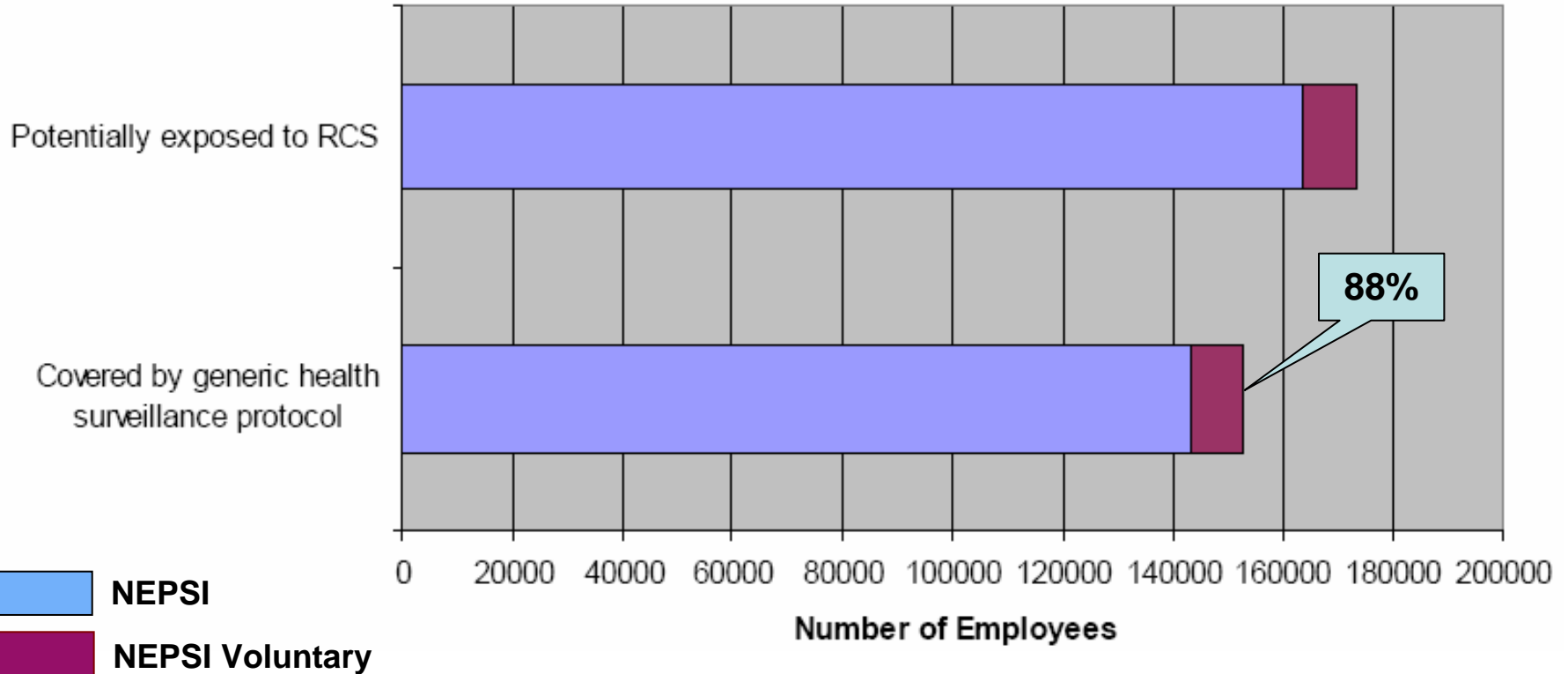
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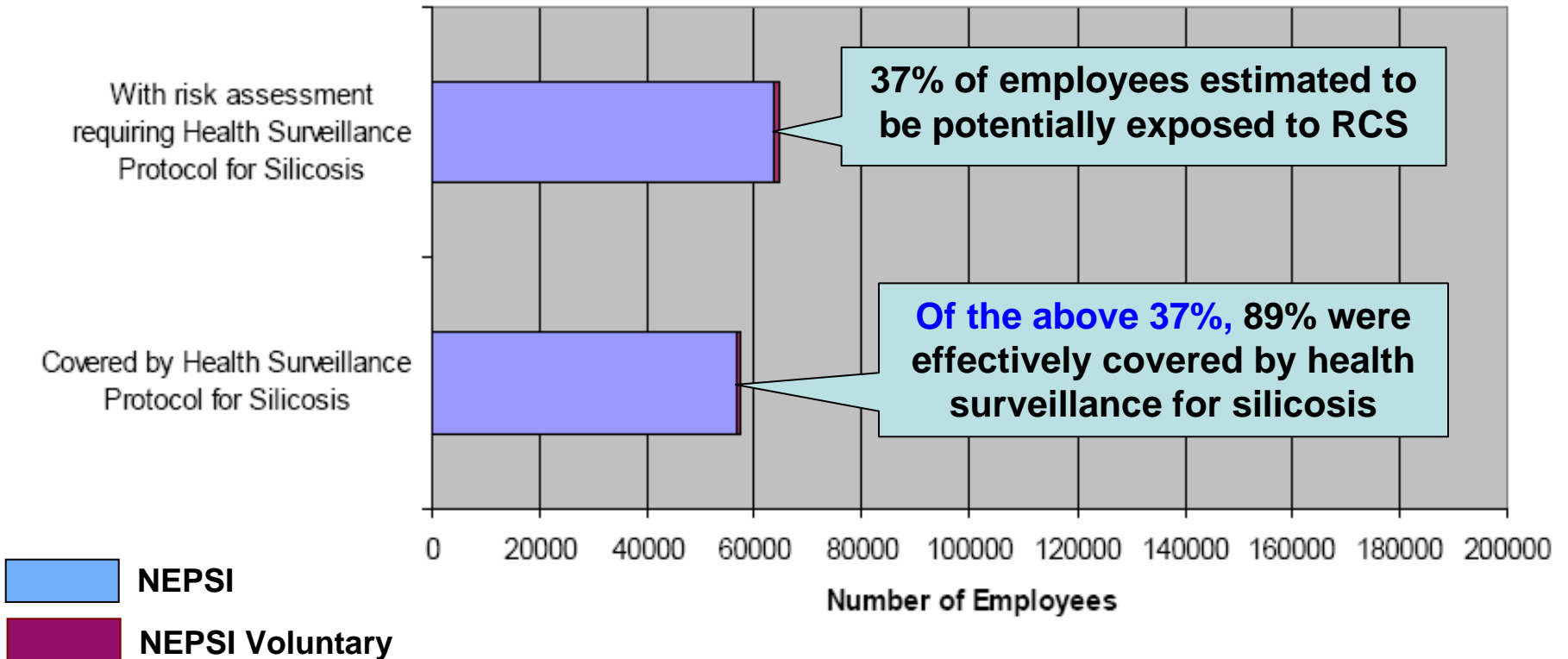
# Risk Assessment and Dust Monitoring



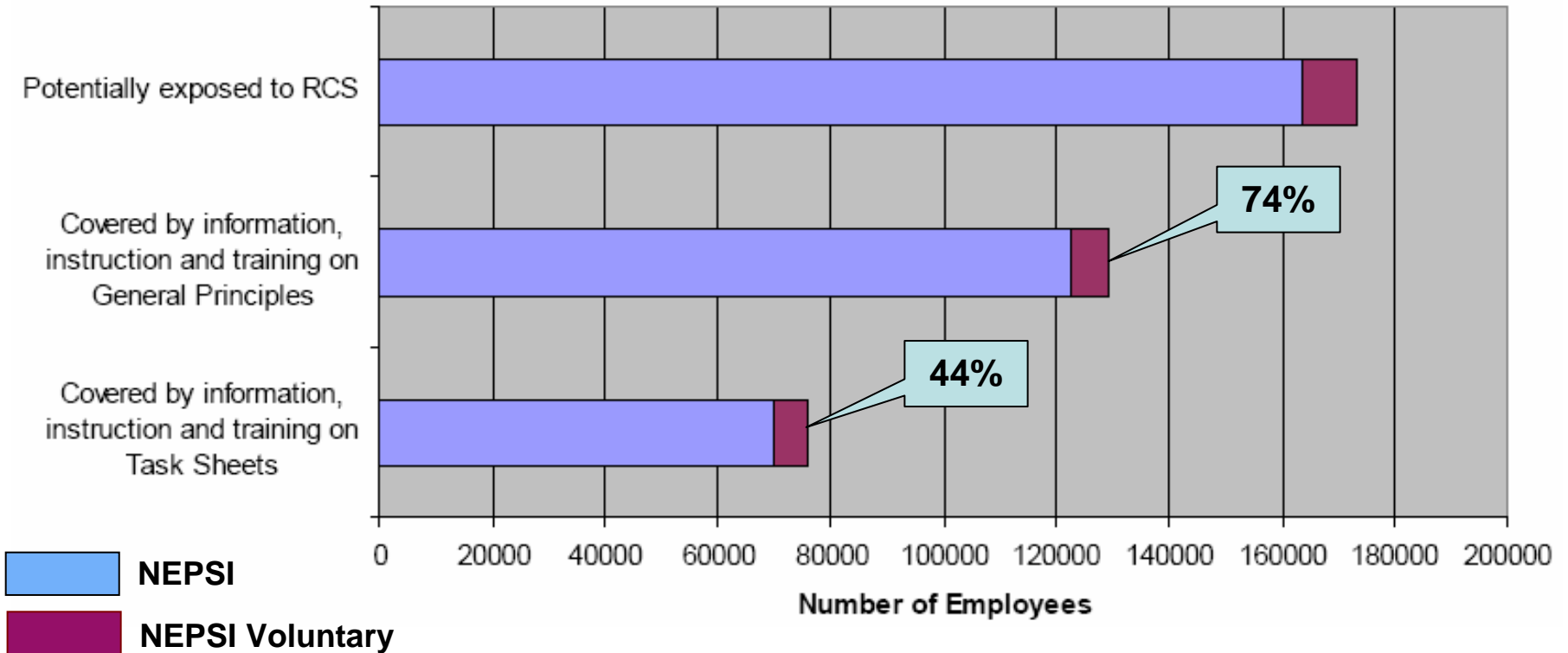
## Health Surveillance



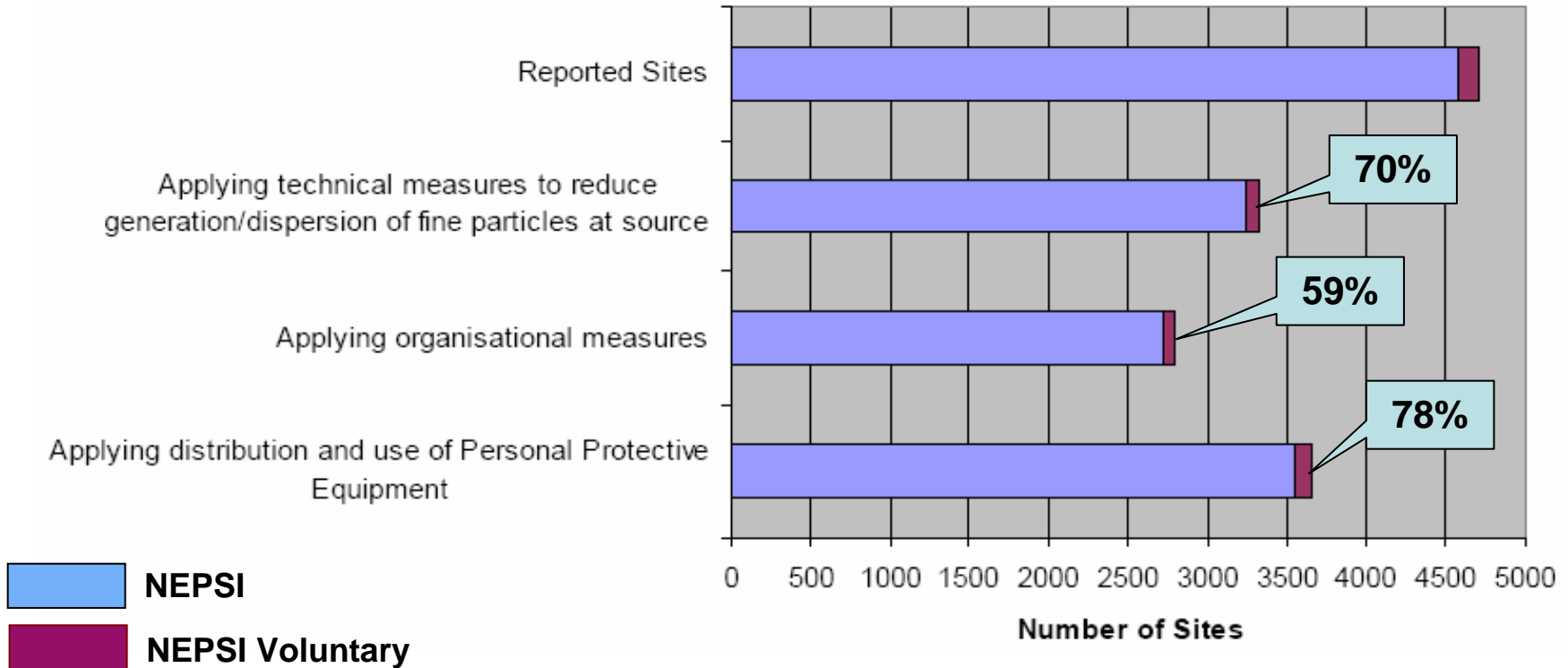
# Health Surveillance for Silicosis



# Training



## Good Practices







## Conclusions

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- First quantitative report completed in *only 20 months*
- Abundant evidence that this EU Agreement had promoted – and continues to promote – significant progress towards meeting the *aims* of the Agreement
- By June 2009, the NEPSI Council has pledged to supply reporting information *by country and sector*, in a way which on one hand respects confidentiality requirements and on the other hand is acceptable to all Signatories
- In short – *a major success*
- Future depends on the EU deeming progress to be '*adequate*'
- Next data calls: 2010 and 2012



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## Recommendations

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- UEPG and its Members are convinced that the Agreement is in the best interests of all the stakeholders. Therefore UEPG will continue to demonstrate to the EC the *commitment* of the European Aggregates Industry to:-
  - the EU Agreement
  - addressing current and future political challenges

*Thank you!*



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