

174, avenue du Maine 75014 Paris ■ 01 45 41 00 14 - 🖃 altergo@altergo.fr

## Prevention of professional risks, what kind of space and organisational structure are needed in order to ensure a healthy working environment?

Observations and responses

Professional risks in the hairdressing sector

What we know already

- The kinds of problems that concern the profession of hairdresser are mainly
  - MSD of the upper limbs
  - Venous circulation problems
  - Skin and respiratory allergies
  - Back ache
- What is less commonly known
  - Increasing levels of stress
- With common issues observed between managers and salaried employees
- Often under-reported, not spoken about in the hairdressing salons
- Factors causing exclusion from the profession when they become chronic

Professional risks in the hairdressing sector

What we know already

alternatives

The direct factors causing the problems

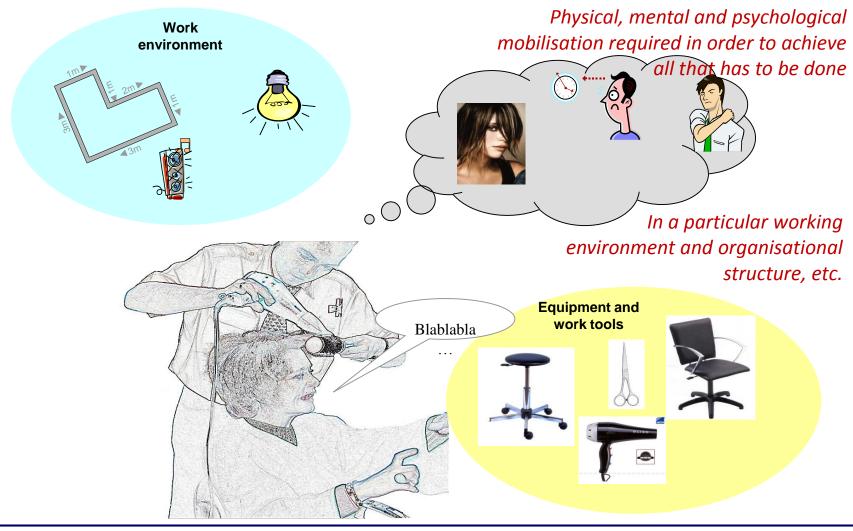
- Strenuous postures and gestures and the repetitive nature thereof
- The use of chemical products shampoos, dyes and the frequency thereof
- Indirect factors causing the problems
  - Equipment that is not always suitable for the tasks: wash basin, scissors, hairdryers

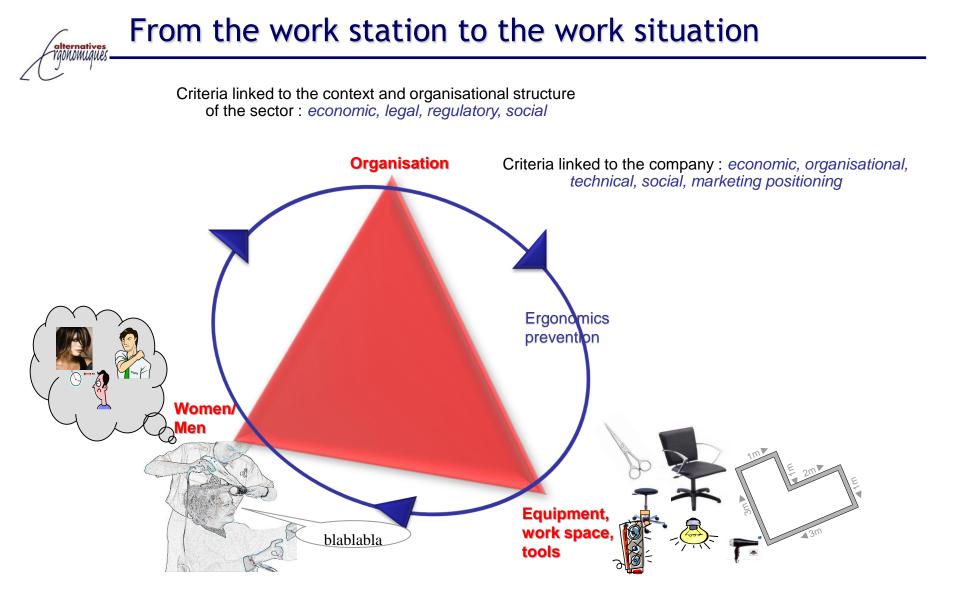
What is less commonly known

- Indirect factors causing the problems
  - Stress, straining and tensing the body due to organisational tensions
  - Working space and environmental conditions
  - Organisational structure
    - The rhythm of the work, the number of breaks
    - The diversity of the tasks to be carried out
    - The functional regulations
  - Apprenticeship and mastering the profession
    - From education and training at school, to coaching in hairdressing salons

### A reminder about the demands of this profession

Achieve the objectives: carry out a 'good cut', which includes listening to the customer, while at the same time observing the rules and functioning in the hairdressing salon, etc.





An organisational structure and work space must integrate the criteria linked to the needs of the job symmetrically and complementarily

Alternatives Ergonomiques / ErgoHair - Paris

Space and organisation : symmetry and complementarity

- Linking the work space and organisational structure, an occasion for a make-over project
  - Define a marketing positioning statement target audience, market, etc.
  - Make sure all pertinent information is present organisational, qualitative, functional, technical and financial
  - Integrate the needs associated with work activities (hairdressers) and usage (customers) → prevention of professional risks
    - A prior analysis of needs that can be based on the uses and the users (hairdressers, even customers)
      - Carry out a diagnosis of the current situation or analyse the reference situations
      - Question or redefine the way the work is organised
      - Take account of the needs of the users
        - Developments/health/safety/wellbeing
      - Make a projection of how it will function in the future

alternatives VAONOMIAUE

#### List the needs: the start of the implementation of the

Strategic

alternatives Vgohomiques

Marketing positioning

project

- Organisational
  - Number of hairdressing stations/wash basins/specialisations
  - Timetables, opening hours
  - Method for storing material/equipment (individual, collective),
  - Methods for welcoming customers, providing services (making appointments, sales of products, other services)
- Technical
  - Liquids, networks, safety, lighting, acoustics, norms
- Functional
  - Reception area (place to wait, area for hanging coats, and storage area)
  - Technical areas laboratory, interviews,
  - Area for hairdressing duties: cuts/blow-drying/setting hair/perms/dyeing hair, etc.
  - Area for washing hair
  - Sales area
- Prevention of professional risks
  - Facilitate changes in the workplace, from one work station to another
  - Ensure that it is possible to work sitting down, on a stool therefore
  - Ensure that it is possible to add a mobile table to a work station for storing things closer to hand
  - Ensure that it is possible to have a good view of the cut one is working on or the dyeing process
  - Encourage exchanges between members of the team
  - Choose material that can be regulated to suit the different characteristics of the members of the team
  - Ensure the presence of a ventilation system
  - Ensure that there is an area for staff to take a break

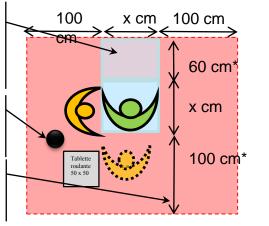
### Example : Identify the needs in terms of surface area

- Base yourself on a basic unit when designing your spaces
  - Example : the hairdressing work station

The space needed to use a chair for one person plus the space for moving around the client in an upright position Space needed for mobile elements – stool, small trolley

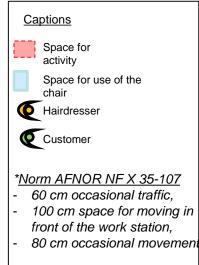
raonomiaue

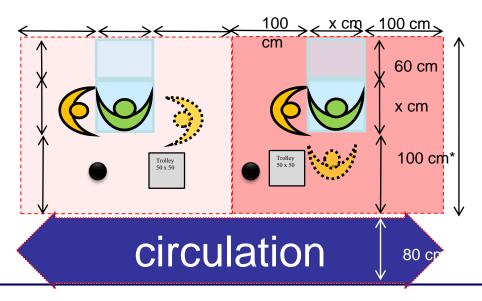
Space for moving behind the work station



**1/ For one hairdressing work station** : space for the hairdresser's activity - 100 cms around the hairstyling chair

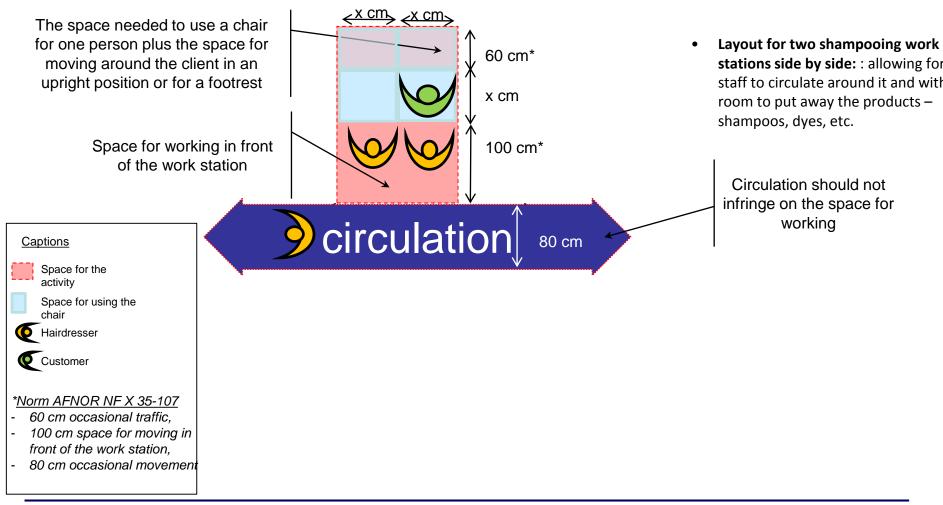
2/ Simulation of layout with two hairdressing work stations side by side : how much overlapping of space?





Example : Determine the needs in terms of surface area

- Base yourself on the basic unit when designing your spaces
  - Example : the work station for SHAMPOOING hair

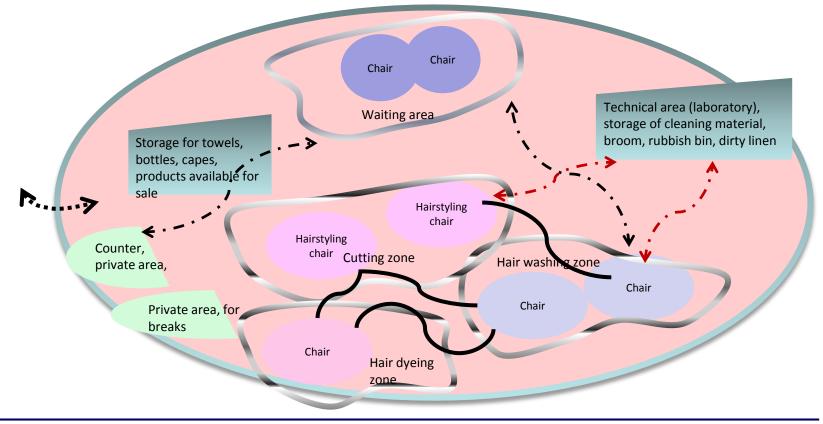


#### Example : identify functional zones and areas where there is traffic

- Think about the functional proximities needed
  - counter → waiting → shampooing →cutting/drying → dyeing→ rinsing → drying→ counter
  - Storing → technical space

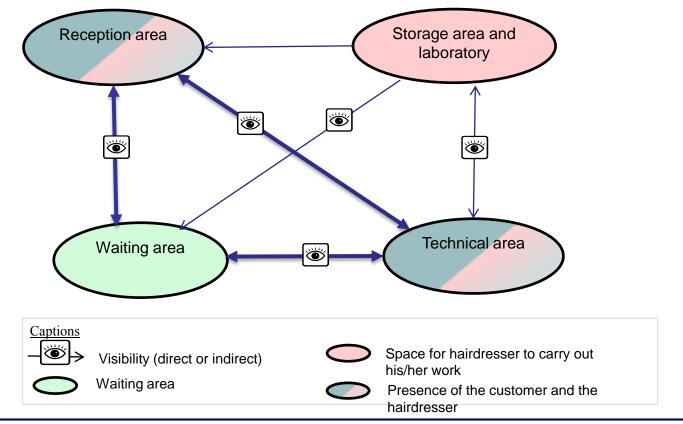
alternatives Vgohomiques

Allow for fluid circulation of traffic between the different zones



# Example : be attentive to encouraging areas of visibility

- Ensure that it is possible to see customers and colleagues with direct or indirect (mirrors) visibility
  - To intervene in cases of dissatisfaction (having to wait too long)
  - ➡ To offer help to a colleague in carrying out a specific task
  - To pass on information by a look



Complete the choice for the make-over by adding organisational aspects

- Choices in terms of organisational aspects seem to add flexibility in carrying out work for example :
  - Working to appointments helps to ease the workflow and anticipate activity
  - Carrying out a range of different tasks offers the possibility of changing position, the rhythm with which gestures are carried out and even offer a certain form of rest
  - Closing the hairdressing salon during lunchtime makes it easier to eat a healthy and good-quality lunch
- But they must be integrated into a balanced overall functioning of the hairdressing salon and the professionals who make up the team that the salon is made up of
  - Take customers without an appointment, but respecting the time required for carrying out the work healthily
  - Carrying out multiple tasks must not be something imposed on professionals, it should be offered according to their wishes or demands to be accompanied
  - Lunch breaks can be a time when there is an increase in the number of customers arriving, rather than closing the hairdressing salon, a rota of staff could be set up.

Linking the space and organisational structure, an occasion for a make-over project: a means to initiate a global brainstorming on the subject

➡ If the users are associates

Conclusion

- Avoid reviving habitual and/or unsuitable solutions without any innovative change or with an insufficient match with the actual reality in the hairdressing salon
- Enrich, clarify organisational choices and ensure there is a balance between the different aspects
  - Between immediate financial feasibility and long-term financial feasibility
  - Between aesthetic and functional dimensions and professional risk prevention
  - While at the same time checking the technical feasibility (safety included)
- Contribute to the cohesion of the team and build up the collective structure
  - Define, discuss, agree on the functional rules and regulations