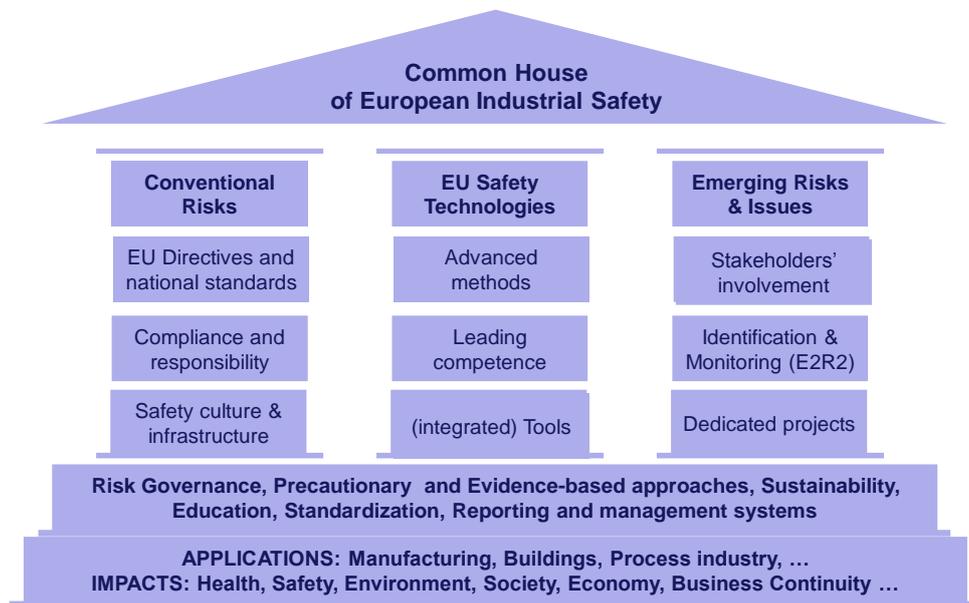


## The "Common House" of the European Industrial Safety (EIS)



The fragmentation of research efforts in the area of Industrial Safety has long been identified as a weakness of European industry. Industrial Safety is differently understood and addresses, not only among the EU member states, but also on the regional level, as well as the across industrial branches. There is a broadly shared understanding that each EU member state, each industrial branch or each technology owner knows best how to ensure safety. However, in addition to many experts questioning such an understanding, the experiences of the last decade show clearly that the sum of single safeties cannot guarantee a global safety. This thesis has been supported by recognized international organizations and bodies (e.g. European Parliament, EU-STAC, OECD, ISO, CEN, WEF, IRGC...), as well as by insurance/re-insurance industry. This, however, has still to be implemented within the EU, where a significant part of national R&D budgets for Industrial Safety is spent without required coordination across the Union, leading to inefficient use of resources. With only a few exceptions, in the first phase of Horizon 2020 the safety related issues have still been linked to single topics and areas such as nanosafety, infrastructures, new energy systems or food, leaving the area of industrial safety itself largely uncovered in terms of common approaches, methods and projects.

In parallel, new technologies and industrial innovations are raising questions of potential objective or subjectively perceived new risks – all of them endangering the sustainability of the innovation. Therefore it is called for a dynamic structure, following research on Industrial Safety and related innovation processes across the European Union. The goal is to make Europe a more coherent system towards Industrial Safety and to help in better coordinating respective future EU activities with those in Member States, Associated Countries, industry and academia, to avoid duplications of results and unaddressed gaps.