Identified by RSIO as potential participants and sent an invitation letter (n=739)

- Not reached by phone call (n=91)
- Sick leave not related to work stress (n=59)
- Already back in work > half-time (n=95)
- First day of sick leave not identified (n=4)
- Had quit work (n=29)
- Uninterested because of improved health (n=101)
- Uninterested because of too poor health (n=24)

Accepted first screening interview (n=145)

- Resigned after interview (n=37)

Eligible for full clinical interview (n=108)

- Excluded (n=16) See also Methods

Established work-related exhaustion (n=92)

- Terminated before completing programme (n=13)

Participated in complete intervention (n=79)

- Intervention group included in analyses (n=74)

Primary control group (n=191) (i.e. uninterested without giving any specific reason)

- No assured relation to work stress (n=61)

- Refused use of masked register data (n=8)

Eligible control group with assured relation to work stress (n=122)

- Excluded from sick leave analyses due to too long delay to CDM (n=1), retirement (n=2), or lack of matching control persons (n=2)

- Not matched as control persons (n=48)

- Final matched control group included in analyses (n=74)