European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), Policies and Opportunities

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5th Tirana Gas Pipelines Safety Workshop
Tirana, Albania 28 February 2019

Safety and health at work is everyone’s concern. It’s good for you. It’s good for business.
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

EU-OSHA is the European Union information agency for Occupational Safety and Health.

We collect, analyse and disseminate information.

- Governed by **European law**
- **Financed** from the general EU budget
- Intended to support effective implementation of EU policies
Structure

EU-OSHA Structure

Advisory groups
(Board appointed)
- Communication and promotion
- Prevention and research

Expert groups
(Focal point appointed)

European Commission
Other EU Agencies

Campaign partners
- Pan-European organisations
- Media partners

Focal point network
- Focal points in EU Member States and candidate countries
- Appointed by governments
- Manage national tripartite network
How we work

Strategic objectives

1. Provision of credible and quality data on new and emerging risks
2. Current OSH risks, and how they can be prevented and managed
3. Relevant tools for workplaces
4. Mobilisation of the OSH community to create high quality knowledge
5. To spread occupational safety and health information to multiple beneficiaries

Priority areas

1. Future of work - Anticipating change
2. Facts and figures - ESENER, OSH overviews, and polls
3. Tools - OIRA and OSH solution tools
4. Raising awareness - HWC campaigns
5. Networking knowledge and communication
Future of work

• **Foresight:**
  Series of projects intended to evaluate the possible effects of new technologies, new ways of working and societal change on workers’ safety and health.
  - Forecasts, foresights, horizon-scanning, etc.
  - Surveys and qualitative research
  - Global Coalition on OSH

• **New:**
  - Digitalisation (follow up on foresight)
Technological drivers of change

- Robotics, automation and Artificial Intelligence
- Autonomous vehicles and drones
- Internet of Things and Big Data
- Virtual and Augmented Reality
- Interfaces (bionics, immersive communication, miniaturisation etc.)
- Communications networks and mobile devices
- Cybersecurity
Research activities - Facts and figures

- **ESENER** – European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks
  How European workplaces manage safety and health risks in practice.

- **Safer and healthier work at any age**
  Research supporting EP’s project on older workers.

- **The economics of occupational safety and health – the value of OSH to society**
  ILO, WHO, ICOH, FICOH
Causes of work-related fatalities (%) in EU-28

Cancer 52%
Circulatory 24%
Injuries 2%
Other 22%

EU OSHA An international comparison of the cost of work related accidents and illnesses 2017

http://osha.europa.eu
European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks

- Having to deal with difficult customers, patients, pupils etc.
- Tiring or painful positions, including sitting for long periods
- Repetitive hand or arm movements
- Risk of accidents with machines or hand tools
- Lifting or moving people or heavy loads
- Risk of accidents with vehicles in the course of work
- Time pressure
- Chemical or biological substances
- Increased risk of slips, trips and falls
- Heat, cold or draught
- Loud noise
- Long or irregular working hours
- Poor communication or cooperation within the organisation
- Job insecurity
- Employees' lack of influence on their work pace or work...
- Discrimination, for example due to gender, age or ethnicity
Awareness raising

Reaching for the workplace

- Directly trying to change the behaviour of people at work
  - Those carrying out the work and those with duties
- Cascading information via intermediaries to the end user on
  - Risk awareness
  - Knowledge of solutions
  - Legal obligations

Pushing at the policy level

- Talking to policy-makers to indirectly influence behaviour in the workplace, seeking to change:
  - Strategies
  - Policies
  - Legislation

Lack of awareness is the main reason for lack of prevention
Healthy Workplaces Campaign

Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2018-19
Manage dangerous substances in the workplace

- Raise awareness of the problem
- Inform of the legal requirements
- Inform of solutions and provide tools to support action
- Target in particular workers with specific needs with focused information
- Cover in particular the issue of carcinogens
Network of strategic partners

- National focal points.
- Campaign partners and media partners;
- European and national social partners;
- European institutions and their networks;
- Enterprise Europe Network (EEN);
- OSH professionals and their associations;
- (European) NGOs;
- Other EU agencies
Thank you for your attention!

http://osha.europa.eu