

Reaching out to Europe's SMEs
through the
Enterprise Europe Network

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Business Support at Your Doorstep

Why targeting European SMEs?

- SMEs are the **backbone** of Europe
 - both in **economic** sense and
 - as to their role for **social cohesion**
- SMEs assume a great **social responsibility** by offering **workplaces** to **two-third** of working age population



Enterprise Europe Network

- Europe's **biggest business and innovation support network** primarily targeted at the SME-community
- Gathering around **600 business support organisations** across Europe (and well beyond)
- The services offered to the SMEs range from **information provision on EU-related matters** over business partner search to technology transfer services



SMEs and occupational safety/health

- More than **100.000 fatalities** within SMEs yearly
 - room for **improvement**
 - to contribute to **safer and healthier workplaces**
 - which in turn would help SMEs to be **more effective**
- Current economic setting is **challenging**
- Respect of human life and employers' safety and health should always be a priority
 - economic **crisis not to be taken as excuse** to disregard this aspect

EU-OSHA and Enterprise Europe Network

- Already **experienced in 2006-2007**
- With the **former Euro Info Centres** during the campaign on Healthy Workplace Initiative in the 12 New Member States, Croatia and Turkey
- Cooperation between EU-OSHA and the Enterprise Europe Network **agreed in 2009**
- Enterprise Europe Network partners will be **involved through the Focal Points** of EU-OSHA into the campaign on Maintenance

Thank you for your attention!

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