

**Improving occupational safety and health in micro
and small enterprises in Europe – Construction and
Agriculture sectors**

**A sector agreement in construction for a
preventive service – THE BAM BUS**

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Characteristics of the construction sector

- **Construction process is complicated and conditions changing**
- **Regulation and agreements are not transparent**
- **Culture based on professions and process - optimization**
- **Low level of OSH competence on workplace level**
- **Low level of learning and sharing of knowledge**
- **The sector expresses interest in mutual conditions for competition.**

Background for the 'Bam-bus'

Generelt

- Outsourcing of the Occupational Health Service in 2005
- Inspired by Sweden: Bygghälsan & Regional Safety Reps

Social Partners in construction

- Political pressure on OSH in the sector – high accident rate.
- From struggle to co-operation and consensus
- Agreements as a mean to fund development
- Sector's council develops and disseminates tools and good OSH practice
- Compliance is low in the sector (no request, low priority)
- Interventions programs are successful when implemented



Agreements on Bam-bus

OK (Agreement) - 2007

- Funding of mutual OSH projects
- Outlines for Bam-bus

Follow up

- 2013: Extension until 2017, evaluation
- 2017: extension and enhancement (20%)



Financing of Bam-bus



Agreement fund

- 2008: ca. 8 øre pr. hour pr. employee
- 2012: 10 øre
- 2017: 12 øre

12 øre = app. 0,01 Euro
pr employee

Bam-bus' objectives

- Disseminate prevention strategies and good practice
- Support prevention on company level: organization, competences, roles and methods
- Reaching the Small companies at the construction sites
- Knowledge sharing



Bam-bus' means

- 10 regionally based consultants
- Skilled in construction – professions and OSH
- Present and demonstrate practical solutions and strategies at the construction sites.
- Hotline
- Stubbornness – keeping up cases
- Representing the social partners - in agreement



Competence demands

- Understanding the sector: Culture, tasks, OSH issues, history, conflicts etc.
- Speaking 'the language'
- Legitimacy
- Thorough knowledge of OSH, exposures, prevention strategies, regulation etc.
- On-going updating of knowledge of technology, research, regulation etc.



Bam-bus' practice

1.500 yearly visits

- Most contacts are outreach (unplanned visits)
- Some are required (mostly follow up)

Other Activities

- Campaigns
- Participation in fairs and events
- Training and education in vocational schools
- Hotline
- Newsletters



Pros

- Collective agreements and funding provides advice free of charge
- High legitimacy
- Bam- bus are allowed to show up uninvited
- Reach out to Small companies
- Can assist SME's to comply with Labour law and Labour Inspections



and cons

- Limited resources
- No demands for formal training in OSH
- Can only advise beyond the levels of legislation



Bam-bus – general experiences

- **Highly accepted and recognized in the sector**
- **Difficult to overcome the fear that OSH will obstruct income and time planning**
- **What works:**
 - **Fast help to unexpected problems**
 - **Demonstration of technology and equipment on site**
 - **Broad network of serious suppliers**
 - **Sharing experiences from other companies**
 - **Openness towards the balance between rules and practice**
 - **Ability to cooperate with both employers, safety reps and OSH professionals**
 - **Access to research and development**

**Thank you for the
attention**

