



Benefits of OSH

Investing in occupational safety and health for successful and sustainable businesses

Implementing good occupational safety and health (OSH) practices can help to make businesses successful and sustainable. Poor OSH, on the other hand, comes at a cost. Everyone loses out when workplace safety and health is neglected — individual workers, businesses, the economy and society as a whole.

Estimating the costs of poor OSH

To make a strong business case for good OSH, researchers and policy-makers need to understand the economic impact of poor OSH. It's been estimated that work-related injuries and illnesses result in the loss of 3.9 % of all work years globally and 3.3 % of those in the EU, equivalent to a cost of approximately EUR 2 680 billion and EUR 476 billion, respectively.

To investigate this issue more comprehensively, EU-OSHA has teamed up with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), the WSH Institute in Singapore and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) on a major project on the costs and benefits of OSH. The project aims to measure the costs of poor OSH, such as productivity costs, health care and human suffering, and allow policy-makers to make informed decisions.

It involves identifying the data available at national level, developing a sophisticated economic model and disseminating the findings. Key results are presented as infographics and using a data visualisation tool, allowing researchers and policy-makers to explore the findings quickly and easily.

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of EUR 2.2.**

Who benefits from good OSH practices?

Everyone! Good OSH practices reduce absenteeism resulting from preventable illness and injury, help retain older workers in the workforce, and improve businesses' productivity and reputation. One study has estimated that every EUR 1 invested in OSH generates a return of EUR 2.2. And it's not just businesses that benefit — improved productivity and a healthy workforce are good for the economy and society as a whole.

Neglecting safety and health in the workplace has a human and financial cost that can be avoided. A strong national strategy on safety and health increases productivity and cuts healthcare costs, stimulates more efficient working methods and the use of innovative technology, and reduces the burden on society of caring for people who have a work-related disability or chronic illness.

Find out more about EU-OSHA's project on the costs and benefits of OSH



<http://osha.europa.eu>