

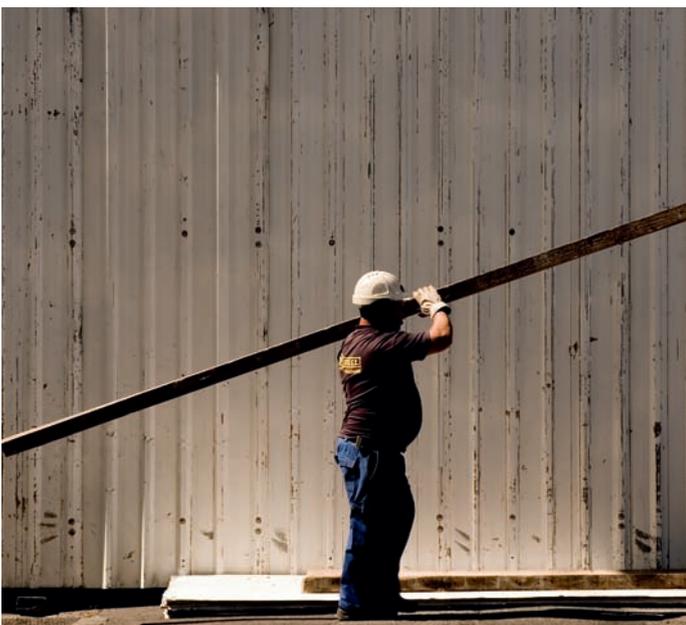
What is OiRA?

Developed by EU-OSHA, OiRA – Online interactive Risk Assessment – is an easy-to-use and cost-free web application that can help micro and small organisations to put in place a step-by-step risk assessment process – starting with the identification and evaluation of workplace risks, through to the decision making on and implementation of preventative actions, to monitoring and reporting.

Why OiRA?

The European Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work 2007–2012 calls for the development of simple tools to facilitate risk assessment. Since the adoption of the European Framework directive in 1989, risk assessment has become a familiar concept for organising prevention in the workplace, and hundreds of thousands of companies all over Europe assess their risks regularly.

Nevertheless, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that micro and small enterprises have some shortcomings when it comes to risk assessment and the adoption of a preventive policy in general, which the OiRA project aims to overcome.



Photographer: Benjamin Silva/ Title: Stud
EU-OSHA Photo Competition 2009

What are OiRA's objectives and what can it achieve?

OiRA's objectives can be divided into three different levels:

At macro level (EU level/Agency) OiRA aims:

- To increase the number of micro and small enterprises in Europe assessing and managing their occupational risks
- To contribute (by proper risk assessment) to reducing the number of occupational accidents and diseases and improving working conditions
- To encourage sectors (social dialogue at EU/Member State level) to develop, implement and keep updated sector-specific OiRA-tools
- To set up an OiRA community (stimulating exchanges of experiences, content, etc. among the members of the community)
- To help (through proper risk assessment) enterprises to become more competitive (by cutting costs arising from occupational accidents and illness, reducing rates of sick leave etc.)

At meso level (National authorities/social partners) OiRA aims:

- To develop, implement and keep updated a simple risk assessment tool intended for micro and small organisations (for their members and affiliates)
- To put practical OiRA tools at the disposal of micro and small organisations through their websites
- To contribute to the national objective of reducing the number of occupational diseases and accidents by putting the OiRA tool at the disposal of enterprises
- To (re)develop OSH-support for enterprises in connection with the provision of the OiRA tool sectors

At micro level (companies in the sector) OiRA aims:

- To ensure the health and safety of workers (general duty of employers, enterprises) by applying the OiRA tool, thereby putting in place the risk assessment process
- To help companies benefit from the sector-specific risk assessment tool that is always kept up to date, easy to apply and validated by social partners and/or national authorities
- To demystify the process of risk assessment

- To apply the sector-specific tool at company/shop floor level (the employer assesses the risks, carries out the action plan, adjusts it regularly, re-prioritises and takes action)
- To improve working conditions by using the tool to assess their occupational risks, thus improving the performance of the companies

Who is OiRA's target audience?

As far as the target audience is concerned it is important to distinguish between the Agency's intermediaries at EU or Member State level (e.g. the national authorities and social partners developing the specific OiRA tools) and the end-users (potentially 19.39 million micro and small enterprises in the EU27).

Agency intermediaries include:

- The 27 EU Member States as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein
- Public OSH institutions
- The 40 or so officially recognised sectors of activity at EU social dialogue level
- The social partners at Member State level



Photographer: Albert Kozak/Title: Storage of cereal under foil tent
EU-OSHA Photo Competition 2009

How will the OiRA tools be developed?

EU-OSHA will provide the OiRA tools generator free of charge to Agency intermediaries interested in developing their own OiRA tool. Development then follows a bottom-up, top-down approach.

Bottom-up:

- Social partners/governments/public institutions at Member State level develop their tool
- If governments/public institutions want to develop a generic or a sectoral tool, the social partners have to be involved as well

Top-down:

- EU social partners from one specific sector develop the "EU sectoral tool" (in English with references to EU legislation)
- Social partners at Member State level are invited to adapt the tool at national level (language, legislation)

How do we know OiRA will work?

The OiRA tool is based on the successful Dutch Risk Assessment instrument, RI&E, which now exists in more than 172 sectoral variants, each tailor-made to the needs of its particular sector. Thus it is built upon a successful predecessor at national level.

Furthermore, there is already considerable interest in OiRA, both at national and EU level, demonstrating the clear need for this tool.

What is the present status of OiRA?

After the technical development of the tool in 2009, from 2010 onwards the Agency has been piloting the development and diffusion model at both EU level (working with some Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees) and at Member State level (with several Member States) as part of the testing of the tool and the development of appropriate support and guidance services.

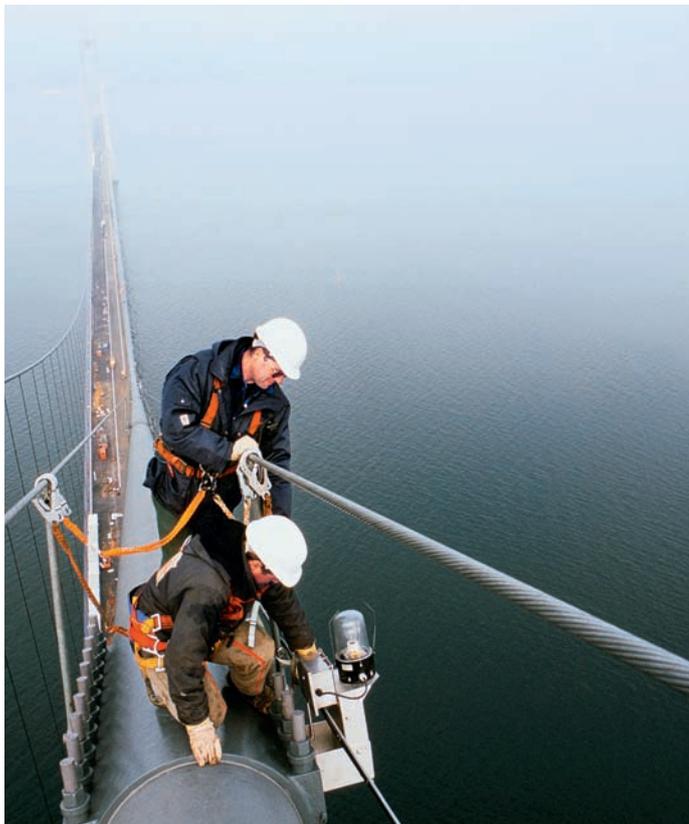
Where will the OiRA tools be available?

Once the OiRA tools are available, they will be hosted on EU-OSHA servers and will be accessible via EU-OSHA and the websites of Member State governments, public institutions and social partners.

How will OiRA be disseminated?

The Agency will promote the OiRA tools/project among the Agency intermediaries by:

- Providing general information about the OiRA project and how to develop the specific OiRA tools available on the Agency's website
- Presenting the OiRA tool to the Agency's national Focal Points to promote the tool at Member State level
- Presenting OiRA at conferences, seminars, the EU social dialogue plenary meetings, in relevant DGs of the Commission, etc.
- Missions of Agency staff to interested Member States (national authorities, public organisations etc.) to explain the tool
- Missions of Agency staff to EU social partner organisations from different sectors to present the OiRA tool



It is up to the Agency's intermediaries to set up their marketing strategy to promote and disseminate their OiRA tools. However, the Agency will help them to put in place their strategy and will provide:

- A guide on how to disseminate the tool presenting different strategies illustrated by practical case studies
- Agency resources, including existing contractors, to promote the tools once published at Member State level.

How does OiRA help towards the goals of the European Community Strategy for Health and Safety at Work 2007–2012?

The proven efficacy of the tool to improve the safety and health of small workplaces, while at the same time reducing the administrative burden on them, makes it of potential strategic importance.

The tool is of particular relevance to meeting the following objectives of the Community OSH strategy:

- Guaranteeing the proper implementation of EU legislation
- Supporting SMEs in the implementation of the legislation in force
- Developing simple tools to facilitate risk assessment

However, realising this potential requires the tool being adapted to the needs of MSEs working in different sectors and in different countries, supported by a diffusion strategy which empowers social partners to promote and support its uptake by micro and small enterprises in their specific sectors.

Is there an OiRA privacy policy?

The OiRA tool is an instrument put at a user's disposal by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), an EU body. Therefore, Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001 directly applies which guarantees that all data is being processed fairly and lawfully, only for limited and explicit purposes and stored in a secure way.

What kind of “personal data” is stored in the tool?

- Email addresses – it can be a real name but this is not compulsory
- Names of persons responsible for measures stated in the action plan – the input of names is voluntary
- Other names that might be put into the free text fields

EU-OSHA takes the following measures to protect personal data:

- Personal data is inaccessible to external users
- Security measures to protect against unauthorised access
- Appropriate encryption of communication

The full text of the OiRA privacy policy is accessible at <http://www.oiraproject.eu>

What is the OiRA community?

The OiRA community is made up of the organisations/people developing OiRA tools. It aims to facilitate the development of OiRA tools by stimulating the exchange of tools, knowledge and good practice, promoting collaborative work, reinforcing existing relationships within the community and creating new ones.

The members of the community share the same values:

- Putting practical risk assessment tools at the disposal of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) free of charge
- Supporting MSEs to properly assess their occupational risks and by this way improving their working conditions

The OiRA community is supported by EU-OSHA, mainly through a collaborative platform accessible through the OiRA website.

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Photographer: Georgy Velichkov/Title: Dental Care
EU-OSHA Photo Competition 2009

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For further information, or to get involved, visit:

<http://www.oiraproject.eu>
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