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Safety and health at work is everyone's concern. It's good for you. It's good for business.

Key activities in 2010

In an economic environment that continues to be difficult, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (the Agency) carries on working to keep European workers safe.

Highlights of the year include the opening of the Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Safe Maintenance, publication of the results of the European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER), and the piloting of the Online interactive Risk Assessment tool (OiRA).

COLLECTING AND ANALYSING INFORMATION

The European Risk Observatory

The **Foresight project** involves going beyond the forecasting of emerging risks, and presenting decision-makers with a range of plausible scenarios to help them take action. The [first Foresight study](#) is looking at possible risks associated with new technologies in 'green' jobs, designed to protect the environment. A [report identifying key drivers of change](#) in this area was produced in 2010, for publication in 2011.



The Agency has published [A review of methods used across Europe to estimate work-related accidents and illnesses among the self-employed](#) and work has been done on a literature survey on the perception and communication of risk regarding nanomaterials in the workplace. An [e-fact on risk assessment for biological agents](#) was also published.

The Agency's on-going '**OSH in figures**' project aims to provide an evidence base that policymakers can use for the prevention of workplace accidents and diseases, using statistics and other data from national and European sources, to describe major occupational safety and health (OSH) issues and trends, and the situation of specific groups of workers and particular sectors. As part of the project, in 2010 the Agency published [A statistical picture of Maintenance and Occupational Safety and Health](#) to support the Safe Maintenance Campaign, and a report entitled [OSH in figures: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the EU](#). A draft report on the OSH of women at work was completed, and reports were prepared on the transport sector for promotion in 2011. Work also began on a project aimed at understanding the occupational burden of disease and injury – the long-term effects of work on health.

The publication of the first findings of the [European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks \(ESENER\)](#), one of the Agency's flagship projects, took place in June 2010 in Barcelona, at a conference organised under the Spanish EU Presidency, dealing with the mid-term review of the Community Strategy for Health and Safety at Work (2007-12). ESENER aims to build up a picture of the current situation in

Europe's workplaces, by asking managers and workers' health and safety representatives how they deal with health and safety risks, with a particular focus on psychosocial risks such as work-related stress, violence and harassment. As well as a [report](#) publishing the initial findings, a [summary](#) was translated into the languages of all the countries covered by the survey and a multi-lingual mapping tool was made available on the Agency's website, allowing users to view results to individual survey questions by country, sector type and size of enterprise: the ESENER survey involved over 36,000 interviews with company managers and employees in 31 countries. The emphasis will now shift to the task of mining this rich source of data, and using the information that ESENER has gathered: the survey results have been made freely available by the Agency, so that researchers, the social partners and other stakeholders can further explore what the results mean in their national contexts.

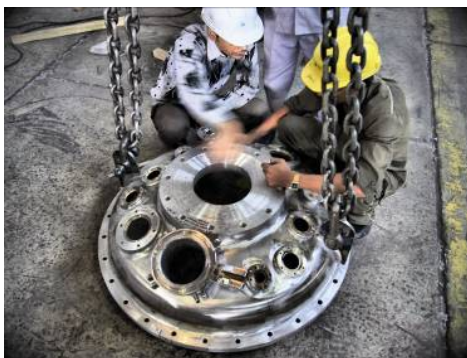


The final conference of the New OSH ERA project took place in February 2010 in Berlin, after four years of work. During that time the consortium has analysed the state of OSH research within the EU, identified gaps to be filled in terms of research on new and emerging workplace risks faced by EU workers, and issued a co-ordinated call for research proposals, including projects on psychosocial risks at work.

The European Risk Observatory (ERO) has also finalised a report on [Workplace Violence and Harassment](#) which affects from 5% to 20% of European workers. The report focuses on the action that can be taken, and the different cultural norms and perceptions that can affect the way that violence and harassment are defined.

Working Environment Information

A wide range of materials has been prepared and made available for the [Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Safe Maintenance](#), including a [campaign guide](#), and the report [Safe maintenance in practice](#). 2010 saw nominations being received for the European Good Practice Awards in support of the Safe Maintenance Campaign. Work has also begun on the next Healthy Workplaces Campaign, for 2012-13, which will promote *working together for risk prevention*.



An important legacy of the 2008-09 Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Risk Assessment is the [Online interactive Risk Assessment tool \(OiRA\)](#), which is set to make risk assessment easier for organisations across Europe by giving them an online tool which is free, easily accessible, and adapted to their specific sector. This is the first initiative at EU level which aims to encourage micro and small enterprises, in particular, to carry out risk assessments, taking account of the characteristics of businesses in different industries. 2010 has seen a number of pilot projects underway, aiming to show

how OiRA can be developed for different sectors in different countries in Europe, and to help engage organisations of all kinds in the development of the tool. Alongside EU and national authorities, the

involvement of the social partners in OiRA is particularly important: indeed, the tool is designed to be developed in collaboration with the social partners in different sectors at EU and national level. Work has begun, therefore, to promote the usefulness and take-up of the tool among the social partners.

The Agency has been working throughout 2010 on five good practice reports on OSH in the **road transport sector**, which will be published and promoted in 2011, along with a [web feature](#). Reports include a review of programmes and campaigns to reach and influence the road transport sector on OSH matters, case studies of prevention practices covering road haulage and bus passenger transport, reviews of good practice guidance available for the taxi sector and courier activities by motorcycle and bicycle, and a review of road transport accidents. In 2010 an [e-fact on risk assessment in road freight transport](#) was published.



The Agency's report [Economic Incentives to improve Occupational Safety and Health](#) was launched in September 2010. It provides an up-to-date view of the various enticements that countries in Europe offer to encourage good OSH performance, including lower accident insurance premiums or tax rates, better banking terms such as lower interest rates, and state subsidies. The report suggests that economic incentive schemes are a cost-effective option for governments looking to cut the numbers of work-related accidents and illnesses.

[Workplace health promotion](#) (WHP) encompasses everything done by employers, their employees, and the wider society to improve the health and well-being of people at work. WHP information published by the Agency during 2010 includes factsheets for [employers](#) and for [employees](#). In addition, reports on health promotion for young workers and mental health promotion were prepared, and will be published in 2011, and the Agency has developed cartoon characters to get across the WHP message in a fun way.

A report and factsheet entitled [Mainstreaming occupational safety and health into university education](#) was published, which presents examples of OSH being included in university-level courses. The Agency also began to collect examples of a 'whole-school' approach to school safety and risk education, in which basic concepts around risk are taught in the context of maintaining a safe learning environment in pupils' own schools.

In 2010, the Agency continued its work to make the [legislation section of its website](#) more user-friendly. EU Directives and EU Guidelines are arranged by topic, and introductory texts to European legislation and abstracts for each piece of legislation are provided, including links to the full text of EU legislation in all the EU languages as well as links to national legislation that implement EU Directives.

Other projects included a series of [case studies on the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders \(MSDs\) in the agriculture sector](#), updating the [web feature on the particular aspects of OSH that affect women](#), publishing an [e-fact on managing psychosocial risks among cleaning workers](#) and around [300 frequently asked questions on various OSH topics in a searchable database](#).

COMMUNICATION, CAMPAIGNING AND PROMOTION



Jukka Takala (EU-OSHA director), Napo and EU Commissioner Andor at the campaign launch

A major part of the Agency's communications work in 2010 was focused on promoting the [Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Safe Maintenance](#). The two-year campaign, which will be continuing throughout 2011, has already seen record levels of involvement across all the EU Member States and beyond. The campaign was launched on the [World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 28 April](#), and is the largest of its kind in the world.

The Agency has provided support for campaign activities at national level through the European Campaign Assistance Package (ECAP), which makes a wide variety of campaign material and services available to the national focal points (FOPs) to help them publicise the campaign. This has included the organisation of 65 partnership meetings and stakeholder seminars, 12 press conferences, 11 other events for journalists, 2 radio call-ins, and news releases adapted to particular countries. In the first year of the campaign already more than [40 official campaign partners](#) were recruited. For the campaign, the Agency produced an innovative, multilingual website: <http://hw.osha.europa.eu>. A particular focus for the campaign was the European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October, which saw hundreds of awareness-raising events organised across Europe.

As a follow-up of the [2009 photography competition](#) *What's your image of safety and health at work?* in 2010 the Agency offered its focal point network various displays through which they could organise their own exhibitions.

The second [Healthy Workplaces Film Award](#) for the best documentary on work-related topics was given at the 53rd International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film to *All That Glitters*, directed by Tomáš Kudrna.

In 2010, the Agency produced 11 [press releases](#) and many OSH articles throughout the year. Media monitoring shows that the Agency featured in over 1500 press cuttings. Three video messages with Jukka Takala were produced to support the Maintenance and Risk Assessment Healthy Workplaces Campaigns as well as the World Day on Safety and Health at Work.

Major **events** in 2010 include the Euromaintenance conference in Verona, the Interprotect Fair in the Czech Republic, an event in Bruges organised by the Federation of European Ergonomics Societies, the Frankfurt Book Fair, and the Expoprotection in Paris. At the same time, Agency staff members took part as speakers in almost 200 conferences organised around Europe and beyond.

The twin highlights in terms of working with the **EU Presidencies** were the launch of the ESENER survey results with the Spanish Presidency at the mid-term review of the Community Strategy for Health and Safety at Work (2007-12), and a conference 'Maintenance: Do It Safely' held in Brussels, during the Belgian Presidency, involving Commissioner László Andor and Joëlle Milquet, Deputy Prime Minister for Belgium.

The Agency is part of the consortium behind the popular cartoon character, Napo. Work has started on a pilot project to develop a **Napo Teachers' Toolkit**, which includes lesson plans that can be used by schools across Europe. A DVD and clip, [Napo in Safe Maintenance](#), also supports the Healthy Workplaces Campaign and the **Napo Compendium** brings together all 12 Napo films from 1997 to 2010.



The new communication partnership between the Agency and the **Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)** saw a number of pilot projects taking place in 2010, involving the dissemination of Agency publications to EEN partners. The EEN has more than 570 partners in 45 countries and has provided services to three million SMEs since 2007.

Web developments include several new topics sections, revamp of the European Risk Observatory section and a new section for the [focal point network](#). To enable the adaptation of the OiRA tool to Agency needs, a test OiRA website was designed and produced, allowing the community of developers to customise the Agency's OiRA tool to their specific needs. An evaluation indicates that the Agency has been successful in renewing and improving its campaign website. To increase awareness of its information, an [Agency Twitter](#) account has been created.

The Agency has continued with its programme of publishing, helping to bring in-depth and topical OSH information to a wide range of audiences across Europe. Nine new Agency reports and literature reviews were published during the year, as well as eleven factsheets and promotion materials for the Safe Maintenance Campaign.

DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

A key activity in 2010 was the **coordination of the 29 EU agencies**. The Agency worked to represent the different regulatory EU agencies, and spoke on behalf of all of them in discussions with the Parliament, Council and Commission, at a time of on-going debate about the future place of the agencies in the European institutional landscape.



The Agency's main safety and health information network of national **focal points** was boosted in April 2010 when the EEA EFTA countries of Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, all of whom have focal points, became fully engaged in EU-OSHA activities. Switzerland participates in many Agency activities, although it remains outside of the EEA agreement. The Agency has also continued its work to strengthen and develop focal points and national networks in the Candidate and potential Candidate countries.

The **Brussels Liaison Office** continues to act as the main link between the Agency and its key institutional, political and social partners at EU level and deals with a constant flow of enquiries and increasing numbers of requests for information and participation from the institutions, the public and the press.

The Agency has continued its work to strengthen collaboration with its **international partners** such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

OUTLOOK FOR 2011

In the **European Risk Observatory**, further secondary analysis of the ESENER results will be carried out, aiming to show how they fit with different national regulatory systems and different industrial relations systems, and so exploring the relationship between large-scale systems and policies and risk management on the scale of individual enterprises. The large-scale Foresight project on emerging risks in 'green' jobs will turn to the identification of new technologies that may impact on workers' safety and health – positively or negatively. In addition, OSHwiki articles will be produced on key topics relevant to the Agency's work programme, with a view to launching the OSHwiki once it is populated with enough content to encourage others to participate.

In terms of **Working Environment Information**, 2011 will see the OiRA tool being presented at national level, with requests being made for political support from key stakeholders. Pilot projects are ongoing, with tools being developed that are tailored to specific sectors. The OiRA tool will be officially launched at the World OSH Congress in Istanbul. For the second year of the Safe Maintenance Campaign reports and factsheets will be produced, including on agriculture and legionella. Materials will also be prepared for the 2012- 2013 Campaign on risk prevention. Workplace Health Promotion, meanwhile, will include new reports and factsheets on health promotion among young workers, and mental health promotion.

In relation to **Communication, Campaigning and Promotion**, the European Good Practice Awards, recognising the outstanding contribution of eight European companies to safe maintenance, will be presented on 28 April 2011 (World OSH Day) in Budapest, and the closing event of the Safe Maintenance Campaign will take place in November in Bilbao. Material being developed in preparation for the 2012-13 Campaign include interactive tools for the focal points and campaign partners, to help them run campaign events, and a campaigning toolkit, to help equip non-communications or campaigning experts with the necessary skills and tools to run low-cost events that get across the safe maintenance message. A new Napo DVD will be created on workplace transport DVD, as well as a clip to raise awareness of the dangers of workplace tobacco smoke. The teachers' toolkit will be tested in four EU Member States, with a dissemination plan and further lesson plans being developed in the second half of 2011. Awareness-raising activities will include promotion of the Healthy Workplaces Film Award at the DOK Leipzig festival, and the European Photo competition, with a focus on risk prevention.

As for **Developing the Network**, 2011 will see the first year of full participation of the EEA countries in the Agency's work, and the Agency will be heavily involved in planning and preparing for the 19th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Istanbul. The Agency is further reinforcing its international

network based on on-going contact with institutions in United States. Plans to enhance contacts also with China, India and the International Panel for Working Life are under consideration as proposed by the mother Directorate General of the Commission. Finally, in 2011 a new Agency Director will be taking over from Jukka Takala.