



MAKING EUROPE A SAFER, HEALTHIER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE PLACE TO WORK

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work



European Agency
for Safety and Health
at Work

Welcome to the Agency

Health and safety at work is one of the EU's most important social policy areas. It is also one of the most challenging: every five seconds an EU worker is involved in a work-related accident, and every two hours one worker dies in an accident at work.

Addressing the diversity of occupational safety and health (OSH) issues and the need for increased awareness at workplace level are beyond the resources and expertise of a single Member State. That is why in 1996 the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work was set up: to collect, analyse and promote OSH-related information. The Agency's **MISSION** is to make Europe's workplaces safer, healthier and more productive, and in particular to promote an effective **PREVENTION CULTURE**.

The **AGENCY**, located in Bilbao, Spain, has a dedicated staff of specialists in OSH, communication and public administration. At the national level, a network of 'focal points', typically the lead OSH organisations in their respective countries, represents the Agency. The focal points work through tripartite networks made up of representatives of government, employers and workers. This **TRIPARTITE** structure is also reflected in the composition of the Agency's Governing Board.



Hans-Horst Konkolewsky, Agency Director

'Our goal is to promote a genuine prevention culture at work. To achieve this, we raise awareness of the main safety and health risks at Europe's workplaces and provide the information needed to manage these risks successfully. Together with our tripartite network we have built Europe's first reference point for information on occupational safety and health and run the largest annual OSH-campaign in the region. Our message is clear – good safety and health at work is good business for all!'



Vladimir Špidla, Commissioner for Employment,
Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

'The challenges of globalisation and aging society have put a strain on the European social model. To ensure its viability for future generations, Europe must build a basis for dynamic and sustainable growth by creating quality jobs. Viewed from this angle, working in safe and healthy conditions is not only a humanitarian but also economic demand. The Agency has a role to play in bridging the gap between this strategic goal and actual awareness in companies across Europe.'

Work health and safety in the EU

EU policy on health and safety at work has its legal basis in **ARTICLE 137** of the EU Treaty, giving the EU authority to legislate in this field. Directive 89/391/EEC or the 'framework directive' sets the general principles for good safety and health prevention at work. Other EU legislation in the field addresses specific OSH issues, such as chemical agents, noise, pregnant workers, etc. The objectives and priorities of European policy are detailed in the Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work.

Getting the message across

The Agency uses a variety of communication channels to get the safety and health message across: from direct campaigning to on-line publications.

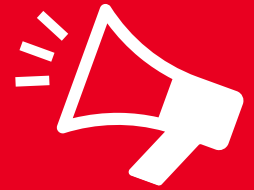
Staying directly **IN TOUCH WITH CITIZENS AND WORKPLACES** across Europe has always been a key objective for the Agency. To reach them we use awareness campaigns, such as the European Week for Safety and Health at Work.

The European Week is officially announced in the spring, and culminates in October, when the Agency's campaign partners run numerous activities and events across Europe. They all focus on a single theme selected each year. Examples of themes from previous years include dangerous substances, accidents, stress and noise.

With more than 30 countries participating, and some 4 million information materials distributed in 20 languages, the European Week has become the largest annual awareness raising campaign for a healthier, safer and more productive workplace.

TO LEARN MORE GO TO

<http://osha.eu.int>



Food for thought

Complementing the web services, the Agency produces a range of printed **PUBLICATIONS**: from factsheets and magazines, to more detailed technical reports on specific topics. Written by experts as well as practitioners, the Agency's publications portfolio is constantly growing to cover the most pressing issues in workplace health and safety. Summaries of our reports are available in all EU languages.

The Agency's publications can be downloaded free of charge from our website or ordered from the EU Publications Office.

TO LEARN MORE GO TO <http://osha.eu.int>



Good practice



a cost-effective way.

With literally thousands of links, the Agency's website is your gateway to reliable good practice information from around the world, covering a wide range of topics and sectors.

Sharing good practice is the core of our efforts towards building a genuine prevention culture across Europe. Good practices are solutions that have been successfully implemented at workplace level.

They can be adapted to other enterprises and to other countries, and through their practical and concrete aspects they can help improve work safety and health in

From
research
to good
practice

The Agency monitors, collects and analyses scientific findings, statistical information as well as prevention measures applied by individual Member States or companies.

Our job is not only to identify and pool the most relevant OSH information, but also to make it readily accessible for its different target groups – from safety representatives and safety managers, to employers, practitioners, social partners and policymakers .

If you are directly involved in workplace health and safety, access our **GOOD PRACTICE** online section and find guidelines, examples of risk assessments and case studies of solutions.

If you work as an OSH expert or policymaker, you can get an update on the latest OSH-strategies and programmes via the **SYSTEMS** section on our website, and the **RISK OBSERVATORY** will help you be prepared for future challenges as new risks are emerging.

TO LEARN MORE GO TO <http://osha.eu.int>

Risk Observatory

Demographic changes as well as changes in work organisation, work processes and production methods lead to new types of risks and demand new solutions. These fast moving changes have been identified in the Community Strategy as a key challenge to be addressed by the EU.

To help face this challenge, the Agency is setting up a Risk Observatory. It is a data collection and analysis structure aimed at providing policy makers and OSH professionals with an understanding of the impact of the changing world of work on occupational safety and health.

The observatory is expected to stimulate debate between the OSH community and policy makers, thus helping to shape future prevention measures.



Information at a click



Are you looking for information on a specific OSH issue in a particular type of business, e.g. how to deal with work safety on a small fishing vessel, or how to prevent hospital staff from back pain resulting from lifting? Or perhaps you are interested in an overview of European legislation on OSH? Or maybe you want to search information by sector or risk type?

The Agency's website, based on the most advanced Internet technology, is the easiest way to access the information you are looking for. You can for example customise the site to your requirements in terms of topics, languages and countries. Or you can go directly to a range of specific features, including:

- Sectors, such as construction, education, fisheries, health care
- Risks, like dangerous substances, accidents, work-related stress and MSDs
- Priority groups, including disabled people, women, young workers, SMEs

You will find all this and more on the Agency's new website. With partners from Europe and other continents, this is now one of the largest on-line pools of OSH expertise and a truly global information platform.

GO TO **<http://osha.eu.int>** AND FIND THE INFORMATION YOU NEED!

Access a wealth of OSH information from Good Practice and Legislation to Research

European and international OSH news delivered to your desktop by subscribing to our regular newsletter

Register online and customise the site to meet your preferences



Try the advanced search to make your searches more precise and receive more accurate results

Learn more about the Agency itself, its network and how it works

<http://osha.eu.int>

NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR YOUR REGION

Further information about the Agency's information projects and other initiatives can be obtained from its website: <http://osha.eu.int>

For details about national-level projects and developments, please contact your local focal point in your country:

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In order to improve the working environment, as regards the protection of the safety and health of workers as provided for in the Treaty and successive Community strategies and action programmes concerning health and safety at the workplace, the aim of the Agency shall be to provide the Community bodies, the Member States, the social partners and those involved in the field with the technical, scientific and economic information of use in the field of safety and health at work.

<http://osha.eu.int>