



European Agency for Safety and Health at Work



Summary Annual Report 2015



European Agency
for Safety and Health
at Work



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At the close of another year of challenges and achievements, EU-OSHA has many highlights to reflect on for 2015. The first findings of EU-OSHA's flagship survey, the second edition of the European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER-2), were disseminated. And a new interactive online survey dashboard was launched, allowing users to 'explore' the ESENER database. A lot of work was also done on the European Parliament project 'Safer and healthier work at any age', the results of which feed in to the 2016-17 Healthy Workplaces campaign. What's more, it was a particularly successful year for EU-OSHA's Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA) project, an evaluation of which revealed high levels of satisfaction with the project, and the project was awarded a Best Practice Certificate by the European Public Sector Award (EPSA) scheme. The Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards ceremony and the Healthy Workplaces Summit were significant features of the campaign calendar, and preparations got under way for the 2016-17 Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign.

1 Anticipating change

At a time when the world of work is always changing, it is becoming ever more important to anticipate those changes and identify the new and emerging risks they may bring to workers' occupational safety and health (OSH). To help achieve this goal, EU-OSHA conducts large-scale [foresight](#) studies, which use a scenario-building approach to identify risks over the long term. Building on the success of two studies on new and emerging risks completed in 2014 ¹, EU-OSHA published a call for tenders for a 2-year foresight project on the spread of ICT and changes in work location². This contract, awarded in December 2015, will have a 10-year time horizon and work started at the beginning of 2016.



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As well as conducting research on future OSH challenges, it is also important to stimulate discussion among stakeholders on new and emerging risks. To this end, in 2015, EU-OSHA commissioned three expert review articles on different aspects of the future of work and its impact on safety and health: (1) [crowdsourcing, namely paid work organised through labour exchanges](#); (2) [performance-enhancing drugs](#), the misuse of which is expected to grow, owing to increasingly competitive workplaces; and (3) [robotics and the development of artificial intelligence](#). The authors presented the articles to the national focal points and representatives of the European Commission in Bilbao in June 2015, stimulating much debate.

Finally, a review of the factors that are key to the effective uptake of the results of foresight studies was published in December 2015³, the findings of which will increase the impact of these studies and promote their wider integration into policy-making.

2 Facts and figures

ESENER

[ESENER](#) is one of EU-OSHA's flagship projects. As an in-depth survey of workplaces across Europe, including micro and small enterprises (MSEs), it gives a detailed picture of how OSH risks are being

¹ ['Scoping study for a foresight on new and emerging occupational safety and health \(OSH\) risks and challenges'](#) and ['Foresight of new and emerging OSH risks associated with new technologies in green jobs'](#).

² 'Foresight on new and emerging OSH risks associated with information and communication technologies (ICT) and work location by 2025'.

³ ['Success factors for achieving policy impact in foresight studies'](#).

managed. ESENER-2 surveyed almost 50,000 workplaces in 36 countries. The first analysis of the results and the summary were published in February and June 2015, respectively, with the main findings launched at the Latvian Presidency Conference in Riga in April.

EU-OSHA's new [interactive online survey dashboard](#) allows users to easily explore the survey findings. Results can be filtered by enterprise size or sector and can be viewed for Europe as a whole or for individual countries, with the results shown as maps or bar charts. In general, psychosocial risks and those leading to musculoskeletal disorders have been identified by ESENER-2 as the most widespread risk factors. The survey also revealed that risk assessment is still the best way to start tackling workplace risks and that a high level of worker participation is a reliable indicator of good OSH management.

OSH overviews



The year 2015 saw the main findings and conclusions of EU-OSHA's pilot project "[Safer and healthier work at any age — occupational safety and health in the context of an ageing workforce](#)" presented to policy-makers, OSH professionals and social partner representatives. This project aims to understand the OSH challenges posed by Europe's ageing workforce, and the conference provided an opportunity for feedback, expert opinions and discussions on the findings, to help develop a more holistic approach to OSH across Europe. And the importance of this topic is such that it inspired the 2016-17 campaign — [Healthy Workplaces for All Ages](#).

A second of EU-OSHA's OSH overviews focuses on another important target group: [micro and small enterprises \(MSEs\)](#)⁴. These enterprises are vital to Europe's economy — they employ about half of the workforce of the EU — but, when it comes to managing OSH risks, they face particular challenges. The first work package (of four) of this project was finalised in 2015, one of its main conclusions being that it is not only an MSE's available resources, but also its wider context that determines its success in managing OSH.

And new OSH overviews were launched in 2015. The first, on work-related diseases and disabilities, will look at three topics: (1) the rehabilitation of workers affected by cancer, (2) work-related diseases caused by biological agents and (3) methods to identify work-related diseases. And the second targets one of the Agency's major objectives: to help policy-makers and researchers understand the costs of poor OSH and the benefits that can be gained from good OSH management. This is a multi-annual project aiming to achieve better estimates of the costs of work-related illnesses, injuries and deaths.

3 Tools for OSH management

[OiRA](#) is a web platform on which users can quickly and easily carry out risk assessments at no cost. It includes sector-specific tools and was developed specifically for MSEs. An evaluation of OiRA was commissioned early in 2015, with results showing that stakeholders are very satisfied with the project and are expecting it to continue to grow. By the end of 2015, the total number of OiRA tools was 86, with another 30 under development and new tools for a variety of sectors, including catering, sports and live performance. The year 2015 also saw the launch of a new user interface, OiRA 2.0, improving the overall experience for users. And, to end the year on a high, the OiRA project was awarded a Best Practice Certificate by the European Public Sector Award scheme in November.

Besides OiRA, more and more electronic tools (e-tools) are being developed. EU-OSHA has taken on the role of facilitating the development and promotion of e-tools through its website, rather than

⁴ 'Improving occupational safety and health in micro and small enterprises in Europe'.

developing e-tools itself. In 2015, the Agency held two seminars on e-tools: one on the development of applications for mobile phones and the other on e-tools for MSEs.

4 Raising awareness

Campaigns

As part of the 2014-15 [Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress campaign](#), EU-OSHA's partners, including official campaign partners (OCPs), media partners and focal points, made significant contributions. Over [100 OCPs](#) were recruited to the campaign, and they organised a wide range of activities, including training courses, workshops and seminars. What's more, the [34 media partners](#) of the campaign helped spread the campaign message as wide as possible and also organised events.



Healthy Workplaces Summit, November 2015, dedicated to the memory of Dr Eusebio Rial González

The [Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards](#) were one of the highlights of the 2014-15 campaign calendar. The awards ceremony was held at the Latvian Presidential Conference in Riga in April 2015, where 11 organisations received awards and a further 12 were highly commended. These good practice examples show that, regardless of an organisation's type, psychosocial risks can be managed successfully. The [European Week for Safety and Health at Work](#) in October 2015 got Europe talking about psychosocial risks and stress at work, with focal points organising a variety of events. And the [Healthy Workplaces Summit](#) in November was another highlight, bringing together over 300 participants from across Europe to look back on the campaign as well

as to the future. The event was dedicated to the memory of Dr Eusebio Rial González (1966-2014), the architect of this particular campaign.

Benchmarking — or good practice exchange — is of increasing importance for EU-OSHA's campaign partners. The first benchmarking event was held during the 2012-13 campaign, and the success of these events has been growing ever since. In July 2015, EU-OSHA published a report on successful benchmarking initiatives⁵.

The European Campaign Assistance Package (ECAP) provides the national focal points with practical support in campaign activities, and the 2015 ECAP proved very popular. Focal points ordered 19 national partnership meetings, 65 stakeholder seminars and 11 interviews, to name but a few. And, finally, there were a few important 'firsts' for this campaign: the campaign newsletter is published every 2 months and provides information and news on campaign activities, and social media was successfully used to promote the @EUmanagestress campaign. By the close of the campaign, @EU_OSHA had 14,000 followers on Twitter.

Preparations for the [2016-17 Healthy Workplaces for All Ages](#) were at an advanced stage. This campaign addresses Europe's ageing workforce by promoting sustainable working lives for all ages.



Good Practice exchange event in Brussels on 5-6 March 2015

⁵ ['Review of successful OSH benchmarking initiatives'](#).

Awareness-raising activities

In October 2015, the [Healthy Workplaces Film Award](#) was presented at DOK Leipzig for the seventh year running. There were two winners. The first, the documentary *Work for One Day* by Rita Bakacs, focuses on 1-day jobs arranged early morning and the deadening effect of hard work, low pay and no security. The second, the animated film *Automatic Fitness* by Alejandra Tomei and Alberto Couceiro, is a cynical satire on the idea of 'human resources' in the modern world of work, with this world of too much work contrasting starkly with the world of precarious work.



Healthy Workplaces Film Award presented at DOK Leipzig

Napo was also central to EU-OSHA's awareness raising in 2015. A new film on electrical hazards, [Napo in ... shocking situations](#), was produced, and the [new Napo website](#) was launched, making it much easier to download films and scenes. With [Napo for Teachers](#), an online toolkit of lesson plans and resources based on the Napo films, now having been under development for 3 years, EU-OSHA set up an external evaluation. The evaluation found that national focal points and users were very satisfied with the quality of the resources, with some improvements to be made on the toolkit's dissemination.

Finally, a variety of events took place in 2015. On Europe Day, EU-OSHA set up a stall to talk to the people of Bilbao about safety and health. And EU-OSHA attended a variety of events, including the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH) in Seoul, the 13th Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in Paris and the A+A International Congress and trade fair at the end of October in Düsseldorf.

Networking knowledge

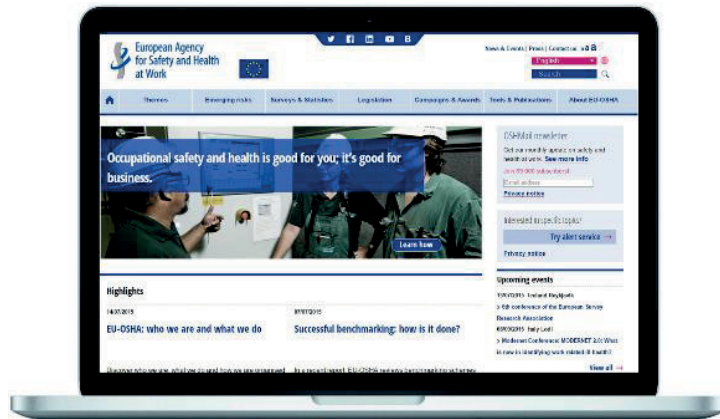
[OSHWiki](#) is EU-OSHA's multilingual web platform through which users can share knowledge on OSH and network online. The aim is to provide an accessible and authoritative source of information, which can be readily updated or translated by the OSHwiki community. Only accredited authors can write articles. With OSHwiki launched in 2014, the aim of 2015 was to expand the knowledge base by reaching out via social media to promote OSHwiki and attract new authors. As a result, new articles were published and existing ones were edited and translated, and the OSHwiki site experienced a huge increase in number of visits.

Networking and corporate communication

During 2015, the Governing Board and Bureau implemented measures to allow it to plan further ahead, including a reorganisation of its schedule of meetings to align better with the planning and reporting cycle of EU-OSHA's activities. Among the other decisions it made were the adoption of the 2016 management plan, the theme for 2018-19 Healthy Workplaces Campaign (which will focus on dangerous substances) and the implementation of additional measures to prevent fraud and conflicts of interest.

At European level, EU-OSHA continued to work with the Parliament and the Commission, providing input on OSH issues and to sectoral social dialogue committees, as well as providing support and assistance to the Council of the EU. It also worked closely with European social partners; for example, EU-OSHA participated in and promoted a workshop on gender and sustainable work at the European Trade Union Institute conference on women's health and work, held in March.

In June, [EU-OSHA's new corporate website](#) was launched; in addition to having a fresh new look and feel, the site is now more easily navigable and easier to use on mobile devices. By the end of 2015, it had received over 2.5 million visitors. A new client relationship management strategy, under development in 2015, will tie in to the corporate website. Social media helped EU-OSHA reach more people than ever before, with the number of followers and fans rising steadily.



Under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, EU-OSHA has been working for more than 10 years with the OSH focal points of Turkey and other countries and territories in the Western Balkans to prepare them for integration into the EU-OSHA system. After a year-long break, in November 2015, a new contract was signed, allowing EU-OSHA to continue to provide financial and practical support in 2016.

EU-OSHA's two-year European Neighbourhood Policy project concluded in January 2016. During the two years of the project, EU-OSHA made a valuable contribution to the development of OSH systems in the southern and eastern partnership countries, helping to establish focal points, building capacity, sharing good practices and translating key materials into several languages.

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The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) contributes to making Europe a safer, healthier and more productive place to work. The Agency researches, develops, and distributes reliable, balanced, and impartial safety and health information and organises pan-European awareness raising campaigns. Set up by the European Union in 1994 and based in Bilbao, Spain, the Agency brings together representatives from the European Commission, Member State governments, employers' and workers' organisations, as well as leading experts in each of the EU Member States and beyond.

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