

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Summary – Annual Report 2013

Against the background of a difficult economic environment, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (the Agency) has continued to promote the importance of good occupational safety and health (OSH) by stressing the business case. And as discussions continue over the next EU Strategy for Safety and Health at Work, the Agency has taken a clear view of the way forward and adopted its new strategic programme for the years 2014–20.

1 The European Risk Observatory

In 2013, the Agency published the findings of its 2012 flagship Foresight project — ‘Green jobs and occupational safety and health’ — the [main report](#) in English and a [summary report](#) in six languages. This was followed by a report on [OSH and wind energy](#) and e-facts on [green buildings](#) and [small-scale solar energy](#) and accompanying hazard identification checklists on [green buildings](#) and [small-scale solar energy](#). The Agency also launched a new web page dedicated to [OSH in green jobs](#).

The Foresight projects take a scenario approach to identifying and anticipating emerging OSH risks arising from changes in technology or society. The Agency commissioned a scoping study to identify which new and emerging issues will be most relevant to explore in the next major Foresight study. It also commissioned a state-of-the-art review — ‘Current and emerging OSH issues in the healthcare sector, including home and community care’. Health- and social care has been identified as a sector with high employment potential, but it is a neglected area in terms of OSH, particularly home and community care. The findings of this study will be published in 2014.

Preparatory work for the second edition of another of the Agency’s flagship projects — the [European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks \(ESENER\)](#) — was completed in 2013. This important piece of work provides insights as to how workplace risks are being managed across Europe. For the first time, the 2014 survey will include micro enterprises (5–10 employees) and the agriculture sector.

Other important pieces of work completed in 2013 included a literature review ‘[New risks and trends on the safety and health of women at work](#)’, which provided, among other insights, an important update on work-related cancer in women and occupational hazards to women’s reproductive health. A state-of-the-art report on occupational cancers and another on reproductive hazards in the workplace are in preparation and will be published in 2014.



The preliminary results of a major pilot project — ‘Safer and healthier work at any age: occupational safety and health in the context of an ageing workforce’ — were presented at a conference at the European Parliament in December 2013. The [proceedings](#) were published on the Agency’s website early in 2014.

The Agency’s 2013 report ‘[Priorities for occupational safety and health research in Europe: 2013–2020](#)’ identifies research priorities to fill gaps in our knowledge in accordance with the

Europe 2020 strategy. From this, the Agency will draw up a shortlist of ‘top priorities’ and commission position papers in 2014.

Finally, work continued on the Agency’s [OSHWiki project](#) in preparation for its official launch in summer 2014. In total, 121 new articles were commissioned, written and approved and another 28 articles are under development. This project attracted a lot of interest at the Healthy Workplaces Summit in Bilbao in November and has also sparked interest from international OSH organisations.

2 Working Environment Information

The preparation of the campaign guide for the 2014–15 campaign — [Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress](#) — was a major achievement. The campaigns are the Agency's flagship awareness-raising activity and an important way of reaching workplaces, particularly micro and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A lot of work also went into the preparation of practical information to support businesses, particularly SMEs, to manage psychosocial risks in the workplace. An e-guide will be published in every EU language in time for the European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October 2014. Two important reviews aimed at improving our understanding of psychosocial risks and potential strategies for tackling them will also be published in 2014.

The 2012–13 campaign — [Working Together for Risk Prevention](#) — was the most successful to date, with more activities and official partners than ever before. It also marked an important 'first'. In June, the Agency held a very successful campaign partner event — ['Benchmarking and Exchange of Good Practice in Occupational Safety and Health'](#) — in Brussels. This brought together OSH professionals and policy-makers to share lessons learned and examples of good practice.

Since the [Online interactive Risk Assessment \(OiRA\)](#) project was launched in 2011, it has become the cornerstone of the Agency's work of reaching out to promote OSH in workplaces across Europe, specifically SMEs, which comprise 99 % of businesses and where resources are often limited. In 2013, nine new tools were published: hairdressing tools for Belgium (in French and Flemish) and Portugal; a Spanish tool for driving schools and one for leather and tanning workshops (in Catalan); a Lithuanian tool for car repair workshops; catering tools for France and Greece; a Latvian tool for office work; and a private security tool for the EU. Around 50 more tools are under development, and there is now an OiRA community working together across Europe to develop and refine tools. The Agency supports its work by providing training in the use of the OiRA tool generator and a helpdesk for the OiRA community.



Further to this, the Agency commissioned a feasibility study into promoting and supporting the widespread use of tools for implementing OSH solutions that are already available or under development in Member States.

Other important publications during the year were the reports ['Diverse cultures at work: ensuring safety and health through leadership and participation'](#) and ['Occupational safety and health and education: a whole school approach'](#).

3 Communication, campaigning and promotion

The 2012–13 Healthy Workplaces Campaign — Working Together for Risk Prevention — built on the achievements of the previous year. A record number of [87 official campaign partners](#) — companies and organisations from the public and private sectors across Europe — joined forces with the Agency to focus on improving workplace safety and health through management leadership and worker participation. Awareness-raising events were held in over 30 countries, and the Agency launched a multilingual [online campaign toolkit](#), making it easy for anyone to run their own safety and health campaign. The [Good Practice Awards](#) ceremony was held in Dublin in April in conjunction with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October saw hundreds of events held at national level — focusing on training and coaching, seminars and conferences, and raising awareness of the campaign and its messages through social

media. The campaign closed in November with the [Healthy Workplaces Summit in Bilbao](#). This event brought together some 300 delegates to exchange ideas and lessons learned, build on the campaign's achievements and ensure that the work of risk prevention will go on long after the campaign has ended.



As the 2012–13 campaign was ending, preparations were well under way for the 2014–15 campaign — Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress. Plans were made, the branding created and core [promotional material](#) developed. A [film on stress](#) featuring the popular cartoon character Napo was also developed by the Agency's partners in the Napo Consortium.

The findings of the third [European Opinion Poll on Occupational Safety and Health](#) were launched on 9 May to coincide with Europe Day. Over 16,500 workers in 31 countries were

interviewed about work-related stress and OSH in older workers. The results generated a lot of press coverage and confirmed that the message of the 2014–15 campaign — that psychosocial risks can be managed in the same systematic way as any other OSH issue — is one that needs to be promoted across Europe.

An awareness-raising portfolio for focal points was piloted to promote OiRA and encourage its uptake among SMEs. Nine promotional seminars were held throughout the year in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece (two linked sessions), Latvia (three linked sessions) and Lithuania (two separate sessions).

For the fifth year running, the Agency presented its [Healthy Workplaces Film Award](#) at the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film ([DOK Leipzig](#)). The Agency also supports the production and subtitling of DVDs of the winning film for distribution through national focal points and arranges screenings across Europe.



2013 saw the launch of a new [Napo film on slips and trips — Napo in... No laughing matter](#). The ['Napo for teachers'](#) initiative makes a range of resources, including Napo films, available online, with the aim of 'mainstreaming', or integrating, OSH into education and establishing good safety and health habits in children from an early age. By the end of 2013, the 'Napo for teachers' pack was available in 18 languages and had been promoted in 23 Member States and European Economic Area countries.

Throughout 2013, the press office promoted and publicised the Agency's work. The [campaign media partnership](#) grew in strength and saw 20 media partners in nine Member States support the 2012–13 campaign. A new approach to publicise the Good Practice Awards ceremony raised the profile of the awards considerably. The redesign of the Agency's website continued and will be completed in 2014, strengthening its position as Europe's first reference point for OSH information. In 2013, the Agency published 11 new reports and 12 e-facts, as well as a range of promotional and audiovisual materials.

The Agency's communication partnership with the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) flourished in 2013: 18 national partnership meetings were organised by national focal points and EEN OSH ambassadors as a way of disseminating information to the workplaces of Europe — and SMEs in particular. The two partners also worked together on the inaugural EEN OSH Award, which recognises outstanding promotion of OSH messages in SMEs. The first award was presented at the Healthy Workplaces Summit in Bilbao in November.

4 Networking and coordination

The implementation of the [Agency's multiannual strategic programme for 2014–20](#) will strengthen its links with its focal point network. In 2013, the challenge was to ensure that the [focal point network](#) continued to function well despite the difficult business environment. High-level visits help to demonstrate the importance of the focal points' work to governments and social partners. The Agency made two such visits in 2013 — one to Lithuania and one to Finland. Internationally, the Agency supported the International Labour Organisation at a training workshop for OSH policy-makers showcasing the European tripartite model.

The Agency continued to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries for involvement in European OSH activities by, for example, supporting them to join its focal point network and take part in its activities, translating and printing material for the Healthy Workplaces Campaigns, distributing Napo DVDs and encouraging them to take part in the Good Practice Awards. This last proved particularly successful in 2013, with the declaration of a Turkish company as one of the winners — an excellent demonstration of the impact of the Agency's work.

The Brussels Liaison Office continued its core work of representing the Agency and providing information to key partners. 2013 saw increased emphasis on the Office's work with the European social dialogue in terms of the potential for the sectoral social dialogue committees to contribute to developing tools for the OiRA project. The Office also organised a successful study visit for Members of the European Parliament to the Agency's headquarters so that they could learn more about how it works first hand.

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 1996 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.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

12 Santiago de Compostela

E-48003 Bilbao, Spain

Tel. +34 944358400

Fax +34 944358401

E-mail: information@osha.europa.eu