

Annual Report 2012 – Summary

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Against a background of hard economic times, with many organisations affected by cuts in government spending, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (the Agency) has continued to promote the importance of good occupational safety and health (OSH) for businesses of all sizes. It has also begun looking forward, beginning to develop a multi-annual strategic programme for its future work

1 Collecting and analysing information

The European Risk Observatory

2012 saw the completion of the first of the Agency's flagship [Foresight projects](#), anticipating the longer-term risks associated with the fast-growing area of 'green' jobs. By developing scenarios of what might happen given certain technological developments or changes in society, and the implications of these changes for OSH, the aim is to stimulate debate, and make clear to decision-makers the implications of particular courses of action.



A final [report](#), and [summary](#) of the project entitled 'Green jobs and occupational safety and health: Foresight on new and emerging risks associated with new technologies by 2020', will be published during 2013.

Another of the Agency's flagship projects has been the [European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks \(ESENER\)](#), which, for the first time, has given us a real-time picture of how some important workplace risks are being managed in Europe, especially psychosocial risks such as work-related stress, violence and harassment.

The focus has now shifted to secondary analysis of the data that the survey has produced, with four reports and a [summary](#) being published in 2012: '[Management of occupational safety and health](#)', '[Worker representation and consultation on health and safety](#)', '[Management of psychosocial risks at work](#)', and '[Drivers and barriers for psychosocial risk management](#)'. A second ESENER has been approved, with coverage extended to smaller organisations, agriculture sector and more countries.

Another project has led to a new Agency report entitled '[Risk perception and risk communication with regard to nanomaterials in the workplace](#)', which highlights gaps in our awareness of the potential risks involved in handling nanomaterials – materials at the very small scale.

Work has also been continuing to prepare for the pre-launch of the OSHwiki in 2013, with articles being added on key topics relevant to the Agency's work programme.

Working Environment Information

A number of [practical guides and information sheets](#) have been published throughout the year in support of the [Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-13](#), entitled 'Working together for risk prevention'. They include two publications, prepared in conjunction with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and BUSINESSEUROPE, on [worker participation](#) and [management leadership](#) in relation to OSH. In addition, a report examines how good leadership practices can promote better [OSH behaviour amongst employees](#), a case study review looks at [worker participation practices](#) and another study looks at ways that organisations can promote good [OSH through their supply chains](#).

Work has also begun in preparation for the 2014-15 campaign, which will focus on psychosocial risks, and especially the practical solutions and tools that are available to deal with this issue. In 2012 the Agency carried out a survey of the national focal points, to find out what support they need in relation to campaigns, and the survey results have helped to shape the products being developed for the next one.

The Agency's [Online interactive Risk Assessment \(OiRA\) tool](#) gives micro- and small-sized enterprises, especially, a simple and free means of carrying out risk assessments. Since the launch of the OiRA in 2011, the Agency has continued to develop the tool, make it more user-friendly, developing an OiRA community (providing training and a dedicated helpdesk), and promoting the use and adaptation of OiRA for specific industry sectors. New OiRA modules are being developed on psychosocial risks, risk-related maintenance activities, and working in offices.

[Workplace Health Promotion \(WHP\)](#) involves employers going beyond their strict health and safety obligations, to try to help improve the health of workers. 2012 saw publications on [WHP among young workers](#), [mental health promotion in the workplace](#), and [family issues and work/life balance](#), as well as e-facts in support of a mini awareness-raising campaign on environmental tobacco smoke: '[Tobacco: advice for smokers on health effects](#)', '[Tobacco: advice for non-smokers on health effects](#)', and '[Tobacco: advice for employers on creating a smoke-free working environment](#)'. Two literature reviews were also finalised, on the motivating factors for both [employers](#) and [employees](#) in participating in WHP schemes. The Agency has also been taking part in a WHP expert group aiming to extend the WHP project to a broader approach to wellbeing at work.



As part of its ongoing project on integrating or '[mainstreaming](#)' [OSH into education](#), the Agency published a [factsheet](#) and series of case studies (entitled '[Training teachers to deliver risk education – Examples of mainstreaming OSH into teacher training programmes](#)'), on good practice in training teachers in OSH, and in delivering risk education.

In 2012 the Agency began preparations for a EUR 2 million pilot project on the OSH of older workers, to inform policy development and provide examples of good strategies and practices in helping older workers stay healthy. The project is planned to run to 2015.

2 Communication, campaigning and promotion

The [Healthy Workplaces Campaign for 2012-13](#), entitled 'Working together for risk prevention,' was launched in Brussels in April. The campaign's focus is on the importance of management leadership and worker participation in improving workplace safety and health. A partnership meeting was held in Brussels to help recruit official campaign partners: it involved over 100 participants from a wide range of organisations. The Agency is continuing to support the national focal points in organising their own awareness-raising events, through the European Campaign Assistance Package, and many campaign activities took place during the [European Week for Safety and Health at Work](#) in October. A record [86 official campaign partners](#) have joined the campaign, which again is being supported by a campaign guide and a range of [publicity materials](#), translated into 24 languages, and made freely available. A [film](#) featuring the popular cartoon character Napo was developed by the Napo consortium and for the first time, information material for the campaign has included an [iPad app](#), which has already gained a good deal of interest. Some fifty entries were received for the [Good Practice Awards competition](#).



The second [European Opinion Poll on Occupational Safety and Health](#) was carried out, measuring the opinions of over 35,000 members of the public, in 36 European countries, on contemporary workplace issues. Poll results support a number of Agency activities, including the focus on job-related stress.



2012 was the [European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations](#), and the Agency took an active part in it, making information available on how to help employees stay fit for work for longer. This included a new [Ageing Workers web feature](#), and related articles '[Promoting active ageing in the workplace](#)' and '[Working better, for longer](#)'.

The Agency took part in the [World No Tobacco Day](#), launching its '[Smoke-Free Workplaces](#)' awareness-raising campaign. It also developed a new toolkit and other materials, helping employers and workers to understand the [new hazard pictograms for chemical products](#) that are being gradually introduced in the EU. And for the fourth year running, the Agency presented its [Healthy Workplaces Film Award](#) at the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film ([DOK Leipzig](#)).

The Agency was involved in a project aimed at introducing basic health and safety knowledge to primary school children. The '[Napo for teachers](#)' initiative makes a variety of educational aids available to teachers online. The resources (including lesson plans and video clips, available so far

in seven languages) are based on the cartoon character Napo, who helps to spread the message of workplace safety and health in an engaging way.

The Agency was busy with press, media and public relations activities at EU and national level, and launched a new [media partnership project](#), to accompany the current Healthy Workplaces Campaign. It continued to take an active part in various European and international conferences and exhibitions. And it developed a new online strategy, carried out a redesign of its website, and increased its presence on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

The Agency has continued to develop communication partnerships with the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General, the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation and the [Enterprise Europe Network](#). It has continued to explore visual media as a means of promoting good OSH, enriching its digital assets library, commissioning images, and supporting OSH-related photo exhibitions. It has also continued its programme of publishing, producing ten new Agency reports, six literature reviews, three factsheets, 11 e-facts and a wide range of articles and audio-visual material during the year.

3 Networking and co-ordination

In terms of EU and international networking, significant developments over the year include engaging stakeholders in preparing the Agency's new multi-annual strategic programme, and the continued dissemination of OSH information to the European institutions, partners in the European Social Dialogue, and other European stakeholders.

The Agency continues to work to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries for involvement in pan-European OSH activities, for example by organising campaign activities in these countries, and producing Agency information materials in the relevant languages.

The Brussels Liaison Office continued to represent the Agency in relation to some of its key partners at EU level, as well as participating in the EU-US Dialogue in OSH. The Agency is also becoming more involved with the European Social Dialogue, and with the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees.



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.

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