

network enterprise europe

The Enterprise Europe Network *Business and innovation support for SMEs*



Business Support on Your Doorstep



EU-OSHA European Partnership Meeting
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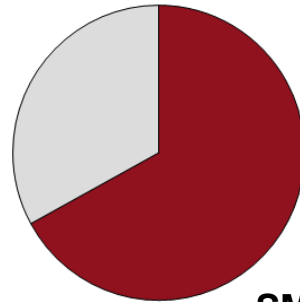
SMEs are the backbone of our economy

75 mil. Jobs



Contribution to GDP

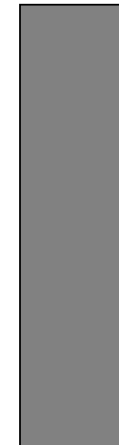
Others



SMEs

Up to 90% of jobs in some industry sectors

90



10

SMEs

Others

SMEs and the Single Market

- 450 million **consumers**
- Millions of potential business and technology **partners**
- A wealth of (missed) **opportunities**
 - A minority have international activities in the EU
 - Even fewer are active outside the EU
- SMEs = **vulnerable** actors
 - Competitive pressures, globalisation, crisis: the smaller a company, the harder it gets hit
 - Investments into safety & health seen as non-productive costs

Mission of the Network

- **Internationalisation**
 - Business partnerships
 - Advice on EU laws, rules, standards
 - Help SMEs access markets and benefit from the Single Market
 - Access to finance and funding opportunities
- **Innovation**
 - Technology transfer
 - Modern innovation support services & Innovation audits, IPR
- **Increase R&D activities of SMEs**
 - participation in FP7
- **Feedback and consultation: dialogue with SMEs**

SMEs and occupational safety/health

- More than **100.000 fatalities** within SMEs yearly
 - room for **improvement**
 - to contribute to **safer and healthier workplaces**
 - which in turn would help SMEs to be **more effective**
- Current economic setting is **challenging**
- Respect of human life and employees' safety and health should always be a **priority**
 - economic **crisis not to be taken as excuse** to disregard

EU-OSHA and Enterprise Europe Network

- Cooperation between EU-OSHA and the Enterprise Europe Network renewed in 2009
- **Common Communication Partnership Working Group**
(6 Enterprise Europe Network partners with 6 EU-OSHA Focal Points)
- **22 OSH Ambassadors** covering 21 Member States from our Network! – actively involved in organising events and relaying OSH messages and will play a key role in the new campaign ‘Working together for risk prevention’

Thank you for your attention!



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