



‘SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORK AT ANY AGE’

SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES



Teresa Moitinho de Almeida has a legal background (degree in law and post-degree in European Law). From 1985 until 1993, she worked in Lisbon, first as a lecturer in the Lisbon University of law and as a lawyer, specialised in Portuguese labour law and family law affairs. She joined in 1986 the cabinet of the Secretary of State for European Affairs, in the Portuguese Ministry for Foreign Affairs until 1993. Since 1993, she has been an official of the European Commission, currently serving as Head of Unit at the Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work Unit in the Directorate General “Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion” based in Luxembourg.



Christa Sedlatschek was appointed Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) in 2011. She is a medical doctor (University of Vienna) and a specialist in occupational health. She began her career in the Austrian labour inspectorate and moved to the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs in 1993, taking over the function as Deputy Head of the department for occupational medicine. In 1998, Dr Sedlatschek took up a post in EU-OSHA, later becoming head of the agency’s working environment unit. In 2003, she started working in the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA) in Berlin, where she was Director of the national ‘New Quality of Work’ initiative – INQA’, which aimed to make a contribution towards creating more and better jobs in Europe.



Dr. Birgit Aust is a Senior Researcher at the National Research Centre for the Working Environment in Copenhagen, Denmark and has been in this position since 2002. She is part of the research team evaluating the implementation and the effects of ‘The Danish National Return-to-Work Program’, a multi-component intervention study that was conducted in 21 Danish municipalities to improve return to work for persons on long-term sickness absence. Dr. Aust has been involved in a number of workplace intervention projects in different branches and uses qualitative and quantitative research methods. In her research she focusses on health effects of different aspects of the psychosocial and physical work environment and on implementation processes. Results of her research have been published in scientific articles as well as in manuals for practitioners. Dr. Aust has an educational background in Public Health (Doctor Public Health, University of Bielefeld, Germany) and Sociology (Diplom-Soziologin, Free University of Berlin, Germany). During her education she was awarded scholarships to study at the New School for Social Research, New York, USA and for a postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, USA.



Dr Chris Ball is Chief Executive of TAEN – The Age and Employment Network – a UK charity and centre of expertise in age and employment. Prior to working for TAEN, Chris was a physics teacher, a freelance journalist, an independent researcher on work issues and for many years, a national officer of one of the leading UK trade unions, leading on the Working Environment and the not for profit sector. Chris has researched and written on all aspects of Age Management needed in a context of demographic change and population ageing. Chris has been involved in several national and international projects for TAEN researching and delivering support on age management best practices, working with unions and employers. He is a member of the international judging panel of the AARP Best Employers International Award, which honours employers following the best policies and practices for older workers. Chris holds both a masters’ degree and a doctorate from the London School of Economics and is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development.



Veronique De Broeck is Director of the Prevent-Foundation for sustainable work. Prevent- Foundation is a newly established knowledge centre, created by Prevent: it arranges study and research projects in a broad social context. On the one hand, the Foundation looks at improving working conditions in a healthy, innovative and productive economy. On the other, it is directed at improving the employability of employees in a changing labour market. Prevent Foundation hosts the secretariat of the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion (ENWHP). The European Network for Workplace Health Promotion is an informal network of national occupational health and safety institutes, public health, health promotion and statutory social insurance institutions. In a joint effort, all the members and partners aim to improve workplace health and well-being and to reduce the impact of work related ill health on the European workforce.



Professor Juhani Ilmarinen made his career in Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), Helsinki, Finland from 1970 to 2008. Mr Ilmarinen completed his Ph.D. in 1978 in University of Cologne, Germany. From 1992 to 2005, Mr Ilmarinen was Professor and the Director of the Department of Physiology in FIOH. From 2006 to 2008 he was nominated as the Director of the new Theme “Life Course and Work” in FIOH. Prof. Ilmarinen and his multidisciplinary research team created the concept of Work Ability, Work Ability Index (WAI) and Age Management based on the longitudinal study of ageing workers (1981-2009). From 1989 to 2006 Prof. Ilmarinen was the Secretary of the Scientific Committee Ageing and Work of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH). He was also the Chairman of the Technical Committee Ageing of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) from 1997 to 2007. In November 2008, the first National Prize for Innovative Practices in Employment and Social Policy in Finland was given to Prof. Ilmarinen. After retirement from FIOH, Prof. Ilmarinen worked in 2009 as visiting professor of work ability and work well-being in Business, Work and Ageing at Swinburn University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. From 2009, he established Juhani Ilmarinen Consulting Ltd. aiming to promote work ability and work well-being and to implement age management strategies both in nation and company levels in Europe. Prof. Ilmarinen and his team developed recently a Work Well-being Index for companies, which has been widely used in Finnish Technology Industry. Prof. Ilmarinen has written 8 books and has more than 500 publications in work physiology, work ability and ageing.



Sarah Copsey has been employed as a project manager for the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) since 1998. Her work has mainly focused on the identification and promotion of good practices. Her areas of responsibility have included various diversity issues such as young workers, gender and occupational safety and health (OSH), disabled workers and most recently, OSH and older workers. She was responsible for developing and managing many aspects of the 2006 European health and safety campaign on young people. She has also managed projects on good practices in the prevention of occupational risks in road transport and developed EU-OSHA's work on mainstreaming OSH into education and good practice projects on worker participation in OSH. Sarah has worked in health and safety since 1988. Before joining the EU-OSHA she was Head of Health and Safety at UNISON - the national trade union for public service and health care workers in the UK. Her academic background is in psychology and ergonomics, and she started her working life at Nottingham University, on projects concerning stress and shift work.



Claire Dupont has worked for more than 20 years as a legal and policy consultant acquiring in-depth knowledge and practical understanding of the development and implementation of international and EU policy and legislation. In her position as Legal Principal in Milieu, she has acquired extensive knowledge of the EU legal and policy framework in health and safety at work. She is currently managing the consortium working on the Safer and Healthier Work at Any Age project for the EU-OSHA. This project, among many others, requires the management of a large team of partners and experts and strong skills in policy analysis and writing. Ms Dupont is also currently leading the team in Milieu working with COWI A/S on the evaluation of the 24 occupational health and safety directives for the European Commission. In 2012-2013, she directed a project on the transposition of EU health and safety legislation in Iceland and managed a project for the EBRD comparing the OSH legislation in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey with EU requirements. Throughout her work, she has gained expertise in the preparation of study methodologies, the development and testing of indicators for policy implementation, and the identification and assessment of policy options.