BULGARIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

1 January – 30 June 2018
The way forward in improving OSH in European MSEs – Bulgarian perspective

When size matters…. The way forward in improving OSH in Europe’s micro and small enterprises

EU OSHA high-level conference
19 June 2018
Brussels
Micro and small enterprises – the backbone of the Bulgarian economy

Enterprises by number of employed persons (National statistical Institute, 2015)
Micro and small enterprises – challenges and benefits for OSH

Challenges
MSEs are:
- with limited recourses;
- surviving in competitive environment;
- short-living;
- heterogeneous;
- numerous;
- not well organised and represented;
- dependent on supply chains

Benefits
MSEs are:
- competitive and flexible;
- surviving in competitive environment;
- capable to affiliate their workers;
- motivated for achieving compliance;
- able to manage changes;
- members of supply chains, etc.
Strategic objective of the National Programme for Occupational Safety and Health, 2018-2020:

Improving the occupational safety and health of every worker and every workplace.

Priority areas:
1. Improving the application of the OSH legislation;
2. Prevention of occupational risks, including new and emerging risks;
Improving the application of the OSH legislation: better regulation

- minimising administrative burden:
  - more than 100 regimes and services identified for change, 3 in OSH area
  - electronic government

- providing better rules and guidance:
  - new sectoral/occupational rules and guidance – blasting operations; handling of loads;
  - adapting the existing rules to the technical developments – metallurgy, metal casting and the energy sector; construction etc.
  - harmonising the occupational exposure limit values for chemical agents and carcinogens/mutagens, in line with the amendments to the respective directives

- development of institutional services
  - reception rooms for consultations for individuals and companies
  - hotline
  - on-line consultations and information – through the email and the site of MLSP: sections Q&A; Legislation; Important information
National Program for OSH 2018-2020
Adopted with Council of Ministers Decision No. 801 of 22.12.2017

Improving the application of the OSH legislation: better regulation

- improving the quality and control of the activities of the occupational medicine services (OMS)
  - setting minimal standards for occupational medicine services
  - setting requirements on the competences of the experts in OMS

- improving the system of medical surveillance for workers and employees
  - setting better rules for medical surveillance and screening for early detection of occupational diseases;
  - avoiding duplications with prophylactic medical checks and tests covered by the national health insurance system.
Improving the application of the OSH legislation: the new role and higher efficiency of the labour inspectorate

- better planning and fine-tuning of the inspection program
  - better coverage of MSEs (up to 80% of enterprises visited in 2017 were MSEs)
  - focus on construction; hotels and restaurants; agriculture and other sectors with high prevalence of MSEs;
  - combining administrative control measures and penalties with on-site consultations (more than 150 000 administrative measures and on-site advise provided yearly)

- strengthening the administrative capacity of GLI EA
  - initial and on-going training of inspectors;
  - development of an electronic training and knowledge control system;

- risk-based focused control
  - creating a database of sites for control and identifying different risk categories of enterprises.
National Program for OSH 2018-2020
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- training and awareness rising activities for employers; employees; OSH representatives; social partners’ representatives
  - provided through National Center for Public Health and Analyses; employers’ and employees’ organisations; OSH professional associations and NGOs; MLSP and EA GLI
  - events within the HWC of EU OSHA – 6 events for 2018

- development of accessible and free of charge tools for risk management at enterprise level
  - 38 sector specific OIRA tools for online risk assessment with EU OSHA support and 2 more under development
  - national OIRA society and events for promotion of the tools – 22 June 2018
Online OIRA tools statistics

Registered users of OiRA

Risk assessments, using OiRA
Online OIRA tools statistics

Size of enterprises, using OiRA for RA

Workers’ involvement in RA with OiRA
“WORKING CONDITIONS” FUND

Created under Healthy and Safe Working Conditions Act

Tripartite governing board

Provides funding and co-funding for:

- training of employers, trade union members, members of WCC and WCG and specialists in safety and health at work in the enterprises;
- projects for occupational diseases screenings and diagnostics;
- projects for improving the working conditions at enterprise level (up to 30% of the projects’ budget);
- publication and dissemination of informational materials and guidance in OSH sphere; surveys and other activities with national or sectoral relevance.
THE ROLE OF ESF FUNDS

- OPHRD – programming period 2007-2013
  - programs with OSH relevance – Operation “Safe labour” - 563 projects, EUR 30.8 M
  - measures undertaken to ensure availability to MSEs – SMEs were eligible beneficiaries for a possible grant of 100%

- OPHRD – programming period 2014 -2020 – 2 operations
  - 1 grant scheme “Safe labour conditions and mobility” - 353 projects, EUR 35.9 M
  - 1 operation – good practice of joint actions with the Social partners “Development of policies and instruments to improve the working conditions in small and medium-sized enterprises (SME’S) in the manufacturing chain of multinational companies”
When small is beautiful…
Thank you for your attention!

Deputy Minister
Z. Roussinova