

Welcome to the European Agency workshop on “Economic incentives to improve occupational safety and health”

<http://osha.europa.eu>

Dr. Jukka Takala
Director



Economic Incentives in times of recession

<http://osha.europa.eu>

- **Lack of investment in safer working conditions can threaten the existence of many enterprises**
- **60% of SMEs that have a disruption lasting more than 9 days go out of business (HSE, 2005).**
- **The relative impact in SMEs is greater than on comparable larger enterprises**
 - Key workers cannot be easily or quickly replaced
 - Short-term interruptions of business can lead to loss of clients and important contracts.
- **Investment in workplace health promotion leads to Returns on Investment (ROI) between 2,5 € and 4,8 €.**

Economic Incentives in times of recession

<http://osha.europa.eu>

- **Estimated costs of work related accidents and ill-health in the EU are between 2 and 4 % of GDP.**
- **Well designed economic incentives can lead to lower accident rates and reduced costs for the whole economy**
- **More economic incentives is called for in in the new community strategy 2007-2012**
- **Objectives of this meeting**
 - Discuss first results of the project
 - Exchange knowledge on economic incentives