



Making Europe a safer, healthier and more productive place to work



Welcome

Anticipating change

Facts and figures

Tools for OSH management

Raising awareness

Networking knowledge

Working in partnership

How to find out more

With the help of our partners, we are working hard to improve understanding and awareness of workplace risks and increase commitment to safety and health across Europe.



Welcome

We promote safety and health in the workplace to improve working conditions and boost productivity.



Everyone has a fundamental right to safe and healthy working conditions. At the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) our mission is to help make Europe's workplaces safer, healthier and more productive.

Every year more than 4,000 workers die due to accidents at work and more than three million workers are victims of a serious accident at work. Meanwhile, 25 % of workers declared that work had a mainly negative effect on their health. The costs to workers, businesses and EU Member States are estimated at around 3 % of GDP.

More than ever, occupational safety and health (OSH) is an important and challenging policy area. As new risks and areas of work emerge, demographics change and Europe responds to economic crisis, the need for good OSH — which protects workers and makes businesses more profitable — is urgent and growing.

To give one example, as retirement age rises in many countries across the EU, there is an increased demand from policy-makers and enterprises for practical information on helping people to work longer and stay safe and healthy until retirement.

In difficult economic times, we need to make the business case for good OSH management, particularly to smaller enterprises. Micro and small enterprises are a vital part of Europe's economy and they often perceive themselves as lacking the resources to implement safety and health measures. There is growing evidence, however, that money spent on improving OSH is more than repaid in increased productivity and costs avoided. Protecting workers from safety and health risks is not only a duty but also an investment.

Working with governments, employee representatives and businesses small and large, EU-OSHA takes a joined-up approach to promoting OSH across Europe. We are committed to carrying out our work in an efficient, transparent and accountable way.

In line with the objectives of the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work (2014-2020) and the Europe 2020 Strategy for the creation of a smart, sustainable and inclusive European economy, the Agency has developed its Multi-annual Strategic Programme 2014-20 to ensure that we have a clear focus for our efforts. The six priorities we have identified are:

1. anticipating change and new and emerging risks through Foresight activities;
2. facts and figures — gathering and disseminating information, through the ESENER enterprise survey, for example;
3. developing tools for good OSH management, such as OiRA (Online interactive Risk Assessment);
4. raising awareness, particularly through the Healthy Workplaces Campaigns;
5. networking knowledge, primarily through the development of the OSHwiki online encyclopaedia; and
6. networking (at both strategic and operational level) and corporate communications.

With these goals in place, and with the help of our partners, we are working hard to improve understanding and awareness of workplace risks and increase commitment to OSH across Europe.

Dr Christa Sedlatschek, Director
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work



Anticipating change

What does the future hold for Europe's workers and employers? We help to prevent tomorrow's safety and health risks by identifying them today.

At EU-OSHA, we know how important it is to think ahead. As the world of work changes, new risks emerge, and one of our major objectives is to provide the data and information that will help policy-makers and researchers to take timely and effective action.

Technological innovation, demographic shifts and social changes can have major implications for workplace safety and health, giving rise to new risks. Given that 45 % of workers in the EU report having been affected by such changes, it's clear that we need to look to the future. EU-OSHA's European Risk Observatory anticipates and researches new and emerging OSH risks, providing the credible, good-quality data that can help policy-makers, researchers and workplace intermediaries to take appropriate action and set the right priorities.

The Agency carries out foresight activities to identify and address future OSH challenges. Major foresight projects are implemented over two years, with a one-year review period. Activities include:

- exploratory literature reviews
- interviews, focus groups, workshops and online surveys involving key experts
- scenario-building modules

EU-OSHA's aim is not only to identify new and emerging risks but also to provide policy-makers and OSH professionals with a basis for setting priorities, instruments to address these issues and ideas for translating findings into policy.

GREEN JOBS

The Agency's first foresight project focused on the environmental sector, which is fast growing in number and relatively young. This means that there is a lack of information about potential risks and a relatively inexperienced workforce, which increases the danger of accidents and ill health. The foresight project examined the factors likely to affect green jobs, such as the economic climate, society's increasing adoption of 'green values' and the rate of technological innovation. It identified some key



potential risk areas, including wind energy, green buildings and small-scale solar energy, and followed up by providing practical information and tools to help with risk prevention.

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/topics/green-jobs>



Facts and figures

Our activities result in high-quality research and up-to-the-minute information that can help set up priorities and plan prevention.

Decision-makers need to have sound and reliable facts and figures at their command. We provide them with an accurate and comprehensive picture of current OSH risks. We also offer up-to-date, practical information on how these risks can be prevented and managed.

We do this by commissioning, collecting and publishing new scientific research into occupational safety and health risks, and also by monitoring, collating and analysing statistical information from different sources across Europe. The data we supply help researchers and policy-makers to discover the best ways to tackle risks to Europe's workers and increase productivity.

For example, our major pilot project 'Safer and healthier work at any age' aims to understand the safety and health challenges to keeping older workers in employment longer and more productive throughout their working life. The project is being carried out at the request of the European Commission and Parliament, and looks at what policies are already in place, examples of good practice to maintain and extend the employability of older workers, and how we can facilitate the return to work of older workers who have been on long-term sick leave.

EUROPE-WIDE SURVEY OF ENTERPRISES

The European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) is a detailed and extensive survey looking at how safety and health risks are managed in European workplaces. A unique resource providing much-needed internationally comparable data, it is one of the main tools we use to contribute to the evidence base for policy-makers and researchers.

Representatives of thousands of businesses and organisations across Europe respond to our ESENER questionnaires, which focus particularly on some key areas:

- Arrangements for managing health and safety
- Psychosocial risks such as stress, bullying and harassment
- Drivers of and barriers to action in OSH management
- Worker participation in OSH



The survey is carried out every five years. To give an idea of its scale, the second ESENER survey covers 36 countries, with as many as 49,000 interviews carried out. The focus on new and emerging risks ensures that the responses shed light on underexplored and increasingly important areas of OSH, such as psychosocial risks; concern about which was initially detected through ESENER.

www.esener.eu



Tools for OSH management

Risk assessment is at the heart of good workplace safety and health.

The benefits of preventing occupational accidents and ill health, rather than dealing with their consequences, are clear. For smaller organisations in particular, though, it can be daunting working out how to implement the right preventive measures effectively. We can help, by providing targeted, user-friendly tools to help micro and small enterprises assess the risks to their employees and by identifying and publicising adaptable examples of good practice.

OiRA

It's often thought that managing OSH involves knowledge or extra work that small businesses don't have or can't afford. Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA) demystifies the process of assessing risk and makes evaluating potential workplace hazards straightforward. It offers easy-to-use online tools, free to download, that guide micro and small enterprises step by step through the risk assessment process. It also helps employers to decide on the right action to take and supports them in monitoring and reporting OSH issues. EU-OSHA provides the platform, software, generic tools and help desk, and it brings together the OiRA community. The tools are then tailored to sectors and countries at national level by OiRA partners.

As well as being an effective technical solution, OiRA is a practical method of putting across the message that small businesses can enjoy the benefits that good OSH management brings, such as reduced absences and increased staff retention. Its promotion contributes to greater awareness of OSH generally and to enhancing the business performance of the EU, where the vast majority of businesses are micro and small enterprises.

OiRA is recognised as an important way forward for improving OSH in Europe's micro and small enterprises, and the project is constantly growing and developing, with new tools always under development. A community of OiRA developers is working across Europe to create and refine tools, and to adapt and translate existing tools for new countries. The aim is to put OiRA at the forefront of



strategies for risk prevention and managing OSH, with tools becoming ever more flexible and responsive to users' needs and with ever greater opportunities for users and developers to exchange ideas.

www.oiraproject.eu



Raising awareness

Our campaigning and promotion activities take our messages into workplaces and across Europe and beyond.

As an information and networking organisation, one of our key tasks is to reach out to our target audiences — from policy-makers and employers to managers, OSH professionals, workers and trade unions — getting our messages across to them by raising awareness of safety and health risks and how to prevent them. We use a range of communication channels, including conferences and workshops, our comprehensive and multilingual website, OSHmail and social media.

CAMPAIGNING

Our two-year 'Healthy Workplaces Campaigns' are our flagship awareness-raising activity. These are an important way of reaching workplaces across Europe. Coordinated by the Agency and our partners in the Member States, these campaigns are the biggest of their kind in the world, involving hundreds of events and activities. Topics have ranged from risk assessment, safe maintenance and accidents to noise, psychosocial risks and young people in the workplace. Regardless of the topic, one of the key messages is always the importance of working together (combining leadership and worker participation at the workplace level) — something that is at the heart of all our activities.

One of the highlights of each campaign is the European Good Practice Awards, which recognise outstanding and innovative solutions for managing safety and health in the workplace. Another major event is the European Week for Safety and Health, which takes place all over Europe. The growing number of official campaign partners is a key feature of our campaigns. In return for their support, campaign partners benefit from events such as benchmarking workshops, which bring together OSH professionals to share lessons learned and exchange good practice.

www.healthy-workplaces.eu



NAPO — SAFETY WITH A SMILE

To get the important messages across in a memorable and light-hearted way, we enlist the help of Napo, the hero of a series of language-free animated films.

The films are produced by the Napo Consortium, a small group of European safety and health organisations. Napo is an engaging character — an ordinary worker who finds himself caught up in common workplace hazards. But he is also a true 'OSH champion', working with his colleagues to identify risks and suggest practical solutions. People of all ages, backgrounds and cultures can identify with Napo, and the films are designed to stimulate debate in workplaces on important safety and health issues.

The Agency's 'Napo for teachers' initiative provides an online toolkit for primary school teachers, including key messages, learning objectives, lesson plans and activity ideas, all based around the Napo films. The aim is to introduce children to important safety and health messages and establish good habits that they will take with them into the workplace — thus fulfilling our commitment to integrating OSH into education.

www.napofilm.net



Networking knowledge

We bring safety and health professionals together globally and generate high quality knowledge through new tools and channels.

Mobilising OSH professionals to create a body of high-quality, up-to-date information is another of our key tasks. We have taken advantage of new technology to fulfil our commitment to facilitating the development and exchange of information. This allows us to meet the needs of our end users more efficiently and responsively — and puts the OSH community at the heart of everything we do by making the process of knowledge transfer more social and interactive.

OSHWiki

OSHWiki is our collaborative multilingual online encyclopaedia, which provides authoritative information on safety and health and an environment for OSH professionals to network and share knowledge in an online community. It is a cost-effective and increasingly important way of reaching the OSH community. OSHwiki is open to everyone through our website. However, unlike other wikis, to maintain the quality of the information, only Agency-accredited authors can add content or edit or translate existing articles. Anyone from recognised professional and scientific organisations can become an accredited author.

The content includes the following main categories: OSH in general, OSH management and organisation, prevention and control strategies, physical agents, dangerous substances, ergonomics, safety, work organisation, psychosocial issues, health, sectors and occupations, and groups at risk.

www.oshwiki.eu





Working in partnership

We work closely with our network of partners to reach our goals.

We are essentially a networking organisation, and working with other organisations at all levels — national, European, worldwide — is central to what we do. It's reflected in the tripartite make-up of our Governing Board which brings together representatives of national governments, workers' and employers' associations as well as the European Commission.

Our first and most important network is our national focal points — they are our vital link with our end users. Every Member State, candidate country and potential candidate country nominates a focal point, as do the European Economic Area–European Free Trade Association countries. A focal point is typically a representative of the leading safety and health organisation in his or her country. They work with their national tripartite networks — employers' and workers' representatives and government — to disseminate information, support our initiatives and provide data, feedback and recommendations to the Agency. They play a vital role in our Healthy Workplaces Campaigns. In turn, we provide them with support for campaign events, publications and media activities.

We rely on our social partners — organisations representing employers and workers — to extend our reach into micro and small enterprises across Europe. They also support our activities and projects, for example the OiRA project, and provide valuable feedback and advice.

Enterprise Europe Network is a business support network with a mission to help small businesses make the most of opportunities in Europe. It is our largest Community network and, with over 600 member organisations in 50 countries, it is a powerful ally in helping us reach small enterprises.

A growing number of campaign partners — comprising social partners, professional bodies and large companies — support our campaigns and help to raise awareness of the importance of safety and health. We also have an increasing number of media partners, whose help is invaluable in spreading the campaign message.



We also work closely with labour inspectorates and with consultants and research teams from leading academic institutions in the field of safety and health. At the European level, we collaborate with many EU bodies — the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and our sister agencies — and social partners such as BusinessEurope and the European Trade Union Confederation. Internationally, we work in partnership with bodies such as the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization.

https://osha.europa.eu/en/about/focal_points



How to find out more

There are all kinds of ways to get in contact with EU-OSHA and keep up to date with the latest developments in workplace safety and health.

Website

Our multilingual website is a great source of information on all safety and health issues, from campaign materials to new research. It offers access to a wealth of resources and practical tools.

<https://osha.europa.eu>

OSHmail

Our free monthly email newsletter, OSHmail, will keep you up to date with all the latest news, from legislative changes to new publications and forthcoming events. It's available in over 20 EU languages.

Subscribe here: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/news/oshmail>


Social media

We believe in the power of social networks to convey messages, change attitudes and build relationships. You can find us on:


 http://twitter.com/eu_osha

 <https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanAgencyforSafetyandHealthatWork>

 <http://www.youtube.com/user/EUOSHA>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-agency-for-safety-and-health-at-work>

We also regularly update our blog at

 <https://osha.europa.eu/en/about/director-corner/blog/front-page>

Publications

All of our publications can be downloaded free of charge from our website. From leaflets to detailed technical reports, we publish extensively on OSH issues, helping to bring in-depth and topical safety and health information to a wide range of audiences across Europe.

Browse our publications here: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications>



Events

We organise many events to raise awareness and share information, good practice and advice. These range from small seminars to major international summits. Sign up to OSHmail to find out about forthcoming events, or check our website at <https://osha.europa.eu/en/events/events.html>

Press office

For all media enquiries, please email news@osha.europa.eu or call +34 944 358 359. The latest press releases and media reports can be found at <https://osha.europa.eu/en/press>

Photos cover, clockwise starting top left:

©EU-OSHA/Arpad Pinter, ©EU-OSHA/Arpad Pinter,
©EU-OSHA/Emmanuel Biard, ©EU-OSHA/József Radó,
©EU-OSHA/Michel Wielick, ©EU-OSHA/David Tijero.

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 and employers' and workers' organisations, as well as leading experts in each of the Member States and beyond.

**European Agency for Safety
and Health at Work**

C/Santiago de Compostela 12

48003 Bilbao, SPAIN

Tel. + 34 94 435 84 00

Fax + 34 94 435 84 01

E-mail: information@osha.europa.eu

<http://osha.europa.eu>



■ Publications Office