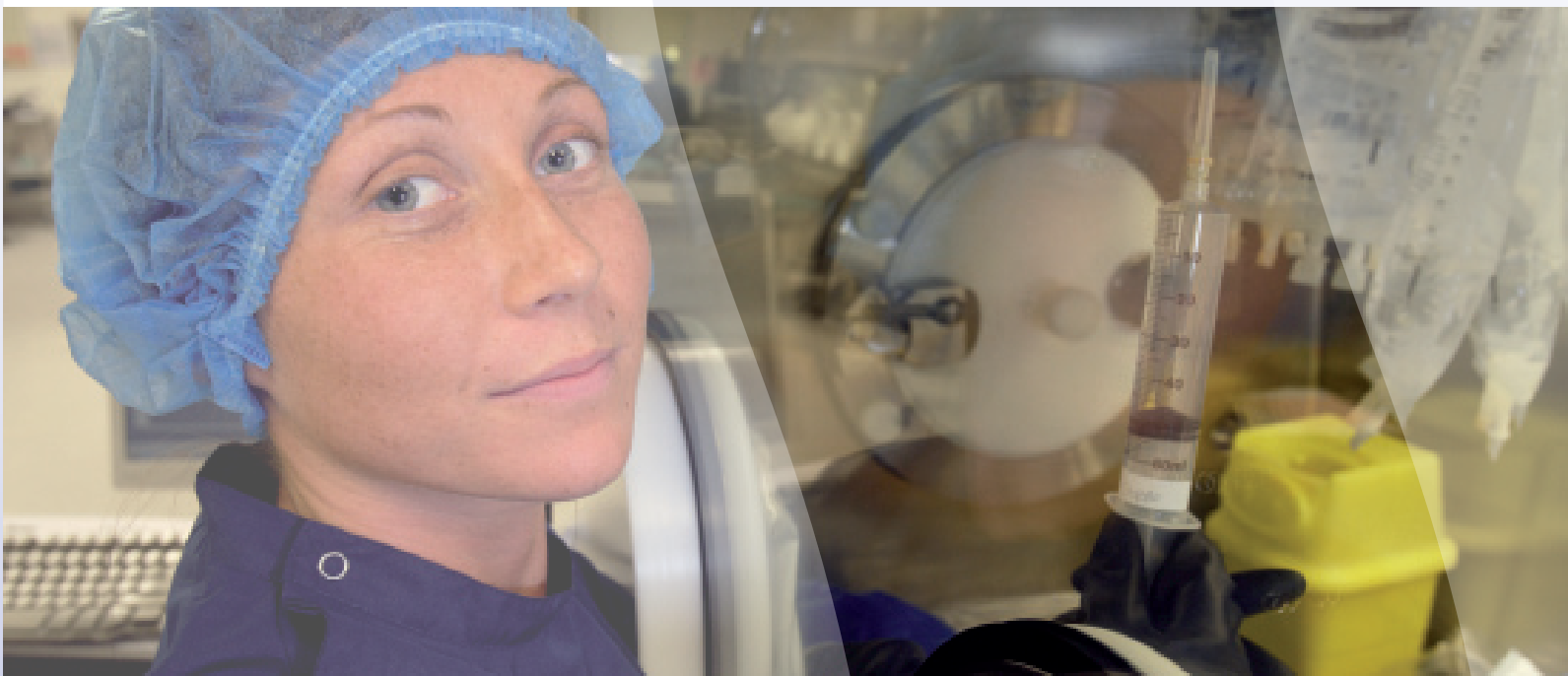




European Agency for Safety and Health at Work



Annual Report 2011 Summary



Safety and health at work is everyone's concern. It's good for you. It's good for business.

Key activities in 2011

With a new Director in place (Christa Sedlatschek took over from Jukka Takala in 2011) the Agency continued to work in a harsh economic climate to promote occupational safety and health (OSH): making the case that devoting time and resources to OSH is an investment, not a cost, and that good OSH is good for business.



Károly György, Chairperson and Christa Sedlatschek, Director

COLLECTING AND ANALYSING INFORMATION

The European Risk Observatory

The Agency's flagship **Foresight project** involves looking beyond those workplace risks that are currently 'emerging', to try to anticipate change in the longer term. It involves developing scenarios in certain subject areas, looking at what might happen given certain technological developments or changes in society, and the implications for OSH, which decision-makers can act on. The first Foresight project is looking at 'green' jobs; those which involve technology or practices which are designed to reduce environmental impact.



A [report identifying the key drivers of change](#) in the area was published in 2011, as well as another on the [key technologies in this area](#) that may affect workplace health and safety, and work began on scenario-building: identifying and testing certain alternative futures, in order to help future decision-making.

Projects reviewing and analysing research included results being presented of a two-year project, looking at the situation of women with regard to OSH, and the specific challenges in terms of health and safety posed by the greater numbers of women now in the labour market. A [summary](#) of these results was published, outlining new risks and trends in the safety and health of women at work.

Another important project over the last year has involved the development of an 'OSHWiki'. The Agency is building up a database of articles which will form the core of the OSHwiki at its scheduled launch in 2013. The first batch of over 60 OSHwiki articles has now been received.

One of the Agency's main projects in recent years has been the [European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks \(ESENER\)](#), which, for the first time, gives us a real-time picture of how some important workplace risks are being managed in Europe. The project has involved gathering data from managers and workers' health and safety representatives across Europe, regarding the ways in which occupational health and safety risks are dealt with in their workplaces. The focus is especially on psychosocial risks such as work-related stress, violence and harassment, and the aim is to give policymakers information that will help with their decision-making, as well as helping organisations learn from each other in tackling these risks. In 2011 the process began of carrying out secondary analysis of the data that the survey has collected.

The year also saw the publication of a [report](#) which brought together national and EU data to show that the problem of workplace violence and harassment is on the increase in Europe.



Working Environment Information

The Agency produced many different publications during the year, in support of the Safe Maintenance campaign. There was a [guide](#) and [factsheet](#) on safe maintenance in agriculture. There was a [policy overview](#) and [factsheet](#) on Legionella and Legionnaires' Disease. There were e-facts on safe maintenance in relation to [portable tools in construction](#), [fishing vessels](#) and [work-related road safety](#). Examples from the [European Good Practice Awards](#) were published, and an issue of the [Healthy Workplaces magazine](#) focused on the Safe Maintenance campaign.



Work was also carried out throughout the year to prepare information and publicity materials for the forthcoming [Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-13](#), entitled Working together for risk prevention.

The Agency's [Online interactive Risk Assessment tool \(OiRA\)](#), a legacy of a previous [Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Risk Assessment](#), was officially launched in September 2011. The Agency has also been hard at work promoting the potential of OiRA, which can be adapted to meet the needs of specific sectors and to fit with local requirements.



The Agency has been involved for a number of years in a project that looks at the occupational risks that face workers in the [road transport sector](#), beyond road accidents. A number of publications were produced on good practices in OSH in the sector: these included an 'OSH in figures' [report](#), a report on [managing risks](#) to drivers, a [review](#) of accidents and injuries involving drivers, factsheets on [good practice](#) in managing risks to drivers and [campaigning](#) on OSH in the sector, a report on [reaching drivers](#) with OSH messages, a review of good practice

regarding the safety and health of [delivery and despatch riders](#), and a review of good practice in relation to the safety and health of [taxi drivers](#).

A number of publications were produced, including a report on [mental health promotion](#) in the workplace, a guide to using [economic incentives](#) to reward investment in OSH, a review of OSH risks in the [emergency services](#), a report on risks in the [construction, healthcare and HORECA](#) sectors, and a report on ways of assessing the '[health and safety culture](#)' in organisations.

COMMUNICATION, CAMPAIGNING AND PROMOTION

2011 saw the second and final year of the [Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Safe Maintenance](#). The Healthy Workplaces Campaigns are now the largest of their kind in the world, reaching the EFTA and pre-Accession and Candidate countries as well as the EU Member States. Continuing to reach out to millions of European workers, the most recent campaign has seen record levels of involvement, and aimed to raise awareness of the importance of maintenance for workers' safety and health, and the need to carry it out safely. Innovative organisations were also recognised at the [10th European Good Practice Awards](#), which were presented in Budapest on the World Day for Safety and Health at Work.



Good Practice Award winners receiving their certificates

The Safe Maintenance Campaign has continued to expand the number of partner organisations that the Agency works with, to multiply and amplify its messages. Some 53 organisations from the public and private sectors became [Official European Campaign Partners](#) for the Safe Maintenance Campaign, and helped to publicise the importance of safe maintenance through a variety of activities.



From left: María Luz Rodríguez, Spanish Secretary of State for Employment, László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EU-OSHA Director Christa Sedlatschek and Javier Ruiz, Vice-counsellor for Employment of the Basque Government

The Safe Maintenance Campaign finished with a closing event in November 2011, which also featured a two-day [Healthy Workplaces Summit](#), bringing together OSH experts and decision makers to discuss the results of the campaign and exchange good practice.

Other important awareness-raising events within the campaign included the [European Photo Competition](#), which received over 2,500 entries, and the [Healthy Workplaces Film Award](#) that the Agency presents for the best documentary on work-related health issues at the DOK Leipzig Film Festival.

The Agency also carried out the fieldwork of a pan-European opinion [poll of perceptions of OSH across Europe](#). Conducted by Ipsos Mori, it involved 36,000 interviews in more than 30 countries. Issues covered included active ageing and psychosocial risks.

The Agency produced more awareness-raising material featuring the popular cartoon character, Napo. This included an on [online kit for primary school teachers](#), including sample lesson plans, designed to help with the process of 'mainstreaming' OSH in schools. A DVD was also produced, focusing on workplace transport – entitled [Safe Moves](#), and a [clip "Lungs at work"](#) for the International No Tobacco Day.

The Agency has also continued to develop communication partnerships with the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry Directorate General, and the [Enterprise Europe Network](#), to help reach European businesses with OSH messages.

The Agency provided speakers or a stand and organised interesting activity programmes for media and visitors at a number of high-profile events throughout the year, including the World OSH Congress in Istanbul, the 12th ETUC Congress in Athens, the A + A International Trade Fair in Dusseldorf, and the Leipzig International Transport Forum.



DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

Discussions have begun relating to the drafting of the next Agency Strategy and the future development of our network, in the light of a mid-term evaluation of the current one, the results of which were presented to the Board in November.

OUTLOOK

2012 will see the publication of a series of reports which analyse the data that was gathered by the ESENER survey.

The Foresight study will come to a close in 2012: the end of the project will see the future scenarios that the project has identified – looking at how new technologies may impact on workers' safety and health, under a variety of circumstances – being disseminated to policymakers and a wider audience, and proposals are being put together for a follow-up to the first Foresight exercise.

The Agency will be supporting the creation of additional [Online interactive Risk Assessment \(OiRA\)](#) tools, adapted for the specific needs of particular workplaces and sectors, and it will continue to develop the community of developers and users of OiRA tools, and provide helpdesk assistance for developers.

2012 sees the launch of the new, two-year [Healthy Workplaces Campaign, on Working together for risk prevention](#), focusing on the importance of management leadership and worker participation in improving workplace safety and health. Also, the preparation phase for the Agency's Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2014-2015, provisionally entitled 'Practical Solutions for Psychosocial Risks,' is underway.

The Agency will publicise the [results of the Ipsos MORI poll](#) that it commissioned on attitudes to OSH, and to explore their significance.

The European Commission has designated 2012 as the [European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations](#), with the aim of highlighting the contribution that older people make to society and the economy, and providing better opportunities for older people to play their part in the labour market: the Agency will be supporting the European Year, and emphasising the importance of OSH if people are to continue working for longer.

Finally, the future development of the Agency's work will be addressed in a new EU-OSHA Strategy to be drafted in 2012 for adoption in 2013.



Winners of the photo competition and jury member

From left: Isa Kurt, Peter Rimmer, EU-OSHA Director Christa Sedlatschek, Saša Kosanović and Paweł Ruda

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, employers' and workers' organisations, as well as leading experts in each of the EU 27 Member States and beyond.

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