

Annual Review 2007
Summary of the Annual Report
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work



Key Activities in 2007

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) was involved in many different areas of occupational safety and health (OSH) in 2007. Its role is to collect, analyse and disseminate information on safety and health at work, and to promote a culture of prevention of accidents and ill health.

PROMOTING GLOBAL NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

Of great importance was the new [Community Strategy for Safety and Health at Work, 2007-2012](#), which will shape EU-OSHA's work over the coming years.

EU-OSHA played a key role in the launch of the Strategy, which aims to cut work-related accidents by a quarter across the EU and to reduce occupational illnesses.

Moreover, initial discussions with stakeholder groups were held on EU-OSHA's own strategy for 2009-13.

2007 saw the publication of an [external evaluation of the Agency](#), which focused especially on the way that EU-OSHA works with its network of focal points, usually the national health and safety authority in each Member State. The evaluation was generally positive, and will help EU-OSHA and focal points to cooperate more closely.

EU-OSHA helped to establish national focal points in Albania, Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through CARDS, a co-operation programme between the European Union and the Western Balkans.

COMMUNICATING KNOWLEDGE

The 2007 European campaign focused on musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), the most common form of work-related illness in Europe. '[Lighten the Load](#)', which highlighted the rehabilitation and reintegration of workers with MSDs, as well as prevention of MSDs themselves, culminated in the European Week for Safety and Health at Work from 22 to 26 October 2007, with a broad range of activities and events organised across Europe. To support the campaign, EU-OSHA produced a range of information materials, including reports on the [reintegration of workers](#) and [MSD prevention](#). The campaign also featured [Good Practice Awards](#), recognising organisations that

have made innovative contributions in tackling MSDs.

Much of the preparatory work on the forthcoming European campaign on Risk Assessment for 2008/9 was carried out. Campaigns are moving to a two-year cycle, giving more time for implementation and follow-up activities. They will also make use of a new financial support model.

The [Safe Start summit](#), held in March 2007 in Bilbao, was the closing event of the 2006 'Safe Start' campaign, dedicated to young people, and to ensuring that they have a safe and healthy start to working life. The summit brought EU policymakers, social partners and leading safety and health experts together to discuss the issues raised by the campaign. The European Good Practice Awards 2006 were also presented at the event.

2007 also saw the publication of the [evaluation of EU-OSHA's 2005 campaign, 'Stop that Noise'](#). The campaign performed well against all key evaluation criteria.

The second and final round of the [Healthy Workplace Initiative](#) took place in 2007. This is a campaign that has provided employers and employees in small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in the new EU Member States and the Candidate countries, with information on making the work environment safer, healthier and more productive.

Developments on the website in 2007 included a benchmarking exercise, assessing the site in terms of usability, accessibility, security etc. An online survey was carried out among website users. The online awareness-raising campaign has also continued, using Google AdWords. New web services were introduced, such as information alerts, a network search tool and RSS news feeds. More Single Entry Points were added to the site, gathering all available information on particular OSH issues.

Among the many events that EU-OSHA participated in throughout the year was OSH Cinema, a series of film events, including a screening of 'Il gioco della vita' ('The game of life') which won the 2006 'Safe Start' Campaign's video competition.

DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE

A report on [new and emerging biological risks](#) was produced by the European Risk Observatory (ERO), which is an integral part of EU-OSHA. The report aims to establish the state of knowledge in this fast-changing area, and was followed by a workshop in June 2007, which provided an opportunity for experts and policy makers to share knowledge and experience.

ERO also issued a report on [emerging psychosocial risks](#), which examines the connections between changes in the world of work and increased levels of stress and deterioration of mental and physical health.

In 2007 contracts were signed to carry out the European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER), which will provide real-time data on work to tackle psychosocial risks. The survey will identify what is currently being done, in both private and public sector workplaces.

EU-OSHA participated in the ERA-NET project, which aims at creating a common European approach to research on new and emerging risks in the workplace.

Furthermore, ERO made available the most recent research information on [nanotechnologies](#) and their possible impact in the workplace, and worked on a report on occupational skin exposure and work-related skin diseases. This report analyses Member States' policies and practices in this area, and includes guidelines and recommendations.

The Risk Observatory's 2007 report '[OSH in figures: Young workers – facts and figures](#)' was part of the ongoing 'OSH in figures' project, which aims to provide an evidence base for prevention and the identification of trends in health and safety.

EU-OSHA's [literature study on migrant workers](#) provides an overview of the most important health and safety issues affecting this particular group of workers.

A report and other information materials were prepared during 2007 on workers in the [hotel, restaurant and catering sector \(HORECA\)](#), and some of the particular risks that they face. A workshop, entitled 'Working safely in a multicultural HORECA sector', was held in Bilbao in February 2007. Moreover, the Agency developed a range of material on cleaning workers and related safety and health issues.

Information material was also produced that examines the [business case for good safety and health](#), and the connection between good health and safety and economic success both for individual businesses and national economies.

EU-OSHA also prepared a case studies report on making OSH an integral part of university level education.

OUTLOOK 2008

2008 will see a new approach to campaigning, with a move to a two-year cycle, starting with the Risk Assessment campaign (2008-2009). By extending the European campaign to run over a two-year period, we allow more time for preparation and follow-up, and to develop partnerships with EU-level stakeholders and other potential campaign partners.

In 2008, EU-OSHA will continue to work on developing methodologies for forecasting new and emerging risks, helping to make forecasting more systematic. The results of two major projects on carcinogens and occupational cancer are due to be published in 2008, as is the last in the series of four flagship reports on new and emerging risks, focusing on chemical risks.

Work will be carried out on OSH issues in the road transport sector, and the EU-OSHA will prepare 'OSH and Economic Performance: A Report on Economic Incentives', which is due to be published in 2009. This report will look at incentives that can be offered, through lower accident insurance premiums or tax rates, better banking conditions such as lower interest rates, or state subsidies, to encourage good OSH performance.