

How can you get involved?

On the Agency's Healthy Workplaces **campaign website** at <http://hw.osha.europa.eu> you will find a wide variety of **campaign material** in 22 EU languages:

- ▶ campaign summary,
- ▶ posters,
- ▶ fact sheets,
- ▶ powerpoint presentations,
- ▶ good practice case studies,
- ▶ forums for sharing ideas and finding out what others are doing,
- ▶ cartoon videos with the popular figure Napo,
- ▶ links to related sites,
- ▶ and much more...

You can **download** all this material and use it at your own events. You can distribute it among your stakeholders, partners or within your company or organisation.

Further activities you can get engaged with are:

- ▶ conferences, seminars and workshops,
- ▶ trainings,
- ▶ films, videos and multimedia,
- ▶ poster competitions and quizzes,
- ▶ suggestion schemes,
- ▶ exhibitions and open days,
- ▶ advertising and promotion campaigns,
- ▶ press conferences and media activities.

Good Practice Awards

Healthy Workplaces includes the **European Good Practice Awards** to recognise companies and organisations that have made outstanding and innovative contributions to promote an integrated management approach to risk assessment in the workplace.

Among the enterprises and organisations that enter the Award competition, national winners will be selected, and their Good practice example will be submitted to a European selection committee.

National contact points for your region

For more information on the Good Practice Awards and on 'How to get involved', contact the Agency's focal point in your country. There you can also get a resource kit that helps you organise your events.

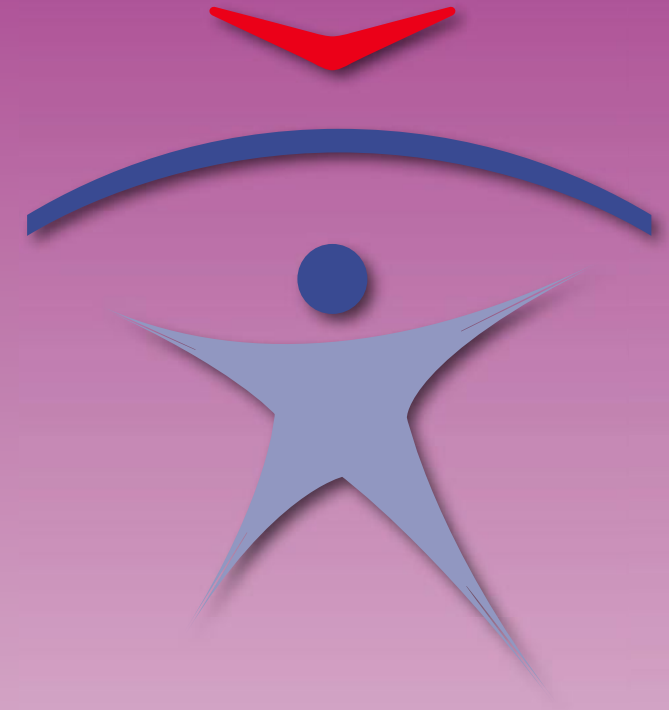
The contact details are on the Agency website at:
<http://hw.osha.europa.eu>



About the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work acts as a catalyst for developing and disseminating information to improve Europe's occupational safety and health (OSH). By bringing together representatives from governments, employers' and workers' organisations, as well as leading OSH experts in each of the EU-27 Member States and beyond, the Agency provides a reliable, balanced and impartial source of OSH information.

The European campaign is backed by the Council of the European Union Presidencies of Slovenia and France in 2008 and the Czech Republic and Sweden in 2009, by the European Parliament and the European Commission, and by the European social partners.



HEALTHY WORKPLACES

GOOD FOR YOU. GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

<http://hw.osha.europa.eu>



European Agency
for Safety and Health
at Work



Healthy Workplaces



HEALTHY WORKPLACES

Healthy Workplaces is a two-year European campaign which aims to promote an integrated management approach to risk assessment.

Risk assessment is the cornerstone of the European approach to occupational safety and health (OSH). There are good reasons for this. If the risk assessment process - the start of the risk management approach - is not done well or not done at all, the appropriate preventive measures are unlikely to be in place. Risk assessment is part of a good management approach; EU legislation, including the framework directive, is in place along with guidance, information and good practice resources.

What is needed is an integrated risk assessment approach that takes into account the different steps of risk assessment, the different needs of individual employers, the changing world of work, and a participatory approach involving everyone in the workplace.

The Agency will focus on communicating the general principles of integrated risk assessment, its importance for effective prevention, and that risk assessment is mandatory, necessary and feasible.

Run by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, the *Healthy Workplaces* campaign involves employers, workers, workers' safety representatives, practitioners, preventive services, policymakers and other stakeholders in improving risk assessment at the workplace level.

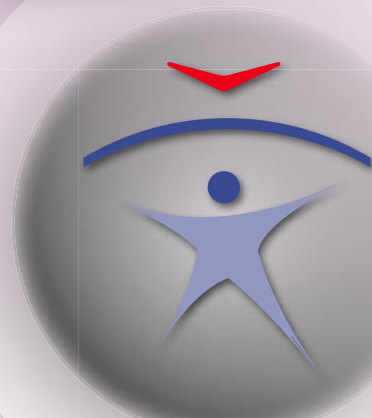
The campaign runs throughout 2008 and 2009, features two European Weeks of Safety and Health, in October 2008 and October 2009, and culminates in a major risk assessment summit in November 2009.

Healthy Workplaces is an opportunity to make Europe's workplaces safer and healthier.

What is a risk assessment?

Risk assessment is the process of evaluating health and safety risks arising from hazards in the workplace.

- A **hazard** is anything that may cause harm, such as chemicals, electricity, machinery and equipment, an open drawer, aspects of work organisation, etc.
- The **risk** is the chance or probability, high or low, that somebody could be harmed by these and other hazards.



A risk assessment is therefore a careful and systematic examination of all aspects of the work undertaken to consider what could cause injury or harm, whether the hazards could be eliminated and, if not, what preventive or protective measures are, or should be, in place to control the risks.

First eliminate the hazards and if it is not possible control the risks

Why is it an issue?

The need for improvement in risk assessment and its practical implementation was identified in an EU review of the framework directive 89/391, and its five 'daughter' directives.

The review found a **general lack of awareness**, in particular among SMEs, of what is required and how to carry out a risk assessment, and specifically that

- risk assessment is often considered a 'one-off' action and is not sustained,
- risks are not analysed and evaluated collectively; as a result, separate, uncoordinated measures are set in place,
- in the course of conducting superficial risk assessments the focus is put on identifying 'obvious and immediate risks'; long-term effects such as those caused by chemicals are being neglected,
- psychosocial risks and work organisation factors are rarely considered,
- the efficiency of the measures taken is not sufficiently supervised by employers.

Purpose of risk assessment

Employers in each workplace have a moral duty and a **legal responsibility** to ensure the safety and health of workers in every aspect related to work. A risk assessment enables effective measures to be taken to protect the safety and health of workers.

These include:

- preventing occupational risks,
- providing information and training to workers,
- putting in place the organisation and means to implement the necessary measures.

The risk assessment should be structured and applied to help employers and other people responsible to:

- identify the hazards in the workplace and those at risk,
- evaluate the risks associated with those hazards,
- determine what measures should be taken to protect the safety and health of employees and others, having due regard to current legislation,
- put in place the preventive and protective measures,
- monitor and review whether the measures in place are working or being implemented.

THE CAMPAIGN

Who can take part?

The campaign is **open to all organisations and individuals** at local, national and European level, including:

- employers - public and private sector - including SMEs,
- managers, supervisors and workers,
- trades unions and safety representatives,
- safety and Health institutions,
- OSH professionals and practitioners,
- training providers and the education community,
- regional and local OSH prevention and insurance services.