

Safe Start

Now is your chance to make sure that young people have a safe and healthy start to their working lives, and to promote risk awareness and risk prevention in enterprises, schools and colleges.

The European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2006 is an opportunity to participate in the **Safe Start** campaign to make workplaces safer and healthier for young people at work and for those about to enter the world of work.

Run by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, **Safe Start** seeks to involve young workers, their representatives, and their employers and supervisors. It also seeks to encourage the education community to prepare young people for work, and to involve individual schools, classrooms and students themselves.

Accidents

The rate of non-fatal accidents at work is at least 50% higher among those aged 18-24 years than in any other age category, according to Eurostat figures. There are a number of reasons, including:

- lack of training, experience and awareness of occupational safety and health (OSH), and
- the types of jobs and employment situations in which young people are placed.

A 16-year-old worker's legs were broken less than two hours into his first day at work. He fell from the footplate of an 18-ton refuse lorry and he was dragged underneath...

A 17-year-old girl lost part of a finger only one hour of starting her holiday job. Her fingers were crushed in a pie-making machine at the bakery where she worked...

An 18-year-old apprentice mechanic died four days after being engulfed in flames; he was helping his manager empty a mixture of petrol and diesel into a waste tank when the petrol exploded...

Risk prevention, education and awareness

The European Week seeks to promote improved safety and health at the workplace level by involving all relevant stakeholders.

In 2006, the campaign will also promote risk prevention and risk education in schools, colleges and the wider education community.

In the workplace:

- Young workers - promoting risk awareness and what to do when starting work
- Employers - providing safe and suitable work, training and supervision, and being aware of what to do when a young person starts work

In the education community:

- Schools and colleges - promoting risk awareness and risk prevention as an integral part of education to prepare young people for their first day at work and for their OSH responsibilities in later life
- Youth organisations - promoting risk awareness and risk prevention as an integral part of their activities to prepare young people for the wider world of work
- Vocational training centres - promoting risk awareness and risk prevention as an integral part of training to prepare young people for the world of work
- Education authorities - promoting mainstreaming of OSH risk awareness and risk prevention into education to prepare young people for the wider world of work

Who can take part?

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

- Safety and health institutions
- Public and private sector bodies, including SMEs
- Trades unions and safety representatives
- Managers, supervisors and workers
- Education Community - schools, colleges and education authorities
- Youth organisations
- Work experience and training providers

What can you do?

There are many initiatives and activities, and more examples are published on the Agency's website. Here are just a few ideas:

- Risk assessments
- Safety demonstrations
- Hazard spotting
- Film, video and multimedia
- Training, seminars and workshops
- Poster competitions and quizzes
- Suggestion schemes
- Exhibitions and Open Days
- Advertising and promotion campaigns
- Press conferences and media activities

Good practice awards and schools competition

The **Safe Start** campaign includes the annual Good Practice Awards to identify and recognise successful activities to promote young workers' health and safety, and to promote the inclusion of OSH education in schools, colleges and vocational training centres.

Examples of collaborative projects are particularly welcomed.

In addition, the Agency is proposing to organise competitions, including a Video Competition for schools to find the European Young Film Maker of the Year.



SAFE START!

How can you get involved?

- Show your commitment to a **Safe Start** for young people at work by signing the Agency's online 'Safe Start' campaign charter at <http://ew2006.osha.eu.int>.
- Download our campaign support materials.
- Use these materials to develop a strategy to raise awareness of the risks to young people at work, and solutions to eliminate these hazards and risks. The website contains numerous examples of tried and tested good practices, as well as forums for sharing ideas and finding out what other organisations are doing.
- Get in touch with your national focal point for further information and support. See the back of this leaflet for contact details.

To find out more about the campaign, visit our 'Safe Start' website at <http://ew2006.osha.eu.int>.

The site will include:

- multilingual information packs, Fact Sheets, Information Sheets with handy tips to help you organise and manage activities, and other useful resources
- ideas for activities and actions during the Week
- Good Practice case studies
- links to related sites, plus much more

The right education



the right protection from the first day at work

safe and healthy European workers of tomorrow

National contact points for your region

To receive a campaign pack, contact the Agency's focal point in your country:

IRELAND

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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 that improves 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's 25 Member States and beyond, the Agency provides a reliable, balanced and impartial source of OSH information.

The European Week campaign is backed by the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies of the EU in 2006, by the European Parliament and the European Commission, and by the European Social Partners.

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EUROPEAN WEEK OCTOBER 2006

SAFE START!

A European campaign dedicated to young people to ensure a safe and healthy start to their working lives



SAFE START CAMPAIGN

EUROPEAN WEEK FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

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