

Prevent wishes you
a happy 2009 !

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Editorial

Prevent Assist replaces the Full Service

Prevent is a knowledge institute which has expertise in the vast field of prevention and can draw on the skills of an extensive range of experts. To make this knowledge more accessible to its customers and partners, Prevent is offering a new set of services aimed at safety advisers and companies: Prevent Assist.

Prevent Assist has two parts: Corporate Assist, a service offering help to companies, and Personal Assist, a personalised service offering help to safety advisers.

Prevent Corporate Assist

The Corporate Assist service provides support at corporate level by means of publications, newsletters, campaign kits, a knowledge database, a documentation centre and a media library.

Prevent Personal Assist

Personal Assist is a personalised service offering help to safety advisers. Safety advisers have increasing need of personalised advice accompanying the information they receive. The Working Life Service Centre responds to this need by offering structured support for the questions that subscribers ask.

In order to exchange his experience and expertise with his colleagues, the safety adviser will soon also be able to go to the Prevent Forum, a virtual meeting-place at www.prevent.be where you can ask and answer questions, let others know about situations you have experienced and exchange solutions and good practices.

Personalised advice and the Prevent Forum are the main ingredients of the Personal Assist service, along with additional personal advantages such as the newsletter and participation in various briefings. Safety advisers who currently have a Full Service subscription will receive a personal membership card giving them access to the new services. Subscribers will shortly receive a letter explaining about the new service and a membership card. Keep an eye on your mail box...



I wish you every success in setting up a prevention policy and hope that Prevent Assist can be of assistance in the process.

Marc De Greef, Managing Director

Networking

Prevent hosts the scientific office of PEROSH

PEROSH - Partnership for European Research on Occupational Safety and Health – is a network of 13 occupational health and safety and research institutes from 12 Member States, based on swapping information and conducting common research projects.

The Danish Research Centre for the Working Environment is currently chair of PEROSH. Prevent is part of the network and will run its scientific office from January 2009.

The scientific office provides day-to-day support to the chair and the network as well as coordinating the network, by monitoring:

- the exchange of knowledge between member institutes;
- the launch and implementation of research projects;
- dialogue with the European Commission;
- the network's communication and marketing;
- the updating and development of websites.



The scientific office is currently looking for a coordinator. A job advertisement has been distributed via the network's members and the European Agency in Bilbao. Candidates for the post will be selected in early 2009.

More information: <http://perosh.org>

Conference

Closing event of the Move Europe campaign: European conference on promoting occupational health



Under the title 'Healthy Work, Healthy Lifestyle, Healthy Business', a European conference will be held in Perugia, Italy, on 27 and 28 April 2009. It will be organised by the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion and forms the closing event of the Move Europe campaign.

Improving workers' health makes sense financially

The conference will focus on the contribution that occupational health makes to the success of the company and of society as a whole. Many people are overweight, suffer from stress or smoke regularly. This has implications for their work.

The high figures for absenteeism and early retirement represent a considerable outlay for companies and society. The Move Europe campaign is spotlighting health and lifestyle themes (stopping smoking, healthy eating, physical exercise, stress) as elements in a company's policy on health.

Examples on the programme

The conference will consider the campaign's results. The emphasis will be on interaction. The main themes will be dealt with at the plenary session, and companies will present their initiatives during parallel sessions so that enough opportunity is left for discussion.

Prevent is responsible for running the Move Europe campaign in Belgium. Companies still have the chance to evaluate their health policy and/or sign the charter (see www.move-europe.be).

Prevent will be playing an active part in the conference. Marc De Greef will give a talk at the plenary session among other things. Belgian companies will also attend in order to present their projects.

Practical information

The conference will be held in English, with translation into Italian provided during the plenary session. Participation at the conference is free of charge. You can check the conference programme and register at www.move-europe.be/p/perugia2009. As the number of participants is limited, do not delay in subscribing.

Older workers

The Leonardo da Vinci 'Ageing at Work' project



Prevent and several European partners are implementing the AGEING AT WORK project with financial support from the European Commission's Leonardo da Vinci programme.

Ageing workers

Rapid population ageing is one of the main issues facing society today. The same is true of professional organisations, which are increasingly confronted with labour market shortages. Firstly, the population – including the working population – is ageing, with more and more workers reaching retirement age. Secondly, many workers are stopping work early under early retirement schemes or for other reasons. The result is not only the loss of a huge amount of knowledge and experience, but also the risk of an acute manpower shortage – a problem which stands to get worse, according to forecasts.

Training

As part of the AGEING AT WORK project, a study of the scientific literature and a needs analysis have been conducted. The partners are also developing a free training programme (in Dutch) aimed at human resources professionals and offering knowledge and strategies which will help keep older employees at work for longer. The main emphasis is on these workers' health.

More information: www.ageingatwork.eu, ageingatwork@prevent.be.

Training

(Dis-)ability case manager: reintegration and job retention – individual support for workers

Population ageing and the decreasing proportion of young people, labour market shortages, long-term employment for high-risk groups – all are hot topics at the moment. In view of these developments, it is more vital than ever to invest in people at work. A focus on occupational health and safety, job retention and reintegration is essential for the future.

A reintegration and job retention method

Prevent is working in this area by introducing disability management in Belgium. The aim of this method is to help workers with health problems or long-term disabilities by optimising and supporting their return to work and job retention with their existing employer. Disability management is based on two pillars: systematic action at company level and coordination by a single central actor of the individual process of reintegration and job retention for workers with health problems or disabilities.

(Dis-)ability case manager

This central actor is the (dis-)ability case manager, who accompanies the process – in terms of both content and procedure – for anyone in need of specific knowledge and competencies in this area. Competencies of this kind are rarely found in the field. In the light of this, Prevent has launched a (dis-)ability case manager training course, which runs from October 2008 to February 2009. As various different actors can take on the role of (dis-)ability case manager, the training course is aimed at a multidisciplinary public drawn from human resources, occupational health and safety services, mutual health insurance funds, rehabilitation centres, insurance companies, trade unions, job-seeker support centres and other backgrounds.

The course

The first two modules, 'Introduction to the (dis-)ability case manager method' and 'Legislation', have just finished.

The next modules are devoted to three aspects: seeking an optimal balance between the requirements imposed by work and the worker's abilities; learning various communication techniques for reconciling the actors' different viewpoints, expectations and interests; and introducing a disability management policy in the company.

The first training course attracted considerable interest and has now been completed. The course will be offered again next year, starting on 29 September 2009. Sessions will be held every week until 2 February 2010 (in Dutch). More information: training@prevent.be, 02.643 44 44.

Campaign

Conference: 'Risk analysis: the implications for companies'

As part of the European Week for Safety and Health at Work, Assuralia launched its risk analysis awareness-raising campaign at a conference entitled 'Risk analysis: the implications for companies' held in Brussels on 14 October.

Organised by Assuralia in collaboration with Prevent, the conference proved a great success, with over 200 occupational safety and health professionals attending.

The importance of risk analysis

By way of introduction, Marc De Greef drew attention to the importance of risk analysis

and its role in preventing accidents. Willy Imbrechts from the Federal Public Service for Employment outlined the legislative framework and considered the measures which have been taken at European and national level. Benoît Hubin, a safety adviser and trainer at Prevent, used a concrete example to convince the audience of the importance of prevention. Raf Thierens explained current practice at BASF as regards working with third parties: the company has a particularly comprehensive system for managing contractors and subcontractors. After this highly illuminating practical example, Georges Lischetti, a technical expert at the

Campaign

Campaign kit 2009



The 2009 campaign kit is available. It features a range of useful materials for setting up an awareness-raising and prevention campaign at your company. The campaign is based around three themes: violence and harassment at work, health and safety on the way to work and fire prevention.

Awareness-raising material

The campaign kit consists of six posters on the three themes (four on the main theme and one each on the other two themes); two leaflets for workers – one on aggression at work and the other on harassment at work; three documents offering advice on what to do about each theme; a multi-step plan; and a CD-Rom containing numerous tools (PowerPoint presentations, checklists, tips, etc.). The kit also contains the 2009 diary, reproducing the posters, the tips and numerous other points of advice.

The campaign kit is included in the Full Service subscription: subscribers will automatically receive a copy. For more information: tel.: 02 643 44 44, e-mail: customer@prevent.be



Alsace Regional Health Insurance Fund (CRAM), presented an occupational risk management tool called 'Synergie'.

Finally, Assuralia sent Jean-Claude Debussche to point out the essential role played by the insurance companies in the prevention of accidents at work.

For more details or to download the PowerPoint presentations, go to <http://fr.prevent.be/p/7KKE6X>

Survey

Raising young people's awareness of the need to work healthily and safely: a long-term project

Assuralia and Prevent are continuing their campaign targeting young people, and seeking broad support for their actions.

Becoming safety-aware

Raising young people's awareness of the need to work healthily and safely is a long-term project. Initial safety awareness-raising should take place at school, where young people learn about basic aspects of behaviour. This translates later into a safety culture in the workplace. Today's students are tomorrow's workers and employers, and the education system thus has a key role to play.

Platform

Assuralia wishes to create a platform which the various stakeholders can use to work together on a specific policy for the education system regarding young people's safety. In previous years, Assuralia and Prevent have campaigned to bring about a decrease in the number of work accidents affecting young people.

e-learning

PreventStart: a new e-learning programme on safety and health

Prevent will shortly be launching PreventStart, a new e-learning tool for occupational safety and health, offered in conjunction with the multimedia company Opikanoba.

The new tool will enable workers who have just joined a company and those who wish to build or brush up on their knowledge of occupational health and safety to learn at their own speed to assess different risks in the workplace and take suitable measures to avoid accidents. Companies will also be able to personalise the tool by adding their logo, their emergency numbers, and so on.

Internet course

PreventStart may be taken entirely on the Internet. For each worker, the employer can choose from among 11 available modules those it considers to be relevant. The topics covered are: actors within the company; work posture and handling loads; electricity; fires and explosions; accidents; tidiness, cleanliness and hygiene; work equipment, machines and tools; stairs and scaffolds; hazardous products; and safety signage. The user-friendly learning environment enables the employer to track its workers' progress and their test results.

Interactivity

After completing each module, the worker has to take a short test to check whether he has understood the material properly. Once the worker has completed the prescribed modules, a certificate is automatically issued. The online learning tool is easy to use, with alternating texts and audio applications. The illustrations consist of photos and humorous drawings which aim to provoke thought.

Adapted to the company

Companies which subscribe to PreventStart can adapt the training. For example, they can add their own logo, so that the training is presented with the company's personal look. In addition, the training modules can have photos (e.g. of the safety adviser), telephone numbers (e.g. emergency numbers) and evacuation plans added to them. If necessary, specific modules can also be added.

To give the campaign more effective support, all actors in this area are invited to engage in dialogue and share their ideas and experiences.

Survey

A survey of young people has also been launched in order to assess their interest in safety and health at school and at work, as well as their knowledge of prevention. The objective is to collect opinion from as varied a group as possible (including students taking different subjects and in different parts of the educational system, etc.). In the course of the survey, an interest has also been taken in the best methods for approaching the contact group and in ways of helping young people to identify with the message of safety and health in the workplace. All the stakeholders have been invited to publicise the survey form and encourage young

people to fill in the questionnaire. Educational institutions have been asked to distribute the questionnaire to students in higher education.

Lecture at Secura on 25 March 2009

Assuralia and Prevent are organising a lecture on raising young people's awareness of occupational safety and health, during the Secura fair on 25 March 2009, from 10 am to midday. The results of the survey of young people currently in progress will be presented.

The form can be filled in online at:

<http://www.prevent.be/p/enquetejeunes>

Students who fill in the questionnaire enter the draw to win a number of fine prizes. These will be awarded during the Secura fair.

Prevent is a multidisciplinary institute centred on the prevention of occupational risks through the promotion of the quality of working conditions and the improvement of work organisation. The institute provides support, advice and information for businesses and organisations, such as occupational accident insurers, external prevention and protection services, sectoral organisations, the social partners, the government and other societal actors.

Prevent is dedicated to the development, collection and mobilisation of occupational safety and health knowledge. To this end, the institute carries out research and studies centred on practical experience. In addition, it gathers information and documentation from all over the world. Lastly, the institute contributes actively to the development of regional, national, and international networks in order to exchange information and experience.

The institute transfers its accumulated knowledge using various means such as consulting, disseminating information and documentation, writing and editing publications, developing training programs and carrying out information and awareness campaigns. The institute gives particular attention to the issue of occupational safety and health in SMEs.

prevent

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PreventStart will be available from January 2009 (in Dutch only). You can take out an annual subscription to it, paying a fixed price per participant. The price per participant decreases according to a sliding scale (see order form). For more information: Contact centre, 02/643 44 44, e-mail : customer@prevent.be. Full details about PreventStart and a demo will be available at www.prevent.be/p/preventstart from January.