

Editorial

A Benelux conference on risk evaluation

During the conference on 25 June 2008, social partners and political leaders from Benelux came together to discuss the theme: "Risk evaluation: a key element of prevention culture?"

The Benelux conference was intended to survey the implementation of risk evaluation and the risk inventory in companies in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Representatives of the authorities and of employers' and workers' organisations from the three countries attended the conference.



During three thematic sessions, the participants deepened their understanding of the strategic aspects of the risk evaluation process, exchanged experiences and good practices, and looked at the resources available to companies, the legal framework, and the strategies and factors which contribute to a global culture of prevention.

The thematic sessions related to the practice of risk evaluation, cross-border working, workers' mobility and future prospects. Each session was introduced by a keynote speaker and followed by a discussion panel during which participants had the opportunity to exchange their experiences. The members of the panel presented their viewpoints on the basis of set statements.

At the end of the conference, the three Benelux ministers responsible for work and employment, Joëlle Milquet (Belgium), Piet Hein Donner (the Netherlands) and François Biltgen (Luxembourg), signed a joint declaration.

In signing this Benelux charter, the ministers demonstrated their shared desire to subscribe to the objectives of the European strategy for health and safety at work, and to improve collaboration and exchanges of information and experiences between the three countries.

The charter is based on a series of essential principles which are consistent with the objectives of the European Commission's Strategic Note on Health and Safety at Work 2007-2012 and are intended to protect workers against occupational risks.

View the charter on Prevent's website: <http://fr.prevent.be/p/7FYGXJ>



Marc De Greef, president

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The Move Campaign

Companies act to promote health in the workplace

The promotion of occupational health is a vital element of the Move Europe campaign. Within the context of this campaign, companies are being given the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to occupational health. Employers are invited to sign a charter of good practice, and to get involved in activities which benefit the health of their workers.

Five companies have already signed the charter: what about you?

By signing the Move charter, the management demonstrates a genuine interest in the health of its personnel. The declaration expresses the desire to promote a health policy and to set up the necessary initiatives. This is a worthwhile approach, and the five companies which have already signed the charter have set a good example. On the move-europe.be website you will find a list of signatories, as well as full details about the charter.



A campaign, an evaluation, and good practices

The Move Europe campaign is centred on health in general, and in particular on the themes of physical exercise, smoking, diet and stress. The objective is clear: to encourage companies to play a part in improving the health of the population, starting with their own employees. The Company Health Check is there to help them. Using this online questionnaire, companies can evaluate the quality of their health policy, and this has already been done by over 400 Belgian companies! In addition, on the basis of the answers, practical advice is sent out to companies directly by mail.

Move Europe is looking for interesting initiatives and models which it can publicise as examples of good practice.

Move Europe is a campaign initiated by the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion. In Belgium, the campaign is coordinated by Prevent. The campaign is taking place in collaboration with the Flemish Institute for Health Promotion, EducaSanté, Fares/VRGT, Idewe and Partena.
For more information visit www.move-europe.be

ISO 9001-2000 certification for the Prevent group

As a trusted partner in occupational health, safety and welfare, Prevent's position in relation to its clients and partners is reaffirmed with the 9001-2000 quality certificate. The certificate was obtained by the group in 2005 for its extensive skills in terms of developing, gathering and using knowledge on occupational welfare. Our knowledge derives from research, advice, information and documentation and the creation of educational materials, training programmes and information and awareness-raising campaigns.

In June 2008, the certification was confirmed after an independent audit, and from now on includes the activities of PreventLux, the Centre for the Promotion of Occupational Welfare, and the Prevent Academy for Working Life. In this way, Prevent is working to strengthen the special relationship it has with its clients and partners.

Research

European workshop on psychosocial risks at work

On 8 and 9 April 2008, the European Risk Observatory at the European Agency for Occupational Safety and Health organised, in collaboration with Prevent, a workshop on emerging psychosocial risks.

The workshop, which took place on the premises of the FPS Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, served as a meeting-place for decision-makers, social partners and experts to discuss and explore the results of the "Expert forecast on emerging psychosocial risks related to occupational safety and health" report, published in December 2007.

This report reveals the main psychosocial risks at present, by means of interviews with a panel of experts. As a complement to this, a study of the literature on the subject was carried out in order to support and supplement the results obtained.

During the workshop, the discussion was inspired by the main themes of the report, with a presentation being made on each one. They included precarious working conditions, work/life balance, aggression and harassment at work, older workers, stress, and the European Union Mental Health Pact.

Over the course of two days, specialists from the European authorities, the ILO, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, research institutions and the social partners presented their visions and points of view on the current state of affairs, research priorities, necessary actions and possible preventive measures.

The participants concluded, among other things, that the report represented a vital step towards achieving a better understanding of psychosocial risks, and hence developing solutions. They also recommended the performance of complementary research in certain key areas, for example in order to develop appropriate policies and interventions at the organisational level and in the workplace.

A report on the workshop will soon be available on the website of the European Agency, <http://osha.europa.eu/en> (under Publications/Factsheets).

XVIIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work

The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work is the world's largest international event in occupational safety and health. It aims at contributing to the prevention of occupational accidents and the protection of workers' health through the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences on new technologies related to safety at work, on preventing occupational diseases, and on safety and health cooperative projects. The XVIIIth World Congress is organised by ILO, ISSA and KOSHA.

The ISSA International Sections on Electricity (presided by the Berufsgenossenschaft Feinmechanik und Elektrotechnik in Cologne, Germany) and Information (presided by Prevent) organised the 7th International Film and Multimedia Festival as an integral part of the XVIIIth World Congress. The Festival attracted 115 films and 50 multimedia applications from 25 countries. All selected products in pre-judging were available to the World Congress participants in a Film/Multimedia Corner. Participants had the possibility to give a presentation of their multimedia applications to the audience. All applications are presented in the program book of the World Congress.

Prize awarding

The International Film Jury awarded three first prizes for the following films:

Agir pour prevenir l'harcelement sexuel en entreprise - Le deuxieme Observatoire in Switzerland
The Nick of Time - Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Council of Labor Affairs in Taiwan, Republic of China
Animation in Safety@Work - Workplace Safety and Health Council and ST Engineering from Singapore

Special awards were made to three films:

- Prevention of low back pain, KOSHA, Korea
- Le stress au travail, INRS, France
- Accidente real – importancia de la carta, Tescur, Peru.

The International Multimedia Jury awarded three first prizes for the following multimedia applications:

- Picknickkorb zur Vermeidung von Stressanfällen - BG Nahrungsmittel und Gaststätten in Mannheim, Germany
- First 4 weeks - Industrial Accident Prevention Association, Canada
- Catering Industry Accident Studies (CATIAS) - Occupational Safety & Health Council, Hong Kong

Campaign

Assuralia to launch a national awareness-raising campaign on risk analysis in October

The "European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work" – organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao) – is focusing this year and next year on risk analysis. This campaign aims to convince employers and workers that any company, regardless of its size, can master the risk analysis technique and conduct high-quality analyses, provided it uses the right tools and involves the people concerned. Assuralia is supporting the development of these tools in order to lighten companies' workload.

Assuralia, the professional association of insurance companies, is involved in the campaign, organising a series of activities, including a conference on 14 October 2008. At the conference, several speakers will be presenting their vision on various themes relating to risk analysis. The objective is to put the spotlight on prevention and the necessity of carrying out a risk analysis, and to show employers the advantages of systematic risk management.

The conference will take place at the Diamant conference centre in Brussels on 14 October, starting at 1.30 pm. For more information, phone 02 643 44 44.

Managing an ageing workforce Initiatives and measures at macro level

Prevent organised a workshop on ageing workers, focusing on initiatives and measures on macro level in the public and private sector.

The workshop was chaired and introduced by Prof. Marc De Greef, Managing director of Prevent.

Policies and practices at institutional level were presented by : Dr. Karl Kuhn, president of the European Network for Work Health Promotion, and Dr. Gert Gust-Gajewski, president of the ILO Association of the Philippines.

Policies and practices at sector and company level were addressed by : Marc Sapir, former director ETUI-REHS, Lieven Carron, President Prebes, Belgium, Dr. Sang Choi, Professor Wisconsin University, USA, Dr. Karl Körpert, Deputy Manager AUVA, Austria.

The Questions and Answers session were chaired by: Maureen Shaw, President and CEO IAPA, Canada. Marc De Greef and Maureen Shaw addressed the conclusions of the workshop.

Training

Long-term sick leave: how to avoid it

Training as a (Dis-)Ability Case Manager in reintegration and job retention: individual support for employees.

The longer an employee is off work due to long-term health problems and/or functional limitations, the lower the chances that he will return to his job. In practice, a number of factors hinder the transition from work disability to fitness for work.

To steer a process of reintegration or job retention successfully, it is important for a single central actor to coordinate everything. This actor needs special knowledge and skills: what does the current legislative framework have to say on this subject? Which employment-promoting measures and support services can be used? Which different actors are involved in the process, and how can the various visions and actions be brought into line with one another?

Using the (Dis-) Ability Case Management method ensures that reintegration can be accompanied both substantively and as a process, thereby creating significant added value for both employee and employer. This training course is being organised as a follow-on from the Intro_DM project.

Practical information

When? On Tuesday, from 7 October 2008 to 10 February 2009. The course consists of 13 effective teaching days, and three interim days for exchanging experiences are also scheduled.

Where? Kasteel de Maurissens, Weligerveld 6, B-3212 Pellenberg

Price? €1,500.00, including course texts, examination entry fee and student registration with Prevent. The one-day price for a single module is €150. €500 for examination entry without taking the course.

More information and the complete training programme can be found at www.introdm.be.

Enrolments via training@prevent.be

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.

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