

Editorial

On 1 June, Prevent Academy held an open day: the courses for the 2010-2011 academic year were presented, as well as several special dissertations by course participants specialising in various fields, who will now be returning to their companies to apply their knowledge there and help others with it. After all, this is our goal: continuous education and training should serve your organisation.

Knowledge and always having the right information are important assets in a fast-changing society, in which new risks require suitable preventive measures. This is why Prevent Academy offers a wide selection of courses which stress the acquisition of practical knowledge and skills, a range of interactive workshops, and further training and study days on topical subjects. It is why Prevent Academy works with partners who make their expertise available to course participants: the UAMS; the Antwerp Provincial Safety Institute (*Antwerps Provinciaal Veiligheidsinstituut*); KU Leuven for the Lucina courses; the Catholic University College Ghent (*Katholieke Hogeschool Sint-Lieven*) for the legally recognised training course for qualification as a type A energy expert; the NAVB for courses in the prevention of work accidents and occupational diseases in the construction sector. It is also why Prevent Academy attaches so much importance to maintaining contact with its alumni, because training never stops, and exchanging experiences makes an ongoing contribution to improved welfare at work.

It is also important for experiences relating to health and safety at work to be exchanged at European level, if Europe intends to meet the economic crisis head-on and get more people back into high-quality work. New Member States can take advantage of the years of European experience in this area to get up to speed quickly. Prevent has undertaken to give training to Romanian occupational physicians and rehabilitation therapists. You can read more on this subject in this issue.

Closer to home, it was with some pride that Prevent Academy awarded the 'Golden Giraffe' for the most original final dissertation. This year the honour went to Ilse Aertgeerts, a level 2 trainee safety adviser and employee of Tessenderlo Chemie. Her dissertation, entitled *Improving and coaching safety behaviour*, went down particularly well because she managed to strike a balance between the technical, practical aspects of safety and the importance of human behaviour as a factor affecting welfare at work.



Marc De Greef, Managing Director

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TRAINING

More Disability Case Managers qualify

Six men and women from various different sectors and a range of backgrounds officially qualified as Disability Case Managers on 25 March. They will support and optimise the process of reintegration and job retention with their existing employer for workers with long-term health problems or functional disabilities. They were taught the knowledge and skills to support this process during the Dutch-language Disability Case Manager training course at Prevent Academy. During their diploma award ceremony on 25 March, they were treated to an account by Mr Wolfgang Zimmerman, executive director of Nidmar (the Canadian National Institute of Disability Management and Research), of his personal experience of reintegration at work after a work accident and his subsequent efforts to promote greater workplace safety.



It was the second time that Prevent had organised the Disability Case Manager course. On 22 April 2009, Belgium's first disability case managers received their diplomas. The course consists of six modules focusing on legislation, job analysis and job matching, communication, introducing a Disability Management policy in practice and a case study. The next course will be spread over 15 Tuesdays and runs from 28 September 2010 to early February 2011 at Kasteel De Maurisens in Pellenberg.

For more information: training@prevent-academy.be and www.prevent-academy.be.

PUBLICATION

New website about Disability Management in Belgium

At the end of April, Prevent launched the website www.disability-management.be. It is the website for information about reintegration and job retention for workers who face health problems and/or functional disabilities. The website offers answers to questions such as: How do you develop a policy on reintegration and job retention? How do you support a worker who is in danger of dropping out or has already dropped out? What measures does legislation provide to support the process of reintegration and job retention? What activities are being set up in Belgium which relate to the Disability Management methodology?

The website offers news, background information, practical tools and good examples of organisations that have developed and implemented a policy on reintegration or job retention. It is also a forum for the different actors involved in reintegration and job retention for workers with health problems and/or functional disabilities.

The website was developed as part of the project DM@Work, which is elaborating the Disability Management methodology at business level. Prevent has received assistance from ACT Désiron and financial support from ESF Flanders for the project.

For more information: marthe.verjans@prevent.be.

CONFERENCE

Second International Forum on Prevention Culture at Work

The First International Forum on Prevention Culture at Work, in March 2009, laid the foundations for recognising prevention culture and health and safety at work as a fundamental human right. On 5 and 6 May 2010, international actors considered the relationship between welfare at work and corporate social responsibility, this being the central theme of the forum that was organised this year by the "Observatorio Internacional de la Cultura Preventiva" (International Observatory for Prevention Culture) on the Spanish islands Gran Canaria and Tenerife.

Prevent was represented at the forum by its managing director, Marc De Greef, who spoke on the role of health promotion at work in corporate social responsibility and the link between the latter and reintegration strategies at work. On behalf of Prevent, Marc De Greef defended the position that health promotion at work and welfare at work in general are always an integral part of corporate social responsibility, since health promotion fosters investment in human capital and thus contributes to sustainable growth and long-term shareholder value.

More information about the second International Forum on Prevention Culture at Work:

<http://obintcp.org/forosculturapreventiva/ii-foro-internacional>

CAMPAIGN

Preventie & Interim and Prevent raise working students' awareness of health and safety at work

During the holiday periods, the agency-based temporary employment sector traditionally finds jobs for a large number of students. In fact, since 1999, the number of students with summer jobs has doubled. During that same period, the number of work accidents has fallen by 60%, and the degree of seriousness of those accidents has dropped by 52%. This extremely positive trend is due to the joint efforts of the temporary employment sector, the client companies and the temporary workers themselves, partly in connection with the annual awareness-raising campaign for working students organised by Preventie & Interim.

This year, in conjunction with Prevent, Preventie & Interim is organising the campaign for the twelfth time, in order to raise young people's awareness of health and safety at work in a light-hearted way. The campaign aims to help ensure that the positive trend in work accidents from previous years is continued, and that young people adopt the right attitude to working safely right from their first work experience.



The campaign runs from June to September 2010. By means of a few easily accessible and fun tools, it imparts the basics of safe and healthy working to young people.

The **safety passport** is a handy, light-hearted, pocket-sized working tool for young students. The booklet contains general safety tips, a list of 'don'ts' for working students, tips on certain types of work such as postal delivery and maintenance work, tips on personal protective equipment and an overview of training courses that help them get off to a safe start: using utility knives, food slicers, pallet trucks, hygiene in the hospitality and catering trade, basic safety training (B-VCA) and hazardous products.

The great **national safety competition** for temporary working students runs from June to September 2010. Young people are in with a chance of winning a laptop, an iPhone or cinema tickets every month if they enter the online game. The game is a fun way of drawing their attention to the risks of working in certain roles, such as waiter or clerical worker, and they learn the basic safety rules on avoiding work accidents.

A **CD-Rom** is available for working students with information about subjects such as the work station datasheet, safety signs, legislation, a course about temporary work, training sessions (using utility knives, food slicers, pallet trucks, hygiene in the hospitality and catering trade), FAQs, the course on saving your back and an update of the course on signs including the new pictograms for hazardous products.

All components of the campaign are brought together on the mini-site for working students:

<http://www.p-i.be/nl/jobstudenten>

Courses in health and safety at work in Romania

Prevent is leading an international project named TOMRO (Technical assistance for the interoperability of the occupational health service providers on standard databases) which aims to develop a Romanian network of occupational health and safety services, with the ultimate goal of reintegrating people into the working population. TOMRO is receiving financial support from the Romanian government and the European Community.

The project aims to increase the level of medical screening of the active population in Romania from 25% to 75%, make information about health dangers relating to the five leading risks fully available and improve the collection and distribution of data about occupational and work-related diseases through standardisation and computer use.

Between May and November 2010, 12 ten-day training sessions will be organised, at which a total of 300 Romanian occupational physicians and 100 rehabilitation therapists will be trained. According to Prof. Eugenia Naghi, who has taken part in the pilot course, the strength of the course lies in the opportunity it gives to participants to learn from European experience in social and financial management, methods for evaluating the quality of prevention services, data processing, legislation and the different ways in which European directives are applied at individual Member State level. The participants immediately apply the knowledge they acquire to concrete situations and exercises. The Romanian government will also receive advice on improving communication about health and safety at work. Among other ways, this can be achieved by improving performance in terms of collecting figures about occupational and work-related diseases and passing these figures on to the responsible authorities. Finally, the project will help occupational health and safety services cater to the market more effectively with quality services which are tailored to clients' requirements. Prevent is collaborating for the TOMRO project with experts from international institutes such as the Finnish Institute for Occupational Health (FIOH) and Romtens and Romair Consulting SRL, two Romanian partners.

For more information: rik.opdebeeck@prevent.be.

PUBLICATION

Prevent 2009 activity report now online

Prevent's activity report for 2009 is now available on the website www.prevent.be. The report gives readers a thematic survey of the activities that Prevent undertook last year.

2009 was the year in which the two-year Move Europe campaign of the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion came to an end. Five companies were awarded a certificate of good practice by Prevent. Over six months later, the follow-on campaign was launched, on promoting mental health in the workplace. For this, Prevent has developed the Mental Health Company Check, which organisations can use to check their progress in developing a mental health promotion policy. Healthy ageing at work and the reintegration of workers with health problems and/or a functional disability, two other topical social themes, were key subjects at the second Benelux conference on welfare at work in May 2009. At around the same time, the Belgian Hires Plus (Health in Restructuring) conference was held, at which policy recommendations were formulated to ensure that workers' health plays a more prominent role in restructuring programmes.

Prevent continued its work on the different structural components of welfare policy in 2009. Ergonomics is a cornerstone of any health policy at work, and was the subject of numerous consultancy assignments and courses at Prevent Academy in 2009. Prevent also published the exercise book "Spaar je rug" ("Save your back") and collected examples of good practice to do with the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders in the horticultural and agricultural sector. SMEs and young people at work were the focus of attention in the campaigns Pro Safe (SME) and "Van school naar werk: samen werken aan een veilige en gezonde loopbaan" ("From school to work: working together on a safe and healthy career"), among other activities.

You can read more about Prevent's work on risk evaluation tools, safety culture, the economic impact of welfare at work and the activities per centre (research, monitoring, consultancy, publications, training courses, information, marketing and public affairs) in the complete 2009 activity report on the Prevent website, in the section "About Prevent".

Read the complete 2009 activity report at www.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.

prevent

Rue Gachardstraat 88/4
B-1050 Brussels
prevent@prevent.be
www.prevent.be
T + 32 (0) 2 643 44 44
F + 32 (0) 2 643 44 40