

# **PROMOTING QUALITY AT WORK IN AN ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION**

## **INFORMATION FOR SAFE, HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE JOBS**

**Final Version**

**Work Programme for 2006**

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## 1 FOREWORD

According to its founding Regulation 2062/94, 1643/95, 1654/03 and 1112/2005, the objective of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work is:

“In order to improve the working environment, as regards the protection of the safety and health of workers as provided for in the Treaty and successive Community strategies and action programmes concerning safety and health at the workplace, the aim of the Agency shall be to provide Community bodies, Member States, the social partners and those involved in the field of safety and health at work with technical, scientific and economic information of use in the field of safety and health at work.”

The Agency started work in September 1996 in Bilbao, Spain, becoming fully operational by 1999. During this time, it established a network of focal points in each Member State and developed basic information activities within three key areas:

- Information network – building the links
- Information projects – collecting knowledge
- Information services – communicating knowledge

Following the publication of the Community Strategy for Safety and Health at Work 2002-2006 the Agency has gradually aligned its work programme to the tasks and priorities identified in this strategy document. As a new, revised strategy is expected from 2007 amendments to the Rolling Work Programme may be necessary in order to review the planned Agency activities in 2007 to 2009.

Since the enlargement of the European Union on 1 May 2004 the Agency network includes 25 Member States. In order to facilitate this development within the available budget the Agency's Board adopted a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation network document in November 2003.

The Agency works on the principle of tri-partism encouraging social dialogue at both the strategic decision-making level and the operational network level, following the Board's decisions on how further to strengthen tri-partism in the light of the changes to the Agency Regulation.

Finally this draft work programme is based on an unchanged budget for its basic activities (13,5 mill € 2005-level).

The Agency's activities are based on the following mission, vision and strategic goals<sup>1</sup>:

### 1.1 Mission and vision

- *The Agency is the European Union organisation responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information that can serve the needs of people involved in safety and health at work.*
- *It is the vision of the Agency, through its information activities, to promote high levels of safety and health and to support the goal of making European workplaces safe, healthy and productive.*

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<sup>1</sup> Source: “Strategy Paper. The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work – into the next millennium”, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, December 1999.

## 1.2 Strategic goals

Within the framework of the Agency Regulation and context of the mission and vision, four strategic goals can be identified:

Two general:

- *The Agency shall create the principal source of safety and health information in Europe and the most comprehensive and user-friendly resource on the Internet.*
- *The Agency shall actively support the formulation and implementation of safety and health policies, and the organisations involved in this process.*

And two specific:

- *The Agency shall promote the identification and sharing of information on good practice solutions at the workplace level.*
- *The Agency shall promote Member State co-operation on information collection and research and thus make the best use of resources.*

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 The annual work programme for 2006**

According to the Agency Regulation, an annual work programme shall form part of the four-year rolling programme. Within the context of the rolling plan and subject to available resources, each annual work programme describes new activities planned for the year in question, but which may run for longer than the year.

The availability of resources for new activities is dependent on the finalisation of ongoing tasks that have been programmed from the previous year as well as on information maintenance tasks. New activities follow the rolling projects principle, whereby a new project in a given area will only start when the previous one has been finished.

The tasks and goals that make up the annual work programme for 2006 are presented in Section 3 (page 6).

In addition, detailed project sheets covering all proposed new information projects are presented in annex I. Ongoing projects are presented in annex II.

### **3 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2006**

This section sets out the specific development goals and activities of the Agency for 2006 following the sections of the rolling work programme. Where relevant, the Agency will ensure that Community Strategy priorities, such as diversity in the workplace, are mainstreamed into Agency projects.

#### **3.1 Building the links - Promoting global network partnership**

##### **Optimising Agency and network resources and co-operation**

In 2006, the Agency will focus its network activities on the following goals:

- Monitor the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Topic Centres in accordance with the model agreed by the Board in November 2003 and 2004.
- Continued focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Agency network
- Implement the new provisions in the revised Agency Regulation, in particular strengthening tripartism.
- Attention to the importance of appropriate planning and monitoring of the work to be carried out via the network. The Agency will continue to improve its planning and monitoring tools to help estimate and plan use of resources at the national level and to make the work of its network transparent to key stakeholders. This will include the continued development of work plans with each focal point specifying objectives and tasks and monitoring of progress of implementation.
- To support the further development of national focal point websites and the national European Week activities a grant scheme for the EU focal points will be implemented.<sup>2</sup> The maximum amounts for the grants will in 2006 continue to reflect a special priority of the new Member States.
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- An external evaluation of the Agency with special emphasis on its Focal Point network will be carried out in 2006 to follow up on the evaluation carried out in 2001. Following the evaluation, the Board will be invited to agree an action plan in 2007.

##### **Extending network partnership**

###### **(1) In the European Union**

###### ***Institutional relations***

- Systematic co-operation in 2006 with the European Commission in the framework of the Community Strategy will focus on consolidating co-operation with DG Employment and its antenna in Brussels. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting the European Commission in its task of preparing the new Community

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<sup>2</sup> In 2006 grants will be made available for focal point web-site management and European Week activities with the following maximum amounts for the national focal points: Germany, France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Poland: EUR 50.000; The Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Hungary, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia: EUR 40.000; Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Malta, Estonia, Cyprus, Slovenia, Latvia: EUR 30.000; Luxembourg: EUR 20.000

Strategy for occupational health and safety, 2007-2012. This co-operation will be reinforced by the Brussels Liaison Officer, established in 2005. The Agency will provide support and input to the Commission in its policy development, with a special focus on mainstreaming safety and health into other policy areas. The Agency will also develop its co-operation, in line with its activities, with other DGs of the Commission.

- Information support to the European Parliament and its committees (including the organisation of an annual exhibition and presentations), to ECOSOC, the Council and relevant Representations and other EU Institutions where appropriate.
- Facilitate the work of the European Construction Safety Forum (ECSF), established following the European Construction Safety Summit in November 2004, to encourage further improvements with OSH in construction, and facilitate the follow up summit, scheduled for June 2006.

### ***European Partnerships***

- The Agency will cooperate with the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions within the framework of a revised Memorandum of Understanding and with other European Agencies where relevant.
- Develop co-operation with the Advisory Committee, particularly with ad hoc groups where the Agency has carried out or is planning relevant work.
- Develop co-operation with the Commission's Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC), in particular regarding SLIC and Agency campaigns and information sharing related to the Risk Observatory. In 2006, the Agency will offer information support to the SLIC campaign on asbestos.
- Develop co-operation within the framework of the Commission's EU sectoral social dialogue to key sectors with relevance to the Agency's work programme activities, particularly on those sectors with most relevance to the forthcoming European Weeks and specific sectoral activities of the Agency.
- Through the Agency's Brussels based officer, provide regular liaison and briefings on Agency activities to key social partner and interest group forums with an interest in safety and health, such as UNICE, ETUC, UEAPME and CEEP social/safety and health committees and working groups.
- Further develop links and co-operation with established EU health and safety networks, such as research, certification (Euroshnet), practitioner (ENSHPO), workplace health promotion (ENWHP), business and insurance networks (European Social Insurance Partners - European Forum of Insurances against Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases) with a view to explore how these networks can contribute to supporting the EU OSH strategy.

### **(2) Beyond the EU**

Priorities for the development of networking outside the EU are based on three types of relationship: Partnership, Co-operation and Contacts.

The Agency work with Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Croatia will be based on external funding (DG Enlargement). The Agency will work with TAIEX on OSH seminars in the new Member States, the Candidate Countries and the Balkan States.

The Agency will work with the EFTA countries based on full funding of their participation in the work of the Agency as observers. The funding will either be based on an EEA agreement with similar conditions for Switzerland or if that is not possible on bilateral agreements with each of the EFTA countries.

### ***Partnership***

- USA. To further develop the relationship with OSHA and NIOSH and to maintain strong links with other important US-organisations in the field of OSH such as the National Safety Council. Active participation in the EU-US co-operation, in particular on information sharing via the joint website.
- Canada, Australia, Brazil, Japan and South Korea: To further develop the relationships with the OSH organizations on the basis of mutual arrangements.
- New Zealand, Russia, China, Chile and South Africa: To develop the relationships with the OSH organisations on the basis of mutual arrangements.
- ILO and WHO: Further develop the relationships with the two international organisations on the basis of mutual arrangements. Co-operation on the implementation on the OSH-strategies of the European Community and the ILO.
- OAS (Organization of American States) and PAHO (Pan American health Organisation): Further develop co-operation with OAS and PAHO as joint focal points for the Americas for the development of the joint web sites and related information exchange based on an updated mutual arrangement.
- IOHA (International Occupational Hygiene Association), ICOH (International Commission on Occupational Health) and ISSA (International Social Security Association): To develop the relationships with the international associations on the basis of mutual arrangements.
- IOSH (The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health), ENSHPO (European Network of Safety and Health Practitioners Organisations) and INSHPO (International Network of Safety and Health Practitioners Organisations). To develop the relationships with the Institution and the networks on the basis of mutual arrangements

### ***Co-operation***

Develop the co-operation with the countries in the “European Neighbourhood”. Establish Focal Points, national networks and joined websites in the Agency information network on the Internet.

International Networks: To further develop links and cooperation with accident prevention networks (WOS). To develop systematic web-links to international organisations, such as the Asia-Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organisation (APOSHO). To follow-up on contacts with IALI (International Association of Labour Inspections).

### ***Contacts***

Other countries and OSH organisations: To establish relevant links from the Agency web-site to safety and health information on the websites of other relevant OSH organisations and to include these organisations on the Agency's mailing list.



### **3.2 Communicating knowledge – your link to safety and health at work**

In 2006, the Agency will focus its communication services on the following goals:

#### **Communication plan development and implementation**

Several strategic developments launched in 2005 will continue to dominate the Agency's communication activities in 2006:

- Improvement of the Agency's online offer by optimising the potential of its third generation Internet technology and updating and enriching website content;
- the launch of new products and further development of the web presence of the Risk Observatory as well as the results of a number of other information strategic projects;
- the setting up of a major OSH awareness raising campaign in the 10 new member states as part of an Healthy Workplace Initiative;

In addition to consolidating these developments, the Agency will analyse the results of the online survey carried out in 2005 and gather user feedback through surveys and other means to refine its communication strategy.

#### **Providing OSH information on the Internet**

The Agency will build on the advances made in 2005 to improve accessibility to its online information resources including the merging of the Agency and Europe sites and the launch of <http://osha.eu.int> as a portal to all of the Agency's information network. In particular it will:

- Provide additional risk and sector specific 'entry points' with multilingual content for public dissemination and expert spaces where the information will be provided mainly in the language of origin of the relevant texts.
- In support of the information project activities planned for 2006, web features will be developed on the following topics:
  - OSH and ageing;
  - OSH and economic performance.
- Continue the development of the website as a global portal for safety and health information by further partnerships with relevant international and national organisations beyond Europe.

#### **Improving Web-facilities**

- Exploiting the full potential of the 3G technological platform to further develop the Agency website as a multilingual gateway to information about the Agency, its network and its services open to all European citizens.
- Developing innovative web features to support the European Week campaign (see below) adapted to the needs of young workers and their online habits.
- Continued upgrading of the Agency's portfolio of OSH information to fill identified gaps and to maintain the currency of the information provided.

- Further development of personalisation and alert services for registered users of the Agency's website.
- Using the 3G platform to ensure that all parts of the Agency network meet agreed quality standards and that Agency information is actively promoted across the whole network.

### **Complementary communication services**

- The Agency will promote new information products and services developed as part of the 2005 work programme in the following areas:
  - OSH and economic performance;
  - OSH and ageing;
  - Risk Observatory and emerging risks.
- In this context, develop dedicated communication tools to meet the information needs at enterprise level.
- The Agency will continue to develop its corporate communications, including the publication of its annual report, news services, catalogue and other promotion and exhibition material.
- Media relations – The Agency will continue to develop its relations with the OSH media and to promote safety and health via more mainstream media through its campaigning activities. News releases will normally be published in all official Community languages. If the pilot exercise to develop a network of national media relations support services is evaluated positively, plans will be developed to extend this network beyond the initial six linguistic regions.
- Supporting the focal point network: the Agency will seek further to localise its promotion campaigns as much as possible working with its focal points and other network partners.
- Exhibitions / events: The Agency will participate in a number of high profile international OSH conferences and exhibitions. It will also increase its efforts to ensure that Agency information is available at appropriate national events
- Information requests: the Agency will be able to handle a limited number of ad-hoc information requests within the established procedure.

### **Campaigning / European Week**

- European Week 2006 – Protecting young people: The focus of the Week will be on the occupational safety and health of young people and its main objective will be to promote a prevention culture and to reduce the incidence of accidents and ill health (including future ill health) among young people at work. As well as targeting information at workplaces and workplace intermediaries, the campaign will also include a strand on the mainstreaming of OSH into education building on recent Agency activity in this area. The Agency will use the same overall campaign model as developed in earlier years. However, modifications may be made in light of the recommendations of the independent evaluations of previous campaigns. A good practice award scheme will take place as well

as a schools' competition and the Agency will cooperate with the EU Presidencies in the launch and closing events.

- European Week 2007 - prevention of musculo skeletal disorders will be prepared for launch in the first half of 2007.
- Healthy Workplace Initiative – 2006 will see the delivery on the ground of initiatives started in 2005. These include a seminar series, the localisation and dissemination of Agency promotional material supported by national steering committees in each country and the launch of an awareness raising campaign. The Agency will monitor the results of these first initiatives in order to finetune its future action plan.

### **3.3 Developing knowledge to support policy making and implementation<sup>3</sup>**

It should be noted that the increasing total amount of information collected by the Agency requires considerable resources to maintain and update existing information services. In the following the development projects are described. In 2006 the Agency will focus its information project activities on the following goals:

#### **New prevention strategies and policies**

##### OSH and economic performance (IP-2005-01) (ongoing)

The Agency will review and consolidate the findings of its previous work. 2006 activities will be carried out according to the needs identified for future activities.

#### **Promoting a preventive safety and health culture**

##### European Week 2007: Musculo skeletal disorders (IP-2006-01) (programmed)

Contribute with a number of information products to the preparation of the European Week 2007 on MSDs.

##### European Week 2006: Promoting OSH among Young People (IP-2005-02) (ongoing)

Contribution to the European Week 2006, which will include special information pack, a report combining research and good practice and factsheets.

##### Healthy Workplace Initiative (IP-2005-03) (ongoing)

In order to promote a prevention culture and support the implementation of the 'acquis communautaire', the Agency will manage a specific 'Healthy Workplace Initiative'. The Agency will support awareness raising activities on OSH essentials and to knowledge transfer promoting health and safety in SMEs.

##### European Week 2005: Noise (IP-2004-02) (ongoing)

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<sup>3</sup> The term "programmed" refers to projects which were already planned in the Rolling Work Programme 2005-2008, the term "ongoing" refers to projects included in an earlier annual work programme but which are still ongoing (code refers to project-id), and the term "new" refers to projects which are neither ongoing, nor programmed.

Follow-up on the European Week campaign on Noise.

**Safety and health information for priority groups**

Priority Group: Ageing Workforce (IP-2005-05) (ongoing)

Describing the relation between OSH and ageing, identification of policies and good practices to deal with the issue and promotion of the outcomes.

**Safety and health information for risk sectors**

Good Practice Information: Catering, hotels and restaurants (IP-2006-02) (programmed)

Provide an overview of situation with regard OSH in this sector, as well as an overview of new development within the sector, which might have an impact on OSH. In addition, to provide information on innovative OSH programmes and good practice.

**Anticipating change – Risk Observatory**

Risk Observatory (IP-2004-04) (ongoing)

Following a Board decision in November 2004 to continue the development of the Risk Observatory by extending the data collection and analysis, by disseminating the findings (web-site and OSH outlook) and by discussing the findings. This activity covers all 25 Member States. It integrates previous activities on OSH monitoring and the Information System for New Research on the Changing World of Work/Emerging Risks (2003-IP-01 and IP-WH-NEW RISKS).

**Table 1: Information projects 2006**

	<b>GOOD PRACTICE</b>	<b>RESEARCH</b>	<b>SYSTEMS</b>	<b>OSH MONITORING</b>	<b>CAMPAIGN</b>
<b>New prevention strategies and policies – need and impact</b>					
OSH and Economic performance					
<b>Promoting a preventive safety and health culture</b>					
EW 2007					
EW 2006					
EW 2005					
Access to Agency on-line information					
Healthy Workplace Initiative					
<b>Safety and health information for priority groups</b>					
Priority group: Ageing workforce					
<b>Safety and health information for risk sectors</b>					
Good practice information: Catering, hotels and restaurants					
<b>Anticipating change – Risk Observatory</b>					
Risk Observatory					



