



# **Mainstreaming OSH in education & training at European level**

**International Conference, “Occupational Health and Safety in Small  
and Medium Enterprises”, Rome, 1 – 3 October 2003**

**European Agency for  
Safety and Health at Work**

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# Overview

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- **Aim of Mainstreaming**
- **Agency activities in 2002 - products**
- **Agency activities in 2003 - products**
- **Next steps**

# Aim of the project

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- **‘Mainstreaming’ one of the new instruments to develop a prevention culture**
- **Make ‘thinking OSH’ an intrinsic part of the way decisions are made and actions are taken at the workplace**
- **‘Start young - stay safe’ – integrate OSH at all levels of education & training**

# Agency activities in 2002

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- **Opening the discussion at European level**
- **Seminar: “Learning about occupational safety and health”, March 2002, Bilbao**
- **“Community Strategy on OSH 2002 – 2006” stressed the need for “awareness raising and education from an early stage on”**
- **Products: Proceedings, Forum, web feature**

# Learning about OSH - Forum 8



## FORUM

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

OSH 1661-4398

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### Learning about occupational safety and health

Summary of a seminar organised in Bilbao (4 to 5 March 2002)  
by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the Spanish EU Presidency,  
in cooperation with the European Commission

**Contents:**

1. Introduction
2. Case studies: OSH at school — primary and secondary education
  - 'Ar and Mi at school', Denmark
  - Examples of good practices for promoting health and safety in Italian primary schools
3. Case studies: OSH and adults — technical and vocational education
  - Improved integration of OSH into vocational education in German agriculture
4. Case studies: OSH and adults — university education
  - Tomorrow's doctors — putting occupational health and safety on the undergraduate medical syllabus in the UK
  - Integrating OSH in the systems of three Spanish universities
5. Case studies: Integrating the OSH system into education
  - New Act on the teaching environment for school children and students in Denmark
6. Case studies: Introducing OSH in education and training via campaigns and structural programmes
  - National programme of education for safety and health at work in Portugal
7. Discussion of success factors and findings arising from the national case studies
8. Round-table findings
9. Concluding remarks
10. Further information

**1. Introduction**

**Objectives**

The aim of the seminar was to provide an EU perspective on integrating — or 'mainstreaming' — occupational safety and health (OSH) into education. This topic is of growing importance across the Member States, as statistics have revealed that younger workers (aged between 18 and 24) are on average 1.4 times more likely to have a work-related accident as compared with other workers. The seminar aimed at contributing to the ongoing debate. A wide range

of national experiences and practices in the EU were brought together in order to share experience and stimulate discussion and debate on mainstreaming OSH into education policies and practices.

**'Mainstreaming'**

What does 'mainstreaming health and safety' mean? Mainstreaming aims to make risk management principles and 'OSH thinking' an intrinsic part of the way decisions are made and actions are taken in the workplace, so that health and safety is not just an 'add-on'. It is easier to achieve this if workers and employees already come to the workplace well qualified with an understanding of OSH, and a developed culture of 'risk prevention'. This is of even greater importance at a time when the world of work is changing rapidly: there are now forms of work organisation, new technologies and new contractual relationships leading to ever more complex working environments, which all have implications for risk management.


**'General situation in the Member States'**

An overview was presented of the general situation in the Member States. This sets a baseline for the current status on this topic:

- in most Member States there are OSH modules included in the curricula at most stages of education; these are in varying stages of development;
- similarly, in nearly all Member States there is some OSH legislation or guidance on training and education; some is at quite a general level, involving making requirements for training on OSH, whereas in other cases pupils actually have similar protection to workers;
- most Member States have had campaigns to introduce OSH issues into education; some have been national or regional initiatives while others have been locally led; and
- finally, there is some real innovation in tackling this issue, for example: appointing students at school as 'safety representatives' and giving them training and powers; impressive partnerships between different ministries, social partners and other organisations; and national programmes to mainstream OSH into all levels of education.

**Case studies**

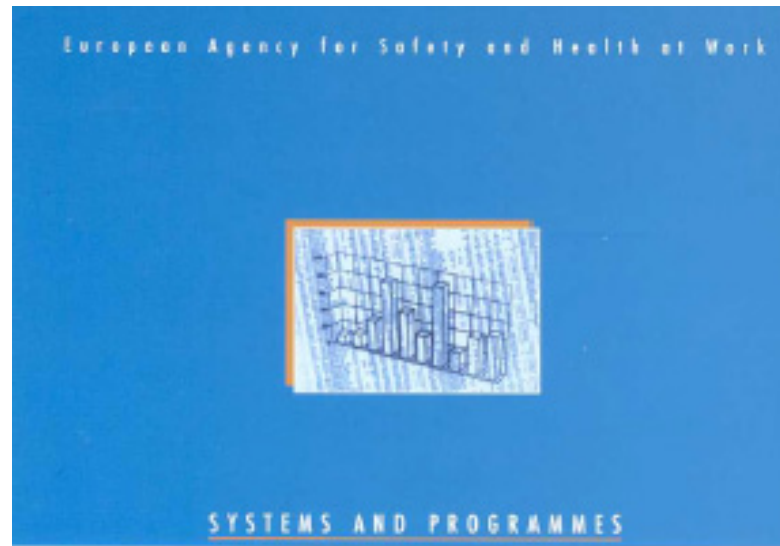
Some examples of how OSH has been integrated into different levels of education were presented. Key findings from the cases were identified. All examples presented are recorded in the proceedings. A summary of some of these examples and findings is given below.

EN<http://agency.osh.eu.int>

# Learning about OSH - proceedings

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Learning about occupational safety  
and health  
Proceedings



# OSH and education web feature



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OSH and education: start young - stay safe

Learning about OSH

Integrating or 'mainstreaming' OSH into education forms a key part of developing a prevention culture by teaching children and young adults to live and work safely. The Agency's work in this area supports the recent Commission Strategy on Safety and Health, which recommends "education be part and parcel of the school curriculum, either with a view to making people more aware of the problem (much like road safety is taught in some countries) or as a vocational subject in its own right". This feature will be continually updated as a key element in the Agency's efforts to contribute to a European **prevention culture**.

Resources

- [Proceedings of the 1. Agency Contact Group meeting, 26 – 27 May 2003, Bilbao](#)
- a [Forum publication](#) 'Learning about Occupational Safety and health'
- the [full seminar proceedings](#) of a seminar on this theme, 'Learning about OSH', held in Bilbao on 4 & 5 March 2002 and jointly organized by the Spanish Presidency and the Agency in cooperation with the European Commission;
- a list of [links](#) with useful information on integrating OSH into education in Member States, Europe and beyond;
- the [European Commission Strategy on OSH](#);
- an [online discussion forum](#);

Who should read this feature?

The information has been put together to help those interested in this topic: they may be for example, policy makers or practitioners from the education or employment sectors, researchers, students or teachers and trainers looking to develop resources.

<http://europe.osha.eu.int/>

# Agency activities in 2003

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- **First Agency Contact Group Meeting, May 2003, Bilbao**
- **Case studies report, factsheet**
- **Webfeature “Statistics help mainstreaming OSH in education & training”**

# Case studies report

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- 1) **Towards a healthy and safe school – a ‘holistic’ approach**
- 2) **Safety and health as a transversal subject at school – curriculum approach**
- 3) **Transition from school to working life – workplace/sector approach**

*available: springtime 2004*

# Statistics helps mainstreaming

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- **Webfeature with statistical data for policy and decision makers**
- **Instrument for targeting mainstreaming OSH in education & training policies**
- **Key areas:**
  - **Youth transition from school to working life**
  - **Young people have the highest risk of injury**
  - **High risk sectors for young people**
  - **Accidents of children at school**
  - **Risky behaviour of youth**

# Next steps...

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- **Action plan for mainstreaming at European level**
- **Focusing on vocational training in 2004**
- **Second Agency Contact Group meeting, 26 - 27 May 2004, Dresden**
- **Preparing the European Week 'Young Workers' 2006**

# Website: <http://europe.osha.eu.int/>



**NEWS** OSH and education: start young - stay safe

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**or... meet you at the  
exhibition downstairs.**

