



**September 2018**

## Community news

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### ► Professional exhaustion at work: examining data and policy responses in the EU

What is the impact? Is it a disease or a syndrome? What work determinants? These questions are at the heart of the report published on 10 September by Eurofound, which compares existing data and policies on burnout.

The study is based on responses to a questionnaire sent to Eurofound correspondents in the EU-28 countries and Norway. It reveals that the phenomenon is increasing, as well as differences in the understanding and definitions of burnout between self-reporting and medical diagnosis. The prevalence of burnout is higher in the first case and it is more frequent among women than among men.

Some people define burnout as a syndrome, others as a disease. In the absence of a common definition, the data are difficult to compare. All correspondents agree on the multiple determinants of burnout. According to the authors of the report, nine countries were able to present representative and specific data on burnout over the last 10 years: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal. Steel according to the authors, burnout is currently recognised as an occupational disease only in Italy and Latvia.

[More information](#)

### ► Dangerous substances: 2 practical information sheets

As part of the [2018-2019 Healthy Workplaces Campaign](#), EU-OSHA has published two infosheets, each available in several languages.

'[Legislative framework on dangerous substances in workplaces](#)' offers a clear, practical summary of the relevant EU law in this area.

'[Substitution of dangerous substances in the workplace](#)' sets out information about removing the risks posed by certain dangerous substances altogether. This is often the best possible solution.

Visit the [Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances](#) website

### ► Towards a revision of the Machinery Directive to integrate ICT and AI?

The European Commission's DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) has launched a reflection on the future revision of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC

The aim is to introduce the requirements of the new European legislative framework (which dates from 2008) and thus comply with certain regulations and decisions. Member States must also take a position on whether the Directive addresses issues related to new

technologies such as robotics or artificial intelligence (AI),  
Thus France has set up a working group, which brings together various stakeholders (FNSEA, CGT, INRS, COPREC, FIM, FNTF and EUROGIP) to develop its position. Led jointly by the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture, the group met in mid-September to discuss the issue of AI. Further meetings are already planned, in particular to analyse applications of machines already in service and having an AI. The objective is to compare IA aspects with the essential health and safety requirements of the Directive and thus contribute to identifying the requirements that need to be completed or created.

### ► Statistics on accidents at work in the EU

According to data published by Eurostat in June 2018, just over 3.2 million non-fatal accidents at work resulted in at least four days of absence in 2015 in the EU-28. This figure is slightly lower than in 2014: -0,3% (-9 118 accidents). Three-quarters of non-fatal workplace accidents resulted in superficial injuries and injuries, dislocations, sprains and strains or concussions and internal injuries. The construction, industry, transport and storage, and agriculture, forestry and livestock sectors accounted for just under half (44.9%) of all non-fatal accidents at work in 2015  
Fatal accidents at work, which numbered 3,876 in 2015, increased by 2.7% (+102) compared to 2014, representing a ratio of about 830 accidents to one fatal accident in 2015. The difference between men and women was even more pronounced than for non-fatal accidents, with 19 out of 20 cases involving men. In terms of standardised incidence rates, there was an average of 2.38 fatal accidents per 100,000 people employed in 2015 in the EU-28 and 1,642 non-fatal accidents.

[More information](#)  
[PDF document](#)

## Standardization

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### ► Contribute to the 6th EUROSHNET Conference on Standardization, Testing and Certification

This European conference will focus on the theme "Be smart, stay safe together - Innovative products and workplaces" and will be held from 12 to 14 June 2019 in Dresden (Germany). It is organised within the framework of the EUROSHNET network, a joint project of EUROGIP and INRS (France), KAN and DGUV (Germany), CIOP-PIB (Poland), FIOH (Finland) and INSHT (Spain) which brings together prevention experts with a standardisation mission.

2019 conference participants will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss what they expect from innovative products and workstations.

If you wish to **submit a paper** to this conference, you are invited to apply at <https://www.euroshnet.eu/conference-2019/call-for-papers/> by 15 October 2018.

[Download the 1st announcement\\*](#)

### ► September 2018: What's new in OHS standardization?

EUROGIP publishes the results of the day before it carries out its Standardisation in Occupational Health and Safety (SST) activity - publication of standards, new subjects on the standardisation programme and consultations.

Download the "What's New in OHS Standardization" from September 2018

To learn more about all these subjects or to position yourself if you are interested, please write to Saphia FORTASSI: [fortassi@eurogip.fr](mailto:fortassi@eurogip.fr)

## Abroad

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### ► BELGIUM: national awareness campaign "Don't take risks when dealing with asbestos"

Constructiv and Fedris launched a national awareness and prevention campaign "Face à l'amiante, ne prenez pas de risques. Des solutions existent" (face to asbestos, don't take any risks. Solutions exist) for the construction sector and private individuals.

"Without realizing it, asbestos is still present around us. There are therefore still significant risks of exposure to this dangerous fibre at present. That is why we must work together with those on the ground to improve prevention," said Maggie De Block, Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health. Solutions exist; this is the positive message that the campaign will convey. Many old houses are now being renovated and, at the same time, the life span of most asbestos-containing materials is coming to an end, which can lead to the release of fibres that were originally firmly attached. As a result, the risk of exposure increases for both individuals and construction professionals.

The campaign includes television spots, a "Checkamiante" mobile application, a general leaflet on the campaign and a dedicated website.

[To know more about it](#)

### ► IRELAND: "Choosing the safety of young people at work"

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) celebrated in early September the approximately 200,000 students who have completed its flagship Choose Safety program over the past decade.

According to HSA Executive Director Dr. Sharon McGuinness, the success of the program is based on the widespread recognition that young people must be aware of their rights and responsibilities in this area. They are at greater risk of occupational injuries because of their lack of experience and because they are new to the world of work. The program helps young people to develop a "safe first state of mind" before they arrive at the workplace. It is also very useful for employers who are responsible for managing occupational safety and health and for recruiting these young people.

[To find out more](#)

### ► THE NETHERLANDS: more than one in two cases of occupational disease was a mental disorder in 2017

According to the report published by the Netherlands Centre for Occupational Diseases (NCvB), 4,619 cases of occupational diseases were reported in 2017 to the National Register of Occupational Diseases, of which 57% were psychological disorders and 28% MSDs.

Employees in lower socio-economic positions are almost three times as often affected, particularly by MSDs. Sixty per cent of reports from employees at higher level are related to overload or burnout. This share is increasing.

About two thirds of cases of occupational disease occur in employees over forty years old, resulting in a temporary disability in the vast majority of cases (83%). The economic sectors with the highest number of new cases per 100,000 employees are industry, transportation and storage, public administration, education and construction.

It should also be noted that NCvB launched an online e-learning tool specifically designed to enable occupational physicians to acquire skills in the diagnosis of burnout.

[Read the NCvB report](#) (in Dutch)

## Agenda

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- ▶ International Symposium on Occupational Safety and Hygiene - SHO 2019, 15-16 April 2019, Guimarães (Portugal)
- ▶ "Well-being at work in a changing world: challenges and opportunities", 22-24 May 2019, Paris (France)
- ▶ 6th European Conference on Standardisation, Testing and Certification in Occupational Health and Safety, 12-14 June 2019, Dresden (Germany)

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