

FORUM NEWS

Photo: Fotostudio interfoto



Two years in a row, the AUVA has had the pleasure to assume the Presidency of the European Forum. The European Forum has made significant progress in the last few years. The boundaries of communication have melted. It is not only the member countries in Europe that profit from each other's know-how, but through the co-operation with Asia and the U.S., we were able to look beyond horizons and further learn from experiences and

best practices of highly qualified experts throughout the world. Another big milestone of this Presidency year is that two new members, i.e. the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity of Malta and the Croatian Health Insurance Fund (HZZO), joined the European Forum family in June 2015. Another organization in Croatia has declared its interest to become a member of the European Forum.

That brings me again to the motto of our General Assembly and Conference, which took place in Vienna, from September 9 – 11, 2015.

The motto was "Building bridges – Working together" and I think that we definitely built bridges this year, bridges that brought together different national accident insurance systems, people from different backgrounds and with joint challenges and the same "burning" topics.

I hope that we will further use this European platform to share, connect, network and build a common foundation in the accident insurance area in Europe and far beyond.

I want to thank you for your trust offered to me by appointing me as the President of the European Forum. Furthermore, I wish my successor Mr Pedro Pablo Sanz Casado from AMAT in Spain a successful year of Presidency!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope that we will all meet again next year in good health and full of new ideas and inputs. ■

*Dr. Helmut Köberl
President of the European Forum 2015*

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General Assembly & International Conference of the European Forum: „Building bridges – working together“

From 10 to 12 September 2015, the General Assembly and International Conference of the European Forum took place in Vienna.



Illustration: Michael Hüter

On the 9 September 2015, the General Assembly was held in the **Cistercian Monastery of Heiligenkreuz**. 56 members of the Forum and observers from other European countries, like Iceland, as well as from Asian countries like China, Indonesia, Korea, and Malaysia, but also from the U.S. participated in this closed meeting.

Dr. Köberl, Director General of the AUVA, was appointed the new President of the European Forum.



Two new members joined the European Forum family: the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity from Malta and the Croatian Health Insurance Fund (HZZO)



The working groups reported about their activities in the year 2015.



The highlight was a catching **keynote about “Why monks are better managers?”**, presented by the Rector of the Philosophical-Theological University, Prof. P. Dr. Peter Karl Wallner, OCist.



Two-day International Conference

The two days International Conference took place at the Palais Ferstel in Vienna. The Conference was opened by the fascinating keynote “**Working together. From solo to symphony.**” of the famous maestro Christian Gansch.



The session “**Challenges, systems and solutions**” provided valuable information about the workers’ compensation in Europe, Asia and the U.S.



In the session **“Who really pulls the strings?”**, the main challenges in the EU concerning TTIP and TISA were discussed.



“The future has already begun at the workplace” was about new ways of prevention in a steadily changing working life.



The session **“The ways back to work”** dealt with successful stories of rehabilitation and return to work strategies. It was opened by a keynote on **“The Magic of Change - How the essence of change can work for or against you”** of the German top management consultant Boris Grundl.



The last session encouraged us to **“think outside of the box”**.



Photos | General Assembly & International Conference: Bettina Greslehner

... and we did: drawing together the ideal accident insurance and...



...making music together.



Music and networking in the evening...



**We will continue to
build bridges in the future!**



Changes in working life – How will Finland’s workers’ compensation insurance system respond to the challenge?

Finland’s current Employment Accidents Insurance Act entered into force in 1949. The new Act on Occupational Accidents and Occupational Diseases will enter into force on 1 January 2016. The new Act was prepared with the aim of taking into consideration the changes in working life over the decades.

Changes in working life

The methods and places of work have changed quickly in Finland over the past few decades as the amount of production work has decreased and the number of positions in the service sector and expert tasks has increased.

Today, thanks to mobile and wireless Internet connections, work has become almost independent of time and place. As expert work is no longer tied to an office environment, experts work remotely from home, their summer cottage, cafés – any place where Internet access is available.

Work is no longer tied to a specific time of day. People work in the evenings and at weekends, at the most suitable times that allow reconciliation of work and family life.

There is no longer a clear distinction between working hours and leisure, particularly in expert positions. Many employees read work-related e-mail messages and reply to them on a 24/7 basis.

People still travel around the world on business, though international video conferences have become more common thanks to advances in technology. In terms of insurance coverage, business trips include leisure time not covered by workers’ compensation insurance.

The new Workers’ Compensation Act responds to changes

The new Workers’ Compensation Act that will enter into force in Finland has been prepared taking into account changes in working life, including those described above. Occupational accidents refer to employees’ accidents at work, no matter where the work takes place – at the workplace, at home or away on business.

Accidents that take place during a break are also considered occupational accidents. The prerequisite, however, is that the place is a facility assigned by the employer or a workplace required by the assignment. If the work is not done in one of the aforementioned locations but in, for instance, a café or at home, the accident will only be covered if it occurs when working. Therefore, an accident that happens when making coffee while working remotely will not be covered.

Likewise, accidents that occur while travelling on business will only be covered as occupational accidents if they occur when working. As a rule, accidents during leisure time when travelling on business are not covered as occupational accidents under the Workers’ Compensation Act.

The journeys from home to the workplace and back are covered under the Workers’ Compensation Act.

Even after the new Act enters into force, further clarification will need to be requested during the settlement of claims about accidents that take place outside the place of work before an insurer’s decision can be issued.

In situations in which a decision has to be made on whether the accident in question was an occupational or leisure accident, the most convenient solution for all parties concerned would be a full-time employee accident insurance policy. In Finland, the workers’ compensation insurance system is paid for by employers alone. Would it be possible for employees to contribute to the financing of insurance cover if the cover were to be expanded to accidents in leisure time as well?

The FAII will have Finland’s new Act on occupational accidents and occupational diseases translated into English. The translation will be published on FAII’s website early in 2016. ■

*TVL Tapaturmavakuutuslaitosten Liitto, Finland
www.tvl.fi*

Germany: Prevention culture as a lifestyle

Interview with Dr Walter Eichendorf, Deputy Director General of the DGUV, regarding the next major campaign to be conducted by the German Social Accident Insurance.

There are barely two more years to go before the German Social Accident Insurance launches its next major campaign. The topic of the campaign is the „Culture of Prevention“. The core message of the new campaign has already been formulated: „Safety and health are values for everyone, for every organization and for society as a whole. These values are to be embodied in every action. Preventive action is meaningful and beneficial.“ Forum News spoke with Dr Walter Eichendorf, Deputy Director General of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), on how this can be achieved.

Dr Eichendorf, why have you decided to make a culture of prevention the topic of the next campaign to be run by the German Social Accident Insurance?

We have now been running good and highly effective prevention campaigns for over ten years. All campaigns run to date had one thing in common: they focused on a particular topic, such as the back, as in the current campaign. Through these campaigns, we have successfully addressed particular hotspots in the patterns of occupational accidents and disease. At some point, we faced an essential question: is it now worthwhile launching a fifth campaign, once again dedicated to a specialized topic – an option that we discussed with regard to a number of specific topics – or is there a generic topic that can be regarded as encompassing the entire area of occupational accidents and diseases? At the XX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2014 in Frankfurt, everything pointed to one topic in particular: that of a culture of prevention.

A term of ten years has been set for the next prevention campaign. It therefore constitutes an even more substantial project than the previous campaigns. Why is this?

A campaign concerning prevention culture must bring about a much more complex change in people's hearts and minds than for example the back campaign. In the topic of prevention culture, our aim must be for the aspect of safety and health to be considered at each and every

point of human activity, whether in companies, public institutions, schools or childcare facilities. Essentially, this makes it a round-the-clock topic, since it must of course also extend into private life. The aim of this campaign is to motivate everyone in Germany to keep safety and health in mind at all times, round the clock. This cannot conceivably be attained within two or three years, and is the reason for the campaign's long term of ten years. For the first time during a campaign, we will therefore also be conducting ongoing interim evaluations. The first evaluation is scheduled for 2020, a good three years into the campaign. At that point, we must ascertain whether all fields of action and the associated targets and indicators were correctly defined, and where adjustments are needed.

Prevention, a round-the-clock topic – a challenge in its own right. How can we rise to this challenge?

It goes without saying that the emphasis for us at the German Social Accident Insurance lies upon working life. Beyond that, this campaign presents us with an opportunity to extend our influence beyond the world of work to include the private lives of individuals and families. If we communicate this topic to children, young people and students, and the workers at each and every workplace, in companies, schools and other public institutions, we will ultimately reach virtually every individual in Germany, if in no other way than through their families. That is the goal of this campaign.

Do you have a concrete example of making prevention part of each and every action?

Falling down stairs is an example. It can easily happen, but the consequences can be very nasty. Accidents on stairs are a blackspot that is often underestimated. It all happens very quickly, it's too late to grab the handrail, and before you know it, you're on the floor, perhaps with a broken arm. Prevention could be so easy: it must simply become second nature to have a hand on the handrail before taking the first step down. That's a simple example, but in principle

Photo: Frank Homann | DGUV



it can be extended to any task – in the sense that we should first consider how a task is to be performed in a way that is safe and healthy, i.e. that does not cause accidents, and does not impair health and in fact may even enhance it.

That is the first of the campaign's six fields of action, specifically the item in the concept concerning prevention as an integral component of all tasks. What are the remaining fields of action, and how can workers be convinced of the campaign's benefits?

The five other fields of action are leadership, communication, involvement, no-blame culture and social/working atmosphere. These are all topics that any worker would immediately recognize as being an integral part of his or her working life. It's obvious that a worker's actions won't be safe and healthy when leadership isn't functioning properly. When senior personnel in a company or school fail to lead by example in this area, we won't achieve our objective. The topic of a culture of prevention is also doomed to failure when relevant information fails to reach all employees and a culture of open, two-way communication is not implemented...

The field of action of a no-blame culture also sounds interesting...

It may sound surprising, but we can often learn more from faults or accidents that very nearly happened but didn't than from the accidents that did actually happen, and which thankfully are now relatively rare. We don't have to wait for an accident to happen before we consider how it could have been avoided. We must turn the process on its head and consider how we can think ahead, at workplaces, and for that matter in the area of road safety, too. An example of this is the risk observatory of the German Social Accident Insurance. The purpose of the

risk observatory is to identify emerging risks in the world of work in order for us to prevent them before they reach the workplace.

Not everyone is happy to talk about mistakes that they have made, though.

That's correct. We need to be clear about this: human beings are fallible and will always make mistakes. If I am willing to talk about mistakes or lapses in concentration that did not actually lead to an accident, I may in fact make a major contribution to prevention. This requires everyone to be able to talk openly about mistakes without being criticized for them. If we achieve this, we will have created a no-blame culture. It has to be said that Germans in particular find it difficult to take this attitude to mistakes. But it doesn't have to stay that way.

When do you expect the campaign to have reached its target?

The overall target of the campaign is so ambitious that we must first consider the attainment of sub-targets. For example, we may ascertain at the first interim evaluation in 2020 that we have largely attained the sub-targets in some fields of action, but still have a long way to go in others. Should that be the case, we can set a new course. At the moment, all six fields of action and the associated sub-targets and indicators enjoy equal importance in principle, and are evaluated in parallel. I think, though, that once we have a good three years of the campaign behind us, we will have a better sense of the areas in which we have made real progress in these three years, and of where we still need to focus our efforts. ■

*Bettina Bräuniger,
German Social Accident Insurance Institutions (DGUV)
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Hands OK, Everything OK – an Interim Report of the AUVA

AUVA's campaign "Hand OK" which was launched more than a year ago aims at avoiding hand injuries resulting from accidents. It is the objective of this campaign to reduce the number of hand injuries caused by accidents in the long term and on a sustainable basis by means of awareness-raising publicity efforts, brochures and folders containing technical information as well as a description of measures to be taken at plant level

Why did we launch a campaign focused on the prevention of hand injuries? The numbers speak for themselves: 41 per cent of all occupational accidents result in hand injuries; in the age group of the 15 to 25 year-olds, this figure even amounts to as much as 50 per cent.

Facts and Figures Relating to the Topic Hand Injuries

Every year, these accidents give rise to approximately half a million workdays lost, with an average 12.5 days of absence from work per accident. If the probable number of unreported cases involving hand injuries is taken into account (who will report an incident to AUVA when he or she has cut his or her finger and is slightly impaired for "only" a few days?), the number of hand injuries due to accidents is perhaps twice as high. In the year 2013 the costs per accident resulting in hand injuries amounted to euros 7,828, and the total costs of occupational accidents involving hand injuries stood at euros 303 million (303,000,000 euros) for which AUVA paid euros 141 million. This means that a reduction in the number of accidents by 5 per cent expected in the medium term would result in savings of euros 7 million for AUVA on a yearly basis – that in itself justifies this campaign.

Industries, Economic Sectors, Causes of Accidents

The economic sectors harbouring the highest risks of accidents are the metal-working industry, construction as well as the cater-

ing and restaurant trade. In addition, wood processing (cabinet making) constitutes an especially hazardous activity as revealed by statistical figures. Broken down by the different activities, working with (non-power operated) tools ranks first, accounting for 25.6 per cent of all occupational accidents, followed by accidents involving "materials, objects and workpieces" (24.4 per cent) and accidents involving "stationary machinery and equipment" (10.4 per cent).

In the category of accidents involving manual tools, working with "knives, cooking knives, and cutters" gives rise to by far the largest number of accidents totalling 4,600, followed by accidents involving syringes and needles (approximately 1.200) and accidents with "hammers, stone mauls, and stone sledges". For this reason, the campaign is focused, in particular, on the topic handling knives safely and safe methods for working with knives.

Safe Tools, Safe Working Methods

If you want to detect and analyse the main causes of accidents causing hand injuries, you will find two major categories: the wrong or careless handling of tools or equipment or using the wrong type of hand tool or machine. Therefore, the campaign is aimed at two objectives: on the one hand, raising awareness of the need to work correctly and carefully and, on the other hand, to provide information about, and give support to selecting the right equipment and, if necessary, also the right type of safety gloves.

The Right Tool or Equipment

The choice of the best suited tool or equipment for a particular operation is a determining factor for the risk of accidents. If the wrong machine is selected, i.e. a circular saw instead of end mills for groove cutting, or a knife instead of a wire stripper for removing the insulation of an electric cable, the danger of an occupational accident is much greater. In addition, the Austrian Act Governing Protection at the Workplace (Arbeitsschutzgesetz) unequivocally states in Section 33, para. 3 “Employers may provide only such equipment as is suitable for carrying out a particular type of operation with regard to safety and health protection or can be adapted to this purpose”. The campaign places special emphasis on the topic of safety knives: it is the objective to replace Stanley knives in the medium or long term by safety knives (i.e. with a retractable blade). Safety knives are not much more expensive than the “classical” knives, and after a brief induction phase, one will not wish to exchange one’s safety knife for an old knife.

The Right Gloves

Another focal point of the campaign is the issue of safety gloves. In this context, the question first arises as to whether gloves may be used for a particular activity. If there is the danger that gloves could get caught or trapped, they should by no means be used, because this would constitute an even greater risk of an accident! If safety gloves are, however, recommended, they have to be selected in accordance with the job to be done – it is important to study the instructions given by the manufacturer and to choose the right type of gloves. Accordingly, gloves offering protection against mechanical risks have to meet the requirements relating to wear, cut, tear resistance and penetration strength. The more stringent these requirements are, as a rule, the “stiffer” will be the gloves – this means that it will, for example, be necessary to check what requirements they will have to meet with regard to protection against cuts for a certain fine motor activity. And in general, not every pair of gloves is the same, as there are safety gloves protecting against

mechanical risks, heat and cold protection gloves, gloves protecting from chemicals, gloves for handling chain saws, for protection against radioactivity and safety gloves for electricians.

Therefore, the Regulation Relating to Personal Protective Equipment (PSA-V, Section 4) contains the justified provision that employers in identifying and assessing the danger to the safety and health of workers also have to take into account and document the strain and other factors that require the use of personal protective equipment. Special attention must be given to the type and degree of hazards, which make the use of personal protective equipment necessary, to the operating and ambient conditions as well as the physical constitution of the worker requiring the use of personal protective equipment.

Hands OK, Everything OK – What Has Happened to Date

In the course of the campaign, a series of activities were started and a host of documents and media were prepared most of which can be downloaded from AUVVA’s website (including the individual sequences of the training film). Please find below a list of the most important activities that have been initiated or are currently ongoing:

- Commercials for raising awareness on TV and in movies
- Posters and city lights for raising awareness
- Information events throughout Austria
- Brochures covering important areas, such as safety gloves, first aid or a “MANUAL” containing vital information on the protection of hands and accident prevention
- Folders dealing with important topics and giving brief and well-structured information
- A training DVD
- A first-aid app
- A kit with products for protecting hands for training purposes
- A set of knives with cut protection knives for training purposes
- Free company workshops and seminars, upon request

Hands OK, Everything OK – What Will be Done in the Future

In May 2015, the second wave of commercials and posters was started, gradually replacing the topics covered by the first wave. The company seminars offered by AUVA's local offices will be continued beyond the official end of the campaign in November 2015. September 30 was the deadline for submissions for the Good Practice Award (award@auva.at/award) for the two categories "Models of Good Practice" and "Innovative Products".

The awards were presented to the winners of the Good Practice Award on the occasion of a

gala evening on November 18th, 2015. AUVA's accident hospitals can also offer awards for exemplary first aid for hand injuries.

On November 24, 2015, a major final ceremony was held in Vienna, at which once more tribute was paid to all award winners. However, it can be expected that the awareness-raising activities and measures will be borne in mind also after the end of the campaign, thus resulting in a long-term reduction of the number of hand injuries due to occupational accidents. An evaluation of the campaign will demonstrate to what extent such accidents have been reduced. ■

*Christian Schenk
Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA)
www.auva.at*

Thumbs up ...

Daumen hoch ...

... against hand injuries

... gegen Handverletzungen!

Hands OK, Everything OK!

Hand injuries are the most frequent consequence of accidents.

Hände gut, alles gut!

Handverletzungen sind die häufigste Folge von Unfällen.



Eine Initiative der AUVA für mehr Sicherheit und Gesundheit.

www.auva.at

Safety on or Finger off



Sicherheit on –
sonst Finger off!

Hands OK, Everything OK!

Hand injuries are the most frequent consequence of accidents.



Eine Initiative der AUVA für mehr Sicherheit und Gesundheit.

www.auva.at

Hände gut, alles gut!

Handverletzungen sind die häufigste Folge von Unfällen.

Hey, what's up?



Hey, was geht ab?

Die Finger, wennst nicht aufpasst!

Your fingers, if you don't pay attention!

Hands OK, Everything OK!

Hand injuries are the most frequent consequence of accidents.



Eine Initiative der AUVA für mehr Sicherheit und Gesundheit.

www.auva.at

Hände gut, alles gut!

Handverletzungen sind die häufigste Folge von Unfällen.

Acting together – Action plan of the German Social Accident Insurance implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Since 26 March 2009, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) has had legal force in Germany. The UN CRPD obliges the state to observe specific human rights, namely those concerning participation by persons with disabilities in society. Its scope therefore includes the individuals insured by the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions, where they have been injured in an occupational accident or have suffered an occupational disease.

How can the human rights of persons with disabilities be assured in practice in the day-to-day activities of the statutory accident insurance institutions? In the view of the DGUV's Governing Committee, i.e. of the employers' and employees' representatives in the autonomous administration, this issue can be addressed effectively by action plans. Action Plan 1.0 was launched in November 2011. The focus of the action plan lay upon making the content of the UN Convention manageable in working practice. New ground was broken in some areas, such as in the use of plain language. A number of checklists, guidelines and further training modules were developed. This action plan was completed in 2014.

In order to consolidate the progress made with the first action plan, the Governing Committee of the German Social Accident Insurance adopted Action Plan 2.0 in early 2015. One purpose of this action plan is to ensure that the checklists and guidelines are applied as a matter of course. Committee draft documents are to be reviewed routinely for their compliance with the UN CRPD. According to Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV, the objective is for such voluntary commitments to be implemented in such a way that they continue to be applied routinely beyond the term of Action Plan 2.0.

Action Plan 2.0 has three key topics: consciousness-raising, inclusion and participation. Each field of action is associated with concrete measures and targets. For example, the field of action of consciousness-raising addresses the need to get executive personnel on board. Bringing persons with disabilities

into the general labour market, i.e. inclusion, is to be promoted. For this purpose, the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions will support companies seeking to implement the UN CRPD, for example by action plans of their own.

The involvement of persons with disabilities in decisions that concern them, i.e. participation, impacts upon all areas of activity of the German Social Accident Insurance. The Peer Map will specifically support rolling out of the provision of advice by affected individuals to their peers in the area of rehabilitation. Ways of transferring the peer advice concept to the sphere of prevention are also being considered. In the research sector, too, the accident insurance institutions are sending a signal: 10% of the research budget is to be devoted in future to projects relating to participation.

The German Social Accident Insurance's partners in Action Plan 2.0 include the Social insurance for agriculture, forestry and landscaping (SVLG), which is responsible not only for accident insurance, but also for health and pensions insurance. The KUV association of clinics is also a partner. The DGUV is interested in further joint activities in order to leverage synergies and to raise awareness among associated bodies, particularly in the medical community, for the content of the UN CRPD. It is also communicating closely with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs regarding further development of the German government's National Action Plan (NAP) 2.0. ■

German Social Accident Insurance Institutions (DGUV)
www.dguv.de

“Vision 250 Lives” campaign reaches half-way mark

In 2010, Suva launched the accident prevention programme “Vision 250 Lives”. The aim is to halve the number of fatal work-related accidents by 2020. Now, at the half-way mark, it is time to take stock.



Photo: Dominic Steinmann

Around 250,000 people suffer accidents at work in Switzerland every year. The workplace accidents in which people lose their lives are particularly tragic. In each of the past ten years, more than 80 employees died following an accident at work. This is unacceptable to Suva, the largest accident insurance company in Switzerland. In 2010, therefore, it launched the “Vision 250 Lives” accident prevention programme. The objective is to halve the number of fatal occupational accidents between 2010 and 2020. The campaign started five years ago. At a press conference in August 2015, Suva issued an interim assessment: while the number of occupational accidents is in fact dropping continuously, no significant reduction in the number of fatal workplace accidents is yet discernible. “This doesn’t really surprise us”, says André Meier, the Head of Suva’s Department for Occupational Safety. He mentions several reasons for this. Again and again, time pressure, other priorities and a lack of systematic safety training result in work-related accidents. “To halve the number of fatal accidents in the workplace by 2020 we now need to double our efforts”, says Meier.

“Vital rules”: ineffective if not taught

Suva’s “Vision 250 Lives” campaign hinges on the “vital rules”. In collaboration with the relevant industries, it produced nineteen sets of “vital rules” for high-risk professions by the beginning of August 2015. “We have done the necessary groundwork to realize the vision. Now Suva is relying on the help and support of management in these businesses to ensure that the ‘vital rules’ are taught so that they can help to save lives”, says Edouard Currat, member of the Suva Board of Management. The results of a recent analysis of fatal occupational accidents since the beginning of the campaign show that the “vital rules” can indeed save lives. In 60 percent (three out of five) of all workplace accidents with a fatal outcome in the last five years involving persons insured by Suva, a vital rule was neglected. If road accidents are not included, this figure even rises to 72 percent (three of four). Conclusion: If the “vital rules” are observed, “Vision 250 Lives” is achievable – and human suffering can be avoided. ■

Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund (SUVA)
www.suva.ch

“No-one should miss their benefits” – An afa-campaign in Sweden

Making ads or commercial campaigns for insurance policies is usually hard. This is largely due to the fact that insurance policies are a “low-interest product”, and also that the purpose of the campaign is usually to sell a product.

But how do you approach this task when your purpose is to make more people apply for benefits? When you want to make sure that no-one misses out on their entitled benefits?

This is basically the aim of a large campaign in Sweden right now. A few years ago, AFA Insurance was given this task by the parties of the labour market on the public sector, employers and unions in county councils, municipalities and regional authorities. When employed by these, one of your benefits is an insurance scheme providing extra cover if you suffer from long-term illness, an accident at work etc.

To prepare for the campaign, AFA Insurance has, in co-operation with user representatives, produced a material divided into two parts. One part is information material, i.e. powerpoint slides, short films, folders, etc., designed to simplify for union officials etc, who want to make a short presentation at a meeting. The other part is material designed to make the organization view themselves in a workshop situation: how good are we at informing our employees? How well designed are our routines? What can we – as an employer – improve to make sure that none of our employees misses their benefits?

The presentation material can be downloaded or ordered from our website at:

<https://www.afaforsakring.se/ar-betsgivare--fack/informations--och-stod-material/kommun--och-landstingssektorn/ingen-ska-missa-ersattning-stodpaket/>

At the beginning of September 2015, the main campaign was launched, with an email sent to around 23 000 people, (managers, HR-departments, executives etc) encouraging them to follow a link to three short films. We used a well-known Swedish actor/comedian portraying Tord, “probably the world’s most easily scared man”. The message in all three movies is: “How good is your organization at informing about employment benefits?”

The viewer is then asked to follow the link to our website, ordering the workshop material.

So far we have noticed an increase in visitors to the specific website, and in the amount of material ordered. We intend to follow this closely and also help the organizations with the workshops, suggestions on how to alter their websites, etc. All with the purpose that no-one should miss their benefits!

You can watch these 3 films (in Swedish, no subtitles!) here:

<https://www.afaforsakring.se/ar-betsgivare--fack/informations--och-stod-material/kommun--och-landstingssektorn/ingen-ska-missa-ersattning-stodpaket/kampanjIME/> ■

*Per Winberg
AFA Försäkring
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Inail: the new communication campaign on the institutional mission

In recent years, Inail has expanded its functions and has gradually changed its role in the Italian welfare system. The result is a comprehensive and integrated care system that carries out its institutional tasks of great social importance, as:

- development of a culture of prevention to reduce accidents and to support companies that invest in prevention with economic incentives and reduction of premiums;
- insurance of workers involved in risky activities;
- provision of cash, health and rehabilitation benefits to workers who have an accident at work or suffering from occupational diseases;
- realization of multidisciplinary rehabilitation plans aimed at reinsertion in family and social life and to facilitate job reinsertion;
- contribution to the development of scientific research on health and safety at work issues and on applied technology in the prosthesis and rehabilitation field.

On March 23, 2015, Inail has launched an information campaign focused on his important social mission. The “Inail world”, as seen in a spot advertising, focuses on the user and contains four different institutional functions: support of the culture of safety and prevention, insurance against occupational risks, full care of injured workers, research.

Press, television, radio and internet have carried out the information campaign. Particularly, the commercial ad explains “Inail world” in a very clear and effective way: as a world made up of people who put every effort to support those who daily need care and protection.

Facebook App

“Inail world” is also a Facebook application created to point up the content of the campaign, stimulating - by a playful dimension – user’s curiosity and interest towards the

activities of the institute. The app gives continuity to the message conveyed by the ad and - thanks to a test with questions of different difficulty - it allows users to explore INAIL services in a light and innovative way.

The application, available on pc and tablet, is an interactive tool that allows users to select one of the four thematic routes proposed: users can measure their knowledge of Inail services, each one inspired by the institutional functions already mentioned by commercials. At the end of the path chosen, users can click on the links for further information, which refer directly to the Inail web site.

The app is designed to be customized in any future information campaigns and it has also the function of “trace” the behavior of the participants and the level of knowledge of Inail services and performances by followers of social networks. ■

*INAIL, Italy
www.inail.it*



“Surefooted through Life” – A Campaign of the Social Insurance Institution for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture Workers (SVLFG, Germany)

Together with its partners and with the aid of the Federal Ministry for Education and Science, the Social Insurance Institution for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture Workers (SVLFG, Germany) is conducting a broad-based scientific campaign entitled “Surefooted through Life”.



Photo: RBK Stuttgart

This campaign is addressed to older people in rural areas. For this group of people, only a limited range of health services is available outside metropolitan areas. One third of the elderly population over 65 suffers from falls at

least once a year. In many cases, these falls result in severe fractures and sometimes lead to the need for regular care-giving for the persons concerned.



Photo: RBK Stuttgart

In approximately 20 per cent of all cases, falls result in bruises, contusions, lacerations, or fractures of the bones of the lower or upper arms or vertebrae. The falls most widely feared cause hip fractures (including fractures of the femoral neck), which are the most frequent and at the same time most serious fractures requiring major surgery in almost all cases. Patients often lose their ability to walk after such accidents. Whereas, for example, three quarters of such persons are capable of walking without aid before the fractures, only one quarter of these regain their mobility after the accident. But even seemingly “harmless falls” leave their traces: they may lead to a heightened fear of falling, reduced motor activity, muscle atrophy, and social withdrawal, which means a considerable loss of independence and impaired quality of life for the persons concerned.

Thanks to the co-operation between the SVLFG and the German Association of Rural Women (Deutscher Landfrauenverband (DLV), the Robert-Bosch-Hospital in Stuttgart (RBK) and the German Gymnastics Association (Deutscher Turner-Bund, DTB), efforts are being made to change this situation. Participation in the sure-footed exercise courses, together with bone density measurements and visits by staff members of the SVLFG’s Prevention Department who assess the safety features of the person’s house and farm, are designed to improve the stability and surefootedness of the elderly with the aim of avoiding falls and bone fractures. With support from local sports clubs and physiotherapists, specifically trained coaches conduct these courses. Thanks to the local networking of all stakeholders, it is possible to offer a high-quality service in rural areas in the immediate neighbourhood of the target group.

Participation in two courses is free of charge for the insured. Hence easy access to these courses is guaranteed, offering also an opportunity to those people who, due to cost reasons or their aversion to becoming a club member, would not take part in such courses. Since September 2015, SVLFG staff have directly contacted those who, on account of their higher risk profile, would, in all likelihood, benefit particularly from this programme. This case-finding approach, which relies on phone centres, is a novelty in efforts to combat falls and preserve bone health in Germany. Thus the SVLFG, in its capacity as an agricultural health insurance provider, is playing a pioneering role.

In some selected administrative districts, these courses are targeted at women in the age group of 75 to 80 years and at both women and men in the age group between 70 and 85 years having suffered a bone fracture in the past five years and who are insured by SVLFG.

Participation in the “Surefooted through Life” courses is possible also for the very old and for people with disabilities (insured persons in care categories II and III, and insured residents of nursing homes are not addressed as it is assumed that their mobility is greatly curtailed). According to plans, the campaign “Surefooted through Life” will extend over a period of two years.

The campaign “Surefooted through Life” receives scientific support by experts of the Robert Bosch Hospital in Stuttgart. The Department for Medical Sociology, Social Medicine and Health Economics at the university hospital in Hamburg-Eppendorf and the Department of Epidemiology and Medical Biometrics of Ulm University act as further scientific partners. ■

*Social Insurance Institution for Agriculture
Forestry and Horticulture Workers
Germany
www.svlfg.de*



“Surefooted through life”

A Health campaign of SVLFG

Revision of the Swiss Federal Accident Insurance Act

The Swiss Federal Assembly passed the revised Accident Insurance Act (UVG) on 25 September 2015, thereby successfully concluding a process that began in 2006. The revised legislation is expected to enter into force in 2017.

The initial motion to revise the Accident Insurance Act was filed in 2006. However, parliament returned the matter to the government, i.e. the Federal Council, in 2011 with the request that it be limited to the essentials. With the support of Suva and the Swiss Insurance Association (SVV), the social partners then developed a compromise which formed the basis of the revised act that was passed by the Federal Assembly on Friday, 25 September 2015. The result of the final vote was unequivocal. The new act is likely to enter into force on 1 January 2017.

The main changes refer to insurance periods, the definition of businesses subject to Suva, Suva's ancillary activities and corporate governance. With regard to the insurance period, the start and end dates of cover have been clarified. In future, cover will begin on the first day of the employment relationship even if it falls on a weekend. Until now, this issue has resulted in questions of interpretation. Insurance cover will now end on the 31st day (and not, as to date, the 30th day) after the end of the employment relationship. The entire subsequent month is therefore unequivocally covered.

Suva enjoys a special position among Swiss accident insurance organizations. As a public-law entity, it insures around half of all employees in Switzerland, while the other half are covered by private insurance companies. The Swiss Accident Insurance Act defines the companies for which Suva is responsible. This repeatedly resulted in questions of interpretation between Suva and private insurance businesses. Under the revised law, sales businesses without production facilities are now no longer subject to Suva.

It is also of particular importance to Suva that the Accident Insurance Act now also regulates its ancillary activities. These include the running of two rehabilitation clinics, development and sale of safety products, consulting and training in workplace health promotion and claims settlement on behalf of third parties. These ancillary activities must be financially self-supporting and be closely related to Suva's main business. The revised act thereby sets clear parameters for Suva's future activities in the Swiss social insurance market.

In parallel to the revision of the Accident Insurance Act, Suva has updated its corporate governance policies. The competencies of the Suva Board, as the Board of Directors will now be called, will remain largely the same (HR, setting premiums and handling reserves). The composition of the social partnership – 16 employee representatives, 16 employer representatives and 8 Federal representatives – remains unchanged. What is new is that the members of the Suva bodies are now obliged to disclose their interests concerning the electoral bodies and to continuously report any changes in this regard to maintain transparency. ■

Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund (SUVA)
www.suva.ch

Croatian Health Insurance Fund – New Regulations And Projects

Croatian Health Insurance Fund (CHIF) as national insurer in area of health protection at work insures health care and compensations in cases of accidents at work and occupational diseases, as well as preventive measures, which are conducted by contractual specialists of occupational medicine.

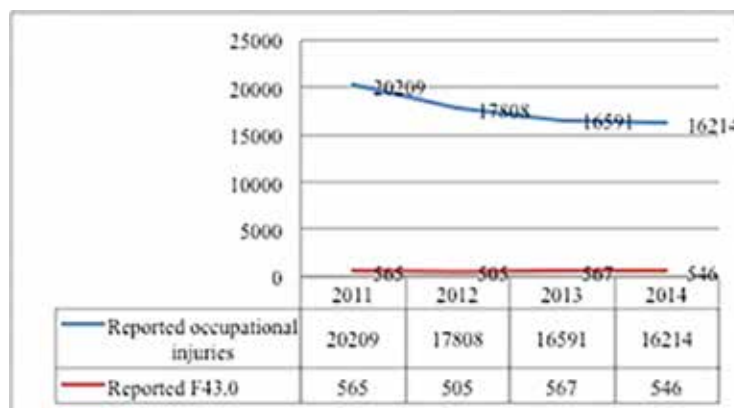
Because of the identified negative effects of stress, which can cause the development of serious diseases and significantly impair the mental and physical health of workers, CHIF conducted a study of occupational injuries in Croatia caused by stress at work.

The study comprised data on the reported occupational injuries collected in the Informa-

tion System of the Croatian Health Insurance Fund in the period from 2011 to 2014, which were associated with acute stress reaction.

Research has found rising rates of work-related injuries with this diagnosis in the total number of reported work-related injuries in the observed period.

Graph 1: Number of reported occupational injuries with Dg F43.0 in relation to the total number of reported occupational injuries in the period from 2011 to 2014



© VM.Sc. Vinka Longin Peš, LL.M. | Source: Information System CHIF

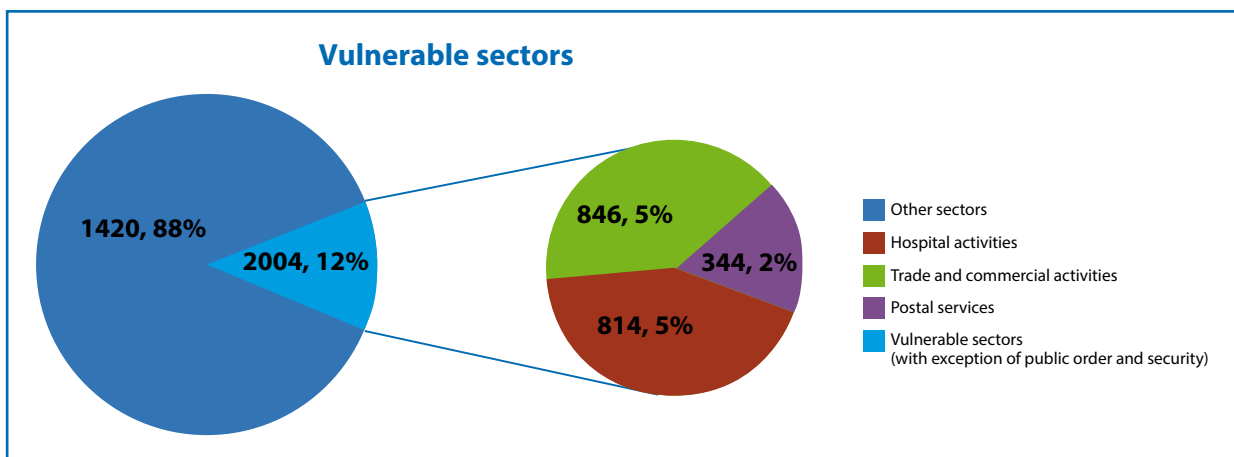
The study also presented the results of research of the experiences and views of occupational medicine specialists related to stress at work.

The research was conducted as part of the symposium "Workflows and tools in occupational medicine for assessment of psychophysiological risks at work and measures to reduce stress". The study included 34% of the total number of contractual specialists of occupational medicine and identified their attitudes that pointed to the importance of education about stress as a significant preventive measure in the managing stress at work.

According to the study results, CHIF is in the process of adoption of the new regulations that introduce new preventive actions in the framework of specific health care of workers, which relate to:

- education of workers about stress through contracted occupational medicine teams including psychologists in cooperation with the experts in occupational safety and health,
- consultation of workers regarding health effects caused by stress (acute stress reaction), including psycho-diagnostic procedures to identify stress-related disorders.

Graph 2: Reported occupational injuries incurred at the workplace in 2014



© VM.Sc. Vinka Longin Peš, LLM | Source: Information System CHIF

In cooperation with the National Communication Working Group¹ CHIF is implementing the project of strengthening preventive measures by activities and employers with identified increased number of accidents at work during 2014.

The working group brought together experts from Ministry of Labour and Pension System including the Labour Inspectorate, Ministry of Health, Croatian Institute for Health Protection and Safety at Work and Croatian Health Insurance Fund. Continued work is characterized by the involvement of representatives from the Croatian Institute for Public Health, representatives of University of Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine, Department for Environmental and Occupational Health, representatives of Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia and representatives of Croatian Employers Association.

Representatives of the working group analyzed the received applications of the occupational injuries collected in the information system of CHIF during 2014.

In accordance with established data, the increased number of reported work-related injuries incurred at the workplace in 2014², were in hospital activities, trade and commercial activities and the postal services.

The Working Group analyzed the employers with the largest number of occupational injuries in these activities, also the frequency of diagnosis of injured workers and the circumstances of caused injuries. Based on the ascertained data, the following further activities are planned:

1. Surveys of workers about knowing the dangers, hazards and efforts in the workplace and causes of injuries,
2. Educational programs for workers,
3. Joint working meetings with employers in mentioned sectors in order to define a joint program of activities aimed at raising the level of protection of workers' health,
4. Improving communication and cooperation between workers, employers, occupational safety experts and occupational medicine specialists.

We strongly believe that the results of this Project and targeted activities of the CHIF in cooperation with all participants and national bodies and institutions in system of occupational health and safety at work in The Republic Croatia, including Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia and Croatian Employers Association will affect reducing the number of injuries and contribute developing healthy and safe work in the selected sectors and with employers involved. ■

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Croatian Health Insurance Fund (CHIF)
www.hzzo.hr

¹ Communication Working Group in the system of health and safety at work in the Republic of Croatia is established in 2013, it is based on the results of the Twinning Project HR 07 IB OT 01 „Health and safety at work“ and in line with recommendation of the Report on sustainability of the projects results.

² with exception of public order and security

The History Portal of the AUVA is online!

Recently the website <http://geschichtportal.auva.at/> has gone online. The new website provides information on the historical development of the statutory accident insurance in Austria.

More than 125 years have passed since the law was adopted on the Workers' Accident Insurance in 1887; it entered into force in 1889. The 125th anniversary of the AUVA was the reason to establish a history portal that presents the development of the largest statutory accident insurance of Austria from its beginnings to today.

The statutory accident insurance was built as an answer to the burning questions of the late 19th century. The time around 1890 was marked by industrial development on the one hand, and on the other hand by serious social crises. The Workers' Compensation was an important element in order to improve the sometimes difficult situation of the workers and to ensure social peace.

At first, the idea was to build an insurance scheme for the relatively small group of the most vulnerable workers, but with the time it developed into a supporting pillar of the Austrian social security system – and this happened in the very times of crises, such as the dissolution of the Monarchy, two World Wars, the years of the reconstruction, the economic boom, the rapid technological progress and socio-economic changes.

Today the AUVA covers a wide range of services, including the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases, the medical treatment, rehabilitation and financial compensation.

In addition, the Workers' Insurance from then has become an accident insurance. Apart from 1.2 million Austrian blue-collar workers, 3.6 million more people are insured at the AUVA:

1.6 million white-collar workers, 500,000 self-employed and 1.4 million kindergarten children, pupils and students.

With a picture timeline, the website makes a journey possible that goes through different eras: The History Portal portrays the development of the AUVA considering important historical events in Austria and around the world.

But that is just the beginning. It is planned to steadily expand the History Portal through contributions and background information on issues of social security, health and work and accident prevention over the course of time.

Link:
<http://geschichtportal.auva.at/> ■

*Mag. Sonja Rosenberger
Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA)
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Book review: Peter Lude Querschnittlähmung | Schritte der Bewältigung

Die Kraft der Psyche

Paraplegia | steps to cope with it

The force of the psyche

Peter Lude, clinical psychologist for psychotherapy and quadriplegic, describes two perspectives in the book: the one from the expert point of view and the other as affected person.

On the one hand, he tells us about the accident, how he became quadriplegic, what his first thoughts were and how he learned to cope with this new situation.



Photo: Fotostudio interfoto

On the other hand, he explains as a psychologist the singular processes in the mind of a person which has to go through such a difficult situation.

This book constitutes a totally innovative approach of paraplegia and coping mechanisms by contrasting two perspectives. ■

You can buy the book in German at:
[http://www.springer.com/de/
book/9783662479698](http://www.springer.com/de/book/9783662479698)

Austria: Peter Vavken went into retirement.

At the end of June 2015, DI Peter Vavken, Director General of the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (AUVA), went into retirement after 32 years of service.

He studied agricultural engineering and water management at the University of Agriculture in Vienna. After many years of consulting work in the area of water management in Asia and Africa, he joined AUVA's head office in 1983. In 2000, he became head of the executive secretariat and presidential department of the AUVA. Two years later, he was appointed deputy director of the AUVA's regional office Vienna. In 2005, he came back to AUVA's head office as Director of the areas rehabilitation, construction projects and took over the management of the prevention department. On October 1, 2008, he was elected Director General of the AUVA. ■



Photo: L. Rausch

Mental disorders and work in Europe

March 24, 2016
European Conference | Paris | France
www.eurogip.fr

ISSA's World Social Security Forum

November 14 – 18, 2016
Panama City | Panama
www.issa.int/news

Disability Management International Forum on Transforming Disability Management

November 22 – 24, 2016
Kuala Lumpur | Malaysia
www.ifdm2016.com.my

23rd RI World Congress– The international forum for disability research and practice

October 25 – 27, 2016
Edinburgh International Conference Centre | Scotland
<http://riworldcongress.com/>

IMPRESSUM

Media owner and publisher: AUVA
Austrian Workers' Compensation Board

Place of publication: Vienna