NEWSLETTER
A EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN RESEARCH ON NEW AND EMERGING RISKS | 3 / 2008

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NEW OSH ERA Strategic workshop

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Katalin Sas, EU-OSHA

The NEW OSH ERA project has moved into the second phase of the four-step process of the ERA-NET scheme, which is the identification and analysis of common strategic issues. Having reviewed the results of the first phase of the project, a consultation process has been initiated among the NEW OSH ERA partners, aiming to define the general direction for NEW OSH ERA, to agree on the priorities for future joint activities and to develop a joint strategy.

At the end of this process, the consortium aims to have a consolidated vision for the future of the NEW OSH ERA, agreed research priorities for the joint activities, agreement on the long-term and mid-term objectives, clear strategies to achieve those objectives and a roadmap for implementation of joint activities. This will form the Memorandum of Common Understanding which is planned to be endorsed at the Mid-term Conference of NEW OSH ERA which will be held in Cracow, May 29-30, 2008.

The Strategic workshop, organised on 22 January 2008 in Brussels, was part of the NEW OSH ERA strategic consultation process. With the Strategic workshop the consortium wanted to broaden the process to involve national networks, the Commission, the social partners and potential future NEW OSH ERA partners. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the preliminary results of the consultation process and the future of NEW OSH ERA. Another important objective of the workshop was to involve OSH stakeholders at the policy level so that they can influence the future development of NEW OSH ERA and support the consortium to achieve its objectives.

The workshop was organised around four main themes:

- Operational framework of NEW OSH ERA
- Strategic alliances to foster OSH research
- Examples of successful cooperation and funding
- Developing strategies for NEW OSH ERA

After a short summary on the project progress and future challenges presented by Professor Kai Savolainen, Coordinator of the NEW OSH ERA project, invited speakers gave their presentations grouped around the above themes.

Within the first theme, Operational framework of NEW OSH ERA, dealing with the European level context of the project, Dr. Jorge Costa-David from DG EMPL presented the *Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work 2007 – 2012*. The Strategy defines the overall direction and objectives for OSH related activities for the next five years and it has also to be taken into consideration in NEW OSH ERA strategic planning process. Dr. Jukka Takala, the Director of European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, highlighted the interaction between different OSH actors at European and national level and emphasised the need for a strong OSH community in order to push OSH higher on the political agenda, whereas Dr. Jörg Niehoff from DG RTD provided the latest information on the ERA-NET scheme in FP7.

The second theme, Strategic alliances to foster OSH research, included presentations on PEROSH (Partnership for European Research in Occupational Safety and Health) and on the European Technology Platform on Industrial Safety (ETPIS), given by Dr. Palle Ørbæk, the Chairman of PEROSH and by Dr. Richard Gowland, Chairman of ETPIS respectively.

The plenary session continued by presenting some examples of successful cooperation and joint research funding. Experiences from other ERA-NETs and from European Science Foundation were presented to identify success factors and lessons to be learned. The last part of the plenary session was devoted to the presentation of NEW OSH ERA state of affairs.

The presentations of the plenary session provided the basis for the discussions in the working groups in the afternoon session. The following themes were discussed in five groups:

- *Links to Lisbon Strategy, to Community Strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work, to other EU policies*
- *How to prioritise OSH higher on the European political agenda, how to promote the integration of OSH in all relevant EU policies?*

- *How to increase awareness of the importance of research into new and emerging risks as a precondition for effective prevention measures?*
- *How to involve OSH stakeholders at the policy level, social partners, and other interested parties so that they support the consortium to achieve its objectives?*
- *Strategic alliances for NEW OSH ERA – what should they be?*
- *Defining priorities for and developing a joint research programme on new and emerging OSH risks*
- *Developing funding models*
- *NEW OSH ERA vision, mission, objectives*

The reports on the group discussions as well as the written comments provided by the representatives of social partners, Rebekah Smith from BusinessEurope and Laurent Vogel from ETUC regarding the issues discussed in the workshop are included in the Workshop proceedings.

Conclusions

The workshop addressed many diverse aspects of the future development of NEW OSH ERA. The conclusions and recommendations drawn from the presentations and group discussions can be summed as follows:

- *NEW OSH ERA objectives and proposed research priorities for a joint research programme should be linked to Lisbon objectives and the Community Strategy 2007- 2012 on health and safety at work*
- *A mechanism should be found to better integrate OSH research needs into the EU Research Policies, i.e. in the EU Research Framework Programmes. Important players are the commission, the European Parliament and the social partners.*
- *Lobbying and communication at European and national levels is crucial in order to*
  - *push OSH higher on the European political agenda*
  - *promote the integration of OSH in all relevant EU policies*
  - *increase awareness of the importance of research into new and emerging risks as a precondition for effective prevention measures*
  - *involve OSH stakeholders at the policy level, social partners, and other interested parties so that they support the consortium to achieve its objectives*
- *Research results need to be "translated"/made available to policy-makers (incl. evidence for their benefit to society)*
- *Important messages to be conveyed*
  - *OSH is part of the sustainable development*
  - *OSH has an impact on the productivity and competitiveness of the enterprises*
  - *The importance of the proactive research before OSH problems arise at the workplace (e.g. psycho-social aspects and new technologies)*
  - *The interaction between public health and occupational health needs to be emphasized and reflected in the policies*
- *In addition to already identified potential partnerships – social partners, PEROSH, ETPIS – other possibilities to form alliances or to initiate cooperation should be examined, e.g. public and private insurance companies*
- *Shared objectives, win-win situation – preconditions for successful cooperation*
- *While defining priorities for the future joint activities, the Consortium should rely on the following documents: the conclusions of the NEW OSH ERA report Complementarities, gaps and new opportunities in research on OSH-related new and emerging risks, the Community Strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work, Partners' responses to the Consultation Paper, the Foresight study, PEROSH priorities, priorities indicated by ETUC and BusinessEurope*
- *Link of OSH research to the practice should be strengthened*
- *Learning from other ERA-NETs is necessary*
- *Need to create organisational structures to facilitate launching calls, NEW OSH ERA report on Management approaches and the "Guide for joint calls" serve as basis for this*
- *Common pot is not compulsory*

The Workshop proceedings are available on the NEW OSH ERA website, http://www.newoshera.eu/

Report of BAuA´s working group „Third-Party-Funds"

Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin

Jutta Groß-Bölting, BAuA

Research has always been an international activity. Exchanges between researcher and research institutes are crucial in order make their work more efficient and to achieve better research results. Therefore European researchers are encouraged to work closely together.

Since it is a significant research organisation in Germany, BAuA appreciates the importance of participating in international networks and projects. Even though it already has a multitude of international contacts and a wide network of cooperation, BAuA still intends to expand its international activities. One step towards greater internationalisation of BAuA´s research was the establishment of the working group for "Third-Party-Funds" in 2006. This working group is intended to support BAuA's researchers in managing and planning third-party-funded projects. The group consists of two individuals from the financial department and one colleague from the department "Planning, Coordination, European and International Cooperation". The working group organises workshops providing information about Funding Opportunities in Occupational Safety and Health, exchanges information with the National Contact Points in Germany, consults with the researchers on a one-to-one basis, and supports them in preparing proposals and managing projects.

At the moment there are three different projects financed from the 6th framework programme and several projects under other programmes such as ESF, Public Health and projects funded by the European Agency.

In 2007, the working group "Third-Party-Funds" has supported BAuA´s researchers in preparing several proposals: BAuA has tried to increase its participation in the 7th framework Programme. At present, BAuA is participating in four different proposals. However, the 7th framework programme is not the only funding platform OSH-research. BAuA also has applied funding for projects under the subprograms of the Life Long Learning

Programme LEONARDO Innovation Transfer Project and ERASMUS. The Innovation Transfer Projects intend to transfer one successful vocational training concept to other European Countries. Participation in the ERASMUS-programme is based on offering students the opportunity to undertake their internship at BAuA. At the moment, a student from Finland is doing her internship in the Department of Planning, Coordination, European and International Cooperation. BAuA has been involved in other European Programmes such as PROGRESS and the Public Health programme as well as national programmes such as those funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and projects arranged by the Federal Ministry for education and research (BMBF).

These programmes offer a great opportunity for European researchers to learn from each other and to exchange good practice. The establishment of the working group "Third-Party-Funds" is one important step for BAuA´s aim to expand international activities. The participation in European programmes and projects will improve its international reputation and increase BAuA's attractiveness for skilled and motivated young researchers, which is one aspect of further improving our competitiveness in research.

What happened after the closure of the National Institute for Working Life?

FORSKNINGSRÅDET FÖR ARBETSLIV OCH SOCIALVETENSKAP
SWEDISH COUNCIL FOR WORKING LIFE AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

Carin Håkansta, FAS

The 2006 decision to close down NIWL, Sweden's largest research institute dealing with worklife issues, led a total closure in July 2007. The full significance of this event to Swedish OSH research has not yet become fully apparent. However, at the request of the research councils FAS and Vinnova, a study was initiated to examine what happened to the former employees of NIWL. The report (in Swedish) is called *Where did they go. Follow-up of researchers and research after the closure of the National Institute for Working Life*, and can be downloaded from the FAS website www.fas.se.

Researchers previously employed by the institute can today be found in universities and university colleges or are working in other non-research but related fields. Some others were offered retirement packages or are unemployed.

Out of the more than 400 employees at NIWL, 285 persons were researchers. About half of those researchers have left the field. As a consequence, the proportion of researchers specialising in worklife issues has fallen by approximately ten percent.

A more specific examination of the different professional categories reveals that the professors managed the change best. Except for a few retirees, all have continued to work in research. Among the post-doc researchers, approximately 70 percent have continued to work in research. However, this number is likely to shrink as many of them are finishing on-going projects with time limited contracts. It is also uncertain if the researchers will continue working in work-related research fields, or other fields. Among the doctoral candidates, 80 percent of the men and 65 percent of the women continued to work within worklife-related research. Some have been offered the possibility to pursue doctoral studies at universities, while others have been forced to withdraw from this field, which is a major loss of investment. Women seem to have been particularly badly hit. The group that suffered the most were the research assistants. Less than 20 percent have continued to work in research, split as 29 percent men and a mere 13 percent women. The table below summarises the loss of professionals from worklife research in Sweden due to the demise of NIWL.

The investigators also made an attempt to estimate the reduction of government funding to worklife research. The estimates were around100 million Swedish crowns for 2007, 150 million Swedish crowns for 2008 and about 200 Swedish crowns for 2009.

Persons lost from worklife research in Sweden due to the demise of NIWL in 2007

	Lost from worklife research			Share % of total 2006	Of whom retired		
	women	men	women and men		women	men	women and men
Professors	1	2	3	19	1	1	2
Researchers	20	29	49	33	5	69	11
Doctoral candidates	8	1	9	32			0
All researchers	29	32	61	32	6	7	13
Assisting research personnel	52	27	79	84	7	7	14
Total	**81**	**59**	**140**	**49**	**13**	**14**	**27**

EMF Directive has been postponed for four years

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health

Tommi Alanko, FIOH

In 2004 the European Parliament and the Council published a Directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from electromagnetic fields (2004/40/EC). The Action Values and Exposure Limit Values introduced in the EMF Directive are based on the recommendations of ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection), which is officially recognised by WHO and ILO as the international independent advisory body for non-ionizing radiation protection. The EMF Directive is a part of the Directives on physical agents' set and it was scheduled to be implemented before May 2008 into the national legislation of the EU member states. The respective Directives on workers' exposure to noise (2003/10/EC) and vibration (2002/44/EC) have already been implemented and the Directive on optical radiation (2006/25/EC) is to be implemented in 2010.

The EMF Directive has generated much debate on the consequences caused by the implementation of the Directive. The medical community has been especially active in this respect. This is due to the concerns that the use and development of the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) devices would be impeded. Also other technologies, such as electric welding and induction heating, may be affected by the implementation of the EMF Directive, since in many occupational settings the exposure of workers is evidently higher than during work with MRI devices.

In response to the concerns of the medical and other industries considering the recently published studies on MRI exposure as well as currently on-going reviewing of guidelines (ICNIRP) and environmental health criteria (WHO), the Commission recently made a proposal to the European Parliament and the Council to postpone the implementation of the Directive by four years until 2012. The postponement has been approved and it now provides time to the amendments to be adopted, if necessary, in order to guarantee both a high level of protection for workers and the continuity of economic activities. The Commission has already commissioned an independent study to assess the impact of the Directive on medical procedures using MRI. The results are due in 2008. In order to fill the gaps in the current knowledge, the supporting resources from both industry and institutional research funders are needed.

Currently one of the most difficult issues related to the EMF Directive is to evaluate whether the Exposure Limit Values are being exceeded or not. If the Action Values are exceeded and other protective measures (e.g. change of working methods, workplace design, change of equipment, technical attenuation) are not possible, numerical methods are needed to assess the exposure. While dosimetric methods have quite successfully been applied in radiofrequency range, in the low frequency range, the analytical methods are still under development and not readily available commercially. Therefore the postponement of the Directive is also beneficial in this respect, since it will give time to improve the assessment methods and to make them more end-user-friendly and simpler.

European Risk Observatory: Expert forecast on emerging biological risks related to occupational safety and health

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Emmanuelle Brun, EU-OSHA

In its new report the European Risk Observatory identifies emerging biological risks that are most likely to affect workers in the EU. Farmers, healthcare workers or people in evolving industries such as waste treatment are particularly concerned. "Biological risks often remain underestimated although they may be very harmful for EU workers in literally any sector", says Jukka Takala, Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work of which the European Risk Observatory (ERO) is an integral part. "The challenge is to identify them quickly as they appear and analyse the consequences they might have on people's health and to work out policies and procedures to minimise their spread." Despite existing European law, knowledge is still limited and in many workplaces biological risks are poorly assessed and prevented. The report emphasises the importance of taking a global and multidisciplinary approach involving occupational safety and health, public health, environmental protection and food safety.

The most emerging risks relate to global epidemics with new contagious pathogens, e.g. severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), avian flu and Dengue, and re-emerging ones such as yellow fever, tuberculosis and drug-resistant infections. About 320,000 workers worldwide die every year of communicable diseases caused by viral, bacterial, insect or animal related biological hazards, of which 5,000 in the EU. Women are more likely to be concerned as they typically work in occupations that involve more biohazards.

Poor risk assessment is the second most important issue identified in the survey. Despite the obligation to assess biological risks laid down by Directive 2000/54/EC[1], **knowledge**

(1) Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work (OJ L 262, 17.10.2000, p. 21)

and information about biohazards is still relatively undeveloped. In practice, a proper assessment of biological risks is difficult. Better methods for measuring and assessing exposure to biological agents and well established dose-effect relationships need to be developed.

New and complex exposure situations are found in new industries - such as waste treatment - but similar exposure also occurs in traditional workplaces such as offices. Airborne moulds, for example, are ubiquitous indoors, and even more where for example air-conditioning systems are poorly maintained. Exposure to moulds can lead to asthma, upper respiratory tract diseases, headaches, flu-like symptoms, infections, allergic diseases, and irritation of the eyes and skin, and contribute to the sick building syndrome.

The report on biological risks was followed by a workshop in June 2007, in Brussels that provided an opportunity to share knowledge in this important area, and involved experts and the social partners, as well as policymakers from a number of European Commission Directorates General, e.g. DG Employment and DG Environment. Outcomes from the workshop included a broad agreement that the main issue in this area is preparedness. This subject needs a multi-disciplinary approach, involving public health, food safety and environmental safety. The Agency was asked to establish a forum in which these issues can be discussed regularly, and where experts can meet who are involved in different disciplines that have a bearing on the issue.

Further information

Report 'Expert forecast on emerging biological risks related to occupational safety and health': http://riskobservatory.osha.europa.eu/risks/forecasts/biological_risks

Exposure to biological agents: modern technologies for analysing allergy producing fungal strains

DNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of allergen-encoding genes from airborne moulds and yeasts

Domenico Davolos, Biancamaria Pietrangeli
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In the last number of Prevenzione Oggi - Prevention today, a bilingual journal in the field of occupational safety and health (http://prevenzioneoggi.ispesl.it) published by the Italian National Institute for Prevention and Safety at Work (ISPESL), Domenico Davolos and Biancamaria Pietrangeli have published a scientific paper summarising the research results obtained from the DNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of allergen-encoding genes from airborne moulds and yeasts (1, 2).

The aim of their work was to obtain an accurate and rapid detection of potential allergy producing fungal strains present in any given workplace because this is necessary for monitoring of biological exposure levels and consequently for developing measures for public health purposes ([3]). Indeed, different microfungi (moulds and yeasts) can be found in a variety of workplaces and evoke a wide range of respiratory symptoms such as allergy or irritation. The authors PCR amplified and sequenced both nuclear and mitochondrial genes of the microfungi from bioaerosol samples collected at different outdoor and indoor sites. The molecular and phylogenetic approach avoided the problem that fungal isolates would remain poorly characterized which is often the case when one relies only on methods based on culturing and observations of morphological traits. Also, the obtained gene sequence information can be evaluated in the context of modern molecular tools, such as DNA microarrays, for the simultaneous identification of fungal taxa. Moreover, because several fungal proteins have been identified as important allergens, it is possible to investigate at the DNA sequence level and then identify the corresponding amino acid residues of some major allergens from moulds and from both ascomycetous and basidiomycetous yeasts. The goal of these molecular investigations was mainly to infer the phylogeny of the fungal alkaline/vacuolar serine protease genes. Finally, a reasonable 3D model of the serine protease was constructed in order to locate the IgE-binding epitopes and other important residues.

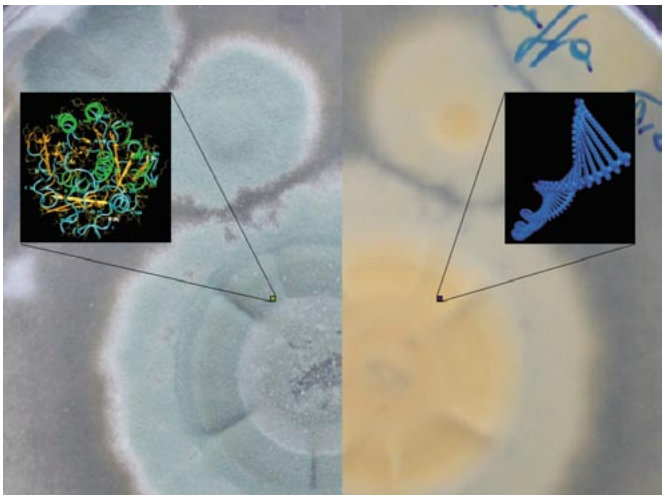


Figure 1. Penicillium sp. strain MG plated on Sabouraud agar (reverse yellow); on the right: a model of DNA, on the left: a 3D model of serine protease

These kinds of DNA sequencing studies as well as the recent successful completion of some fungal genome projects (available from the GenBank website, National Centre of Biotechnology Information) certainly will improve our knowledge on the fungal aero-allergens. This will provide a more complete understanding of the general features of the biological exposure by aerosol allergy producing microfungi, in view of the fact that a lack of specific information on exposure to biological agents can lead to failures in strategies for adequately managing these risks in the workplace.

(1) Davolos D., Pietrangeli B. 2007. Sequenziamento del DNA ed analisi filogenetica su geni codificanti allergeni di muffe e lieviti isolati da bioaerosol. Prevenzione Oggi, 3-3: 25-37.

(2) Davolos D., Pietrangeli B. 2007. DNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of allergen-encoding genes from airborne moulds and yeasts. Prevention today, 3-3: 23-35.

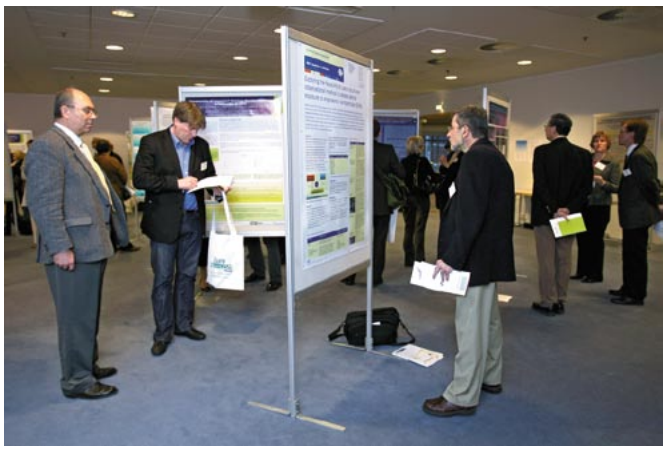
(3) Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work (seventh individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC). Official Journal L 262, 17/10/2000, pp. 21-45.

European NanOSH Conference – Nanotechnologies: A Critical Area in Occupational Safety and Health

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health

Lea Pylkkänen, FIOH

The European NanOSH Conference – Nanotechnologies: A Critical Area in Occupational Safety and Health Conference was held on 3-5 December 2007 in Marina Congress Center, Helsinki, Finland. EuroNanOSH was the first European Conference focusing on occupational safety and health from the viewpoint of nanotechnologies and engineered nanoparticles (ENP) in workplaces. The Conference discussed how the safety of nanotechnologies is currently handled in Europe and elsewhere and how global experience could be applied to the European situation and vice versa. It also provided a platform for discussions and enhanced co-operation between research teams, companies, and all interested stakeholders as well as for looking for innovative strategies for the future.



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Even though the production of ENP and the number of consumer products based on applications of nanotechnologies is increasing rapidly both in Europe and globally, still very little is known about the safety and the impacts on health of nanotechnologies and ENP. Moreover, there is no consensus about rules for characterizing ENP and methods for testing their safety are missing. Rapid clarification of the future steps towards assuring the safety of ENP in occupational environments and consumer products is essential. Safe nanotechnologies benefit both workers and industries all over the world.

The Conference was arranged by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) in collaboration with the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (TEKES) and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. In addition, the Conference was supported by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention in Italy (ISPESL) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in USA. The Conference was targeted at scientists and experts interested in the safety and health effects of nanoparticles, their characterization and exposure assessment; occupational health and safety experts; representatives of the nanotechnology industry; employers and employee organisation; policy-makers at national, regional and international levels; organisations funding nanotechnology research; and all key stakeholders in this area. The Conference was attended by 192 participants from over 20 countries. During the Conference 20 keynote lectures, 16 oral and 34 poster free communications were given

In the concluding speech, Professor Kai Savolainen, the Vice-Chair of the EuroNanOSH Organizing Committee, estimated that the aims set for the Conference had been well met, the presentations were of good quality and they contained new research results. He summarized the topics handled in the presentations:

- Knowledge - Our first defence
- Need jointly to find out aspects of nanoparticle safety
- Key ENP targets and behaviour identified - Pandoras box or open sesame?
- Risks need to be managed and controlled - How much is enough?
- Public trust is prerequisite for successful nanotechnology.

Selected papers will be published as proceedings after the Conference in a thematic issue of Human & Experimental Toxicology Journal. The estimated publishing date is the end of 2008 (http://het.sagepub.com/).

Series of conferences on "Preventive Occupational Health and Safety" started on 15th and 16th of November 2007 in Aachen

pt Projektträger im DLR

Anja Richert/Claudio Zettel

© Photo Anja Richert

The Project Management Organisation (PT-DLR) and the Metaproject „Strategic Transfer within Occupational Health and Safety - StArG" organised the first OSH-conference from a series of conferences on November 15 and 16, 2007 in Aachen. These are part of the German sub-programme "Preventive Occupational Health and Safety", supported by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and attracted 180 outstanding scientists, practitioners and politicians. The sub-programme is embedded in the German programme: "Working – Learning – Developing Skills. Potential for innovation in a modern working environment" that runs from 2007 to 2013.

The Conference was opened by Prof. Dr. med. Rolf Rossaint (Prorector of the RWTH Aachen University) and Anja Richert (Project Leader of the Metaproject StArG, (Center for Learning and Knowledge Management and Department for Computer Science in Mechanical Engineering, RWTH Aachen University). The five keynote-speeches, eight world cafe tables as well as five parallel workshops provided scientific results and successful examples for the implementation of a sustainable occupational health and safety solutions were presented. Additionally, the "Project Market Place" offered the opportunity to meet 20 BMBF-funded projects of the German sub-programme on "Preventive Occupational Health and Safety".

The priority fields of research within the sub-programme are "Health Promotion within the Demographic Change", Participation and Leadership", Prevention as competitive factor", "Intercompany Alliances", as well as "Operational Innovation Management". As part of the BMBF-Funding-Programme "Working – learning – developing skills – Potential for innovation in a modern working environment" the projects respond to new challenges which have to be met in the world of work due to recent developments in industry and society.

The conference proceedings are expected for March 2008.

© Photo Anja Richert

Further information: http://pt-ad.pt-dlr.de/subnav_arbeit_news_566_ENG_Live.htm

WORK-IN-NET discusses transnational projects

Dietmar Wuppermann/Claudio Zettel, PT-DLR

© Photo Anja Richert

A concept for developing transnational projects that receive joint financing from the WORK-IN-NET members was the main topic on the WORK-IN-NET meeting of October 11 and 12, 2007 in Athens. The ten partners of WORK-IN-NET envisaged issuing a joint call for proposals for autumn 2008 with the goal being to support research and development projects on work oriented innovation in Europe. Details of the joint call will be agreed during the upcoming months.

The meeting was organised under the auspices of the General Secretariate of Research and Technology, Ministry of Development, represented by Dr. Agnes Spilioti and DEMOKRITOS, represented by Dr. Constantin Makropoulos. The special guest Dr. Fietje Vaas, provided information about the "Netherlands Centre for Social Innovation" (NCSI) funded in late 2006 with the purpose of enhancing labor productivity by different activities in enterprises, field experiments, joint development and applied and evaluation research. Additionally, Vana Kamtsiou from Demokritos spoke about the European project "PRO-LEARN" that operates thematically close to WORK-IN-NET. PRO-LEARN is a Network of Excellence (NoE) with 20 core partners and more than 300 associated partners in the area of Professional Learning.

Upcoming events

NEW OSH ERA
Mid-term conference
29-30 MAY 2008, KRAKÓW, Poland

The aim of the NEW OSH ERA Mid-term Conference is to present the first results of the project, to discuss the future directions and the European level context of NEW OSH ERA with a broader audience including representatives of social partners, policy makers of national and EU level, OSH experts, and potential future Members of NEW OSH ERA Consortium. The conference is being organised by CIOP-PIB, the Polish Member of the NEW OSH ERA consortium.

Among the highlights of the Conference will be the endorsement of the Memorandum of Common Understanding, including a consolidated vision on the future of NEW OSH ERA, agreed research priorities for the joint activities, and clear strategies to achieve the set objectives.

The conference will take place in one of the most beautiful and charming European cities – Krakow. The conference venue is located in the old part of the city known for its art collections and architectural treasures that appear on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Further information on the conference: http://www.newoshera.eu

About NEW OSH ERA

NEW OSH ERA is a project funded by the European Commission within the ERA-NET scheme in context of the specific programme 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'. It aims at building a European dimension in research on new and emerging risks in the workplace by rationalising and pooling of resources.

http://www.newoshera.eu

Members of the Consortium

Coordinator

- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, FIOH, Finland

Partners

- Finnish Work Environment Fund, TSR, Finland
- Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland
- Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, BAUA, Germany
- Central Institute for Labour Protection - National Research Institute, CIOP-PIB, Poland
- Project Management Organization at DLR, Project Management Organization for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, PT-DLR, Germany
- German Social Accident Insurance, DGUV, Germany
- National Research Centre for the Working Environment, NRCWE, Denmark
- Research Unit for the Improvement of Working Conditions DiOVA/ DiRACT, General Directorate for the Humanization of Work, Ministry of Labour, FOD WASO, Belgium
- Italian National Institute for Prevention and Safety at Work, ISPESL, Italy
- Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, FAS, Sweden
- Hungarian Institute of Occupational Health, OMFI, Hungary
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, EU-OSHA, EU
- Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health & Safety, ELINYAE, Greece
- Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, Greece
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany
- Ministry of Health, Italy
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Poland

Affiliated partner

- French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety, AFSSET, France

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