

DGUV Kompakt



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Raising awareness in a fun way: the new app game "Save Murphy"

TOP STORY

OSH of the future

DGUV Risk Observatory identifies top ten trends



New developments are shaping an increasingly complex world of work

The world of work is changing faster and faster. New technologies and forms of work are on their way, bringing with them new risks to workers. In order to deal preventively with new dangers to safety and health at work, trends have to be recognised early on. To do this, the DGUV has established a Risk Observatory at its Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (IFA). The first results from the work done by the Observatory were presented in Berlin on 19 October 2016. In the publication "Human in focus: priorities for OSH of tomorrow", the IFA presented the top 10 prevention issues for the future world of work. These cover numerous areas ranging from developments in society through to traditional OSH topics.

The results are based on a survey conducted with 400 labour inspectors from the German social accident insurance institutions. Respondents were asked to rate nearly 100 developments in terms of their relevance to occupational safety and health. The assessment was supplemented with literature research on risks and suitable protective measures. "Thanks to

this authoritative and scientifically-based project, we now know, which are the common burning issues for all social accident insurance institutions and thus, which issues affect the majority of employees", said Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV. Nearly all social accident insurance institutions rated the following issues as particularly urgent: work inten-

"By establishing the Risk Observatory, we have created an important instrument which enables us to create a network and exchange platform across all social accident insurance institutions."

Dr Joachim Breuer,
Director General, DGUV

sification, demographic change and digitalisation. However, other topics not directly related to the workplace, such as an unhealthy diet and a lack of exercise in free time, were also found in the top trends. The reason for this is that they also affect people's ability to work and thus pose a challenge to occupational safety and health.

The top issues that have been identified form the basis for effective, proactive prevention work in the coming years and make it possible to develop individual prevention measures which address each of the trends. "By establishing the Risk Observatory, we have created an important instrument which enables us to create a network and exchange platform across all social accident insurance institutions. This has allowed us to jointly identify the priorities for OSH of the future and we can now tackle these using the know-how of all those involved", said Breuer.

Web: www.dguv.de (Webcode: d1159702)
(German only)



Europe matters

Dear reader,

Looking back at the last 20 to 30 years, the relevance of European policies has changed drastically. Important decisions are increasingly being made at European level. As a result, the relationship between the German Social Accident Insurance and the European Institutions has intensified. This is largely due to the European Representation of the German Social Insurance in Brussels which monitors and engages in European policy, as well as reports back to Berlin. When the Representation was set up 23 years ago, under the direction of Dr Franz Terwey, it was met with incomprehension by many. Today, however, no one would question having a representative presence in Brussels because evaluations and analyses from Europe and of Europe have become indispensable. The topics and issues selected by DGUV Kompakt also reflect the significance of European policy decisions and the position we take towards them. In December, there will be a break in tradition when Dr Terwey hands over the reins to his successor, Ilka Wölfle. His many merits and the direction he has set will continue to have an effect and ease the transition. We would like to thank a dedicated European who gave German social insurance a face in Brussels and helped raise its profile. At the same time, we are saying farewell to a valuable member of the Advisory Board whose ideas and advice from Brussels we will sorely miss.

Dr Joachim Breuer
Director General of the DGUV

From national payer to European player

Talking with Dr Franz Terwey, Director of the European Representation of the German Social Insurance

Since 1993, the Brussels representative office of the German Social Insurance (DSV) has been monitoring and engaging with European processes and political events directly at the front line. DGUV Kompakt spoke with long-term Director of the European Representation of the DSV, Dr Franz Terwey, who has significantly contributed to its growth and success.

Dr Terwey, you have been following European policy in Brussels as the Director of the European Representation for many years. How has this changed?

The influence of European policy on national social systems has been steadily increasing, particularly since the introduction of the European Single Market. This influence occurs in many ways but in most cases it happens indirectly. The common Economic Area created in 1993 has inevitably led to the end of national political economies due to free movement and the freedom to provide services within the EU. This has resulted in the systematic “demarcation” of all closed national systems, including social systems. Everyone involved in these systems, including the German social accident insurance institutions, must increasingly assert and prove themselves in a larger strategic and operative framework – transnationally. This quickly makes it clear that what we are familiar with at home cannot always be readily explained as tried and tested.

Other important milestones were the EU Monetary Union and the “Europe 2020” strategy. This forced Member States and their social insurance systems to have sustainable budgetary management under the threat of sanctions, which consequently led to a noticeable reduction in the national legislatures’ room to manoeuvre. Social insurance, which the EU defines as an integral part of national budgets, is thus in the “grip of European fiscal policy”. As part of annual budget monitoring, the EU Commission examines the social insurance systems in terms of financial sustainability and uses comparative outcome measures to determine whether they meet the requirements for “effective and efficient social spending.” This is what the EU finance ministers have demanded. Spe-

cifically, this means there is growing peer pressure to explain and justify national expenditure, as well as an increase in the ability to compare the performance of individual systems and the gradual emergence of convincing transnational standards and approaches.

Finally, I would like to mention the judicature of the European Court of Justice which, in recent years, has provided us with a number of ground-breaking judgments concerning the compatibility of national social insurance systems with the right to freedom of movement and the free provision of services, as well as the EU Single Market and competition. This has been mainly positive and reassuring.

“In terms of importance to statutory accident insurance, I would like to mention the push from various sides (CEN and ISO) to introduce EU standardisation of health care. We have taken a critical stance to this in Berlin and Brussels, and we will remain on the ball.”

Dr Franz Terwey, Director of the European Representation of the German Social Insurance

Which issues that are relevant to German statutory accident insurance are currently on the agenda?

In terms of importance to statutory accident insurance, I would like to mention the push from various sides (CEN and ISO) to introduce EU standardisation of health care. We have taken a critical stance to

this in Berlin and Brussels, and we will remain on the ball.

Of course, we are also closely following and analysing the EU Accessibility Act and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

In addition, we are focusing on the issue of “new forms of work via digital platforms”, especially with regard to the social security of the people affected. There is general consensus that, to a certain degree, we are starting “from the centre of our own organisations outwards” in order to look for independent solutions and make appropriate proposals. This is important because the EU Commission appears to be seeking a mandate to become involved and act. Given the technical and global changes that are happening, we want to ensure that existing national social security systems are not just sweepingly put into question.

Other topics possibly worth mentioning include European VAT law, EU law for social services of general interest or EU public procurement law, but these go beyond the scope of this interview.

The EU Commission wants to win back acceptance of the EU among its citizens. Do you consider this a successful approach or where do you see room for improvement?

Fundamentally, I think the EU Commission’s initiative is a good one. It is a positive step to give social affairs in Europe its own status, quasi a face or even a pillar in the community’s house. The social rights of the Union’s citizens and the way they are shaped in the future need a strong foundation of reliability and cohesion.

The Pillar should “build on existing instruments” including the open method of coordination, that is, the identification of best practices, the setting of common goals and benchmarks. It should act as a guiding compass without overly strict guidelines. There is no talk of minimum standards. National responsibilities, the subsidiarity principle and the autonomy of the social partners will be observed and the value added of any action at EU level must be “based on clear evidence”. Initiatives as part of the Pillar must take into account the “specificities of each Member State’s current economic, budgetary and social situation”. However, I am critical of the EU Commission’s provisional restriction of the initiative to the euro zone. This should be extended to the entire Union. By the way, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council has recently en-



Photograph: arjazz / Fotolia

The influence of European policy on national social systems is increasing. Even more reason why the role of the European Representation of the German Social Insurance is so important.

dorsed the joint report of the Employment and the Social Protection Committees from 26 September regarding the Pillar. This largely confirms the view of the DSV.

After 23 years, you will be giving up your office on 1 December in order to retire. What would you like to pass on to your successor?

First of all, I am thrilled that Ilka Wölfle has been appointed as my successor. We have known one another for many years from our joint work in the European Representation and at ESIP. During this time, I have learned to appreciate her clear, analytical view of things and her straightforward manner. I firmly believe that this will stand her in good stead for continuing to determine the direction of the activities of the Brussels Team. I wish her the best of luck and success, as well as the patience and perseverance that are necessary in “European business”, without perseverance, nothing moves forward.



Photograph: private

Dr Franz Terwey
Director of the European Representation of the German Social Insurance

TOPIC

Together for inclusion

The Rehabilitation International World Congress took place in Edinburgh from 25 to 27 October. The topic of the Congress was “Create a more inclusive world”. Leading experts and organisations from the field of rehabilitation, including the DGUV, discussed strategies and measures to guarantee and promote inclusion for people with disabilities globally. The DGUV is an active player in the field of rehabilitation well beyond Germany’s borders and participates in international debate through its involvement in global networks such as Rehabilitation International (RI Global). Exchanging with others allows the DGUV to pass on its own expertise and thus improve standards in rehabilitation and inclusion across the globe. At the same time, it makes it possible to learn from the experiences of others in order to optimise the DGUV’s own rehabilitation work and the services it offers to insured individuals in Germany.

Web: www.dguv.de (Webcode: d1458) (German only)

RECOMMENDED

Safety with fun – new app from the VBG

The German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the administrative sector (VBG) is currently running a campaign called “Safety Counts!” which deals with the issue of temp work. As part of the campaign, the VBG presented its new app game “Save Murphy” at the Arbeitsschutz Aktuell trade fair in Hamburg. Murphy is a likeable, hard-working employee who constantly suffers mishaps. The aim of the game is to help Murphy in dangerous situations and to safely get him through his working day. A working day consists of eight different courses that reflect the eight working hours. During the game, players have to prevent accidents or remove hazards – while the difficulty level gets harder and harder. The mini games in the app raise awareness of safety at work in a fun way. More information about the free app and the campaign “Safety Counts!” can be found at www.sicherheit-bei-zeitarbeit.de (Germany only).



Screenshot: VBG

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NEWS IN BRIEF

German OSH Prize 2017

Practical experience has shown that well-regulated occupational safety and health leads to a higher standard of quality in the workplace, to more productivity, to better performance and also to a higher degree of employee motivation. It pays for companies to invest effort into workplace prevention. The best examples of safety and health initiatives in the workplace, which serve as role models to inspire others, are awarded the German Occupational Safety and Health Prize (Deutscher Arbeitsschutzpreis: DASP) every two years. The bodies responsible for the DASP are the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), the Länder Committee for OSH and Safety Engineering (LASI) and the DGUV. Companies, individuals and institutions of



The 2015 award winners

all sizes and from all sectors can nominate their innovative, organisational or technical solution for promoting workplace safety until 31 January 2017. There is €10,000 in prize money to be won in each category. The winners will be announced at the A+A trade fair in Düsseldorf on 17 October 2017.

Web: www.deutscher-arbeitsschutzpreis.de (German only)

Photograph: DGUV

IMPORTANT DATES

30 November 2016
ESIP's 20th Anniversary Conference “The European Pillar of Social Rights”
BRUSSELS
www.dsv-europa.de > News

1 December 2016
Safer machines – requirements for products placed on the market
DRESDEN
www.baua.de > Aktuelles und Termine

8 December 2016
“A European Pillar of Social Rights – concepts and ways towards a socially stronger Europe”
BERLIN
www.gvg.org

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

80,425

violence-related student accidents ...
... occurred at general education schools in 2014. This represents 7.87% of all reportable student accidents at these type of schools.

LEGAL INFORMATION

Published by: Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV), Dr Joachim Breuer (Director General). The DGUV is the umbrella association of the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public sector and for trade and industry
Publishing committee: Dr Renate Colella (Chair), Udo Diel, Gabriele Pappai, Professor Dr med Axel Ekkernkamp, Dr Udo Schöpf, Karl-Sebastian Schulte, Dr Franz Terwey
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Layout: Christoph Schmid, www.christophschmid.com
Publishers: Helios Media GmbH, Friedrichstraße 209, 10969 Berlin, www.helios-media.de
Printed by: DCM Druckcenter Meckenheim

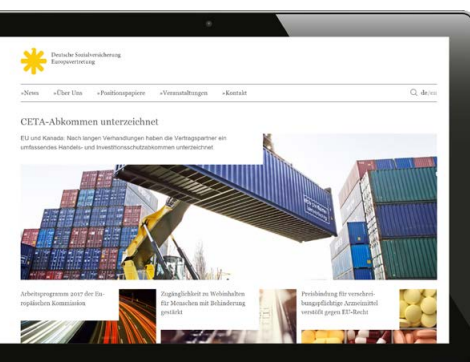
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New website for the DSV

► The European Representation of the German Social Insurance (DSV) launched its new website in October. The new site provides information about activities and current developments in the European Union affecting social security.

Web: www.dsv-europa.de