

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (“Eurofound”) and

the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (“EU-OSHA”)

1. This Memorandum of Understanding¹ between EU-OSHA and Eurofound sets out their areas of close collaboration. These have been chosen to maximize the benefits to both agencies and to avoid any duplication of activities in the identified areas of common interest.
2. The basic roles of EU-OSHA and Eurofound in this collaboration are:
 - Eurofound conducts surveys, monitoring and basic research in the areas of working conditions, living conditions and impacts of globalisation and industrial change on those². Eurofound’s research results and data sets provide valuable inputs to the activities of EU-OSHA.
 - EU-OSHA collects, analyses and disseminates technical, scientific and economic information on health and safety at the workplace. EU-OSHA provides this information to the Community bodies, the Member States, the social partners and those involved in the field³. EU-OSHA can make use of the research results of Eurofound concerning the development of working conditions. EU-OSHA can provide useful insights for Eurofound on the use of this research information and the further needs of this kind of research from the end users’ perspective.
3. Both parties will, on a regular basis, consult about and exchange their annual work programmes before final approval.
4. They will also consult about and exchange their respective four-year programmes. This consultation will be included in the timetable for drafting these programmes to allow sufficient time for input.
5. On the basis of the annual work programmes, specific cooperation arrangements (Annual Action Plans) will be agreed between the two Directors before the end of January via an exchange of letters.
6. In addition, the two Agencies will continue to review their respective current and future work programmes in order to identify additional opportunities for collaboration as new areas of activity are undertaken by each of the Agencies in the future.
7. Both parties will cover their own costs arising from this co-operation as far as it is within the ordinary annual work programmes. For additional activities requiring more resources, special agreements will be made.
8. Co-operation meetings will be organised at the following levels:
 - a. At a general level both Directors will continue to be invited and attend each other’s Board meetings.

¹ This Memorandum of Understanding replaces the Memorandum signed on 5 June 2003.

² Eurofound regulation: EF Council Regulation (EC) No 1111/2005 of 24 June 2005 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 on the creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

³ EU-OSHA regulation: Council Regulation (EC) No. 2062/94 of 18 July 1994 as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1112/2005 of 24 June 2005.

- b. Participation of Eurofound in EU-OSHA's Risk Observatory groups and participation of EU-OSHA in the Working Group on future WC surveys and in relevant meetings on the Network of Observatories (NEO).
 - c. Ad-hoc meetings or invitations may be extended to each other when there is a specific relevance to the subject matter in question.
9. Both parties will nominate main contact persons for specified areas of common interest.
10. This Memorandum of Understanding in no way affects the regulations establishing the two organisations and is not intended to be legally binding.
11. This Memorandum of Understanding enters into force when duly signed by the Directors and approved by the Boards.

Jorma Karppinen
Director
European Foundation for the Improvement
of Living and Working Conditions

Date: 23.2.2007

Place: Bilbao

Jukka Takala
Director
European Agency for Safety for Safety and
Health at Work

Date: 23. Feb 2007

Place: Bilbao



Cooperation Agreement

Action plan for 2007

Between

the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (“Eurofound”) and

the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (“EU-OSHA”)

1. Eurofound will invite EU-OSHA to participate in the dissemination and analysis of results of the data from the last wave of the Working Conditions survey and in the preparation of the next survey.
2. EU-OSHA will involve Eurofound in the work of its Risk Observatory. Eurofound's role will primarily be advisory to ensure that the work of the Risk Observatory and the work of Eurofound are complementary. Also, Eurofound's findings from its European Working Conditions survey (EWCS) can contribute to the identification of newly emerging risks.
3. Eurofound will involve EU-OSHA in the Working Conditions Observatory within Eurofound's Network of Observatories (NEO) and invite it to contribute to the NEO annual reports.
4. EU-OSHA will involve Eurofound in its campaign against musculoskeletal diseases (MSDs) and the Foundation will contribute to a joint seminar on MSDs.
5. Eurofound will forward reports from its Working Conditions Advisory Committee so as to facilitate the sharing of information and joint co-ordination of activities.
6. Eurofound will provide EU-OSHA with the datasets (via the Data Archive at Essex University) and URL links of previous, present and on-going information and reports so that EU-OSHA can link to them from the relevant sections of its website and take into account in its information collection activities.
7. As described above, Eurofound and EU-OSHA will aim at supporting each other's activities by, for example, providing access to data. However, if additional services are provided requiring substantial resources, such as assistance with company level surveys or preparation of special data sets from regular surveys, the cost of these resources will be negotiated between Eurofound and EU-OSHA on a case by case basis.

Jorma Karppinen
Director
European Foundation for the Improvement
of Living and Working Conditions

Date: 23.2.2007

Place: Bilbao

Jukka Takala
Director
European Agency for Safety for Safety and
Health at Work

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