



TOP STORY

Shaping prevention

International Strategy Conference on Safety and Health at Work 2016



Photograph: Solisimages/Fotolia

Work where and when you want: Changes in work not only affect companies and workers. Prevention is also necessary for creating good working conditions.

The way we work is changing. The digitalisation of all areas of life has not only had an impact on manufacturing and service processes, but new forms of work and increasing flexibility have revolutionised everything we had previously thought about work. This also affects what workers think of themselves. Everyone involved in occupational safety and health must, likewise, meet these new requirements for prevention. How work is changing and what this means for occupational safety and health is the focus of the 4th International Strategy Conference on Safety and Health at Work 2016.

Following the motto “Moving Ahead – Vision.Human.Work”, national and international experts will discuss the key challenges of these changes to work from March 21 – 24. Digitalisation in many areas of life; new forms of work and employment conditions; and demographic change present entirely new issues and challenges for those responsible for successful prevention work. Changes in work result in new

risks and hazards, they alter the role of human beings in the production process and they create new processes and structures. In order to successfully continue preventing workplace accidents, occupational diseases and work-related hazards, not only do suitable procedures and tools need to be developed and applied but people also need to be addressed in terms of their self-understanding and their actions. The

“The concept of Vision Zero – a world without serious or fatal accidents – has been an important part of our work for years.”

Dr Walter Eichendorf,
Deputy Director General, DGUV

German social accident insurance is a pioneer in this area.

The aim of the Strategy Conference is to envisage what successful holistic prevention will look like in the future. Vision Zero is a fundamental building block of this. “The concept of Vision Zero – a world without serious or fatal accidents – has been an important part of our work for years,” said Dr Walter Eichendorf, Deputy Director General of the DGUV. “The aim now is to think about how we can put this strategy into practice – not only in terms of changes in the world of work but also society as a whole. Due to the removal of boundaries between different spheres of life, an even stronger holistic approach to prevention is required.”

Web: www.dguv.de/isc
Twitter: [#ISC_2016](https://twitter.com/ISC_2016)



Finding answers together

Dear reader,

The world of work is undergoing a process of transformation. New technologies, a globalised economy and demographic change have brought with them great challenges – also for the German social accident insurance. We want to find answers and provide solutions. To do this we need to look outside the box. What common experiences do we share? Can we learn from best-practice examples from other partners and countries? How can we network in order to work actively together? Therefore, the DGUV is not only looking at national developments but increasingly broadening its focus to include international developments. In addition to bilateral contacts, platforms for international exchange are an important means of addressing urgent issues. The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in 2014, which took place in Frankfurt, was an impressive demonstration of this. The next World Congress is in 2017, this time in Singapore. We don't want to lose any time between the two events. As such, the Strategy Conference in March will continue this global dialogue and help form a bridge between the world congresses. We hope that this will provide further impetus for our work, but we also want to be a source of new ideas, so that despite these new challenges, our world can provide safe and healthy work for all people.

Dr Joachim Breuer
Director General of the DGUV

“Viable solutions for the future need to be developed very soon”

Talking with Dr Joachim Breuer, Director General of the DGUV

The 4th International Strategy Conference on Safety and Health at Work will take place at the DGUV Academy in Dresden from 21 – 24 March 2016. The conference will focus on several key issues which the German social accident insurance has also been dealing with for some time. For example, the impact of changes in the world of work, such as digitalisation and globalisation, on employees, companies and even on social systems. DGUV Kompakt spoke with Dr Joachim Breuer about future challenges in terms of social security and how they can be addressed.

Dr Breuer, the massive changes to the world of work are also having a significant effect on OSH and social security. In your opinion, where do you see the greatest challenges?

In the most diverse of areas. The change from a manufacturing-based society to a service-based one means that there are also significant changes for the German social accident insurance. Take, for example, our role as insurance provider; in the last 20 years, the number of workplace accidents has declined dramatically – however, the number of occupational diseases has remained stagnant. This means that, in addition to traditional workplace safety, we must devote more of ourselves to the issue of occupational diseases. Work intensification, constant availability and job insecurity have resulted, for some time, in a significant increase in the level of stress. There needs to be better solutions and also better consultation – for example, advising companies how to include the aspect of stress when carrying out a risk assessment in the workplace.

How will demographic changes impact this?

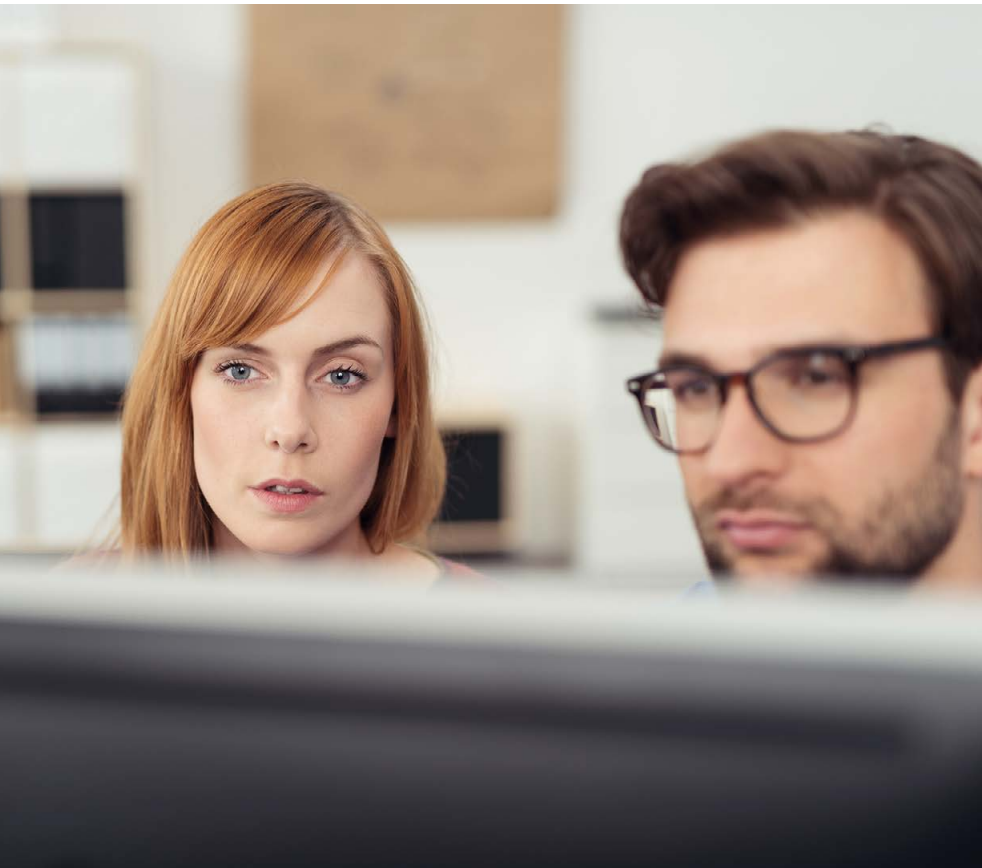
It can safely be assumed that the trend we see of an ageing workforce will exacerbate certain problems. A rise in chronic diseases will place considerable burden on social security systems and we need to find an answer to this. The same applies when an employee is no longer fit enough to car-

ry out their duties through to retirement age. The DGUV has intensified its efforts over the last few years regarding prevention and reintegration management. We cannot simply do away with highly-qualified workers but rather we need to use their potential in a different way – for both humane and economic reasons. Inclusion has been a topic on the agenda since the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with

“We need ways to transition between jobs, we need age-appropriate workplaces and we need flexible models for working hours. To achieve this, policy makers need to create suitable framework conditions.”

Dr Joachim Breuer

Disabilities, if not before. It is becoming increasingly clear that an inclusive work environment must be part of addressing the issue of an ageing society. This means that we need ways to transition between jobs, we need age-appropriate workplaces and we need flexible models for working hours. To achieve this, policy makers need to create suitable framework conditions.



TOPIC

Standards for digitalisation in Europe

The Internet and digital technologies have opened a whole new way of accessing goods and services. Therefore, establishing a digital single market in the European Union is very important. The aim is to enable free access to digital goods and services. Better common standards for security, consumer protection and data protection play an important role in this.

As part of their strategy for the Digital Single Market, the EU Commission conducted a public consultation between September 2015 and January 2016. Its aim was to determine which standards are of particular importance for the establishment of a digital single market and to work out the technical areas in which the new standards should be established. Another aim of the consultation was to draw up a schedule which makes the development of new standards faster and more effective. The Commission for Occupational Health and Safety and Standardization (KAN) also participated in the consultation.

In its response, KAN highlighted how important it is to have common standards in information and communications technology (ICT) in order to maximise the potential of digitalisation. KAN also stressed that drafting priority ICT standards is indeed useful, but that drafting new standards according to clearly-specified schedules must not have an adverse effect on the quality of standards. The areas in which KAN believes new standards should be established are: European industry, particularly regarding the safety of persons and the environment as well as the human-machine interaction, and the Internet of Things. In order to achieve both product safety and workplace safety and health in a digitalised world, common standards are also needed in a Digital Single Market. Particular attention should be paid to the rise in linking and fusing product safety and IT security.

For more information:

Web: http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Web: www.kan.de/en

Who monitors working conditions in a home office? Digital workplaces provide more flexibility in how we work but also pose new challenges for occupational safety and health

Digitalisation and changing structures in companies have made work more flexible – for example, in terms of location and time. Employees are increasingly more responsible for themselves and the traditional nine-to-five job has become more or less obsolete. How can we continue to reach workers, for example, with regards to their rights?

This is a growing problem. Due to the increase in outsourcing, the growth in the number of freelancers and the amount of work that is location-independent, there are dangers and hazards that, under certain circumstances, are simply not recognised. That is to say, intervention isn't possible and this has consequences for occupational safety and health. Take for example, workplace design – who monitors the actual working conditions for a freelancer or someone who is self-employed? Is the client responsible? Who bears the costs of dangerous behaviour? The crucial question here is: how do we want to deal with all of these issues? Should lawmakers be actively involved? We must ask ourselves these questions.

What other aspects do you see?

Another big problem is that many of these one-person businesses do not have adequate protection through social security systems because, to a certain extent, they aren't covered at all. In many cases, this results in them not being sufficiently provided for, which means that as a result of permanent disability or old age, these people must struggle for their existence. The only effective, lasting solution is to make long-term care insurance and pension insurance compulsory. Fundamentally, thought has to be given to the social systems themselves and how they will be structured in the future because it is not in the interest of politics or society to abandon the solidarity of social insurance. Viable solutions for the future need to be developed very soon.



Dr Joachim Breuer
Director General, DGUV

Photograph: contrastwerkstatt/Fotolia

RECOMMENDED

Video: “Culture of Prevention”

The German social accident insurance regularly conducts campaigns in order to raise awareness of occupational safety and health. The DGUV and the Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public and private sectors have agreed upon the theme for the next campaign which starts in 2017: the creation of a comprehensive culture of prevention. A short video has been specially made, which explains the topic. The video is in animated format and can be viewed on the DGUV website.

The aim of the campaign is to promote comprehensive prevention in all areas of life. The goal is to establish a general culture in which people fundamentally act in a safe and healthy way. Workers and companies should be actively involved in prevention work. Everything is based on the right to a safe and healthy working environment to which all people are committed with defined rights, responsibilities and duties. In order to truly achieve cultural change regarding prevention, the campaign will run for a period of 10 years.



The video is currently in German only and can be viewed online at:

www.dguv.de
(Webcode: d1070162)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Successfully completed

The “Think of me. Love, your back” campaign ended in December 2015. The aim of the three-year campaign was to reduce the amount of back strain experienced at work, school and in leisure time. It was conducted by the German Social Accident Insurance Institutions for the public and private sectors, the German Social Institution for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG) and the German Social Insurance for Miners, Seafarers and Railway Workers (Knappschaft). During the campaign, a total of around 170,000 companies and institutions were advised how to design back-friendly workplaces; more than 3,500 action days and health days for good back health were organised in companies; and more than



Photograph: Kaj Kandler/kombinatrotweiss.de

12,000 seminars and seminar modules were given on how to make work back-friendly. “Naturally, our commitment to good back health doesn’t stop with the end of the campaign,” said Dr Walter Eichendorf, Deputy Director General of the DGUV. “The accident insurance institutions will continue to work on preventing musculoskeletal disorders as part of the Joint German OSH Strategy.” The current programme runs until the end of 2018.

Web: www.gdbawegt.de (German only)

The potential of diversity

► Increased diversity in the labour force means that the importance of individualised services for health promotion and prevention is also growing. “iga.Fakten 8” from the Initiative Health and Work (iga) describes the major aspects of a workplace health management system that includes diversity as a focus area.

Web: www.iga-info.de > Veröffentlichungen > iga.Fakten (German only)

Photograph: Fotimmz/Fotolia

IMPORTANT DATES

18 – 20 April 2016
ISSA Regional Social Security Forum for Europe
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
www.issa.int > events

29 May – 1 June 2016
Wellbeing at work
AMSTERDAM
www.wellbeingatwork.nl

3 – 6 September 2017
The XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017
SINGAPORE
www.safety2017singapore.com

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

2.70 Euro

... can be saved by reducing absenteeism for every one euro invested in workplace health promotion and prevention.

Quelle: iga.Report „Wirksamkeit und Nutzen betrieblicher Prävention“

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, Beate Eggert, Professor Dr med Axel Ekkernkamp, Dr Udo Schöpf, Karl-Sebastian Schulte, Dr Franz Terwey
Main editorial office: Gregor Doecke, Dr Dagmar Schittly, DGUV, Glinkastr. 40, 10117 Berlin

Editorial team: Dr Dagmar Schittly, Kathrin Baltscheit, Franz-Xaver Kunert, Katharina Rönnebeck, Katharina Dielmann

Layout: Christoph Schmid, www.christophschmid.com

Publishers: Helios Media GmbH, Friedrichstraße 209, 10969 Berlin, www.helios-media.de

Printed by: DCM Druckcenter Meckenheim

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

 **@DGUVKompakt**

News live from the editorial team:
www.twitter.com/DGUVKompakt

Contact

KOMPAKT@DGUV.DE
WWW.DGUV.DE/KOMPAKT