



Implementation of the New EU Strategy on OSH 2007–2012 in Poland

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Since the 90s the policy concerning OSH has been focused in Poland on the adaptation of law and practice to the European Union standards, due to the process of Poland's accession to the European Union. As an important instrument supporting this policy the Multiannual Programme on OSH: *Adaptation of working conditions in Poland to the European Union standards*, was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2001. The strategic objective of the programme was the development and promotion of legal, organisational and technical solutions enabling Polish employers to achieve a level of OSH that would meet the requirements of EU directives. The programme was carried out in two phases: 1st in the period 2002-2004 and the 2nd in 2005-2007. As a follow-up of the mentioned programme the Council of Ministers adopted in 2007 the next National Programme on OSH: *Improvement of safety and working conditions*, which will be carried out in the years 2008-2010 (phase I).

Moreover, at the beginning of 2008 the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MPiPS) developed a draft national strategy 2008-2012 on OSH, which is closely connected with the implementation of the EU Strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work – Improving quality and productivity at work. The Polish national strategy is expected to be adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2008. Main objectives of this Strategy will include:

- Sustainable reduction in accidents at work and occupational diseases, particularly in mining, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and construction;
- Eliminating or limiting the most common occupational risks, particularly those arising from exposure to noise, dust and chemical substances;
- Decreasing the number of people working in hazardous or strenuous conditions.

To achieve these objectives the following tasks are specified in the Strategy:

- Strengthening the system for the work protection in Poland;
- Strengthening implementation of EU regulations;
- Strengthening activities aimed at compliance with OSH regulations and principles;
- Improving the system for occupational accidents registration;
- Improving the effectiveness of health protection;
- Activities aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration of workers;
- Reacting to social and demographical changes;
- Mainstreaming OSH into education and training;
- Identifying emerging risks.

The aforementioned National Programme on OSH constitutes a key element of the implementation of the OSH Strategy 2008-2012 in Poland. It is composed of two parts:

- Part A: Tasks related to services for the State - 136 tasks in eight thematic groups (realization of tasks related to services for the State will be supervised by MPiPS);
- Part B: 75 research projects divided into five groups (realisation of R&D projects will be supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education).



Practical implementation of the current programme results will be carried out by MPiPS and the Programme Coordinator – CIOP-PIB. The results will be implemented in cooperation with the ministries of economy, national education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, interior and administration, national defense, as well as the National Labour Inspectorate and the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate.