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Workplace Health Practices for Employees with Chronic Illness

Conference on Promoting Workplace Health
22nd-23rd October 2013
Brussels

www.workadaptedforall.eu



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Workplace health practices for employees with chronic illness

Chronic conditions and diseases have a substantial impact on the labour market and working life. This urges the need for effective job retention and return-to-work (RTW) strategies and interventions, as a means of preventing employees with a chronic illness of moving into disability or early retirement.

The European Network for Workplace Health Promotion (www.enwhp.org) launched a two-year campaign on promoting healthy work for employees with chronic illness (PH Work). During the campaign with as slogan **Work. Adapted for all. Move Europe**, good practice examples were collected, and guidelines to set up workplace health practices were developed. 17 Member States participated in encouraging enterprises to implement comprehensive health strategies and interventions, to keep chronically ill employees in work.

The closing conference in October will present the results of the campaign: the good practices, as well as the guidelines and policy recommendations. The conference not only aims to exchange knowledge on the possibilities to retain workers with a chronic disease, or facilitate their return-to-work (RTW); it also seeks to improve the cooperation of all stakeholders involved. Furthermore, the conference will discuss the role of the policymakers, and of stakeholders on a public health and workplace health level.

We hope to welcome a diverse audience of healthcare providers, patient groups, occupational safety and health services and experts, insurance companies, employment assistance centres, enterprises, social partners, representatives of the European institutions, etc.



Programme

22nd October 2013

11:30 Registration

12:00 Welcome refreshments and info booths

12:45 Welcome and opening remarks

Prof. Dr. Karl Kuhn, co-chair of the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion

13:00 Opening session – Setting the scene

Chair: Marc De Greef, Managing director, Prevent-Foundation

To set the scene, the policies on employment and public health are put forward by representatives from the Belgian government and the European institutions. Followed by a discussion of future policy options for the promotion of quality jobs and well-being at work.

14:00 Plenary session 1 – Social security challenges facing the world of work

Chair: François Perl, Director General at the Belgian National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance (RIZIV-INAMI)

Health expenditures are increasing, caused by the rising incidence of chronic and non-communicable diseases. How will health and social security systems face the challenges of a changing European labour market? Participants from ISSA, the EU Commission, OECD and IDMSC discuss.

15:00 Presentation of the PH Work campaign results

Nettie Van der Auwera, project manager PH Work

15:15 Coffee break

15:45 Parallel sessions 1-3 – Good practices

Presentation and showcasing of good practice case studies on workplace health promotion for employees with chronic illness.

Session 1: Job retention of workers with chronic diseases and lifestyle factors

Session 2: Promoting workplace health as a contributor to healthy ageing

Session 3: Effective workplace-based return-to-work strategies and interventions

17:00 Parallel sessions 4-6 – Good practices

Session 4: Workplace approaches for the retention and return-to-work for employees with chronic illness

Session 5: Health promotion activities for workers with reduced abilities

Session 6: Work ability programmes in companies and municipalities

18:00 Networking event



23rd October 2013

09:00 **Plenary session 2 – Creating synergies for a sustainable working life**

Chair: Veronique De Broeck, coordinator European Network for Workplace Health Promotion (ENWHP)

How to develop an integrated and holistic approach? Do we need a standard for workplace health strategies and interventions at enterprise and supra-enterprise level? Representatives from the field, public and workplace health discuss.

10:00 **Parallel sessions 7-9 – Good practices**

Session 7: Jobmatching and strategies to create sustainable work

Session 8: Return-to-work strategies for workers affected by disabilities and diseases

Session 9: Strategic approaches for sustaining people with chronic illnesses at work

11:00 **Coffee break**

11:30 **Closing session – Common policy and practice perspectives on health and work**

Chair: Dr. Maria Dolores Solé Gómez, co-chair of the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion (ENWHP)

How to establish public health – private sector partnerships for investing in workplace health? Participants from EU-OSHA, Eurofound, WHO, Business Europe and ETUC discuss the commitment to invest in job retention and return-to-work.

12:30 **Conclusions**

John Griffiths, Work2health

12:45 **Awarding ceremony** for Move Europe Partners of Excellence

Guided by Tony Van de Putte

13:15 **Signing of the Brussels declaration**

13:30 **Lunch**

The most recently updated programme is available on www.workadaptedforall.eu

Contact

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Practical information

- When and where?** 22-23 October 2013, Brussels
- Venue** Square, Brussels meeting centre
Mont des Arts – Kunstberg – 1000 Brussels
- Languages** All presentations and discussions will be held in English.
Unfortunately, there will not be any translation facilities available.
- Price** Participation cost for two days is € 200. This includes access to the conference and info booths, documentation, welcome refreshments, coffee breaks, a networking event (22 October) and lunch (23 October).
Participation for one day is possible for € 125.
- Registration** Register online via www.workadaptedforall.eu/registration