Lighten the load: lifelong learning for healthier workplaces

Concept

Millions of workers across Europe suffer from work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) with three in every five workers in the European Union reporting MSD complaints. MSDs can be highly detrimental to an individual’s wellbeing and ability to work, and are one of the most common causes of disability, sick leave and early retirement. And although MSDs are preventable, they remain the most prevalent work-related health problem in Europe. Drawing on a wide range of expertise from the worlds of VET and occupational safety and health (OSH), this session will explore how the prevention of MSDs can and should be an integrated part of any, and all, lifelong learning strategies. It will examine how EU-OSHA’s current Healthy Workplaces Campaign: Lighten the Load provides an ideal opportunity for VET and OSH professionals across Europe to create new partnerships and synergies around the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders and the promotion of wellbeing for today’s and tomorrow’s workforce.

On a policy level, this session supports the implementation of both the recently launched EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-27 and the European Skills Agenda.

Agenda

Hosted by MEP Marianne Vind (DK, S&D)
Moderated by Brenda O’Brien, Brussels Liaison Officer, EU-OSHA

- Welcome words, Jon Harding (LLLP VicePresident & EfVET)
- Introduction, MEP Marianne Vind (DK, S&D)
- Video (Healthy Workplaces Campaign - Lighten The Load)
- Introduction Lorenzo Munar, Senior Project Manager, EU-OSHA
- Panel discussion - Joining forces to lighten the load – musculoskeletal disorders as a vector for the integration of occupational safety and health into lifelong learning programmes
  - Lorenzo Munar, EU-OSHA
  - Arja Flinkman, EfVET VicePresident
  - Jesus Alvarez, Policy Officer, EU DG EMPL C2
- VET & OSH partnership in practice in Portugal
  - Emilia Telo, EU-OSHA national focal point
- Luis Costa, EfVET
- Conclusions and Q&A session, MEP Marianne Vind
- Closing, Brenda O’Brien, EU-OSHA