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- Introduction to EU-OSHA
- EU-OSHA activities re sharp injuries prevention
  - o Awareness raising and promotion
  - o Good practice information
- Further collaboration

**Aim** - help improve working conditions in the EU by providing technical, scientific and economic information to people involved in safety and health at work

## Key areas of activity:

- ❖ Network development
  - building the links
- ❖ Information projects
  - developing knowledge
- ❖ Information services
  - communicating knowledge



## Awareness raising and promotion

- Social partners' Framework Agreement and Directive 2010/32/EU:
  - o news on EU-OSHA website
  - o OSHmail
  - o legislation section
- Web section on sharp injuries prevention (weabteaser – mid June, OSHmail – beginning July):
  - o Introduction
  - o Directive 2010/32/EU (FA)
  - o EU-OSHA good practice information
  - o Link to the European Biosafety Network guidance

# EU-OSHA activities re sharps injuries

## Good practice information

Health and safety of healthcare staff — OSHA — European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Health and safety of healthcare staff — OS... +

http://osha.europa.eu/en/sector/healthcare



echa



European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

English



You are here: Home → Sectors → Health Care

### Menu

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### Health and safety of healthcare staff

Workers employed in the health care sector have to deal with a wide range of activities and environments that pose a threat to their health and put them at risk of occupational disease or work-related accidents. This section provides detailed information about such risks and effective methods of assessing and eliminating or minimising them.

Many of the settings in which health care workers carry out their jobs and the multiplicity of tasks they perform can present a **great variety of hazards**. The healthcare sector is large, **employing around 10% of all workers** throughout the European Union. More than three quarters of them are **women**.

The nature of their work, whether delivering frontline care for the physically or mentally impaired, or handling patients or providing cleaning services, makes it absolutely vital that **health and safety is a priority in this sector**. Yet European data show that the proportion of healthcare workers considering that their health and safety is at risk because of work they do is higher than the average across all sectors in the EU. In particular, exposure to threats of physical **violence** and actual acts of violence from colleagues and non-colleagues is highly prevalent compared to other sectors.

The range of risks faced by health workers includes:

- **Biological risks** such as infections caused by needlestick injuries
- **Chemical risks** including drugs used in the treatment of cancer and disinfectants
- **Physical risks** such as ionising radiation
- **Ergonomic risks**, for example, patient handling
- **Psychosocial risks** including violence and shift work

This section offers, among other things, case studies, examples of good practice and checklists to help those who are dealing with health and safety at the workplace assess possible risks and monitor safety processes.

### Search

Google Custom Search

OSH Global Search

A-Z Index

### Publications

- Workplace Violence and Harassment: a European Picture
  - E-fact 53: Risk assessment for biological agents
  - OSH in figures: Work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the EU - Facts and figures
- More...

### Practical solutions

- Useful links - search
- Risk assessment tools - search
- Case studies - search
- Providers - search
- FAQ - search

### EU Framework Agreement

Visit a **European Framework Agreement on Prevention from Sharp Injuries in the Hospital and Health Care Sector** (available in: Français, Deutsch, Svenska, Castellano, Dutch)

### News

- EU - Non-binding guide to good practice for implementing Directive 2006/25/EC "Artificial Optical Radiation" 17.05.2011
- EU - New Europe for Patients website online 15.12.2010
- Work-related stress - one of the biggest OSH challenges in Europe 05.12.2010
- E-fact 53: Risk assessment for biological agents 25.10.2010
- FI - FIOH - Violence link to MSDs found in health-care study

# EU-OSHA activities re sharps injuries

## Good practice information

Practical Solutions — OSHA — European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - Mozilla Firefox

http://osha.europa.eu/en/practical-solutions

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Zinta Podniece My Folder Log out Worklist

English

You are here: Home → Practical Solutions

### Practical Solutions

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work monitors, collects and analyses scientific findings, statistical information and **prevention measures**. It also supports the exchange and sharing of information. If you are involved in workplace health and safety, you can use this section to find **practical information, guidelines** and **case studies** to help solve a variety of problems.

**Good practice** that has been implemented successfully in one workplace can be adapted and used elsewhere. However, before good practice information is applied, an assessment of the hazards and risks present in the workplace should be carried out, making reference to relevant national legislation.

While EU-OSHA is not responsible for the content of external internet sites to which it links, we aim to ensure that we only link to good practice information that is reliable and meets identified criteria for prevention. These include following: the 'prevention hierarchy' set out in EU legislation, which includes starting with prevention at source and prioritising collective measures over individual ones and; ensuring the participation of workers.

More detailed information on good practice collection, evaluation and dissemination can be found in our [Good Practice Information](#) provided by EU-OSHA.



### Latest additions

- The increasing use of portable computing and communication devices and its impact on the health of EU workers**  
27.04.2011 - Last modified : 04.05.2011  
Portable computing and communication devices (portable IT) such as portable digital assistants PDAs, laptop computers, smart phones, tablet personal computers are widely used by workers in different ...  
[http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTER.SHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en\\_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=KE3010325&CatalogCategoryID=K4KABstjN4AAAEj8pAY4e5L](http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTER.SHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=KE3010325&CatalogCategoryID=K4KABstjN4AAAEj8pAY4e5L)  
**Languages:** English  
**See also:** [Business aspects of OSH](#) | [Changing World of Work](#) | [Risk assessment](#) | [Stress](#)  
Ellen Zwink | published | [Modify workflow](#) | [Edit](#)
- Technical recommendations for monitoring individuals occupationally exposed to external radiation**  
27.04.2011 - Last modified : 04.05.2011  
The purpose of these technical recommendations is to provide guidance on those aspects of the implementation of the European Union Parliament and Council Directives (e.g. Council ...  
[http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTER.SHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en\\_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=K0XA09004&CatalogCategoryID=K4KABstjN4AAAEj8pAY4e5L](http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTER.SHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=K0XA09004&CatalogCategoryID=K4KABstjN4AAAEj8pAY4e5L)  
**Languages:** English  
**See also:** [Dangerous Substances](#)  
Filian 7wink | published | [Modify workflow](#) | [Edit](#)

Start | Microsoft Outlook | Reminders | HOSPEEM and EPSU ... | Final presentations | Practical Solutions ... | Draft AMP 2012 after Bo... | 11.05.26\_SD in healthca... | 2010.11.7-10\_PPCOE20... | EN | 17:44

# EU-OSHA activities re sharps injuries

## Good practice information

Case Studies — OSHA — European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Case Studies — OSHA — European Agency f...

http://osha.europa.eu/en/practical-solutions/case-studies/index\_html/practical-solution?SearchableText=&is\_search\_expanded=true&getRemoteLanguage=en&keywords%3Alist=&nace%3Adefault=&nace%3Alist=86&multilingual\_thesaurus%3Adefault=&multilingual\_thes...

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- European Risk Observatory

### Search in the CASE STUDIES DATABASE

#### Advanced search

Filter your search by selecting one or more of the filters. You can always remove any filter again by selecting the empty entry or by clicking the Reset button.

##### Remote Language

- Bosanski
- Čeština
- Dansk
- Deutsch
- Ελληνικά
- English

##### Country

- EU
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus

##### Categories

Select

##### Sector (NACE Code)

Pick one or more values by clicking the Add button or using the Quicksearch field below.

- HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES - Human health activities (86)

Add...

Quicksearch:

##### Multilingual Thesaurus Subject

Select one or more entries

- Hazards at work - Biological hazards - Sharps (29151C)

Add...

Quicksearch:

Search Reset

Search results — 2 Items match your criteria

#### Needlestick — how to prevent needlestick injuries effectively

23.07.2010 - Last modified : 08.03.2011

Number of needlestick injuries can be as high as one per worker per year. Consequences of a single needlestick injury can be severe or even fatal. The most common risk are Hepatitis B and C and HIV ...

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TEWE09001ENC/view>

Languages: English

See also: [Accident Prevention](#) | [Dangerous Substances](#) | [Health Care](#) | [Risk assessment](#)

Ferenc Kudasz | published | [Modify workflow](#) | [Edit](#)

## Background

- 750,000 work in hospitals/inpatient facilities
- 0.41-0.98 NSI/worker/year
- Estimated 500,000 NSI/year; less than 50% registered

## Aim

- Could an official recommendation on the use of certain instruments/work techniques be given?

## Interventions (2-year study):

- G1-conventional needles/syringes
- G2-advice/training
- G3-use of safety instruments + advice/training

\* University hospital Heidelberg; Public health department, Baden-Württemberg; Statutory accident insurance for the health care sector (BGW); Accident insurance, Baden-Württemberg



## Results:

- **G1** and **G2** - prevalence of registered NSI did not change significantly
- **G3:**
  - Decrease from 13.1%-10.9% to 3.6%; all incidents using conventional instruments
  - Acceptance of new instruments/methods grew with training, time in use, experience and 'easy use'
  - 89% of disposed instruments were safety instruments with safety mechanisms correctly activated
  - 94% of workers used safety instruments

## Conclusions:

- Sensitising (advice) only is not sufficient
- Technical improvements + training/education
- Safety equipment that is easy to use; safety mechanisms that are easy to activate
- Safety disposal containers
- Start-up/refreshing training
- Monitoring/registration of accidents (sustainability of measures)
- Introduction of new measures

## Outcome:

- Public health department of Baden-Wurttemberg officially recommends the use of safety equipment and training

# Further collaboration OiRA

http://osha.europa



Status Help Sessions Logout

Preparation Identification Evaluation Action Plan Report

- 1 The public
- 2 Stairways, escalators
- 3 The building
- 4 Storage room / Warehouse
- 5 Working in offices**
- 6 Delivery and removal of material
- 7 Physical work
- 8 Working on site
- 9 Working with customers/clients /guests
- 10 Noise
- 11 Climate: heat, radiation, cold, outdoors
- 12 Vibration
- 13 Dangerous substances
- 14 Tools/machines/means of transport
- 15 Working and resting time
- 16 Psychosocial risks
- 17 Basic Agreements

## Working in offices

All office chairs are adjustable

Yes  
 No

[Previous](#) [Next](#)



The chair must be adjustable and have a good stability. It should allow smooth movement. The seat pan should be adequately cushioned. Armrest should be positioned away from edge of the chair, or be adjustable in height, so that the chair can be pulled into the desk.

**2. Identification -  
Affirmative answer to a  
"risk statement".**

ator easy freedom of movement and a  
in height. The seat back shall be adjustable in

START  
QUIT

# Further collaboration

Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2012-2013  
Others

<http://osha.europa.eu>

➤ **Partnership for risk prevention:**

- o leadership
- o worker participation

➤ **Activities:**

- o Launch - 18 April 2012
- o European Good practice awards competition
- o Engagement of Campaign partners at EU and national level
- o Online OSH Campaigning Toolkit
- o Seminars, workshops etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

➤ **Others** – OSHwiki, OSH catalogue (preventive solutions for the healthcare sector)

# Thank you !!!

[podniece@osha.europa.eu](mailto:podniece@osha.europa.eu)

**More information on:**

OSH in healthcare

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/sector/healthcare>

Healthy Workplaces Campaigns

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns>

EU-OSHA

<http://osha.europa.eu/en>