

# Final brochure of the joint EU-ILO Project “Improving Safety and Health at Work through a Decent Work Agenda”

## Moldova

1. The joint ILO-EU project “Improving Safety and Health at Work through a Decent Work Agenda” had an overall goal to contribute to a more inclusive and productive society through a reduction in occupational accidents and work-related diseases.
2. It was implemented over two years between 2010 and 2012 in five pilot countries (Eastern Europe: **Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**; Central America: **Honduras**; Southern Africa: **Malawi and Zambia**)
3. The pilot countries were selected by the ILO and the EU on the basis of their national commitment to improve safety and health at work, as witnessed by the formal agreements between governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations in the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs).
4. In Republic of Moldova, as in many countries around the world, safety and health at work is a major concern. It is reported that over 30 people die each year as a result of their work in Republic of Moldova, and that non-fatal occupational accidents have decreased to over 400 per year. However, it is likely that these figures are largely underestimated in as much as reporting of occupational accidents and diseases is far from being systematic.
5. The project aimed at incorporating occupational safety and health (OSH) at the highest level in the national political agenda, developing national programmes on OSH on a tripartite basis and translating them into action at the workplace.

### 6. **Specific Objectives**

**Specific objective 1:** A systematic approach to improving Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is taken on board at the highest political level, including consideration of OSH concerns in national development policies in the pilot countries.

**Specific objective 2:** Practical OSH management measures are introduced and implemented at enterprise level in accordance with national action plans.

**Specific objective 3:** Global knowledge sharing on OSH tools and good practices is promoted with the purpose of developing a systematic and sustainable approach to OSH improvements.

7. In Moldova, important results were achieved and have laid the ground to reach the development goal of the project, which is a reduction in the number of occupational accidents and work related diseases.
8. The results achieved in cooperation with ILO tripartite constituents include:
9. A national profile which is a situational and needs analysis on occupational safety and health in the Republic of Moldova.

10. The draft National Programme on Occupational Safety and Health for 2012 – 2016

11. Network of trainers in risk assessment and management methodologies:

- Trainings were organized towards business leaders, worker representatives and safety and health specialists, so that they could in turn educate and disseminate the principles of OSH at the enterprise level. All the participants repeatedly expressed their need for and satisfaction with such trainings.
- The Safety and Health Specialist from 'Moldcell SA', the Head of the Educational Unit from the Labour Institute, the Senior Specialist of the Labour Protection Department in the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova, a senior Inspector from the Labour Inspectorate, are now trainers able to conduct their own courses on risk assessment and OSH management. They have presented the curricula that they have designed for their own courses, using ILO material. And have expressed their readiness to cooperate with several 'pilot' enterprises in order to spread out risk assessment and management practices in the Republic of Moldova.
- The labour Institute has now introduced the issue of risk assessment and management system in their educational programmes, as part of a general curriculum. Trainings will be conducted by the Institute on a regular basis.

12. Recommendations to improve the national system on reporting and notification of occupational accidents:

A National Study on reporting and notification of occupational accidents was developed and discussed during a national tripartite workshop. Practical recommendations on how to improve the national system on reporting and notification were elaborated by ILO tripartite constituents.

13. Awareness raising campaigns based on the ILO World Day for Safety and Health at Work (28 April) in 2011 and 2012:

Various events and press conferences were organized and awareness raising materials on OSH were produced and disseminated.

14. During the project's lifetime, and for the first time in the Republic of Moldova, a specific unit on occupational safety and health has been established in the Ministry of Labour, Social Policy and Family. This was one of the key recommendations that came out of the national OSH profile.

15. Closing conference of the project conducted in Chisinau on 20 September:

- The closing conference gathered the main stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project and allowed to show-case the results achieved by the project, examine findings and lessons learnt, and discuss the way forward with stakeholders, development cooperation partners and policy makers
- Mr. Sergiu Sainciuc, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Policy and Family and all tripartite ILO constituents highly praised the project's contribution towards the improvement of occupational safety and health in Republic of Moldova

16. The challenge today is that national stakeholders continue to pursue their joint efforts to ensure that safety and health programmes are implemented and reach the concerned beneficiaries. A key element is the allocation of human and financial resources to implement the national programme and carry forward the work achieved to date.
17. During the national steering committee meetings, which gathered regularly the main stakeholders involved in OSH in Republic of Moldova, and during the activities carried out by the project, as well as during the final conference, the following were expressed by national stakeholders as needs for follow-up and reinforcement of the project's action in the field of OSH in the future in Republic of Moldova:
- Ratification of the ILO Convention No. 161 and development of a sustainable system of occupational health services aimed at the prevention of occupational diseases;
  - Implementation of the provisions of the ILO OSH Conventions already ratified by Moldova, and in particular Conventions No. 155 and No.187;
  - Implementation of the management systems approach in enterprises based on ILO-OSH-2001, and in particular using the risk assessment and management methods imparted through the project, including multi-level OSH education and training for various target groups (directors, managers, OSH specialists, workers' representatives, etc).
  - Improvement of the national system for recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases as per the recommendations of the national study developed through the project;
  - Further development of the system of social insurance against occupational accidents and diseases (;
  - Promotion and support for the development of a preventative safety and health culture, and awareness-raising activities.