

Second ROWER WinG Meeting on Occupational safety and health at the macroeconomic level

Sandanski, 15-17 April, 2010



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URL: <http://www.swu.bg>

I. INTRODUCTION (1 of 2):

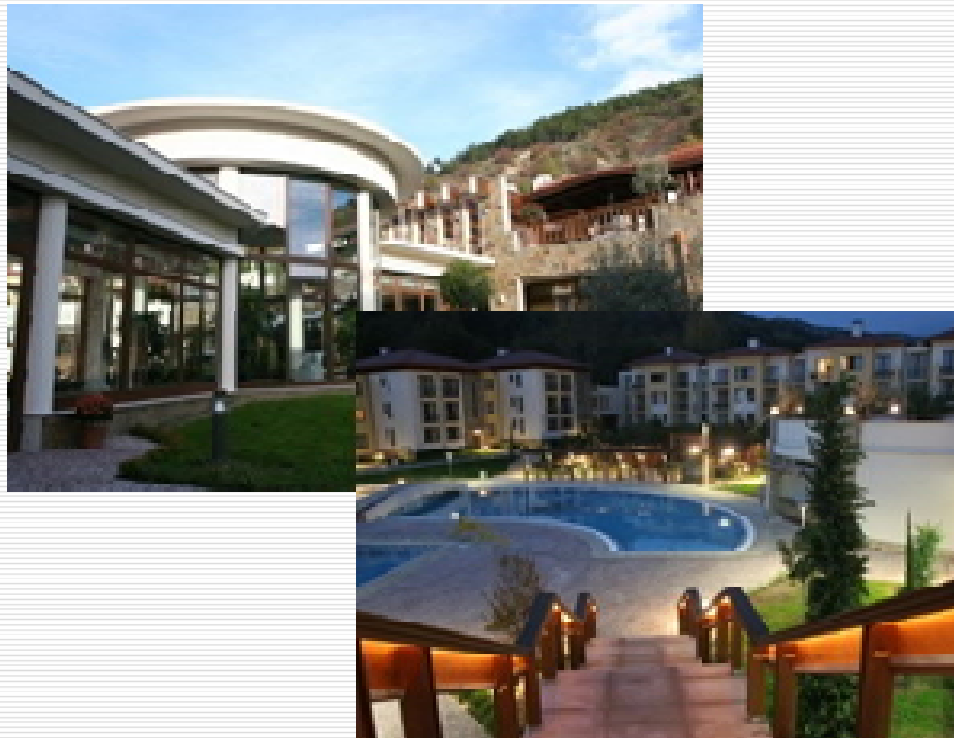


The second WinG meeting under the ROWER project was held in Sandanski, on 15-17 April, 2010. The workshop focused on the Macroeconomics of Occupational Health and Safety with reference to various factors at the national and social level. A particular objective of this workshop was to analyze and estimate the impact of regulation, changes in labour force structure and changes in economy on the occupational health and safety.

I. INTRODUCTION (2 of 2):

Special emphasis was put on the problems of measurement of the economic impact of occupational accidents and diseases at national level and problems of cost internalizations. Besides the ROWER partners, the workshop attracted prominent experts in the scope of occupational health and safety from the USA, Canada, Germany, Austria, Poland, who contributed their knowledge and expertise.

II. Meeting Location:



The meeting was held in the Park-hotel Pirin, Sandanski, Bulgaria. The hotel offered excellent accommodation and perfect work environment. The town of **Sandanski** is situated to the south-west of the capital Sofia and to the south of the regional center of Blagoevgrad, not far away from the border with Greece.

III. OBJECTIVES:

As initially planned by ROWER project (in the proposal stage) the main objectives of this workshop were to analyze and estimate the impact of regulation, changes in labour force structure and changes in economy on the occupational health and safety. Special emphasis was put on the problems of measurement economic impact of occupational accidents and diseases at national level and problems of cost internalizations.

IV. Organising Committee:

The organising committee consisted of members of ROWER project.

- Prof. Dr. Chavdar Nikolov, Faculty of Economics, Southwest University, Bulgaria
 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gancho Ganchev, Faculty of Economics, Southwest University, Bulgaria
 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preslav Dimitrov, Faculty of Economics, Southwest University, Bulgaria
 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Desislava Stoilova, Faculty of Economics, Southwest University, Bulgaria
 - Dr. Christos Chatziioannou, ATEITH, Greece
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V. Scientific Committee

The scientific committee included distinguished researchers in the scope of occupational health and safety from all over the world.

- Mark Thompson, Ph.D., Prof. Emeritus, Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
 - Paul Leonard Gallina, Ph.D., LL.M., DOHS, Professor, Williams School of Business, Université Bishop's University, Québec, Canada
 - Dietmar Elsler, Ph.D., European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Bilbao, Spain
 - Emile Tompa, M.B.A., Ph.D., Institute for Work & Health, Toronto, Canada
 - Izabela Rydlewska - Liszkowska, Ph. D, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Lodz, Poland
 - Julie M. Fritz, PhD, PT, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
 - Alan Spence, Health & Safety Executive, United Kingdom
 - Antonis Targoutzidis, PhD, ATEITH, Greece
 - Preslav Dimitrov, PhD, Associate Professor, Southwest University, Bulgaria
 - Desislava Stoilova, PhD, Associate Professor Southwest University, Bulgaria
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VI. TOPICS (1 of 4):

As initially planned by ROWER project the general directions of research were:

- Impact of changes in labour force structure (ageing, increase of female employment, etc.) and relation to quality of employment.
 - Impact of changes in economy (shifting to less labour-intense sectors, international competition, new forms of employment, etc.)
 - Measuring economic impact of occupational accidents and diseases in national level (agreement of common principles for measuring costs).
 - Impact of regulation (legislation, insurance systems, equal opportunities, etc.)
 - Cost internalisation (the case of the State)
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VI. TOPICS (2 of 4):

The issues discussed in the groups followed the main workshop topics:



1st topic: Impact of regulation on OHS

- Should the State intervene in OHS?
 - Should the intervention of the State on OHS be on regulation terms or economic terms?
 - Does the existing regulatory framework correspond to the recent trends and needs?
 - Should liability remain with the employer or be replaced via insurance schemes?
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VI. TOPICS (3 of 4):

The issues discussed in the groups followed the main workshop topics:

2nd topic: Measuring cost at social/national level



- Why measuring cost at the social/national level?
 - Who bears the cost at social/national level?
 - Is the incidence (future costs of accidents and diseases occurring during the reference year) or prevalence approach (costs of accident at the reference year regardless to when they occurred) more fit for measuring cost at national level?
 - Are the traditional accounting tools proper for measuring OHS cost?
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VI. TOPICS (4 of 4):

The issues discussed in the groups followed the main workshop topics:



3rd topic: Impact of economic cycle on workplace accidents

- Which economic parameters affect OHS and how?
- How will the current recession affect OHS?
- Should fatal or total accidents be examined in studies?
- Does a cyclical or a counter-cyclical trend appear sounder?



VII. Agenda and Outputs (1 of 5):



The workshop lasted for two and a half days. Opening statements have been presented by the Rector of the South-West University 'Neofit Rilski' and by the Director of the Work Conditions Direction at the General Labour Inspectorate, Bulgaria. There were 15 oral presentations and 2 breakout sessions equally distributed within the frameworks of the workshop. The conclusions of breakout sessions were presented by the rapporteurs of the working groups.

VII. Agenda and Outputs (2 of 5):

- **14 April 2010:**

12:00 – 14:00 h. **Arrival of the international participants** at the Sofia Airport, Terminal 2.

15:30 h. – **Departure of the shuttle bus** of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” **from the Sofia Airport, Terminal 2** to the town of Sandanski.

15:30 – 18:30 h. – Transportation of the international participants by the shuttle bus to Sandanski.
Arrival at Park-Hotel “Pirin”

18:30 – 19:00 h. – **Checking-in at the hotel**

19:30 – 22:30 h. – **Dinner**

- **15 April 2010:**

08:30 – 09:00 h. – **Registration** (at the registration desk in the lobby of Park-Hotel “Pirin”)

09:00 – 09:30 h. – **Opening Session** (“Bulgaria” Hall, Park-hotel “Pirin”)

Welcome by Dr. Desislava Stoilova, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Bulgaria

Opening statements:

- by Prof. Dr. Ivan Mirchev, Rector of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
- by Mr. Panayot Panayotov, General Labour Inspectorate at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria

09:30 – 10:30 h. – **IMPACT OF REGULATION ON OHS** (“Bulgaria” Hall, Park-hotel “Pirin”)

Chairs:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preslav Dimitrov, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, Bulgaria
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Izabela Rydlewska, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland

Presentations:

- Prof. Paul Gallina, Ph.D., Bishop’s University, Canada
Economic considerations of occupational disability management: the worker, the firm, and society
- Assoc. Prof. Julie M. Fritz, Ph.D., Department of Physical Therapy, USA
The Influence of policies to reduce utilization of physical therapy on outcomes and costs
- Prof. Mark Thompson, Ph.D., University of British Columbia, Canada
Migrant Workers: A Challenge for the Protection of Occupational Health and Safety

10:30 – 11:00 h. – **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00 h. – **IMPACT OF REGULATION ON OHS** (“Bulgaria” Hall, Park-hotel “Pirin”)

Chairs:

Dr. Dietmar Elsler, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Germany
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Julie M. Fritz, Department of Physical Therapy, USA

Presentations:

- Emile Tompa, PhD, Institute for Work & Health, Canada



VII. Agenda and Outputs (3 of 5):



Premium Setting Practices for Workers' Compensation in Ontario, Canada—Design, Impacts, and Risks

- Prof. Georgi Wassilew, Delegate of the German Berlin Medical Council, Germany
The health insurance system in Germany – options of health services available to European Citizens
- Gerhard Elsigan, PhD, Linz Academy of Occupational Medicine and Safety, Austria
The value of good and decent work - limits for expressing occupational health in Euros
- Assoc. Prof. Oguz Karadeniz, Ph.D, Pamukkale University, Turkey
Work accidents, social security costs of employers and new policies suggestions to reduce work accidents in Turkey

12:30 – 13:00 h. – **Discussions** (Questions & Answers from the key speakers)

13:00 – 14:00 h. – **Lunch** (The Mediterranean Restaurant nearby the “Bulgaria” Hall, Park-Hotel “Pirin”)

14:00 – 15:30 h. – **Sessions of the Working Groups:**

- Working Group 1: “Bulgaria” Hall, Park-Hotel “Pirin”
- Working Group 2: “Sandanska Bistritsa” Room, Park-Hotel “Pirin”
- Working Group 3: “Dezudava” Room, Park-Hotel “Pirin”

15:30 – 16:00 h. – **Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:30 h. – **Wrap-up session for the 1st day** (“Bulgaria” Hall, Park-Hotel “Pirin”)

Chairs:

- Prof. Dr. Paul Gallina, Williams School of Business, Bishop’s University, Canada
- Alan Spence, Health & Safety Executive, United Kingdom
- Reporting of the results from the working group sessions
- Discussion

19:30 – 23:30 h. – **Gala Dinner** (the Balkan restaurant of Park-Hotel “Pirin”)

• **16 April 2010:**

09:00 – 10:00 h. – **MEASURING COST AT SOCIAL/NATIONAL LEVEL** (“Bulgaria” Hall, Park-hotel “Pirin”)

Chairs:

- Dr. Peter Dorman, USA
- Dr. Emile Tompa, Institute for Work & Health, Canada

Presentations:

- Assoc. Prof. Izabela Rydlewska, PhD, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland
Costs of occupational diseases and accidents at work at macro level. Limitation of estimation - Polish case
- Prof. Steve Harvey, PhD, Williams School of Business, Bishop’s University, Canada
Workplace aggression: a new risk or an old one redefined for the changing workplace?
- Katharina Wassilew, PhD, Royal National Orthopedic Hospital, University College London, United Kingdom
Occupational health and safety - the poor cousin of modern medicine

10:00 – 10:30 h. – **Coffee break**

10:30 – 12:30 h. – **IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CYCLE ON WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS** (“Bulgaria” Hall, Park-hotel “Pirin”)

Chairs:

- Prof. Dr. Mark Thompson, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Prof. Dr. Nazmiye Altintas, EGE University, Turkey

Presentations:

VII. Agenda and Outputs (4 of 5):

- Dietmar Elsler, PhD, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Germany
International transferability of economic incentive schemes: the role of political and cultural framework conditions
 - Peter Dorman, Ph.D., USA
The Cyclical Aspects of Health and Safety Outcomes
 - Alan Spence, Health & Safety Executive, United Kingdom
Effects of the Economic Cycle on Health and Safety at Work
- 12:30 – 13:00 h. – **Discussions** (Questions & Answers from the key speakers)
- 13:00 – 14:00 h. – **Lunch** (The Mediterranean Restaurant, Park-Hotel "Pirin")
- 14:00 – 14:40 h. – **IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CYCLE ON WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS** ("Bulgaria" Hall, Park-hotel "Pirin")
- Chairs:**
Prof. Dr. Steve Harvey, Williams School of Business, Bishop's University, Canada
Prof. Dr. Georgi Wassilew, Delegate of the German Berlin Medical Council, Germany
- Presentations:**
- Antonis Targoutzidis, Ph.D., ATEITH, Greece
The impact of various factors of the economic cycle on fatal workplace accidents: The case of UK 1971 – 2009
 - Assoc. Prof. Preslav Dimitrov, PhD, South-West University, Bulgaria
Ensuring occupational health and safety through vocational training - the example of the "THERM" Project (under the EU Leonardo da Vinci Programme)
- 14:40 – 15:00 h. – **Discussions** (Questions & Answers from the key speakers)
- 15:00 – 15:30 h. – **Coffee break**
- 15:30 – 16:30 h. – **Sessions of the Working Groups:**
- Working Group 1: "Bulgaria" Hall, Park-Hotel "Pirin"
 - Working Group 2: "Sandanska Bistritsa" Room, Park-Hotel "Pirin"
 - Working Group 3: "Dezudava" Room, Park-Hotel "Pirin"
- 16:30 – 17:30 h. – **Wrap-up session for the 2nd day** ("Bulgaria" Hall, Park-Hotel "Pirin")
- Chairs:**
Dr. Antonis Targoutzidis, ATEITH, Greece
Dr. Henk Groen, University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands
- Reporting of the results from the working group sessions
 - Discussion
 - Summarizing the outcomes and the problems areas which will need further research efforts and attention
- 19:30 – 23:30 h. – **Dinner** (The Mediterranean Restaurant, Park-Hotel "Pirin")
- **17 April 2010:**
- 08:30 h. – **Departure of the shuttle bus** of the South-West University "Neofit Rilski" **from Park-Hotel "Pirin" Sandanski to the Sofia Airport, Terminal 2** for those of the international participant who will have to take their flights on 17 April 2010. The arrival at Terminal 2 of the Sofia Airport is expected between 11:30 and 12:00 h.
- 09:00 – 17:00 h. – **Meetings among the ROWER Project Partners**
- 19:30 – 22:30 h. – **Dinner**
- **18 April 2010:**
- 09:00 h. – **Departure of the shuttle bus from Park-Hotel "Pirin" Sandanski to the Sofia Airport, Terminal 2.** The arrival at Terminal 2 of the Sofia Airport is expected between 11:30 and 12:00 h.



VII. Agenda and Outputs (5 of 5):



The presentations (or the abstracts by the author where available) of the presented works can be found in the ROWER website:

http://www.rower-eu.eu:8080/rower/activities/2nd_WG/macro.html

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!



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