

## 2<sup>nd</sup> European conference

### Promoting paritarian social funds in the **construction** industry

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## Introduction

In 1907 in the USA on the opening of the safety equipment exhibition, in his speech, President Roosevelt said the followings: „**Objects produced by people are made for life. Devote one’s life to objects would be the inversion of the Natural Order of Things.**”

(This sentence could be the motto of my lecture.)

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## **Importance of occupational safety regarding scale of values of the Hungarian workers (1)**

The ILO sent envoys to Hungary in 1991-92 for measuring the OSH (Occupational Safety and Health at Work) situation at the country. One of the most important statements of the delegation was that, in comparison with western countries, in Hungary, regarding the scale of values of people, occupational safety is not a notable question.

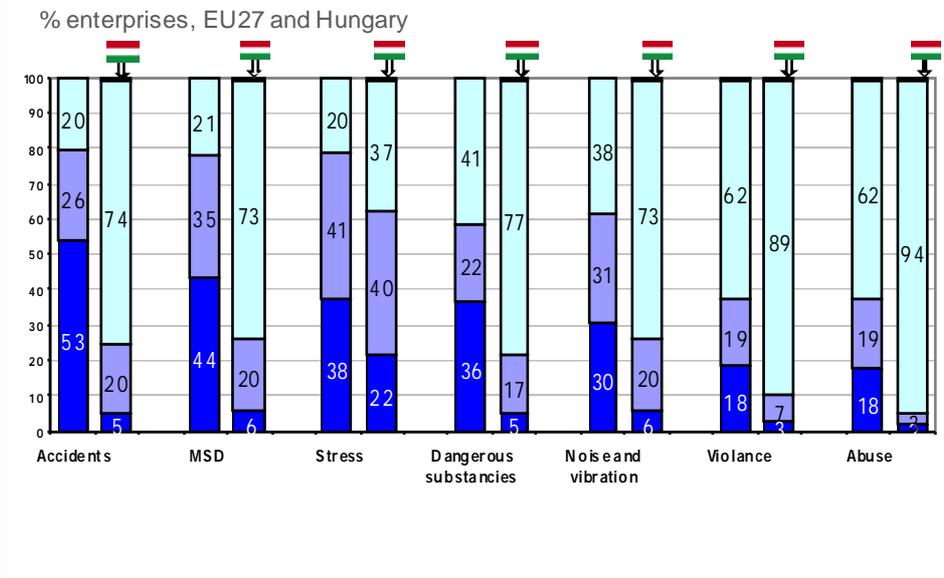
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## **Importance of occupational safety regarding scale of values of the Hungarian workers (2)**

According to the answers were given to the ESENER survey, a research of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in 2009, the asked Hungarian citizens do not make much account of supervision of work accidents.

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Question: the following issues cause serious, partial or nothing problem in your company? (light blue = nothing problem)



## OSH situation at the construction

Examining the OSH situation of the construction and the reasons of the current situation we could state that in Hungary the largest number of fatal work accident (mean in absolute value and considering the number of workers) happen in the construction. This situation is still exist in spite of the improving tendency of work accident indicators.

## Reasons of the dangerousness of the construction processes

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## Construction is a dangerous technology

- Work in high or deep, enhanced danger of fall down, fall in, covered in, electric shock
- Place of work often changes, a lot of temporarily established equipment or machine (scaffolds, electric power network),
- Workers highly exposed to the weather

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## Personnel terms are less appropriate than the average:

- a lot of unskilled workers,
- fluctuation of workers is significant,
- rate of temporary employed workers is high
- rate of illegal workers is high

Because of the above-mentioned factors workers do not usually have the suitable knowledge, experience, moreover: seasonal type of constructional works deepen this problem.

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## Point of views for workorganization

Employees of more than one employer are working in a site at the same time (or consecutively); many times they use the same equipments together (scaffolds, temporary electric power networks); OSH coordination of the work could be difficult.

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## Long subcontracting chain

Main contractor do not take part in the work physically; subcontractors are encharged with works (especially with those with high risks); subcontractors, if they have the possibility, pass forward the work to an other subcontractor while the profitableness of the work is getting smaller and smaller. Many times the last subcontractor who actually works do not have either the necessary knowledge or the suitable equipments.

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## Financial situation of enterprises in construction

Smaller enterprises usually have poor capital resources; they can not afford to spend for OSH; they work with unskilled, illegally employed workers.

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation of the country

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation (1)

Establishment of legal background (In Hungary from 1st January 1994. OSH is regulated at statutory level; either the framework directive or other special directives were adopted in government decrees and ministerial decrees)

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation (2)

From 1984 inspection and government of OSH is statal issue, which was completed by labour inspection in 1987.

Since 2007 the **Hungarian Labour Inspectorate** is responsible for the inspection of occupational safety and health at work.

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation (3)

The OSH inspectors has competence for act and impose sanctions as well. (The inspector is entitled to compel employers to eliminate any deficiencies which are determined within the deadline specified; to order the suspension of hazardous activities, and/or the operation and use of work equipment; head of the inspectorate can impose a labour safety fine for the employer who endangered his/her employees. Maximum level of fine is 10.000.000 HUF (approx. 37.000 Euro)

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation (4)

In spite of the rigorous action a part of deficiencies are constantly reproduced. The Hungarian Labour Inspectorate should have drawn the following conclusion:

- suitable OSH ethic can not be established only by authority means, that is why new approach is creating inside the authority. Explanative, supporting and promotive actions shall be emphasized.

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation (5)

- In 2003 the Hungarian Labour Inspectorate established the Telephone Information System. It means a phone number can be called free of charge and/or anonymously and one of the Inspectorate's experts/advisers answers the questions concerning OSH or labour issues.
- In this service was completed by the on-the-spot activities of the advisers: from each county, in order to make work more safety, one inspector and one adviser give advice and guidance at the employer's site.

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## Ambitions of the Hungarian State for improving the OSH situation (6)

- Half of the proceeds from the penalty payments the Hungarian Labour Inspectorate uses for the operation of the information system, while the remaining portion shall be allocated by public tender exclusively for the objectives of occupational safety and health (organization of informative and professional events, workshops, conferences; publishing materials).

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## Current tasks of Hungarian labour safety (1)

The Hungarian OSH regulation contains more rigorous requirements than the EU's because in time of law harmonization Hungarian OSH situation differed from that of the European Union. Since the mentioned differences have reduced, we think we have the opportunity to remove certain administrative provisions. We want to relieve the liabilities of SMEs and help them to get through the economic crisis.

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## Current tasks of Hungarian labour safety (2)

- The planned measures mean, first of all, the decline of obligations concerning written form and notification/registration. In order to avoid that these reliefs cause deterioration of OSH situation the Hungarian Labour Inspectorate shall improve the level of its information and advisory activity.

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## Striking abuses in the construction (depainted by pictures)

(Fortunately, this is not the average situation!)

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## Closing

I began my presentation with words of an American president, so please let me finish with thoughts of „the biggest Hungarian”, Széchenyi István:

**„Is there anything that can be more beautiful than a healthy person?**

**Yes, there is! A healthy family!**

**And the healthy country is much more beautiful than that!”**

Under this thought I ask you to work together for a healthy Europe by establishing safety and healthy workplaces.

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