

## **A successful networking on mainstreaming OSH into education for a safe and healthy learning and working environment - Georgiana Nicolescu**

### Objectives

The paper presents a successful networking example on mainstreaming OSH into the Romanian educational system since the earliest stages of learning. The action was conducted by the EU OSHA Focal Point/Romania within the 2012-2013 Campaign "Together for Risk Prevention". Networking encompassed governmental, R&D and academic institutions, secondary and primary schools, employee organizations.

The main objective consisted of introducing OSH courses into the education curricula of the secondary and primary schools. This initiative concomitantly tackled teachers and students and contributed to raise the authorities' awareness on the urgent need to promote and introduce OSH learning in schools, at all the levels, as a key success factor for a safe and healthy learning and working environment.

### Methods

Background: The Romanian education system provides OSH courses mainly at post-university level and, more recently, at the students from the terminal academic years. Therefore, university professors only are endorsed for OSH teaching within academic institutions.

The secondary and primary schools, the high schools and technical colleges are not covered by OSH education despite both teachers' and students' interest in OSH.

Method used: The establishment of a well targeted networking including key actors e.g. the EU OSHA FOP/Romania, central and local governmental authorities, academic and R&D institutions, secondary and primary schools, employee organizations of the educational sector.

Other key success factor: the use of adequate promotion materials; evaluation of teachers' interest in OSH teaching and authorities' willingness on providing OSH courses since the earliest educational stages; choosing of the town of Iasi (Iasi County capital) for the FOP action, with a long educational and cultural tradition in Romania; a two-year campaign, 2012-2013, including an OSH contest jointly conducted by the labour inspection and FOP, in 25 counties of Romania; a step by step approach in reaching the action's objectives.

### Results

Partnerships were concluded among the governmental authorities, and educational and R&D entities aiming at introducing OSH courses in the educational curricula at secondary and primary schools. Awareness has been raised as regards the need of implementing this initiative in the nearest future in Romania. A solid network was created to support the implementation of the FOP's objectives at national level.

## Conclusion

Networking has proved to be the optimum tool meant to reach the FOP's action objectives and awareness has been raised on the crucial importance of mainstreaming OSH since the earliest education stages for a safe and healthy learning and working environment and the establishment of the prevention culture in Romania.