

# Policy Paper

*for Health and Safety @ Work*  
5 priority issues !

*H&S across Europe partnership*

**1. Is Health and safety at work one of the distinctive principles of the European culture and of its social model today?**

The attention to working conditions has historically constituted a controversial component, but it has been a relevant one for the building of a shared European culture. Only one culture and shared principles can support the dream and the difficult construction of a united, responsible and harmonious Europe. Health and safety at work cannot continue to be matter of cooperation, but must become the field of integration and simplification.

**2. Health and safety at work cannot be considered as one of the variables of the labor cost!**

Globalization processes, international economic and financial imbalances, the redesign of the international division of labor are causing a generalized pressure on labor costs. We must prevent that health and safety in the workplace be considered as one of the flexible variables of the labor costs

**3. The approach to the issue of health and safety at work should be re-balanced. We must strengthen a preventive approach now!**

The project [H&S@W](#), in its own small way, is an example of the importance to be attributed to a preventive approach. Health and safety at work must become a conscious social shared priority and therefore involve the workers of tomorrow. The reforms of the welfare system and demographic trends also require a strengthening of the preventive approach and of the social communication

#### **4. Adjust the policies supporting the weakest relevant actors**

The project experience advises as weak actors of the chain of health and safety not only the workers and their representatives, but also the entrepreneurs, managers, small businesses and their representatives. A proper reflection and an adjustment of the policies in support of weak actors are opportune.

## 5. Multiply coordination and intervention initiatives at the local level

The innovative implementation of the policies requires a cooperative, multi-actor and multi-dimensional approach. The project [H&S@Work](#) has enhanced and transferred a *situated* approach, which integrates the theme in a model of governance as territorially defined. Is this the optimal dimension of intervention and assessment?