



ewhn
WORKHAZARDS NETWORK



EWHN Conference Leeds, UK

Friday, 10th September to
Sunday, 12th September 2010

**Working Life Beyond the Global
Economic Crisis**

Changing patterns of working

European Work Hazards Network

EWHN
September 2010



European Work Hazards Network Conference

12th EWHN Conference to be held in Leeds UK, September 2010

This conference will explore the impact of the global recession on work environments and occupational health and safety. The conference will bring together workers, labour representatives, health and safety representatives, scientists and occupational health and safety professionals to meet; to exchange knowledge and experiences; and together to develop new strategies for better occupational environments in Europe and throughout the world.

The conference will include plenary sessions, visits to meet worker health and safety representatives and see their workplaces, in depth workshop sessions and shorter information meetings.

English will be the official conference language, but the conference will strive to provide professional interpretation throughout the conference where it is needed.

Below you will find more information about the Conference and the European Work Hazards Network which is organising it. A delegate application form is included. For further information, see the EWHN website www.ewhn.eu, contact your national network (see page 10) or the one of the conference organisers: Kathy Jenkins, kajenkins@blueyonder.co.uk or Ian Draper at iandraper@nasuwt.net

Background

The world economy has been locked in a spiralling decline.

National economies, banks, the world of finance and blue chip organisations have been collapsing about us. Workers are being laid off, working hours, pay and conditions cut, jobs disappearing as the economic crisis deepens. Public sector employment and services are under threat.

Governments are seeking a way forward, many through borrowing the like of which has never been seen before.

Employers are going under either never to be seen again or to emerge in a different and much pared down format. Major businesses that have been the foundation stone of some nations have been under serious threat. Budget priorities are being examined, often ending in money being shaved off health and safety.

Whilst the fat cats and bankers continue to draw their high salaries, their dividends and their often obscene bonuses, working people throughout the world should not be expected to bear the brunt of the effects of this failure of capitalism. Neither should we be expected to suffer the results of employers using these economic difficulties to skimp on health and safety provision thus significantly increasing the risk of further injury and death.

The crisis gives us a new opportunity to strengthen our campaigns for safer working, more human working patterns, and increased protection of working people and their families. We must remind ourselves and others that the neo-liberal agenda of deregulation, free trade and attacks on workers' rights has failed. It was wrong.

This is the time to reassert the pledges made in the EWHN Charter to:

- *resist attempts to weaken laws and agreements which protect workers;*
- *promote and organise for more regulation of markets as part of the global movement against neo-liberalism;*
- *develop solidarity with working people throughout the world to resist the transfer of risk from one country to another.*

Changing patterns of working... ..

What will emerge from this situation? How will the different European Economies survive? How will the developing world and its millions be affected? What will happen to the larger economies?

Where will the huge multi-national employers be in two years, five years ten years time? How will the international and increasingly mobile [and therefore more vulnerable] workforce survive?

How will workers fill their increased non-working time? How will they accommodate the associated shortfall in income? How will their Health, Safety and Welfare at work be affected?

What new economic forces will exist and survive beyond this crisis and with the background concerns of major climate change?

How will our EU economies react? What will happen to the major employers, to work for life and to the growing part-time and flexibly employed workforce? What will the impact be on working people in other parts of the world?

A slimmed down world economy will almost certainly make migrant workers and migration for work, sub-contracted and agency workers, flexible work, mobile and home working more common but at the same time more precarious.

An effective and statutory employment status alongside a rigorously enforced safety culture must protect all those who have become more vulnerable since the world economy began to tumble.

This Conference will explore the ramifications of the new world-of-work order and how safety issues must be prioritized as we emerge from the recession.

European Work Hazards Network

The **European Work Hazards Network** www.ewhn.eu is a unique international forum uniting activists with different experience, skills and backgrounds - workers, labour representatives, scientists and occupational safety and health professionals. It is a permanent network of labour, health and safety representatives and professionals across Europe with many participating national organisations and networks. We welcome and hope to support increased participation by individuals, groups and nations not already involved.

This conference takes place within an expanded EU Community. Huge efforts have been made to transpose EU legislation into national legislation within the 27 member states. In this time, what if anything has changed in central and Eastern Europe? And what are the real levels of workers health and safety protection across the whole of Europe?

Liberalisation, globalisation and capitalist-driven work pressures are sweeping across Europe and other parts of the world, bringing privatisation, outsourcing, behavioural safety agendas, rationalisation of work and migrant workforces. Cuts lead to unemployment –

especially among unskilled workers in construction and transport but also in many branches often dominated by female labour. Workers are under time pressure both in public and in private sectors. Consequently, stress is a serious and extensive problem all over Europe and in other parts of the world. Employers demand increased flexibility – from the employed as well as from casual workers. We have to work at increasing distances from our homes and over extended hours of the day. At the same time we have to be able to cope with continuous change. A strengthening of the collective fight for a better cross-border occupational environment is crucial for workers in Europe and throughout the world.

The Conference

[See page 5 for the full Conference Programme](#)

Workplace Visits

The conference begins with a range of visits to local companies. The visits will provide delegates with an opportunity to see a local workplace and to have discussion with local trade union health and safety representatives.

Workshops

A major part of the conference will be the workshops. Delegates will attend one workshop which will meet for 5 hours over three sessions during Saturday. Workshops will be facilitated by EWHN members and supported by colleagues from other countries.

Participation

Delegates will have the opportunity to be fully active in discussion and debate, and will be involved in formulating recommendations to go to the whole conference. Each workshop will have responsible persons who will prepare feed back on discussions.

Information Meetings

There will be a range of different Info-Meetings related to specific subjects, self organised by conference participants. Delegates are invited to offer information meetings.

Interpretation

English will be the official conference language, but the conference organisers will strive to provide professional interpretation throughout the conference where it is needed.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 9th September	15.00 to 19.00	Registration
	07.00 – 08.45	Breakfast
Friday 10th September	09.00 – 12.30	Registration 09.00 to 16.00 Workplace visits
	12.30 - 14.00	Lunch
	14.00 – 17.00	National meetings/ socialising
	17.00 – 19.00	Opening Plenary Session
	20.00 - 21.30	Dinner
	07.00 – 08.45	Breakfast
	09.00 – 11.00	Workshops
	11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
	11.30 – 13.00	Workshops continue
Saturday 11th September	13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
	14.30 – 16.00	Workshops continue
	16.00 – 17.00	Coffee break
	17.00 – 18.00	Info Meetings
	18.15 – 19.15	
	20.00 – 22.00	Social “Gala” dinner
	22.00 –	Social Event
Sunday 12th September	07.30 – 09.30	Breakfast
	10.00 – 12.00	Closing Plenary Session
	12.00 –	Official Closure of the 12th EWHN conference
		Delegate departures

Workshops (3 sessions)

The central theme of this European Work Hazards Conference is ***Working Life Beyond the Global Economic Crisis: Changing patterns of working.***

In workshops, co-facilitated by members of the European Work Hazards Network and other hazards activists, participants will exchange experiences and ideas, discuss best available techniques for improving working environments and ways to maximise worker involvement and power.

More details of the individual workshops will be published separately and posted on the EWHN website www.ewhn.eu/

Each workshop will run into three separate sessions with breaks as indicated in the programme. Numbers in each workshop will be limited, therefore, delegates are asked to indicate their first, second and third preferences for workshops.

Delegates will be allocated to one workshop topic only.

WORKSHOP 1

Occupational Health and Safety; a recruitment tool for activists

WORKSHOP 2

Management Systems and Behaviour-Based Safety

WORKSHOP 3

Bullying in the Workplace

WORKSHOP 4

Musculoskeletal Disorders in the Workplace

WORKSHOP 5

Uncertain Chemical Risks and the Precautionary Principle(egNanotechnologies)

WORKSHOP 6

Occupational and Environmental Cancer

WORKSHOP 7

Vulnerable Workers and Migrant Workers

WORKSHOP 8

Green Jobs = Good Jobs?

WORKSHOP 9

Sickness Absence Management and Occupational Rehabilitation

WORKSHOP 10

Gender and Occupational Health & Safety

WORKSHOP 11

Construction: Our Rights on Site

Workplace visits:

All workplace visit details will be posted In July. Delegates will then be asked to indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices of workplace visits.

Visits may include:-

Hospitals, Laundry, Power Station, Ceramics factory, Construction, Engineering, Chemical, Brewery, Engineering, Water treatment, Chemical works, Local Government, Cosmetics, Distribution Centre, Construction Site, IT and Nanotechnology [the latter two possibly within the university itself]

Info Meetings:

On Saturday afternoon, there are two one hour sessions set aside for short Information Meetings. If you are interested in running an Info Meeting on a specific topic, please contact your national network or the conference organisers. Examples of info meetings are: REACH and Chemical Risk Assessment; Toxic Airlines; Noise; OSH in Haiti; OSH in Third World Countries; Abnormal Working Hours/ Night Work

Venue:

University of Leeds
Woodhouse Lane
Leeds
LS2 9JT UK
www.leeds.ac.uk



How to get to the University

By air

Leeds is served by two major airports: **Leeds Bradford** and **Manchester**. Regular flights are available from a huge number of European and International cities. Leeds Bradford airport is approximately 7 miles away from the University, so easily commutable by taxi.

By train

Leeds station connects us with all major UK cities and has a fast and efficient London service. For train information and timetables visit the National Rail Enquiries website www.nationalrail.co.uk/

By bus

There are number of excellent bus services in Leeds. Visit the West Yorkshire Metro website and First Leeds for timetables and general information.

Visit the National Express website for coach details www.nationalexpress.com

There is also a **free city bus** which stops at the bus and train stations and the southern end of campus (near the back of Leeds General Infirmary A&E) every 10 minutes from 6.30 am - 7.30 pm Mondays to Saturday.

By car

If you are using satellite navigation address details for the main entrance to the site are:

University of Leeds
Woodhouse Lane
Leeds
LS2 9JT

(Street listing can appear as Cavendish Road in some navigation systems)

Leeds is linked to the M1 and M62. Parking on campus is limited, and we are also committed to reducing our carbon emissions, so we encourage staff and visitors to walk or cycle where possible. Parking is available on campus on a first come, first served basis, it is hoped that charges will be waived. Please come to the main entrance by the Parkinson Building.

Plan your route on the [AA website](#)

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Conference delegate fees include:

- Accommodation (2 nights: Friday 10th and Saturday 11th September only)
- Accommodation is in brand new high quality student single rooms with en suite OR in older paired single rooms which have shared bathroom facilities, where required
- Breakfasts (Saturday 11th, and Sunday 12th September)
- Meals – Friday dinner, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Gala Dinner, Sunday Lunch where requested at Conference registration
- Coffee breaks – Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and afternoon, Sunday morning
- Conference Delegate pack
- **Thursday Evening B&B is not included, but can be booked as an extra**

Accommodation type	Cost
En-suite superior single room new accommodation	£400
Paired Single room with shared bathroom facilities	£375
Extra night accommodation B&B only-Thursday 9 th Sept only	£45 en-suite room £35 paired single room with shared facilities
Day Delegate rate – NON residential including all the above except B&B and Evening meals	£265

There are only single accommodation rooms available. If shared accommodation facilities are required we can advise of off-site hotel accommodation - please seek advice from the conference organisers at kajenkins@blueyonder.co.uk or iandraper@nasuwt.net

Payment

For your payments, you will receive an invoice.

Applications Deadline:

All bookings and payments must be received by UK Conference Secretariat by

July 10th 2010

Up to this date, it may be possible to cancel without incurring costs. After this date, the payment is non-refundable.

Replacements and last minute applications after this date will be possible only by National Networks or by the UK Conference Secretariat for delegates coming from other Countries.

Complete the form and send it to your National Network.

Delegates coming from countries not listed below, should send the form to the UK Conference Secretariat at iandraper@nasuwt.net

EWHN Network Delegate Booking Contacts

Austria:

c/o ppm
Kaplanhofstr 1
A-4020 Linz, Austria
Fax: +43 732 782078 99
ppm.linz@ppm.at
www.ppm.at

Denmark:

AAA
Dortheavej 39
2400 Copenhagen NV
Denmark
aaa@aktionsgruppen.dk

England & Wales:

Nick Green,
Manchester Hazards Centre,
Windrush Millenium Centre
70 Alexandra Road
MANCHESTER M16
Tel: +44-(0)161-636 7557/7558
mail@gmhazards.org.uk

Germany

Arbeit & Gesundheit e.V.
Schanzenstr. 75
D-20357 Hamburg
Fax: +49 – 40 - 439 28 18
e-Mail:
wriedt@arbeitundgesundheit.de
www.arbeitundgesundheit.de

Estonia

Veronika Kaidis
Põrguvälja tee 3, Pildiküla
Rae vald 75301 Harjumaa, Estonia
Tel: +372 6056311
Mobile: +372 56358027
Fax: +372 6059401
Veronika.kaidis@rimibaltic.com

Italy:

Euronorma
Piazza della Pace 5
I-43038 Sala Baganza (Italy)
Fax: +39 0521839957
euronorma@euronorma.it
www.euronorma.it

Netherlands:

Stichting Netwerk,
Donjonweg 64, 3233 AK Oostvoorne
Tel: +31 181 485563
Work tel: +31 10 7137056
c.droogers@chello.nl

Norway:

Roy Erling Furre, SAFE
Pb 145 Sentrum
4001 Stavanger
Norway
Tel. +47 975 61889 / +47 51 84 39 03
roy@safe.no

Scotland:

Kathy Jenkins, Secretary
Scottish Hazards Campaign
113 Kingsknowe Road North
Edinburgh EH14 2DQ
Scotland, UK
Tel: 00 44 (0) 131 477 0817
www.scottishhazards.co.uk
kajenkins@blueyonder.co.uk

Finland:

c/o Matti Sundquist
msundqui@welho.com

Information updates will be posted at
www.ewhn.eu

Application for the 12th European Work and Health Conference September 2010, University of Leeds UK

First Name	Family Name	Contact Address		
Town/City	Postcode	Country	Your Workplace	
	Daytime Telephone	Your Trade Union/Organization		Your National Network?
Male Female <i>please indicate</i>	Mobile Telephone	Your E-mail address		

Which language(s) do you use?

Will you need help with interpretation? *Please indicate*
YES
NO

Enter 1, 2 or 3 against your workshop choices in order of preference

Do you have any special needs?	<i>Please indicate in the boxes below</i>
Disabled access or room required?	YES NO
Gluten-free food?	YES NO

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4	Workshop 5	Workshop 6
Workshop 7	Workshop 8	Workshop 9	Workshop 10	Workshop 11	

Other needs:

Your Accommodation Requirements
Please tick ✓ as appropriate

Date:

2 nights accommodation 10 & 11 Sept	Single En-suite Room
Extra Night – Thursday 9 September	Single Room with shared facilities
All rooms are non smoking	Day Delegate (no accommodation)

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO YOUR NATIONAL NETWORK OR TO UK NETWORK

Your signature: (not needed if submitting electronically)

