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Description of the project

1. Introduction:

Over the last decades the European Union has been forbidding the manufacture, distribution and trading of asbestos and has been regulating activities related to the destruction of this material. However, asbestos remains a deadly material, and in spite of an extensive ban and extensive efforts made to eliminate it, it is still everywhere throughout Europe. Indeed, asbestos can be found in many different places, but particularly in public and private buildings, where its presence is often unknown. One can find it also in ships, in trains and in everyday products like thermos flasks.

For several decades to come, every year some 100,000 people will die of asbestos-related diseases. Most of these diseases were prompted by exposure to asbestos during manufacturing processes, but there remains a very serious danger of people falling ill as a result of their involvement in repair, maintenance, conversion and demolition work, etc.

There is an urgent need for a comprehensive plan aimed at eliminating all of Europe's remaining asbestos. A plan of this kind would have to be multifaceted, covering such wide-ranging issues such as working conditions, safety training, the detection and documentation of existing asbestos sites. It will also have to take into account the diversity of the current situations in the various Member States.

Against this background, the European Social Partner organisations for the construction industry, EFBWW and FIEC, decided to use the opportunity of the Bilbao Agency's campaign on safe maintenance to run joint activities on the specific issue of Maintenance/Asbestos.

Since the deadly substance is simply present, workers will continue to get in touch with asbestos intentionally (asbestos removing companies) as well as unintentionally. It concerns not only workers from companies working in the area of professional asbestos removal, but also other groups of people and professions, i.e. those professions carrying out maintenance activities in buildings; those who are running repair or renovation activities; demolition workers or also people in the recycling sector and not to forget all the handymen (different occupations such as electricians, heating engineers or plumbers).

Workers from all these professions need specific knowledge about asbestos containing materials, i.e. where and when these materials have been used, how to identify them, how to proceed with these materials when they are found, and so on. Considering this, it is of the utmost importance that workers involved in maintenance activities have adequate and in depth knowledge provided by specific training. That is the more since newcomers do not have any experience with the old materials they can find when doing maintenance, repairing work, demolition or other activities. In this respect the situation can vary significantly from one country to the other: whilst in some Member States very high legislative and training requirements have been put in place, in other Member States a lot still remains to be done. Therefore, the main aim of the project is on the one hand to develop information modules for different professions and activities in question and, on the other hand, to facilitate the exchange of best practices across the EU.

Our cooperation will result in easily understandable information modules. These modules shall help the employers to inform and to instruct the workers at the workplace about possible risk situations and about the appropriate measures to be undertaken for safe working. Technocratic experts language shall be avoided. Without loss of important information and without simplifying the harmful threat the risk situation shall be described by means of a "traffic lights model". This model shall help to make distinctions between three different risks situations, which have to be determined after a careful examination of each worksite before the beginning of the works. Each of the 3 colours green, orange and red will be associated to specific situations/materials and to the respective appropriate measures to be undertaken :

- “green” : the worksite does not bear any evident additional risks/dangers and the works can be undertaken with the usual precaution measures ,
- “orange” : the worksite can only be undertaken with specific protection measures ("orange") and
- “red” : the works must to be undertaken by a specialised firm only.

2. Goals of the project:

The ban of hazardous substances is one of the key elements of the EU health and safety policy, as it was done with asbestos. The overall aim of the project is to avoid that this policy will get stranded halfway. After the general ban, the safe removal of still existing asbestos sources is the second leg of the distance.

Over time for many construction companies the risk perception towards asbestos material obviously tends to diminish. One of the main reasons for the worsening is the change of generations. Those employers and workers who in the seventies and eighties of the last century had gathered - not seldom painfully - experiences with the danger of asbestos and who demanded a total legal ban of asbestos at the end of the eighties, are now mostly retired from working life. A younger generation replaced them. With our project we will improve awareness and sensitivity for risky work situations of the younger generation and for better motivation for safe working with asbestos material in our industry.

The remarkable gap which exists in the awareness of harmful risks of asbestos contaminated materials in European construction companies touches namely most seriously the instruction of the worker by the employer at the workplace. We observe that whilst significant progress has been achieved in some Member States, in several others both, employers and workers, know too little about the risks of asbestos. We therefore decided, to help closing this gap by developing information modules for the support of the instruction of the workers by the employers.

Another aim of our project is the transfer of good practices, mainly towards those countries where significant improvement is needed. By experience we can state that the level of awareness related to Asbestos problems and also to the appropriate measures, regulations and training policies is much less spread in the Central and Eastern European Countries. Therefore, we will put specific emphasis on these member states. This regards dissemination activities as well as the incorporation of concerned actors from these countries into the network. It is intended to use the project results in a series of seminars in these countries, bringing together people from prevention institutes and social partner organisations.

Another result of the project will be to facilitate and to foster the networking between national prevention institutes, the social partner and the training providers (first between those institutes taking part in the project).

The project shall be regarded as the social partners' contribution to the OSHA maintenance campaign.

3. Transnational Dimension

First of all the project guarantees a transnational dimension via the participation of the European Social Partner organisations for the construction industry. Through their internal structures EFBWW and FIEC will communicate the results to the national social partner organisations in all EU-member states. Because of their national involvement in the different

prevention systems and also in their vocational training system, they are also able to disseminate the project results through these channels and to use them directly.

The project activities have a genuine transnational dimension. It is intended to involve prevention and training institutes from five different EU member states. The translation of the project results into different languages also has a strong transnational dimension and gives the opportunity to use the results in many countries.

Moreover, and above that, the results will be further used in on-going activities of the European sectorial Social Dialogue which (potentially) consists of participants from all EU-member states. The results will also be presented to national prevention bodies and training providers, providing training on Asbestos. Furthermore, it is also intended to publish the results via the national Focal Points of the Bilbao Agency, which we also intend to involve in this project.

4. Project planning

Both social partner Organisations for the European construction industry, EFBWW and FIEC, are partners of the maintenance campaign that the Bilbao Agency is running in 2010 – 2011. Both, the issue of asbestos and the maintenance campaign have been discussed at several meetings of the SD working party on occupational safety and health.

As a consequence the Social Dialogue a one day workshop took place on 25th February 2011 was organized. At this workshop national experts from some EU countries have presented their experiences and approaches.

As a result of this workshop , participants agreed to continue their collaboration on this specific topic. A possible EU-funded project was considered as the best frame for this collaboration.

4.1. Preparatory phase:

Before December 2011, the project partners (EFBWW, FIEC and several training providers and prevention organisations) will install a Steering Group with two members from each social partner organisation and one from the other project partners. The working language of this steering group will be English.

The first activity will be to:

- Establish the Steering Group
- Find agreement on a time schedule for the whole project

13/12/2011 - Steering Group meeting 1:

Preparation of the steering group meeting (co-ordination EFBWW)

- Description of the precise targets of the project and agreement on the working methods
- Agreement on the respective responsibilities for all activities
- Preparing an agenda for the first seminar
- Proposal for dissemination activities
- Agreement on a number of professions/working activities for which information modules will be worked out and on the structure of the respective modules
- Decision on which partner is working on which training module

- Working language EN; 8 people + 1 (not included in the financial part)

After the first steering group meeting:

- Work on the different information modules
- Expanding the network, if possible also to other sectors concerned
- Reporting to the Social Dialogue and informing national social partner organisations other institutions on the European level and other stakeholders

The project co-ordinator is responsible for arranging the communication flow and the preparation of draft papers, meeting documents, the invitation and agenda for the steering group meetings for necessary translations and the preparation of the two seminars.

Documents:

- Invitation to the steering group meeting
- Paper on dissemination activities
- A document regarding project activities, each partners' responsibilities and working methods
- Collection of existing information and training material from national levels

21/2/2012 - Steering Group meeting 2:

Working on the different information modules and presentation of the progress (co-ordination EFBWW and the respective partners)

- Preparing an agenda for the Steering Group
- Collecting and distributing the intermediate results
- Presentation and discussion of the intermediate results
- Planning of the first seminar

- Working language EN; 8 people + 1 (not included in the financial part)

After the second steering group meeting:

- Work on the different information modules
- Preparation of the first seminar
- Reporting to other stakeholders

Documents:

- Invitation to the Steering Group meeting
- Draft information modules
- Invitation for the first seminar

19/4/2012 - Seminar for the presentation of intermediate results:

This one-day seminar will take place in Brussels and will mainly gather representatives from training institutes of the construction sector and representatives from the Social Partner organisations involved. The main aim is to evaluate the intermediate results and to profit from other national experiences and practices.

- 20 participants
- Venue Brussels (BE)
- Working languages: EN, FR, DE, HU, LA, PL
- Presentation of the intermediate results

- Feedback process and documentation of comments and amendments
- Documents: five draft information modules – some four pages A4 for each module and three pages A4 explanations (translated into seven languages)

20/4/2012 - Steering Group meeting 3:

Preparation of the Steering Group (co-ordination by EFBWW)

- Evaluation of the results of the first seminar
- conclusions for the redrafting of the information modules
- preparing an agenda for the second seminar
- Preparation of a paper with a comprehensive overview of working activities and professions possibly exposed to Asbestos
 - Working language EN; 8 people + 1 (not included in the financial part)

After the third steering group meeting:

- Work on the revision of the different drafted information modules
- Expanding the network
- Reporting to the Social Dialogue and informing national social partner organisations other institutions on the European level and other stakeholders
- Preparing the second seminar

Documents:

- Invitation to the steering group meeting
- Paper with an exhaustive list of working activities and professions
- Material collection

19/6/2012 - Steering group meeting 4:

The fourth steering group meeting will focus on the following aspects:

- Presenting the final information modules given by the respective partner
- Agreement on the final modules
- Presenting a draft structure for the final report
- Discussion on an updated dissemination plan
- Preparation of the second seminar
 - Working language EN; 8 people + 1 (not included in the financial part)

After the fourth steering group:

- The modules will be amended and finalized and translated
- The final report will be produced
- And the final seminar will be arranged

Documents:

- Invitation to the steering group meeting
- Information modules
- Agenda and invitation for the final conference

4.2. Main event:

04/10/2012 - Seminar for the presentation of information modules and of best practice examples:

The main event of the project will be a two-day seminar with about 35 participants. At this stage it is aimed at focussing on the Central and Eastern European Countries. Therefore, for the seminar mainly people from the Baltic states Poland and Hungary will be invited. It is the aim of the European Social Partners to run further seminars for other regions in Middle and East Europe at a later stage.

The seminar will take place in Budapest (Hungary). It will gather representatives from the Social Partner organisations involved and representatives from training institutes as well as prevention organisations of the construction sector and people from other sectors.

Seminar:

- With 35 participants;
- Venue: Budapest (HU);
- Working languages: DE, EN, FR, LA, PL, HU
- The Bilbao Agency Campaign on maintenance and the EU Policy on Asbestos
- Presentation of the five information modules
- Presentation of best practices examples

Furthermore, the seminar will give participants the opportunity to present their experiences, ask questions and formulate their concerns in connection with the different aspects of the seminar contents. The seminar is also aiming at the improved cooperation between project partners and other stakeholders in the countries concerned.

Documents:

- Five information modules (seven languages – each four pages A4)

4.3. Follow up activities:

After finalising the information modules the social partners will concentrate upon dissemination activities. During this phase, the following activities are planned:

- Dissemination of the information modules in as many EU-Countries as possible.
- Verifying whether it is possible to run a number of further seminars in the Middle and East Europe.
- Presentation to the European Social Dialogue and deciding on possible follow-up activities.
- Improving the practical use of the modules by on-going networking and activation of the social partner organisations at national level.

4.4 Dissemination of results

The dissemination of the project results is planned mainly via the websites of the participating organisations. However, the information modules will be translated into seven languages and additionally disseminated in a paper version.

As described in the previous chapter the EU sectorial Social Partner for the construction industry, EFBWW and FIEC, will verify whether it is possible to run further seminars in other regions in Central and Eastern Europe, including candidate countries.

The dissemination to their national members via the European social partner organisations is guaranteed. Also national training institutes in the sector concerned will be provided with the results by the social partner organisations. This aim will be facilitated via the direct participation of some training providers/prevention institutions in the project.

The European sectorial Social Partner organisations are planning to submit all the project results to different European actors:

- I.e. other sectors and other European institutions also concerned by the topic: European Commission, European Parliament, ENETOSH (European Network for Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health), EU OSHA (Focal Point network of the European Agency for Safety and Health Work), Eurydice Network (European Forum of Insurances against Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases), ENSHPO (The European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisations), ENWHP (European Network for Workplace Health Promotion), PROMENPOL (a 36-month project being undertaken by partners from Germany, Austria, Ireland, Finland, Estonia, Greece and Belgium), EuroHealthNet (organisation that aims to contribute to a healthier Europe with greater equity in health between and within European countries), AdRisk (European network on adolescent and injury risk prevention), ISSA (Prevention Commission and its 11 International Sections), CIS (the knowledge management arm of the ILO Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork)), INSHPO (The International Network of Safety & Health Practitioner Organizations), Robert W. Campbell Award, ENQA (European Network for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training), OSH-EASTNET (Occupational Health & Safety NETWORKING in EASTern Europe) AIDII (the Italian Association of Industrial Hygiene is developing the project Occupational Health & Safety NETWORKING in EASTern Europe).

5. Tasks of the different project partners:

EFBWW:

Main activities are the coordination of the project, including accounting, preparing invitations, organizing the meetings, organizing translations.

Further activities: taking part in the steering groups and the two seminars; participating in the drafting and finalizing of the information modules and drafting the final report; distributing the project results; presenting the results on its website and distributing it to other social partner organisations; reporting to the European social Dialogue of the construction sector.

FIEC:

Main activities are the active participation in the steering groups and the seminars; supporting EFBWW in the coordination of the project and taking part in the preparation and finalization of the information modules.

Further activities: commenting on all documents, including the final report; distributing the project results, especially to its national, affiliated organisations; presenting the results on its website and distributing it to other social partner organisations; reporting to the European Social Dialogue of the construction industry.

Byggeriets Uddannelser - Advisory Board for Vocational Training in Construction (Denmark):

The main activities will be the work on (probably) two information modules. This includes the collection of material, drafting a structure of the respective training module, the evaluation of its quality and its presentation in the Steering Group and during the project seminars. Then, the partner will consider the comments received and redraft the training module, respectively finalize it.

Further activities: Active participation in the steering groups and the seminars; commenting on all documents, including the final report and disseminating the project results.

It is also expected that the partner continues to network with the other organisations involved after the project has been finalized.

BG BAU – Prevention Body for the Construction Industry (Germany):

The main activities will be the work on (probably) two information modules. This includes the collection of material, drafting a structure of the respective information module, the evaluation of its quality and its presentation in the Steering Group and during the project seminars.

Then, the partner will consider the comments received and redraft the training module, respectively finalize it.

Further activities: Active participation in the steering groups and the seminars; commenting on all documents, including the final report and disseminating the project results.

It is also expected that the partner continues to network with the other organisations involved after the project has been finalized.

CNAC - Prevention Body for the Construction Industry (Belgium):

The main activities will be the work on (probably) two information modules. This includes the collection of material, drafting a structure of the respective training module, the evaluation of its quality and its presentation in the Steering Group and during the project seminars. Then, the partner will consider the comments received and redraft the training module, respectively finalize it.

Further activities: Active participation in the steering groups and the seminars; commenting on all documents, including the final report and disseminating the project results.

It is also expected that the partner continues to network with the other organisations involved after the project has been finalized.

SUVA - Prevention Body for the Construction Industry: (Switzerland - not included in the financial part)

The main activities will be the work on (probably) two information modules. This includes the collection of material, drafting a structure of the respective training module, the evaluation of its quality and its presentation in the Steering Group and during the project seminars. Then, the partner will consider the comments received and redraft the training module, respectively finalize it.

Further activities: Active participation in the steering groups and the seminars; commenting on all documents, including the final report and disseminating the project results.

It is also expected that the partner continues to network with the other organisations involved after the project has been finalized.

5.1 Staff involved

The EFBWW staff involved in the project will be the following :

1. Sam Hagglund, General Secretary (permanent, full-time)
2. Rolf Gehring, Secretary Safety and Health (permanent, full-time)
3. Frank Leus, Assistant, (permanent, full-time)
4. Marina Saegerman, Accountant (permanent, part-time)

The EFBWW staff involved in the project will be the following :

1. Domenico Campogrande, Director for Social Affairs (permanent, full-time)
2. Sylvie Masula, Assistant (permanent, part-time)

6. Timetable of actions and tasks foreseen***Preparatory Phase***

2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The steering group will be installed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering group members will discuss instructions and documents for the preparation of the first Steering Group meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A drafted conceptual framework for the modules will be sent to the Steering Group
13/12/2011	<p><i>Steering Group meeting 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement on the respective responsibilities for all activities; Proposal for dissemination activities; Agreement on a number of profession/working activities for which information modules will be worked out and on the structure of the respective modules; Decision on who is working on which information module.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the different modules
21/2/2012	<p><i>Steering group meeting 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion of the draft information modules; Preparation of the seminar
19/4/2012	<p><i>Seminar:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the intermediate results; Feedback rounds; Further networking.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the different modules
20/4/2012	<p><i>Steering group meeting 3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion of the redrafted information modules; Final preparation for the seminar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalizing the information modules
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of the final seminar
19/6/2012	<p><i>Steering group meeting 4:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting the final modules given by the respective partner;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the final modules; • Presenting a draft structure for the final report; • Discussion on an updated dissemination plan; • Agreement on the European Minimum Standards for Qualification for Asbestos work; • Preparation of the final seminar.
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Main Event

4/10/2012	<p>Seminar for the presentation of the project results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 participants • in Budapest (Hungary) • working languages: DE, EN, FR, HU, LT, PO • Documents • Invitation to the seminar (six languages) • Summary of the main outcome of the workshop (EN)
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Follow-up activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of the information modules via the project partners' webpages and, additionally via print out. Dissemination will be focused on training providers in question, national prevention organisations and the national social partner organisations of the construction sector. Beside this, it is also aimed at a wide dissemination on the European level – other sectors; EU-Institutions; researchers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are also aiming at an on-going and constant co-operation between project partner organisations and similar institutions from other countries.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up activities in the European SD, i.e. the planning of possible further activities in connection with maintenance/asbestos/training.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of seminars in the New Member States, each seminar for a group of countries.

Signature of the legal representative:

Sam Hägglund

General Secretary