ENSHPO Newsletter

ISSUE #20

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A word from our President...

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we approach the end of October, the past few months have offered valuable opportunities to strengthen professional connections and contribute to discussions on the future of occupational safety and health.

ENSHPO's participation in the **XXVI International ORP Congress** in Argentina, the launch of **EU-OSHA's 2026–2028 Healthy Workplaces Campaign** in Brussels, and the **Safety and Prevention Congress** in Ljubljana have provided opportunities to exchange perspectives on key issues, including **Vision Zero**, **digitalisation**, **mental health** and emerging workplace risks.

Through our Italian member organisation, AIAS, ENSHPO was also connected to the **Stati Generali della Sicurezza sul Lavoro**, bringing professional perspectives into wider discussions on prevention. Our joint **webinar with ATG** further explored the practical considerations of hand protection, highlighting the importance of suitability, performance and cost-in-use.

These activities reflect ENSHPO's role in connecting OSH professionals and organisations across Europe, facilitating knowledge exchange and supporting cooperation on shared challenges.

I would like to thank our member organisations, Board members, partners and colleagues for their continued commitment and contributions. Together, we continue to support the development of the OSH profession and the promotion of safer and healthier working environments.

I look forward to continuing this work together in the months ahead.

With appreciation,

Francesco Santi President, ENSHPO



In this newsletter you can expect:

ENSHPO UPDATES

MEMBER INTEREST

MEMBER UPDATES

MEMBER MAGAZINES & NEWSLETTERS

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ENSHPO UPDATES



The Real Cost of Hand Protection: Looking Beyond the Price of the Glove

ENSHPO webinar with ATG®, with the support of AIAS | 27 October 2026

On 27 October, ENSHPO and ATG® brought together safety and health professionals for a one-hour online conversation on a question that is simpler to ask than to answer: what is the real cost of a hand-protection decision?

The session was moderated by Francesco Santi, President of ENSHPO and of AIAS, the Italian professional association for environment and safety, and featured two speakers: David Donnelly CMIOSH CRWM, Chair of the IOSH Northern Ireland Community, and Ian Pollard, Regional Manager UK South and ROI at ATG®, who has spent more than 20 years in hand protection. Read more HERE



Safety and Prevention 2026 – Ljubljana, Slovenia

The 3rd edition of the Safety and Prevention International Congress and Trade Fair took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 21 and 22 October 2026.

ENSHPO was represented through two of its Board members: Luka Bratec, representing the Slovenian Chamber of Safety and Health at Work, and Fergal Mc Kevitt, representing the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO).

Read the article HERE



Bringing Prevention into the Policy Conversation – Rome, Italy

From 20 to 22 October 2026, the Italian Chamber of Deputies hosted the third edition of the Stati Generali della Sicurezza sul Lavoro, bringing together institutional representatives, supervisory bodies, social partners, experts and researchers to discuss workplace safety and prevention.

ENSHPO was involved through its Italian member organisation, AIAS.

Read the article HERE

ENSHPO UPDATES



Mental Health at Work: Launch of a New EU Prevention Campaign – Brussels, Belgium

On 13 October 2026, EU-OSHA launched its 2026–2028 Healthy Workplaces Campaign, *"Together for Mental Health at Work"*. ENSHPO President Francesco Santi attended the launch, joining a wider European discussion involving representatives of the European institutions, governments, social partners and workplace stakeholders.

Read the article HERE



ENSHPO Brings EU Perspective to the XXVI International ORP Congress 2026 – Rosario, Argentina

ENSHPO was represented by its President, Francesco Santi, who participated in the congress alongside AIAS. His contributions included sessions examining the Vision Zero approach to prevention and the changing role of OSH professionals, as well as the implications of digitalisation for the profession.

Read the article HERE



H.A.R.M.O.N.Y.: From Research to Implementation – Advancing Workplace Mental Health Across Europe

The Erasmus+ H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. project is progressing from research to implementation with the development of practical, evidence-based resources to support workplace mental health across Europe. This article presents the project's latest milestones, including the completion of an eight-module training pathway for SMEs, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers, the publication of the SME Employers' Training Implementation Requirement Plan, the contribution of stakeholders through National Knowledge Committees, and the ongoing development of a collaborative digital platform. Together, these initiatives aim to strengthen mental health literacy, improve awareness of psychosocial risks, and support the adoption of practical approaches to promoting healthier, more resilient and inclusive workplaces.

Read the article HERE

MEMBER INTEREST



From Compliance to Commitment: Navigating Social Risk in Global Supply Chains

Fulvia Fatma Valenzano Pasta is an Italian Senior Lead Auditor and free-lance consultant with over 20 years of experience in social accountability. Specializing in SA8000 management systems since 2010, she has conducted extensive assessments in Italy, as well as in European and oversea countries for major certification bodies like DNV, BVQI, SGS and BSI.

Her work focuses on moving organizations beyond "tick-box" compliance toward proactive worker participation, human rights due diligence, and integrated ESG performance. She is also an expert trainer in sustainable procurement and health and safety standards.

The interview outlines the evolution of the SA8000 standard, highlighting a shift from reactive compliance to proactive, worker-centric due diligence in global supply chains. Key insights emphasize bridging the gap between ESG commitments and reality through genuine stakeholder engagement and the integration of these practices within the updated SA8000:2026 standard.

Q: With over 20 years of international experience in social auditing, how have you seen the role of standards like SA8000 evolve within global supply chains?

A: SA 8000 is the most widespread social compliance standard worldwide; since its very first edition in 1997, a steady interest has been developing mostly in Italy, India and China, in order to gain insight on suppliers' working conditions and to monitor the level of social risk in the supply chain. Italy has always been on the top of the list of certified companies. According to current data, nowadays there are 5,718 certified companies worldwide, with 3,205 Italian certified companies, 1.008 Chinese certified companies and 866 Indian certified companies (source: https://sa-intl.org/sa8000-search/#stats as to 31.01.2026). Other international guidelines originated from SA8000 in the recent past, such as the Ethical Trade Initiative by Sedex, which is, however, not a certification scheme but a mere assessment process. From the first standard edition to the present one, recently issued on January 1st 2026, a progressive focus has been put on a proactive approach, where prevention of non-compliance is more important than correction, engaging companies to continuous improvement, with the role of due diligence along the supply chain.

Q: Despite growing ESG commitments and an increasing number of audits, serious health and safety issues continue to surface. Why do you think this gap between commitment and reality still exists?

A: Among the various possible reasons why the everlasting gap between commitment and reality still exists, I believe we should focus on the underlying motivation behind ESG investments. When such decisions are genuinely driven by a strong commitment from Top Management, the commitment translates

Continued...

into coordinated actions that align with a coherent reality. Conversely, when ESG investments are primarily motivated by profit and economic convenience, the gap not only becomes apparent but also devolves into a mere façade

Q: Based on your international experience, which occupational health and safety risks do you see as most critical today in complex supply chains?

A: Fire risk is undoubtedly the most significant health and safety concern, particularly when combined with insufficient training and awareness.

Q: In practical terms, how does SA8000 help organizations strengthen occupational health and safety beyond mere legal compliance?

A: The standard promotes the establishment of a continuous monitoring system operated by personnel dedicated to identifying potential risk scenarios and subsequently defining appropriate prevention and control measures.

Q: Worker involvement is often cited as a cornerstone of effective social auditing. How does worker participation contribute to identifying risks and improving health and safety outcomes?

A: Worker participation plays a crucial role in the implementation of a social management system in line with the SA8000 and ISO 45000 schemes, where a strong consultation process is crucial. Furthermore, with the recently revised standard, organizations are now required to design a management system explicitly grounded on worker and stakeholders' involvement, engaging the people most affected by the organization, and using what they share to shape decisions.

Q: From an auditor's perspective, what distinguishes a truly meaningful social audit from a compliance-driven, "tick-box" exercise—particularly in relation to health and safety?

A: To answer to this question, I shall reinforce the previous concept, since I firmly believe that when a company brings stakeholder input into its plans and processes, the management system becomes more grounded in real needs and risks. Meaningful engagement only matters if it genuinely influences how the organization improves conditions moving forward. Stakeholder involvement isn't just a box to check; when it comes to health and safety, people must come first, always. The new SA8000:26 emphasizes that workers are not just participants, but active contributors to the development and implementation of the management system.

Q: Looking ahead, what role do you believe social auditing and standards like SA8000 will play in the future of ESG performance and supply-chain due diligence?

A: The new SA8000 standard strongly integrates the due diligence approach both on the supply-chain process and on human rights, requiring organizations to set clear expectations for their business partners and make sure that nothing contradicts or undermines mutual commitments. In conclusion, looking ahead, with the progressive implementation of the new SA8000 organizations will be expected to move beyond a simple checklist approach, setting clear expectations for business partners and recognize their own responsibility for supporting those partners: SA8000 now makes it clear that responsible sourcing isn't solely about demanding compliance. It's about building a partnership that enables it.



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MEMBER UPDATES

SPOSHO participates in the 20th National Forum on Occupational Medicine / 5th Portuguese International Forum on Occupational Health.

In pursuit of its objective to establish relationships with national and international scientific societies, SPOSHO participated in a formal session titled "Occupational Health: Present and Future Challenges", held as part of the 20th National Forum on Occupational Medicine / 5th Portuguese International Forum on Occupational Health.

It was particularly noteworthy to observe how the perspectives of different organizations such as SPOSHO, the Portuguese Ergonomics Association, the Portuguese Society of Occupational Medicine, the Portuguese Medical Association, the Authority for Working Conditions, and the Directorate-General of Health complement one another.

Another highly positive aspect was the participation of so many young professionals; their involvement provides a vital boost to the OSH field currently characterized by an aging workforce, ultimately contributing to the safety and health of workers across the country.





SHO 2027

SPOSHO is glad to announce that the Call for Papers for SHO 2027 – International Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health is now open!

SHO 2027 brings together academics, and professionals from around the world to share knowledge, present research, and discuss advances and challenges in Occupational Safety, Health, and Hygiene.

We invite you to contribute to SHO 2027!

- Book Chapter or Proceedings Article: Submit via EasyChair platform at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sho2027.
- Abstract: Submit by email to sho2027@sposho.pt.

Discover the event, submission guidelines, and further information on the official SHO 2027 website.

Help us spread the word! Please share this Call for Papers with your research groups, professional networks, and anyone who may be interested in contributing.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and welcoming you to SHO 2027!

SHO '27
International Symposium
Occupational Safety and Hygiene

MEMBER UPDATES

AEPSAL Brings Spanish Expertise to the 4th IPTECH by PESI International Congress in El Salvador

San Salvador hosted the 4th IPTECH by PESI International Congress from 14 to 16 October 2026, under the theme “Innovating to Protect. Technology, Knowledge and Resilience”. The event brought together professionals, institutions, universities and experts from Spain and Latin America to discuss current and future challenges in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). Organised by PESI (the Spanish Technological Platform for Industrial Safety) and IP Technology, the congress established itself as a forum for exchange and cooperation between European and Latin American professionals in occupational risk prevention, industrial safety and technological innovation.

The sessions explored how new technologies can improve risk identification and assessment, optimise processes and strengthen preventive training, while emphasising the essential role of people and professional judgement.T he congress also highlighted the importance of communication, leadership and cooperation between universities, businesses and institutions in building a strong and sustainable prevention culture.

AEPSAL was represented by our vice president Rafael Aguiar Escuela, who took part in several discussion sessions and institutional activities, bringing the Spanish association's experience to the international stage. One of his key contributions was his participation in the panel “Can Communication Transform Prevention?”, alongside experts from different countries. The discussion focused on the need to make communication a strategic tool for raising awareness, changing behaviours and bringing prevention closer to people. Rafael Aguiar also participated in the panel “Universities and Occupational Safety and Health. The discussion examined the role of higher education, research and knowledge transfer in strengthening prevention culture.





AEPSAL takes part in Lanzarote in a technical conference calling for a more human-centred approach to occupational risk prevention

Occupational risk prevention needs to evolve. Analysing accidents, identifying risks and complying with regulatory requirements are no longer enough. We need to move towards intervention models that put people at the heart of organisations and genuinely contribute to their well-being.

This was one of the key messages of the Technical Conference on Workplace Well-being, held in Lanzarote on 15 and 16 October under the title “Transforming Occupational Risk Prevention: From Analysis to Intervention”. The initiative was organised by the Island Council of Lanzarote and promoted by Ico Tabares.

MEMBER UPDATES

AEPSAL was represented by two of its members, Rafael Aguiar Escuela and Emiliano Agudo, who contributed different perspectives on the current challenges facing occupational risk prevention professionals. Rafael Aguiar Escuela presented his reflections on the role of expert assessment in Occupational Safety and Health, advocating an approach that goes beyond investigating accidents after they have occurred. Expert assessment can also be a valuable tool for understanding the circumstances surrounding work-related harm, identifying responsibilities and drawing conclusions that help improve working conditions and prevent similar situations from happening again.

For his part, Emiliano Agudo presented a reflection entitled “The Peaceful Life of an Occupational Risk Prevention Professional”, which led into the conference's final debate.The title invites a critical reflection on the everyday reality of those working in occupational risk prevention: their responsibilities, challenges, demands and the role they play within organisations.
The conference was opened and chaired by Ana Serrano Soriano, from #PRLONAIR (Onda Aragonesa) and AEPSAL member, and brought together representatives from different areas of Occupational Safety and Health.

Participating organisations included the Provincial Public Prosecutor's Office of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the Labour and Social Security Inspectorate, the University of La Laguna, PREVERAS and the Spanish Ergonomics Association. This diversity of perspectives made it possible to approach prevention from legal, technical, academic, institutional and professional standpoints, encouraging the exchange of experiences and discussion on how to move from identifying problems to implementing interventions that deliver real improvements.



IOSH Thought Leadership Report : AIs Workplace Safety Impact

From digital transformation and AI to worker wellbeing and organisational resilience, the challenges facing European workplaces are changing fast. IOSH's latest report examines these developments and highlights what they mean for those responsible for creating safer, healthier and more sustainable working environments.

IOSH Opinion : Green Transition

From renewable energy and circular economy initiatives to new green industries, Europe's workforce is at the heart of the sustainability transition. IOSH's latest article outlines why worker protection, skills development and social dialogue are critical to achieving a truly just transition.

IOSH Opinion: Psychosocial safety

Explore how IOSH is supporting the EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaign, helping organisations address psychosocial risks and create healthier, safer and more resilient workplaces.

WEBINAR

Health and Safety as a Second Career – 19th November 2026, 12:30 – 13:30 GMT
Occupational safety and health as a second career | IOSH

Managing Offshore Weight Limits – 26th November 2026, 11:00 – 12:00 GMT
OEUK safe weight limit policy webinar for offshore safety | IOSH

MEMBER UPDATES

Hungarian Occupational Safety Academy (MMA), delivered a professional presentation at the Hungarian Defence Forces on the growing challenges of workplace digital stress and psychosocial risks

On 26 October, Rudolf Géczi, Board Member of the Hungarian Occupational Safety Academy (MMA), delivered a professional presentation at the Hungarian Defence Forces on the growing challenges of workplace digital stress and psychosocial risks. The presentation summarized the latest European and international research findings on technostress, digital overload, mental well-being, and the implications of artificial intelligence in the workplace.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of the MMA's new YouTube channel, https://www.youtube.com/@hoshaeu expanding access to professional knowledge and occupational safety content for a wider audience. In addition, MMA expertise was recently featured in a professional article published on the HR Portal, further strengthening our presence in the field of workplace health and safety.

As part of our cooperation with the Hungarian Defence Forces, Tamás Hájas also delivered a presentation at the invitation of MMA, contributing valuable insights and expertise to the event.

Looking ahead, preparations have already begun for the 2027 Hungexpo Conference, where MMA aims to bring together occupational safety professionals, researchers, and industry stakeholders to discuss the latest developments, challenges, and best practices in workplace health, safety, and well-being.

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The MMA welcomes the appointment of Dr. Dudás Katalin as Hungary's new State Secretary for Employment Policy. Drawing on more than 30 years of experience in labour law, occupational safety, labour inspection, and public administration, she brings extensive professional expertise to the role. According to the government announcement, her priorities include strengthening safe and lawful employment practices, improving occupational safety compliance, supporting responsible employers, and enhancing coordination across employment and labour policy areas. Her long-standing focus on accident prevention, worker protection, and effective enforcement is expected to reinforce workplace safety culture and further develop Hungary's occupational safety system.



MEMBER UPDATES

The 2025-2027 action plan for the spanish occupational safety and health strategy

Interview with Prof. Joaquín Pérez Rey, Secretary of State for Labour, Government of Spain, Coordinator of the 2025-2027 Action Plan (photo below). By the Editorial Board of aiasmag.

Read the article HERE



AIAS Elections 2027-2030

AIAS is renewing its membership positions for the four-year term 2027-2030. On this page, you'll find all the information you need to vote and run: who can vote, who can run, how to do so, deadlines, and the necessary forms.

More information HERE



The European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organizations Submission on the Artificial Intelligence Act Guidelines on High Risk Systems

As the EU Artificial Intelligence Act moves toward implementation, its real impact on workplaces will depend on how clearly the classification guidelines are written. In its submission to the European Commission's public consultation, ENSHPO calls for a clear distinction between deterministic, rule-based safety systems and advanced AI, so that proven safety technologies are not burdened unnecessarily, while worker privacy and dignity remain protected. The article, by AIAS member Roberto Sammarchi, outlines the main points of this position.

Read the article HERE

Risk of assault in INAIL health and social care services: results of the 2026 national survey

The survey highlights the prevalence of verbal aggression and identifies the main contexts and risk factors, with particular reference to forensic medical assessment activities and direct interaction with users. Comparison with the 2019 survey also allows for an analysis of the phenomenon's evolution, providing useful information for guiding prevention strategies and promoting increasingly safer work environments.

Read the article HERE

MEMBER UPDATES

International Congress and Exhibition "Safety and Prevention 2026" Successfully Concludes in Ljubljana

The **Chamber of Occupational Safety and Health (Zbornica VZD)** and **Slovenian Fire Protection Association (SZPV)** organized the highly anticipated International Congress and Exhibition **"Safety and Prevention 2026"**, which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from **October 21 to October 22, 2026**.

Over the course of the two-day event, renowned local and international speakers shared their expertise on a wide range of current and pressing occupational safety and health (OSH) topics, fostering knowledge exchange and cross-border collaboration.





Key Highlights from the Event

- **Launch of New Practical Guidelines:** The Chamber of Occupational Safety and Health proudly presented the Practical Guidelines for Risk Identification in Risk Assessment. Developed by a dedicated working group of OSH experts under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Occupational Safety and Health, this tool serves as a highly structured database for daily professional use. It includes:
  - A tool for the systematic review of risk factors.
  - A structured overview of **72 risk factors.**
  - **348 examples** of potential accidents and health impairments.
  - **1,077 preventive and corrective measures.**
- **ENSHPO Guest Speakers:** The Congress was honoured to host two esteemed ENSHPO lecturers, who delivered insightful presentations on modern OSH challenges:
  - **FergalMcKevitt** explored the impact of **AI and technology integration into safety culture.**
  - **Hannah McKevitt** presented on **gamifying safety principles** and the vital importance of embedding these concepts into education for young people transitioning into the workforce.

The event marked a significant milestone for the Slovenian OSH community, providing professionals with actionable tools and international insights to improve workplace safety.



MEMBER MAGAZINES & NEWSLETTERS



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[AIASmag]



[ESOSH MAGAZINE]



[H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Newsletter]



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Product Update: Extending Capability Across Modern Working Environments

Modern workplaces increasingly require gloves that can support multiple performance demands at the same time, without forcing compromises between protection, comfort and usability.

For safety professionals, this creates an ongoing challenge. Gloves are often selected to solve one requirement, only for another limitation to appear elsewhere in the working environment. Higher protection can ins some instances reduce flexibility, comfort and wearer acceptance. Additional performance properties can drastically change how a glove feels or how it behaves over extended use. As workplace demands become more complex, maintaining the important balance across protection, usability and wearer comfort becomes increasingly important.

For ATG®, continuous improvement has always been part of how our intelligent glove solutions are developed.

To this end, the MaxiFlex® Ultimate™ and MaxiCut® Ultra™ ranges now include antistatic properties certified to EN 16350, helping extend suitability into environments where electrostatic discharge control is required. The focus is not simply the addition of another certification, but on extending usability without changing the wearer experience thousands of workers already rely on.

Since its launch in 2003, MaxiFlex® has become globally recognised for redefining comfort in precision handling gloves through its combination of 360° breathability, high durability and extreme flexibility. The later introduction of AD-APT® Cooling Technology further extended its performance capabilities by helping wearers keep hands cooler and drier throughout the working day. Now, the addition of EN 16350 antistatic properties extends the versatility of MaxiFlex® Ultimate™ even further, while maintaining the control, dexterity and comfortable experience the glove is known for.

The same philosophy now also extends into the MaxiCut® Ultra™ range. Designed to deliver reliable cut protection in a thinner, more comfortable glove, MaxiCut® Ultra™ has always focused on balancing cut protection with wearability. The addition of antistatic properties further extends application suitability, helping reduce the need for wearers to choose between comfort, cut protection and electrostatic performance.

In practice, this means expanding glove capability without increasing complexity for either the wearer or the safety professional responsible for selection.

For ATG®, innovation has never been about adding features for the sake of specification lists. It is about refining products around changing workplace requirements while preserving the trusted experience workers already rely on every day.

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