

Occupational safety and health of employees in the catering industry in the Republic of Macedonia

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Abstract

It is important for the wider population to understand that 90% of the injuries that happen each year can be prevented. According to the ILO statistic, annual cost of financing cash benefits, health care and rehabilitation for work-related disabilities is colossal: a sum equivalent to 4 % of global gross domestic product (GDP) for work injuries alone. And for some developing countries the cost equates 10 % of national GDP (ILO, 2008). This sector is composed mainly of small enterprises employing 10 people or less. EU workforce in the catering sector is young according to European statistics (EU-25, Eurostat 2005) some 48 % are under 35, and people of 55 years and older make up less than 10 % of the workforce, although numbers are rising as a result of demographic change. Female workers make 54 % of the workforce outnumbering men. The sector is considered a good place for young and relatively unskilled people to enter the workforce. The educational level of the workforce is low: 40 % of employees are relatively unskilled; only 1 employee in 10 has a high level of education. Despite the demanding working conditions, the sector does not have above-average rates of accidents and disease. Is Macedonia too rich or to turn blind to check this fact? Main objective of this paper will be a short overview on the Occupational Safety and Health situation in the catering industry with emphasis on legal framework, employer's obligations and statistical data provided by the State Labour Inspectorate.

Keywords: Occupational safety and health, employer, employees, injuries, inspections

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