

PREVENTION OF WORK-RELATED MSDS – THE BENEFIT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONS

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Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are frequently described as a "national disease", since one person in two complains of problems in this comprehensive and complex area. MSDs are of immense importance in the occupational sphere. In Germany and many countries in Europe work-related musculoskeletal disorders are those causing the highest direct costs (costs of treatment) and indirect costs (loss of production owing to sick leaves), and for many years have led the statistics for working days lost owing to incapacity for work broken down by diagnostic group.

International cooperations of accident insurances can help to find preventive measures to tackle work-related MSDs. The presentation will give examples of

- common strategies to prevent occupational diseases,
- joint research programs and technical developments and
- cooperation approaches to cope with new emerging risks.