

July 2023

FORUM NEWS

Activities of the Working Groups

Working Group Digitalization

The Working group mandated by the European Forum met in Helsinki, taking advantage of the meeting organised by TVK from 7 to 9 June 2023.

Establishment of the Working Group Digitalization and its goals

Of the four working groups established by the European Forum of the Insurance against Accident at Work and Occupational Diseases (European Forum), the Working Group Digitalization is the youngest, established in 2021.

The working group consists of experts from member organizations of European Forum working together to achieve its main goals with focus on:

- the digitalization of administrative processes (e-government)
- serving as a platform for exchange of the best-practices in e-government
- covering activities on projects and initiatives regarding digital accessibility
- reflecting on negative and positive aspects of digitalization in social insurance, and ways of overcoming challenges and making digitalization socially beneficial.

The establishment of the Working Group Digitalization is in line with the European strategic goals of strengthening digital sovereignty in the new digital decade, with a focus on data, technology and infrastructure.

After the meeting of the Working Group, held on June 7, 2023, organized as part of the program of the European Forum Conference in Helsinki, we addressed several questions to the chairperson of the Working Group, Ms. Magdalena Wachnicka-Witzke, about the topics and conclusions of this meeting, main challenges and planned further activities of the Working Group.

Working Group meeting in Helsinki

The focus of the Working Group Digitalization meeting in Helsinki was on the Artificial Intelligence (AI). As part of the agenda, the participants discussed the following topics:

- current EU regulations on digitalization and AI
- AI for task automation and implications for occupation safety and health (OSH)
- case study: digitalization and AI processes in SVS operations

- digital tools: Exchange of Social Security Information (ESSI) platform, European Digital Identity (ID)
- how can AI contribute to accident prevention in agriculture in Europe
- benefits and risks associated with the use of AI.

After the fruitful discussion, it was concluded that AI can significantly help to safeguard safety, health and wellbeing of workers so it can enhance prevention of work related accidents and occupational diseases. AI tools can significantly improve speed and accuracy of social institutions' operations but it needs to be considered that there are risks associated with the use of AI in social insurance and possible misuse of AI such as denial of service attacks, spear fishing attacks and even terrorist attacks. It is necessary to ensure the human centred approach when taking into consideration the use of AI in the respective fields.

Planned further activities of the Working Group

The Working Group Digitalization will further focus on monitoring of the European legislation regarding AI draft and digitalization and the exchange of the best practices of digitalization and the use of AI.

The main challenge of the Working Group Digitalization is to encourage more European Forum members to join this Working Group and ensure their active participation.

The contribution of the Working Group Digitalization to the achievement of the main goals of the European Forum in facilitating exchange of knowledge and best practices on digitalisation and AI in social insurance service and in prevention of occupational accidents and diseases is of great importance.

We are very glad to have the opportunity to invite and wish a warm welcome to the new Digitalization Working Group' members at the next meeting, which will be organised as part of the European Forum Conference program in Croatia, in 2024. ●