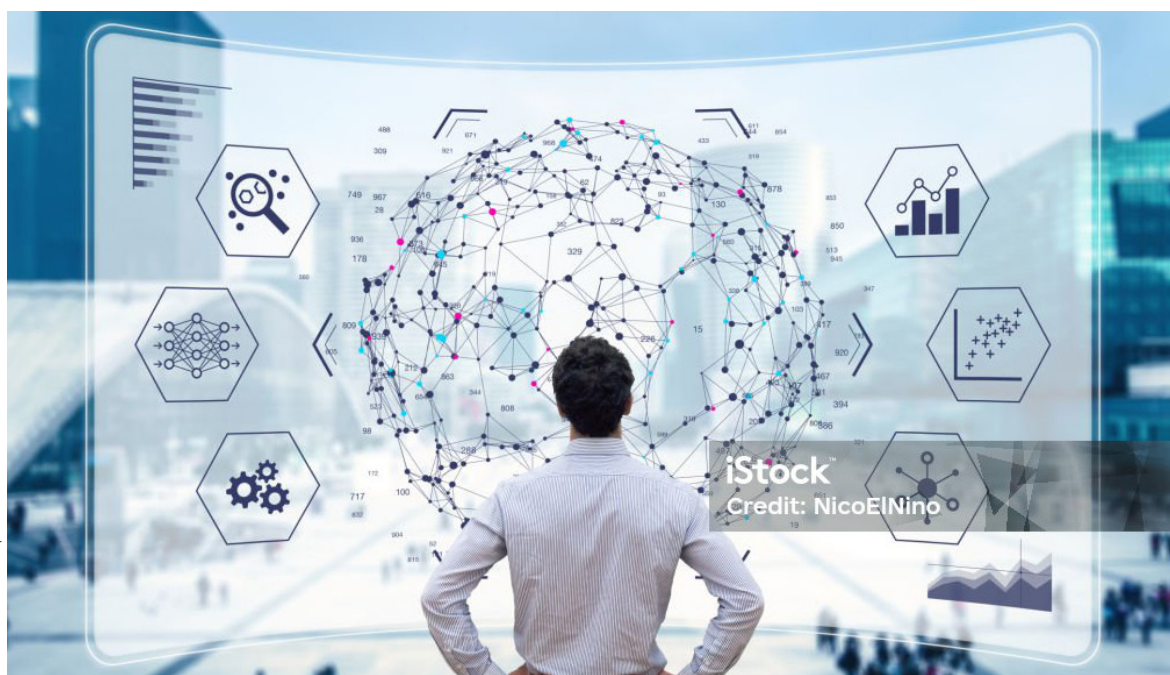# FORUM NEWS

Working Group Digitalisation

Interview with the chair of the Working Group Digitalisation

Sari-Leena Lund, Director of Communications at the Finnish Workers' Compensation Centre, interviewed Magdalena Wachnicka-Witzke, Chair of the Digitalisation Working Group, Agricultural Social Insurance Fund, Poland.

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1. What were your main topics for discussion at the meeting of the Working Group on Digitalisation in Zagreb?

The main point of discussion was the Directive on Artificial Intelligence, which the European Parliament approved on March 13, 2024.

The discussion emphasized that the directive aims to ensure safety and compliance with fundamental rights while simultaneously fostering innovation, which in turn is expected to bring positive changes in the field of accident prevention in the workplace. The fundamental principles of AI usage were recalled: respect for human dignity and human oversight, technical safety, respect for privacy and data management, transparency in operation, promotion of diversity, non-discrimination and fairness, contribution to social well-being, and respect for the environment.

It was noted that the Directive addresses the risks associated with the use of AI systems, including liability for damages, and highlights the importance of the digital revolution for sustainable development.

In response to emerging opinions that artificial intelligence may pose a threat to people, attention was drawn to the risk-based approach introduced, according to which AI systems are divided into: completely prohibited under severe penalties, allowed under strict requirements as high-risk AI systems, and permitted for use with minimal restrictions.

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The list of prohibited AI systems includes: manipulating human behaviour or exploiting human weaknesses, social scoring, facial image collection, categorization based on sensitive characteristics, predictive policing, emotional state recognition, or real-time remote biometric identification.

The discussion also highlighted the practical application of artificial intelligence, particularly in the context of accident prevention. Currently, AI systems can analyse vast amounts of data to identify patterns and predict potential accidents before they occur. Such a proactive approach could significantly reduce the number of workplace incidents.

Attention was also drawn to the fact that further procedures related to the directive are necessary, including, among others, the establishment of governing bodies and compliance deadlines.

2. How does your working group intend to take forward before next year's forum?

Monitoring the progress of the AI Directive's implementation and gathering information about its practical applications in the area of accident prevention.

3. What are the biggest challenges your team sees in advancing the digitalisation of our industry?

The digitalization processes and the use of artificial intelligence not only bring benefits (such as increased precision or labor-saving technologies) but also come with drawbacks (such as high initial costs and potential job loss) and challenges (including integration with existing systems, data quality and security, ethical and cultural considerations, and changes in the employment structure).

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4. What else would you like to highlight?

Addressing the digital transformation requires a strategic, holistic approach that considers all aspects affecting safety, health, and human well-being in the workplace. ●

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