



IMPROVEMENTS OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN TURKEY

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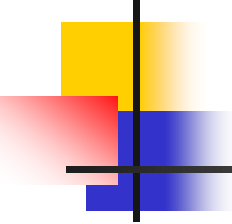
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- **Occupational Health and Safety Management (OH&SM)** in Turkey was not sufficient until last decade. Since Turkey is one of the most rapidly developing countries, its industry is growing fast.
 - Companies had high rate of occupational accidents and diseases. These work related accidents and day loses made Turkish Government to take serious action to improve the safety records of the companies.

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- Rising public awareness of OH&SM by safety experts and enterprises with business outside Turkey have to have proper health and safety management because their international clients have it themselves and demand it for their subcontractors.
 - Also, in the accession process to the European Union (EU), Turkey wants to reach European standards on Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S).

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In Turkey, we are facing two groups of companies as:

- Working with foreign companies (such as firms in the EU)

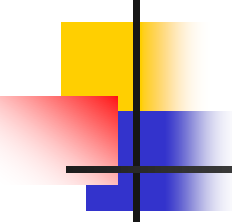
These companies have a positive attitude towards OH&SM, because they have to work with the international rules and standards.

- Working without affiliates from abroad.

These companies have uneducated, hardly qualified employees which are also unaware of OH&SM.

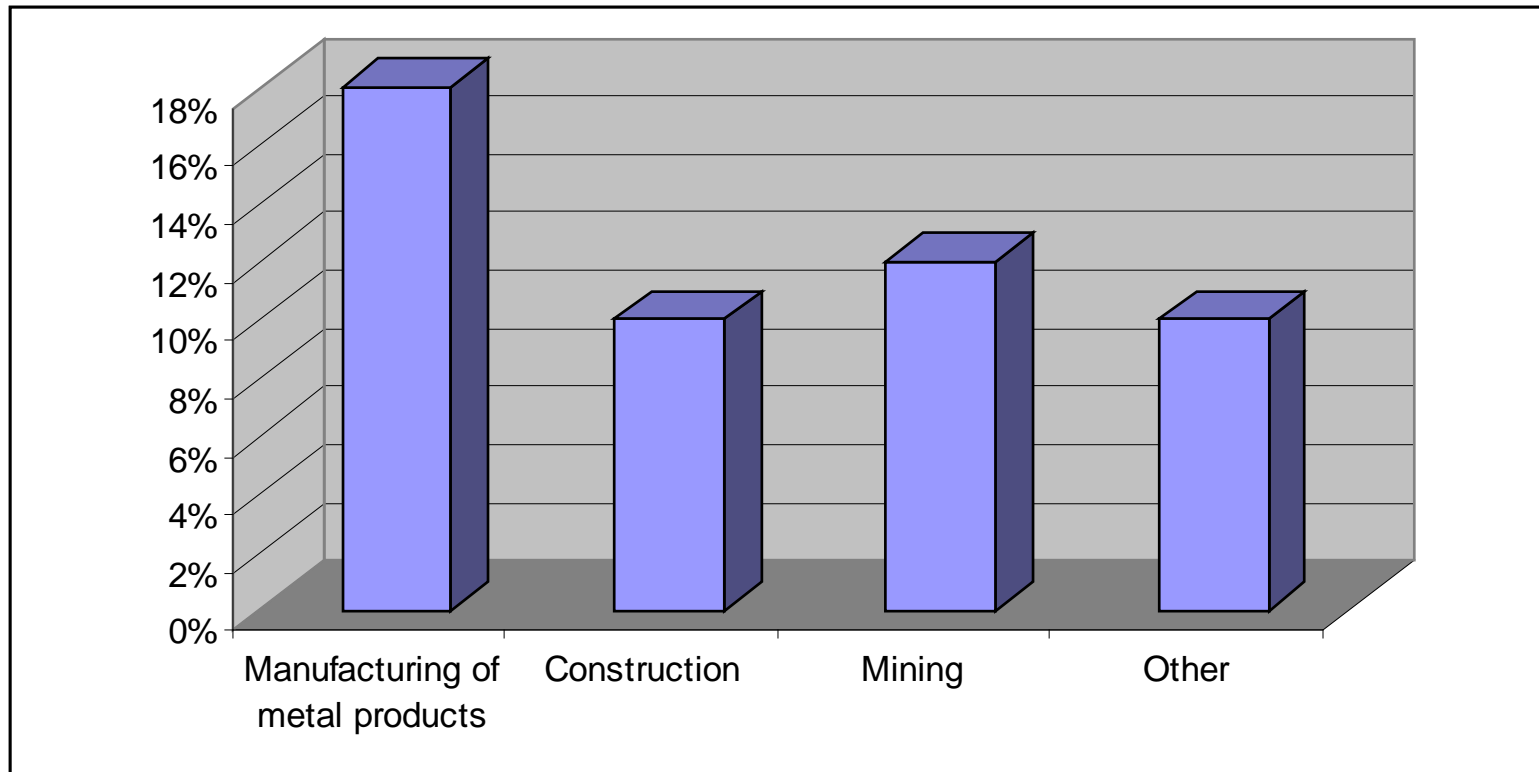
Our main ambition and goal is to concentrate in educating and ensuring awareness in safety regulations for the latter group of companies.

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- The number of accidents and occupational diseases in Turkey is too high. The numbers are among the highest in Europe. Every year at least 1,200 fatal accidents take place at work and hundreds of thousands of workers experience poor health and absence from work.

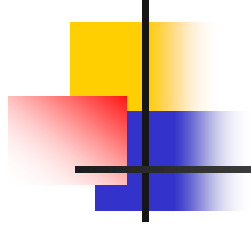
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50% of the occupational accidents occur in the enterprises with 9 or fewer workers.



Percentage of Accidents Occurring in Various Fields

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Ministry of Labour and Social Security asked the European Union for technical assistance to reach this goal, then ISAC project was set up. (January 2004- March 2006) Funded by EU.

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ISAG:

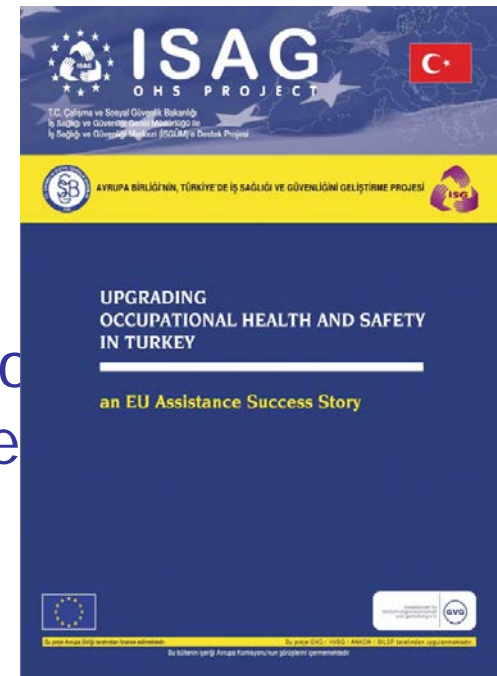
- Initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- Has about 80 experts from 9 EU countries, Norway and Turkey as well as from the International Labour Organization
- Focused on these 3 fields:
 - Strengthens the organization and staff in OH&S within the Turkish Administration.
 - Promotes the objectives of OH&S in companies, employers, organizations, and trade unions.
 - Sets up laboratories for medical examinations and tests in the work environment

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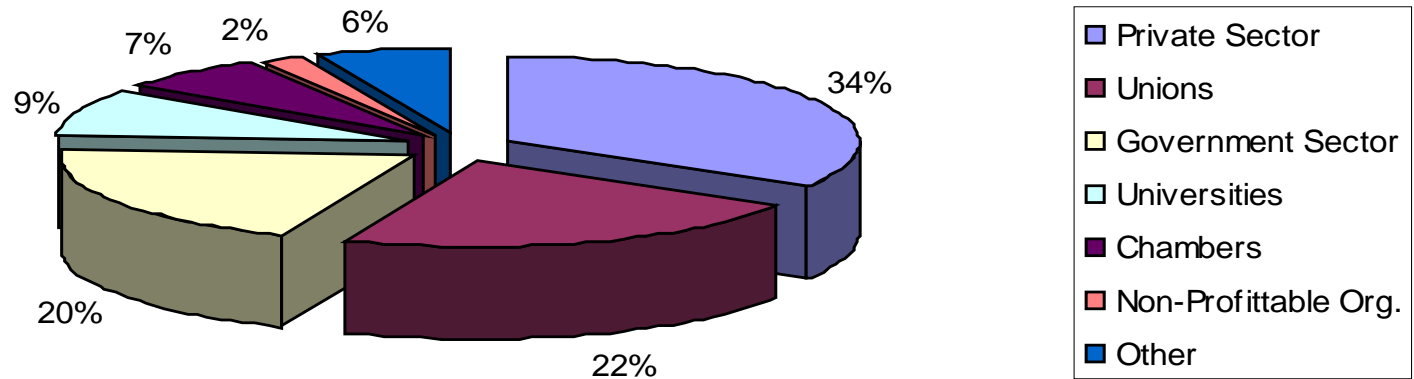
It recommends building up:

- Regional OH&S centers.
- System of universities and specialized education for OH&S professionals.
- “Awareness – Raising Seminars on Safety Culture” were held all over the country, with experts from trade unions, employees, university staff and media.

ISAG OHS Project



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**Percentage of Attendance to
“Awareness – Raising Seminars on Safety Culture”**

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Activities:

- Increasing / Raising Awareness of OH&S
- Training Programme and Updating Know-How
- Fundamental and Operational Research
- Case Studies / Pilot Regions

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Publications

Various books and booklets have been published about OHS by public and private institutions and social partners.



Activities of Directorate General for OHS

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After two years, it is now clear that the project helped to improve the OHS culture in Turkey.

In order to reach the our goal, we need at least ten more hard working years.

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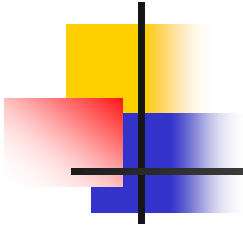
We must concentrate in educating and ensuring awareness in safety regulations.

This shows the importance of education in safety training for disseminating the safety concept.

Public awareness must begin at early ages especially during education.

Primary, elementary and university safety education is vital to disseminate the importance of OH&SM in Turkey.

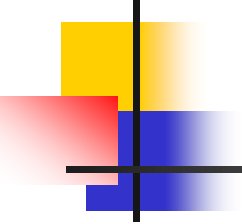
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Accomplishments which are done in Boğaziçi University referring to the safety regulations are given below;

- Campus Emergency Plan
- Departmental Emergency Response Team
- Departmental Safety Manual
- Departmental Safety Training Courses
- Safety Training of Technicians

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- Lab/ Process Unit Health & Safety Information Binders
 - Waste handling (waste definition and classification)
 - Attending to the Safety Meetings and seminars
 - Visiting and auditing Safety Divisions of the Companies
 - First Aid Seminars
 - Fire Alarm system
 - Fire Fighting Seminars
 - Earthquake and Fire Drills
 - Evacuation Plans for each Building

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Accreditation of two research labs which
are adequate due to safety regulations

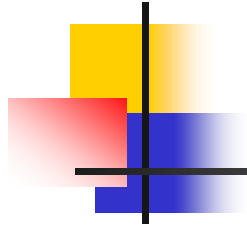


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Research Laboratories
Boğaziçi University Chemical
Engineering Dept. (February 2007)

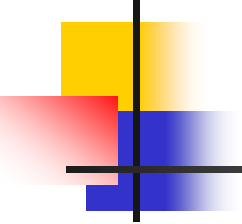
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Plans for the Future :

- OH&SM workshop in Turkey
- Providing fund for accreditation of all undergraduate and research laboratories to meet EU safety standards.

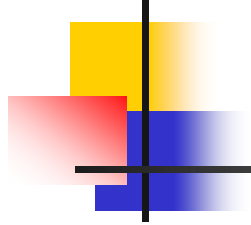
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Greater OH&S awareness can reduce financial losses as well as loss of competitiveness and product quality.

SAFETY IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

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- [3] Boğaziçi University, Department of Chemical Engineering Research Laboratories