

Welding and Ergonomics Symposium 2014



FEES

MAHEG
HUNGARIAN WELDING ASSOCIATION



Dear participants of the Welding and Ergonomics Symposium 2014,

This event is a landmark of the joint effort of the Federation of the European Ergonomics Societies and International Institute of Welding (IIW) C-VIII Health, Safety and Environment.

Your main objective is to improve working conditions and reduce ergonomic risks of welders.

I am very happy that the idea for this symposium was born at the EU-OSHA benchmarking meeting in June 2013. So this is an excellent example that the EU-OSHA network is sustainable and leads to new initiatives and collaboration, following the theme of our last campaign of “working together”. Collaboration for health and safety is not only valid at individual or organisation level but also includes the cooperation between professional networks.

For the last campaign we recruited 87 Official Campaign Partners, more than any other year so far. These are companies and organizations that work in the European rather than the national context and that are multiplying our efforts every day by allowing us access to their valuable networks. These are people who value investment in workplace health and safety and who recognize that it makes good business sense.

I am so indebted to you all for your engagement and your commitment. The activities are too numerous to cover here – for example the benchmarking exercises and the very many national events that we hear about from all over Europe, such as this symposium.

I would like to extend a very warm word of thanks to you all for your great efforts.

So where do we go from here? I would like now to take a moment to give you a short preview of what the next campaign will entail. And, to my mind, there is a logical progression from the current campaign to the next one because unless we take working together seriously in the future, we are not going to make an impact on one of the greatest threats to workers’ health and companies’ performance – stress in the workplace.

Under the slogan, *Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress*, the new campaign will be launched in April and will run until November 2015.

With this campaign we will again be drawing on our many networks to spread our message and provide support and guidance. This includes our Europe-wide network of focal points, members of the Enterprise Europe Network, media partners and our many official campaign partners. We also receive invaluable support from the European Commission and EU Presidencies. It’s another example of working together if you like – it is the help and cooperation of these network organisations that makes the Healthy Workplaces campaigns the largest in the world.

Wishing you a very successful event

Dr. Christa Sedlatschek, Director of EU-OSHA

