

Lecture at the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urban Planning

16.11.2022.

At the workshop held in the period from 26 to 28 October, and where the participants were representatives of different ministries, numerous challenges that public sector employees face on a daily basis were recognized, especially when it comes to the field of OSH, but also a low level of knowledge on this very important topic.



One of the recognized problems was that building inspectors (35 of them), who perform tasks within the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, do not have protective equipment during their inspections on construction sites. The employees who participated in this workshop informed their competent authorities about this problem, and, accordingly, a decision was made that the Directorate for Inspection Affairs and Licensing allocate funds for the purchase of protective equipment for all building inspectors.

After that, they organized training on OSH for employees in the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and UrbanPlanning, on 16 November 2022, and the lecturers were: Secretary General and Project Coordinator of the Safety at Work Association of Montenegro - Đina Janković, and the Vice President of the Safety at Work Association of Montenegro – Zlatko Popović.



The aim of this training was to familiarize the employees with the basic OSH principles, their rights and responsibilities that they have, but also the obligations and responsibilities that the employer has towards them as their employees.

Research conducted by the Safety at Work Association of Montenegro in the previous period, shows that employees in the public sector, of which there are over 50,000, are often insufficiently informed about the importance of this topic, and accordingly they are not adequately protected and safe in their workplaces, and as a result frequent minor and serious injuries occur. Since musculoskeletal disorders (ICC) are among the most common occupational diseases of the modern world, and taking into account the fact that the largest number of employees in the ministry performs administrative tasks, the emphasis of the training was on raising awareness of the importance of preventing work-related disorders of the ICC, which implies long-term static posture in a sitting position.



As this ministry is in charge of landscaping and construction of facilities, employees of the Directorate of Construction and the Directorate for Inspection Affairs and Licensing, within

which urban and building inspectors also work, attended the training, as well.



Due to the fact that the construction sector is the most developed industry in Montenegro, but at the same time the riskiest from the aspect of safety, as reminded by the data on the number of injuries at work with fatal outcomes, the second part of the training was dedicated to the basic risks when performing construction works, as well as on measures of safety and health at work. The above mentioned include: general, organizational and technical safety measures, periodic examinations and examinations, OSH signs and instructions for safe work, as well as periodic training for safe work and health checks.

Conclusion: Good risk management in the workplace is beneficial for all employees, but also employers, regardless of whether it is the public or private sector. This is also indicated by the fact that the huge costs which occur (4-6% of GDP) are paid from the budget, for the rehabilitation of the consequences arising from the non-application of the OSH measures.

