

TRAINING OF LOW EDUCATED WORKERS FOR PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH (TOLEW) is a project aimed at workers in the construction, cleaning and wood working sectors of Kastamonu, Northern Turkey. Due to actual economic development, these sectors are currently growing very fast in the region. However, labour force capacity in Kastamonu is not growing at the same rate as economy itself, as the level of education of workers in the cleaning, wood working and construction sector is largely insufficient, in particular regarding basic and ICT skills. This can have serious effects on the safety of workers, as these skills are needed in order to guarantee that workers understand and respect health and safety regulations. If basic skills and knowledge on safety issues are lacking, workers are more prone to accidents, which not only puts their health at risk, but which also affects



proje ortakları



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**Educated
Worker,
Qualified
Company**

Health & Safety for the Construction Sector

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TOLEW

As the demand for unskilled and low-skilled workers is also declining, it is obvious that workers of the region need to be provided with better education, in order to raise productivity and competitiveness.

In order to raise awareness towards security issues and thus prevent work accidents, education needs to deliver a two-fold task: On the one hand, specific knowledge on health and safety in the respective sectors has to be conveyed. On the other, basic skills and ICT competences are crucial for workers in order to function in today's world of work and particularly in order to react correctly when confronted with dangerous situations at work.

The construction sector has one of the worst occupational safety and health records in Europe. Over 45 % of construction workers state that their work affects their health. These bad records result

from the fact that workers are exposed to a broad range of health hazards, ranging from biological, chemical and ergonomic factors to noise, vibrations and temperature. Construction is furthermore one of the most physically demanding working segments.

Analysing the reasons for occupational accidents, most of them can be reduced to a small number of causes, which all apply to a greater or lesser extent to the construction sector.



While only few accidents happen out of force majeure, most of them are result of organisational deficiencies concerning safety or the workers' unawareness of potential dangers. These, however, are factors which can be improved by the strict implementation and control of safety regulations and also by properly training the workers. If employees are aware of the hazards they face on an everyday basis and know how to react in emergency situations, they are less likely to suffer work-related injuries or illnesses.

Reducing the risks of workers is not just a moral and legal obligation there is a strong business case for it as well. Not only do the employees suffer when things go wrong, also the enterprise itself does. It is likely to lose productivity and to face claims for compensation. This is why TOLEW shall enhance the cooperation between education and economy, in order to improve the workers' conditions and to boost economy in the construction sector of Kastamonu.

WORK AND SAFETY IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Lifting Techniques

- Basic fire protection principles

- Noise

- Height

- Dust

- Electrical Threats

- Gas

- Basic Ergonomics

- Basic First Aid

- Welding Safety

- Forklift Safety

- Legal rights and responsibilities of workers

