**1594b PREVENTION PAYS! EVIDENCE FROM FRANCE**

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**Objectives** The cost of prevention is often taken as an excuse for not acting or not fully implementing all required measures for effective OSH. Prevention is often presented as a matter of regulation and obligations, and the economic return of prevention actions is rarely studied. Based on field studies and experience, OPPBTP demonstrates with more than 200 practical cases that prevention pays, with an average ROI of 2.33. Online tools are being developed to facilitate the practice with construction management.

**Methods** OPPBTP developed a business case study, with accounting techniques. The methodology enables to identify all the operational impacts of the studied cases, short and long term, whether beneficial for productivity, quality, business activity, and to quantify them in terms of financial impact. High interest from major French construction companies led OPPBTP to develop both training tools to transfer the know-how to a large population of OSH experts, and develop an online tool for case calculation. CPWR developed similar cases and tools. CPWR developed as well ROI calculation tools, based on standard US accounting standards.

**Results** More than 200 specific prevention cases, ranging from new equipment to training schemes or process improvement projects have been studied, showing an average return on investment equal to 2.33! Moreover, the work and its methodology enable OSH experts to include prevention action within the business logic that is first and foremost in private companies, and develop new arguments to convince managers and workers alike that prevention and production go hand in hand.

**Conclusion** Prevention pays! This popular motto among OSH experts to include prevention action within the business logic is first and foremost in private companies, and develop new arguments to convince managers and workers alike that prevention and production go hand in hand. This approach is complementary to existing academic studies that tend to demonstrate the same results, however addressing a different public. This study enabled not only to bring proof about the positive economic return of prevention, but it enabled to change the way companies look at prevention, and the way preventors look at economics. This is a very interesting finding of our studies.

**1594d DIAGNEO: A PRACTICAL TOOL FOR SMES TO IMPLEMENT VISION ZERO**

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The company owner or manager must be the driver of the implementation of a culture on prevention in order to develop sustainable work and a sense of well-being at work among their employees. But, most employers in the construction industry are small or medium size employers (SMEs). They have limited resources, including safety and health expertise. They also typically are the highest risk employers. How can we assist them in improving their safety and health performance?

Vision Zero is a very practical approach to improving safety, by focusing only on the seven Golden Rules. In France, we have developed an online platform that employers can use to self-assess their safety performance. It is known as DIAGNEO, and is compatible with Vision Zero.

DIAGNEO was developed with minimal resources and has been validated by safety and health experts in collaboration with employers in the construction industry and is currently available to over 20,000 construction employers in the Paris region, free of charge. It is easy to use, and does not take a lot of time to complete.

After answers to several questionnaires, a profile of probable safety and health performance appears immediately in the form of graphics, which allows the employer to easily understand its deficiencies and where its priorities on regulatory, organisational and technical actions need to be placed.

The examination of specific risks to the workplace and exposures is a prerequisite for the prevention of occupational risks. DIAGNEO makes it feasible to do so for even very small and resource-poor employers. There is no longer any excuse for employers not to undertake a self-assessment on Safety and Health at Work.