

## WORK SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Both in Finland and Russia, in construction industry, the frequency of working accidents is considerably higher than in other fields of industry or other working environments. Even though work safety in construction has been under development, and standardized and mandatory training actions are implemented in both countries, the number of accidents, of different degrees of seriousness, is still high.

Staff training is used to decrease the accident risks, but the **personal and cultural factors** have relevance and are associated with dangerous behavior on work sites. Also, the share of **foreign labor** is increasing on construction sites, and this challenges cultural assumptions and communication skills of the managers in charge.

The various training available is carried out in the same format for all workers. However, there are several situational factors that affect the efficiency of the training and the implementation of the work safety regulations and practices, for example:

- **organizational culture, which is formed mostly by the top management**
- **employees' individual psychological and cultural aspects**
- **availability of experience-based, individualized training, which has more versatile possibilities for long-term learning and competence-building than traditional class-room or written material-based learning.**

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Based on these recognized challenges, the **specific objective of this project is to improve work safety competence in construction industry in the cross-border area**. This will increase the productivity of the industry, as well as reduce social costs and human suffering by:

- **creating possibilities for widening top management's perspective of work safety and its influence on different factors**
- **improving the interaction skills of on-site managers and work safety experts in the companies**
- **creating a strategy for implementing work safety training in a physical, interactive training environment**
- **ensuring the implementation of the project outputs and further development in improving work safety competence on construction sites, considering different target groups.**

All steps and actions that reduce accident frequency, the harm level caused by the accidents, or the number of touch and go-cases, have a positive influence on the productivity, public image of the industry, societal costs and the level of human suffering.

## NEW SAFETY PARK IN ST PETERSBURG

The main influence of the project actions will be a permanent, widely usable training environment and new interactive training models for work safety training for different target groups in the cross-border-area.

The closest ones now are located in Espoo and Oulu, but they are lacking the individual and cultural approach in the training models, that will be implemented in the new one. The other main outputs of the project are the **competence guidelines for top management** and the **cultural-sensitive monitoring methodology for work safety competence evaluation** that will support companies, vocational and higher educational institutions for developing their work safety practices on a modern, new level. This individual and cultural-oriented approach has a recognized need and novelty value in work safety training in construction industry. Noticing situational, social and psychological factors on individual level in both instructions and in training methodology will enhance learning and competence building and will reduce risks of accidents.

## TARGET GROUPS

The main target groups and beneficiaries of the project are, in order of relevance:

- **construction site workers, especially those who have high risk factors for accidents, such as young or old workers or workers from different cultural background**
- **construction site managers and work-safety experts in the companies**
- **construction students, both vocational and higher education students**
- **top management of construction companies within the cross-border area.**

The target organizations are:

- **construction companies within the cross-border area**
- **interest organizations – NGOs, committees and associations – in the field of construction industry work safety and labor and employer interest organizations**
- **specific vocational education organizations.**