

# 12th International Conference Working on Safety



**VISION ZERO FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY:  
PREVENTION AND COORDINATION OF OSH  
THE CASE OF CYPRUS**

## Cyprus

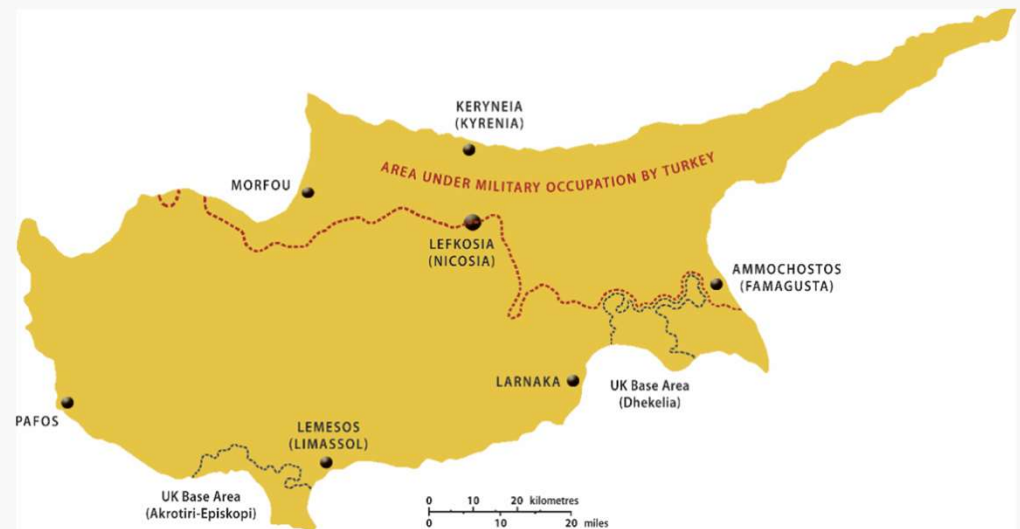
A small island in the Mediterranean Sea

**Member of EU since 2004**

Half of it is occupied by Turkey since 1974  
(not under control of EU)



E. Tsoulofta



## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S RECORD ON OSH

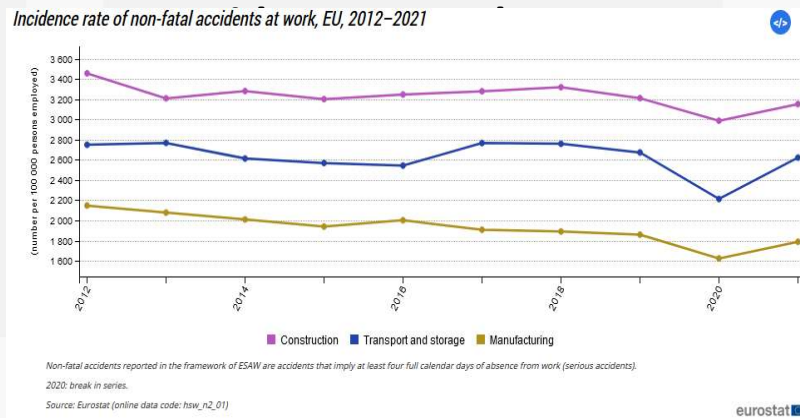
### World wide - 2022 (ILO)

- **One fatal accident every 10 minutes**
- Close to half, **47.4 % of all fatal falls, slips, and trips**
- Employs between **6% to 10% of the workforce** but accounts for between **25% and 40% of work-related deaths**

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### Europe – 2021 (Eurostat)

- **The highest incidence rate of non-fatal accidents**
- **22.5 % of all fatal**



### USA - 2021 (OSHA)

- **21% of all deaths among US workers**
- **1 in 5 fatal injuries reported in construction sites**
- **Falls, slips and trips: 35%**
- **1 000 workers die every year**

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN CYPRUS

### Labour Force (LF) (2023)

- Second largest industry in LF: **8.5% of all the LF**
- The largest number of **self-employed: 13.5% of LF**
- 99.9% of the construction companies: SMEs.

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### Accidents during the last decades

- One of the **highest accident rate**
- **The highest accident severity rate** (lost days)
- More than **50%** of all the **notified fatal accidents**
- **30% of all accidents** and **50% of fatal accidents** were the result of **'falls from heights'**

### EU OSHA – SLIC Survey: Labour Inspector's Insights (2023)

- High Risk Occupation: **Building and related trades workers**
- Construction: **Highest risk sector**
- **Falls**: Most significant risk

# CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S CHARACTERISTICS AND OSH ELEMENTS

## MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- Large industry of small firms
- Labor intensive industry
- Complexity & Uniqueness of projects
- Temporary nature
- Multiple employers and professional groups

**OSH ELEMENTS**

**Accountability  
Planning and Implementation  
Evaluation**

Requires:  
consultation,  
co-operation &  
commitment  
from all involved  
parties

**A whole Industry approach**

**Engagement of all stakeholders:**  
government and  
OSH regulators  
owners/clients,  
designers, osh  
coordinators,  
contractors

**Better Regulation  
Awareness and  
Training**

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS IMPROVEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OSH

### New developments

- New approaches following the prevention principles
- Implementation of prevention principles during all the stages and whole life of a construction project
- Responsibility chain of all the players involved in a project
- New roles – OSH Coordinators

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### VISION ZERO

**A transformational approach to prevention**

Integrates safety, health, and well-being

At all levels of work  
Worldwide

7 Golden Rules  
Leading Indicators

An objective of EU OSH Strategic Framework 2021-2027

### 7 GOLDEN RULES

1. **Take leadership – demonstrate commitment**
2. Identify hazards – control risks
3. **Define targets – develop programmes**
4. Ensure a safe and healthy system – be well-organized
5. **Ensure safety and health in machines, equipment and workplaces**
6. Improve qualifications – develop competence
7. **Invest in people – motivate by participation**

**OSH IMPROVEMENT  
ROADMAP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY OF CYPRUS**

**REGULATING MILESTONES SINCE 2002**



## REGULATING MILESTONES SINCE 2002

**2002**

**New Construction OSH Regulations (Harmonised with 92/57/EEC)**

- **Integration of Prevention Principles in All the Stages of a Project**
- **Responsibility Chain of All the Project Players (Client, Designers, Contractors)**
- **S&H Plan & File (SHP, SHF) – Introduction & Enforcement of OSH Coordinators**

**2008 – 2009**

**Project funded by EU – Transition Facility (Contractor: DGUV, BG BAU, ELINYAE)**

- **Training of 2,000 Engineers and Technical Engineers in the Construction Industry (Public and Private Sector) – 5% of Construction Labour Force**
- **Good Practice Guides (SHP, SHF, Procurement, Risk Assessment, Work Methods)**



## REGULATING MILESTONES SINCE 2002

**2009**

### Joint Declaration for the Construction Industry

- Improving OSH in the Construction Industry
- Signed by 3 Ministries, Chamber of Engineers, Contractors Council, Employers Organisations, Unions

**2015**

### Amendment of Construction OSH Regulations

- Based on Non-binding EC Guide for Implementing Directive 92/57/EEC
- Clarifying & defining the responsibilities and duties of owners, designers, coordinators, subcontractors as well as the context of SHP & SHF

## REGULATING MILESTONES SINCE 2002

2024

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Declaration for the Construction Industry



- **Basic Training for construction professionals & workers:**
  - **Engineers & Labour workers (public & private sectors)**
  - **Safe Pass Card to enter the Construction Site**
- **Pilot implementation for 2 years – to be regulated and mandatory after 2 years**
- **Free Training Programs funded by EU**

**PROMOTION OF VISION ZERO**  
&  
**DEVELOPMENTS IN OSH  
IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OF  
CYPRUS**

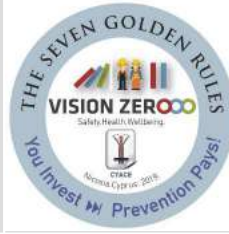
## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES UNDER VISION ZERO MINISTRY AND CHAMBER OF CYPRUS, ISSA-C, BG BAU, ISHCCO



2017

Introduction of  
**Vision Zero Strategy**  
Vision Zero: From  
Problems to Practical  
Solutions  
⇒ You Can Make It  
Possible!  
(200 participants)

E. I souliotta



2019

Introduction of  
**Global Vision Zero  
Campaign**  
Invest in Prevention Plan  
Ahead ⇒ You Invest  
⇒ Prevention Pays!  
(200 participants)  
Official Partners of Vision Zero  
Campaign: Public and Private  
Organisations



2021

Vision Zero Experience:  
**Evolution or Revolution?**  
**The future is now!**  
⇒ Mission Possible!  
(Practical Examples of Implementing  
the Golden Rules from the  
Construction Industry of Cyprus)  
(200 participants)

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & CAMPAIGNS OF ENGINEERS' CHAMBER UNDER VISION ZERO



2023

World Day for Safety and Health at Workplace **2023 & 2024**  
Photo Competitions  
**2019 & 2023**



2023

### Respect Human Rights – Everyone has a Role to Play

⇒ Focus on People - Join Vision Zero

Part of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) GA  
(MoU between ECCE & ISHCCO)  
(250 participants)



**DEVELOPMENTS ON OSH  
IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OF  
CYPRUS  
VISION ZERO GOLDEN RULES (GR)**

**GR 1: TAKE LEADERSHIP – DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT  
GR 6: IMPROVE QUALIFICATIONS – DEVELOP COMPETENCE**

## LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT OF REGULATING AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

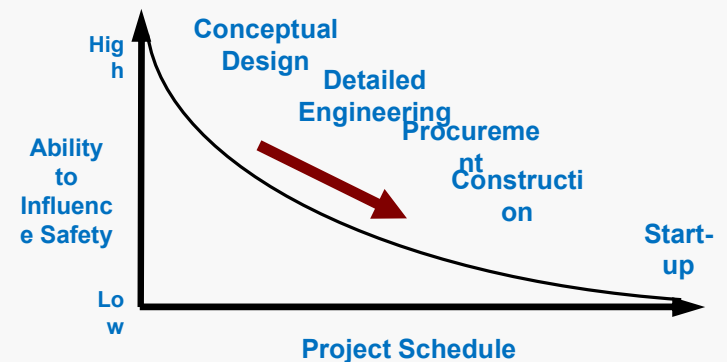
- Integration of OSH in **Procurement procedures** of Public and Private Projects
- Specific terms in the tender and contracts documents

### OSH PROMOTION

- **OSH Promotion:** A key objective of Engineers' & Contractors Professional Organizations - Campaigns & Conferences

### BUILDING PERMITS

- Integration of OSH in **Building Permits**
- OSH Coordinators and SHP are requirements of the Building Permit Application



<sup>1</sup> R. Szymberski, "Construction Project Safety Planning" TAPPI Journal, 1997. Safety in Design 2014 by RMIT University website: <http://www.rmit.edu.au/research/health-safety-research>

### EU study on fatal accidents – Recent Studies

- **60%: decisions before starting the project execution**
  - 35% : design
  - 28% : procurement
- **37%: decisions on the construction site**



## IMPROVE QUALIFICATIONS – DEVELOP COMPETENCE

Engineers

### ● **OSH training – Licenced Engineers:**

- Included in the lifelong learning programs for Engineers
- A prerequisite for the Registration and licensing of Engineers (under processing)

Contractors

### ● **OSH training - Licensed Contractors**

- Topics on OSH are included in the examination for the registration and licence of Contractors
- OSH training is a requirement for Technical Directors of Contractors

All  
Workers

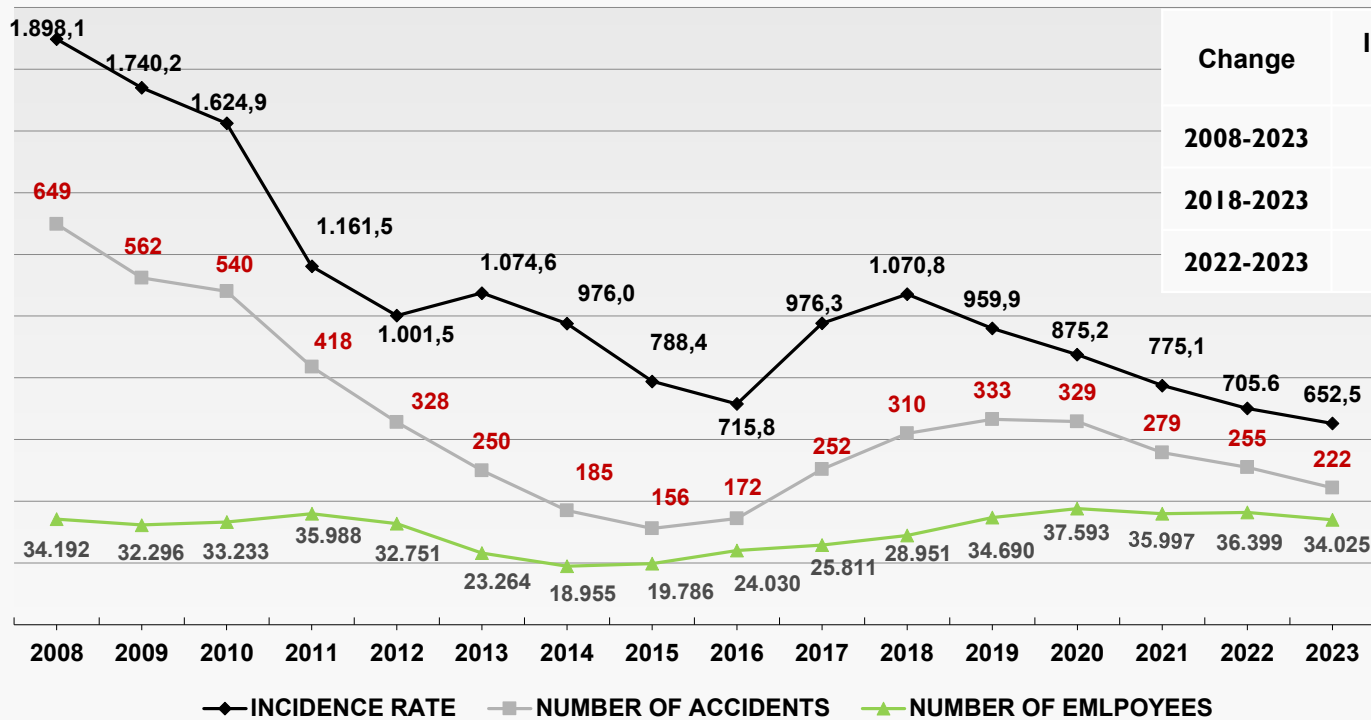
### ● **OSH training – Construction Professionals and Workers**

- A requirement of Standard Professional Qualifications (SPQ) for all professions in the construction industry (enforcement of SPQ under processing)
- Basic OSH Training for All Construction Professionals & Workers  
**Safe Pass Card – Pilot implementation to be mandatory in 2 years**



# RESULTS – REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTS' RATE

## CONSTRUCTION SECTOR TREND OF INCIDENCE RATE- NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS - NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PERIOD 2008 - 2023



	Change	INCIDENT RATE	NUMBER	EMPLOYEES.
2008-2023		<b>-65,6%</b>	-65,8%	-0,5%
2018-2023		-39,1%	-28,4%	17,5%
2022-2023		-6,9%	-12,9%	-6,5%

**Change of Incident (Accident) Rate  
2008 - 2023: - 65,6%**

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S CHALLENGES - FUTURE

### CHALLENGES

#### **EFFECTIVE OSH COORDINATION**

Strengthen OSH Coordinators Role  
(Join ISHCCO – Competence  
Framework for OSH Coordinators)

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Include OSH in:  
Sustainability Policies & Strategies  
Building Environmental Standards

#### **DIGILIZATION**

Safer Working Methods

### FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS

#### **EDUCATE FUTURE LABOUR FORCE**

Engineers & Decision Makers  
Professionals and Workers

#### **PROMOTE VISION ZERO APPROACH**

JOIN & Spread VISION ZERO  
Implement Golden Rules  
Implement Leading Indicators

#### **CREATE PREVENTION CULTURE- CLIMATE**

***THANK YOU!  
QUESTIONS?***



E. Tsoulofta

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