

40th International Congress on Occupational Safety and Health 2027

Key theme:

Stability through prevention – occupational safety and health as the key to corporate resilience in turbulent times

Topics:

1. Organisational resilience and agency

Key question: How can organisations, companies and educational establishments retain their ability to work, reach decisions and perform effectively, even in the face of crises?

- Safety and health culture
- Resilient work organisation and shaping of processes
- Risk and crisis management
- Leadership, even during crises
- Communication, even during crises
- Securing of resources (financial and personnel)
- Change and crisis management
- First aid, emergency services and evacuation

2. Human resilience, health and safe working practices

Key question: How do we safeguard lives, health and workers' fitness for work and employment, under exceptional conditions?

- Mental load, safety and health
- Physical health in the workplace
- Stress, stress management, resilience
- Exhaustion, traumatisation
- Dealing with uncertainty, anxiety and change
- Working under makeshift conditions
- Protection of particularly exposed groups of workers
- Situations involving violence, terrorism, frenzied attacks and imminent danger

3. Resilience of technology, digital systems and infrastructures

Key question: How can technology, digital systems and infrastructures be kept secure, available and restorable?

- Operational safety
- Biological, chemical and physical hazards
- Maintaining and safeguarding critical functions and infrastructures
- Emergency and incident management
- IT and data security
- Cyber security
- Combating disinformation and hybrid threats
- Supply chains and supply chain diversification

4. Transformation of work, skills and fitness for the future

Key question: How is work changing as a result of crises, digitalisation, climate change and demographic change, and how can it be organised in such a way that safety and well-being are assured?

- AI and digitalisation
- Climate change, high temperatures, extreme weather events and sustainability
- New forms of work and hybrid work models
- Staff training and skills
- Demographic change
- Skilled worker recruitment and retention

5. Cooperation, networks and societal resilience

Key question: How can resilience be achieved through inter-organisational collaboration?

- Collaboration with public authorities
- Civil protection, fire services, ambulance services
- Providers of healthcare and rehabilitation services
- Regional networks and coordinated crisis responses
- Coordination with social partners
- Cooperation between businesses, educational establishments and accident insurance institutions
- Joint exercises and situation assessments
- Interface management in crises
- Communication with external stakeholders

6. Framework conditions, responsibility and a culture of resilience

Key question: What legal, ethical and cultural requirements must be met to ensure that action is resilient?

- Laws, rules, regulations and contracts
- Ethical standards and prioritisation in the face of crises
- Allocation of responsibility between the state, businesses, accident insurance institutions and other stakeholders
- Responsibility for action and leadership; personal and organisational accountability
- Compliance and governance