

International Social Security Association Construction Section

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The return on investment concerning prevention efforts

**A key argument in favor of the implementation of the Vision Zero in
companies**

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Introduction

- **Social security is a key factor of stability of social and political societies**
- **On the contrary, the lack of protection can lead to riots or even murders in case of rather serious accidents such as the Rana Plaza disaster**



A common idea : considering the prevention as a burden

- Prevention is regularly subject to negative comments (too expensive, from the concerns of companies...)
- Some data enhance that the professional risks remain serious and have huge financial consequences
- The economic burden resulting from accidents and diseases at work represents about 4% of the world global wealth and the bill is 2 500 billions of euros



The ISSA Study

- In 2010, ISSA has launched a tool dedicated to social security institutions
- Objective : convince the managers about their own interest of investing in prevention
- A research based upon the results of 300 managers interviews from 15 countries
- Result : a link of a return on investment of 2,2 euros for 1 euros invested



The BENOSH study and European Agency for OSH

■ Benosh study :

- comparison between the costs of accident at work and their diminution after having made a significant effort of improving prevention
- the profit reached between 1,21 euros and 2,18 euros for 1 euros invested, particularly important regarding the SME's, the main target

■ European Agency for OSH

- concerning exclusively psycho social risks at work in Europe, cost of absenteeism = 212 billions of euros, cost of care = 242 billions of euros

The study of INRS

- **Economic analysis corresponds with a language and concepts which fit with the managers and their ways of reasoning**

- **The study point out :**
 - the costs which are inherent in case of accident at work
 - prevention authorizes a better productivity and savings of financial aspects



The study of CIRANO

- Interuniversity Center for research regarding organization analysis
- It confirms the same results with a return of 3 Canadian dollars for 1 dollar invested
- It is mainly due to less absenteeism, lowest costs of contributions and more fluidity in the process of production



The OPPBTP study

- a research based on advocacies, evidences, analysis and reporting of real successful results of actions of prevention
- analyzing the situation of about 100 companies representing 90% of the various types of activities in construction, through 170 actions of prevention
- low-cost investment can bring a return on investment of 2,19 within 1 and half year, and up to 3,11 for some SME





Examples of successful results in SME

Stijvolle Tuinen

- this small garden Dutch company faced difficulties in ties with muskuloskeleton troubles which led to a high level of absenteeism (3,82).
- the purchase of an equipment for lifting heavy loads resulted in a return on investment of 4,6 and it was obtained within less a year





Examples of successful results in SME

Fussboden Brandenburg

- this small German enterprise involved in covering the floors faced also absenteeism
- The managers organized action of training for learning appropriate postures and gestures





Examples of successful results in SME

Wood company in Brittany

- in 2017, this French SME has decided, after a discussion with its employees, to buy some special adaptations for ameliorating both safety and well-being
- This purchase allowed the return to work of a worker and the improvement of the health of another one. The return on investment was got in less than 6 months



Examples of successful results in SME

Those examples illustrate that prevention works, which should be helped to develop public policies of financial incentives, in order to encourage the companies for investing in Prevention



Conclusion

The culture of prevention is necessary in order to create an holistic context which allows to develop prevention throughout the whole society

- **The example of the “week of prevention” in Korea**
- **“Prevention give your money back”**

