Conference of the European Forum

Moving across borders: converging regulation and diverse cultures.

October 30, 2019
The European Forum of the insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases is an organisation founded in 1992 bringing together the organisations engaged in this type of insurance from 21 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, France, Romania, Russia, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, Germany). The State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour represents Lithuania in this organisation.

The aims of the organisation are to promote and strengthen the insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases; actively monitor the conversion of different schemes of this type of insurance in Europe; improve the situation of employees involved in accidents at work or suffering from occupational diseases and thus contribute to the creation of a more socially just Europe.

Members of the organisation are encouraged to exchange information and experience in dealing with the problems concerning insurance against, prevention and rehabilitation of, accidents at work and occupational diseases that occur in different countries but are very similar.

Each year a different country holds the presidency of the organisation. In 2019, Lithuania will play this role. One of the tasks of the presidency is to organise an international conference.

In the light of the experience of Lithuania in the field of insurance against, prevention of, accidents at work and occupational diseases, and the relevance of this field to other parties to the European Forum, this autumn we are organising a conference on Moving across borders: converging regulation and diverse cultures.
Part I: Economic Convergence and Convergence of Standards of Conduct at an Uneven Pace

Although the convergence of economic conditions between the old and the new European Union Member States and non-European Union Member States is progressing reasonably well, cultural differences and differences in standards of conduct in terms of the attitude towards safety and health at work and related guarantees remain significant. The introduction of single regulation does not always lead to the expected behaviour of employees and employers. Practical examples have shown that often ‘culture deals with the strategy in one fell swoop’. 
Jonas Rasimas has been working for the European Commission since 2011; currently he is as an Economic Governance Officer at the EC Representation Office in Vilnius. Before joining the European Commission, he worked at the Competition Council of the Republic of Lithuania as a Member of the Council and later as the Chairman of the Council. From 1997 to 2011, J. Rasimas also taught Economics at Vilnius University and the ISM University of Management and Economics. In 1997, he received a PhD in Economics from the University of Connecticut and in 1994, MA in Economics.

**Economic Differences between the European Union Member States are Narrowing**
Saulius Balčiūnas is a civil engineer with many years of experience in the construction industry both in Lithuania and abroad. He has been working at the State Labour Inspectorate since 2011. Currently S. Balčiūnas is the Head of the Division of Safety and Health at Work of the State Labour Inspectorate.

Do We Equally Treat Safety at Work in a Single Europe?

1. Differences in statistics of accidents at work between western and eastern European countries - is it only an expression of event latency?
2. One Europe - is there a single regulatory framework for safety and health at work? The relationship between imperative (rule) and liberal (occupational risk assessment) regulation - proper and problematic distribution.
3. Implementing the preventive function of insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases - is the mission possible?
Eglė Radišauskienė received a MA in International Law from Vytautas Magnus University, MA in Labour, Civil, Criminal, Administrative and International Law from Vytautas Magnus University. She was former Director of the Department of Labour, and as of 2016 – the Vice Minister of Social Security and Labour.

E. Radišauskienė monitors the following units and bodies: Activities of Labour Law, Labour Market, Working Environment, Social Security, Pensions, Tripartite Council Coordination Units; activities of the Board of the State Social Insurance Fund, its territorial offices and other bodies; activities of the State Labour Inspectorate and the Employment Service.

Creation of a Law Gives Rise to ‘Reflection’. Practical Evidence of ‘Circumvention’ of Regulation of Distorted Operation of Laws
Part II: Free Movement across Borders: Threats and Possibilities in Strengthening the Culture of Safety and Health at Work

The free movement of labour creates threats and possibilities. The incentives for the movement of employees from the new European countries to the old European countries are often provided by economic expectations of business and employees and the persistent competitive advantage of the new countries due to lower labour costs. On the other hand, experience shows that if the active movement of people takes place, the culture of safety and health at work undergoes more rapid changes.

Workers from the new European countries come to the old European countries to work in such economic sectors as transport, construction, agriculture. On the other hand, there are also other sectors where the risk of an accident at work is quite high.

As regulations concerning safety and health at work are reinforced, the observed reaction is two-pronged: some people promote higher security guarantees for employees, fairer competition; other people are concerned about loss of jobs and source of income due to higher costs.
Dr. Urtė Neniškytė received Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Biochemistry from Vilnius University. In 2012, received the Doctorate Degree in Biochemistry from St John’s College, Cambridge (United Kingdom). She is a Research Fellow at the Vilnius University Life Sciences Centre.

Dr. Urtė Neniškytė researched the cellular mechanisms of Alzheimer’s disease and was the co-author of the first articles on cell death. The researcher is currently involved in the research of molecular mechanisms of brain network pruning, during which immune brain cells remove unnecessary connections from the developing neuron network, and create the conditions for the formation of a structurally and functionally developed network.

She has been a member of the Lithuanian Biochemical Society and the Lithuanian Neurological Association since 2006.

Decision-Making Neuroscience

1. Decision making is always an emotional process, even when we consider that we are extremely rational.
2. We make the majority of decisions unconsciously, so for effective decision making it is important to identify issues that need to be considered consciously.
3. Our brains see the world as a closely related whole, so decisions are also influenced by factors that are not related to a specific issue.
Aleksandra Hadzik holds a PhD in Law. She is a manager and a civil servant with experience in social insurance management. For almost her entire career, she has worked at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund - from a clerk to the President of the Fund.

She is a Chair of the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture; Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly: Insurance in Agriculture. Materials and Studies; the author of publications in the field of administrative proceedings, the social insurance of farmers, social security, tourism and health resort treatment. In addition, she is a qualified mediator as well as a university lecturer.

**Vision Zero Movement**

1. Vision Zero: General Approach
2. Vision Zero in the Agricultural Sector in Poland: Implementation at the National Level
3. Vision Zero in the Agricultural Sector in Poland: Events
Dr. Christian Felten is a graduate chemist and has a PhD in Biochemistry. He is the Secretary General of the Section on Prevention in Transportation of the International Social Security Association (ISSA). Originally trained as an OSH inspector, he is the Head of the Occupational Health and Vision Zero Department within the Prevention Division of the BG Verkehr, the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for Commercial Transport, Postal Logistics and Telecommunication.

Dr. Felten is a Member of the Advisory Committee of the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on occupational safety matters and Chairman of several working groups for Technical Codes in OSH in Germany and Europe.

**Transport Sector**

1. We need cross border standards for OSH in transportation.
2. We need cross border cooperation of the national accident insurance institutions.
3. Since transportation is the sector with the highest fatal accident rate, we urgently need strategies to reduce this level.
Tomas Garuolis works closely with LINAVA members to inform policymakers of the competitiveness of the transport sector and regulatory development activities at the national and international levels in order to advance members’ interests. He cooperates with national institutions, governmental representatives, EU institutions, industry associations, academic professionals, trade unions and media; implements the association’s strategic plan, strengthens member relations, performs lobbying activities, and oversees the management of the secretariat of the association.

Tomas Garuolis is a Board Member of the Lithuanian Business Confederation, technical expert of the Lithuanian National Accreditation Bureau (NAB) responsible for the assessment of technical inspection centres (ISO17020). He received his PhD degree from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

Local Attitude Towards the Mobility Package

1. For a Europe of bridges or walls?
   Irreversible damage on EU integration
While running the company LITHUN, from 1991 to 2002, the company had more than 1,000 employees and the company was listed on a stock exchange. In 1997–2002, the company was among the top five construction companies in Lithuania. While working for the Sunrise Commission formed by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, he personally drafted a number of legal acts to improve business conditions in the country, which were subsequently adopted.

During his working life, Dalius Gedvilas was one of the founders involved in the development of the Lithuanian National Stock Exchange and participated in the legislation of public trading in securities.

In 1995–1997, he was elected to the Presidium of the Lithuanian Union of Civil Engineers.

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**Construction Sector. Initiatives of the Lithuanian Builders Association to Improve Health and Safety at Construction Sites**

1. On-site work can be carried out only having a STATREG card, which ensures that a person has passed the safety at work test.
2. Cost-effectiveness of public procurement and safety at work.
3. Mandatory requirement to apply BIM (Building Information Modelling) methodology in construction.
Dr. Ainius Lašas is the Dean at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Kaunas University of Technology. Previously, he worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Washington (USA), Postdoctoral Fellow at the United Nations University (Tokyo, Japan), Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford (UK), and Lecturer and Head of Memory and History Cluster at University of Bath (UK). His active research areas are threat perception, the role of moral emotions and memory in political decision-making, political culture and democracy.

Dr. Ainius Lašas is the author of numerous research publications including the book European Union and NATO expansion: Central and Eastern Europe (2010) and chapters in books Emotions in international politics: beyond mainstream international relations (2016), Media and politics in new democracies: Europe in a comparative perspective (2015), National perspectives on Russia: European foreign policy in the making? (2013). He is a journal reviewer for Comparative Political Studies, Political Psychology, and Cold War History.
Dr. Virginija Poškutė is an economist, social policy analyst (Diploma of economist-analyst from Vilnius University; MA in European Social Policy Analysis from Roskilde University, Denmark and University of Bath, UK; Doctor of Social Sciences (Economics) from Vilnius University and Tilburg University, The Netherlands), and Fulbright Researcher at Darden Graduate School, University of Virginia, USA.

Dr. Virginija Poškutė has been developing her competences at Harvard Business School (USA), London School of Economics (UK), Fudan University (China), Singapore Management University, Lorange Institute of Business Zurich (Switzerland), and Bled School of Management (Slovenia).

Dr. Virginija Poškutė has extensive teaching experience in Lithuania and abroad (USA, Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, The Netherlands, Estonia, etc.), she teaches social policy, competitiveness, business ethics and corporate social responsibility courses at various levels (bachelor, master, doctoral and professionals).
In 2017-2018, B. Gruževskis was an Advisor to the Prime Minister of Lithuania. For more than 30 years, he has been actively cooperating with foreign science centres (World Bank, OECD, ILO) as well as Lithuanian science and government institutions, municipalities and non-governmental sector organizations.

Since 1990, he has been involved in the development of the Lithuanian social security system and labour market policy. He was a Trainee at universities and research institutions in Sweden, USA, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Spain, Norway and other countries; he published more than 100 papers and scientific articles.

Main areas of his research work are: employment and labour market policies, social security and labour protection, matching of labour supply and demand, social dialogue and cooperation between social partners, poverty and social exclusion, subjective/personal well-being.