

# Cooperation between NDPHS and ILO



Northern Dimension  
Partnership in Public Health  
and Social Well-being  
[www.ndphs.org](http://www.ndphs.org)

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO) is a Partner of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS). The ILO's mandate is on labour and social wellbeing issues, which it promotes with its three constituents – Government, Employers and Trade Unions. In addition to its own technical cooperation projects, the ILO works with networks such as the “Baltic Sea Network on Occupational Health and Safety” (BSN), which is an important actor in fields closely linked to health and social wellbeing at work in the Northern Dimension area.

A formal step in the coordination process was taken at the CSR meeting in Vilnius in April, 2005, when the BSN was invited to include its network under the NDPHS umbrella. This link means tying personal contacts, exchange and spread of information and when appropriate acting together. In addition, fund-

ing for future activities could be sought through the Partnership.

One example of practical contribution to the Partnership work is ILO's participation in the planning for the next meeting of the “Expert Group on Non-communicable diseases and Promotion of Healthy and Socially Rewarding Lifestyles”, in which one of the three main themes is ‘Workplace health and safety’ (the other two being ‘Alcohol’ and ‘Adolescent health’).

## FOCUS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) IN NORTHWEST RUSSIA

Finland has funded a two-year ILO project to improve occupational safety and health (OSH) in Northwest Russia. This project will bring together Finnish and Russian OSH experts more closely across the border to share experience and disseminate information. Finland and Northwest Russia have for several years worked together to improve working conditions in Northwest Russia in different projects. The project will work in five main areas, which have crystallised during the previous cooperation:

- Identification and determination of the scope of accidents and diseases in Northwest Russia.
- Promotion of practical and informed social partnership in OSH at enterprise level.

- Calculation and raising awareness of the economic costs of poor working conditions are important motivational topics for employers.
- Development of OSH management systems at enterprise level.
- Dissemination of OSH information across the language barrier. The project will use the existing electronic network and other resources.

The project started in April 2005 and has been planning future activities with Finnish and Russian partners. Activities have started in Leningrad region and in Karelia and are spreading to Murmansk. The project will work closely with the Baltic Sea OSH Network and will cooperate with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health and Social Well-being.

The ILO sees proper work and safe working conditions as being crucial to poverty reduction and as a basis for a healthy life for the working age population. In essence, safety and health at work is a basic human right.

**More information can be obtained from project coordinator Mr Roman Litvyakov, E-mail: [litvyakov@ilo.org](mailto:litvyakov@ilo.org) or through the Virtual Academy of Safe Work at [www.safework.ru](http://www.safework.ru)**