Prevention of occupational accidents and diseases: 
the role of compensation systems

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MODELLING A DUALISTIC WORLD OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Well developed skills and diploma
- Stable working conditions
- Limited exposure to risks
- High mental workload
- Career planning
- Good living conditions and environment
- Trade union representation
- Good health surveillance

- Poor or no training
- Changing working conditions and environment
- High exposure to multiple and variable risks
- High physical workload
- No choice in jobs
- Poor living conditions and environment
- No trade union representation
- Poor health surveillance
PREVENTION: some considerations

Experts/Expertise in house or external (Accredited, advisory, available, autonomous, advocating) EVERY COMPANY EXTERNAL and/or INTERNAL PREVENTIVE SERVICE

Labour inspection= expertise + enforcement

Responsible versus irresponsible companies

  Sufficient to impose RA and set goals in regulations?

  Or impose tools for prevention?
    = Regulations as a source of knowledge + tool for enforcement

Experience good and bad (accident/OD analysis, information, sensibilisation)
Black lists? Pillory? No, but…

Financial incentives?

Quid subcontracting? Joint and several liability? Yes, but..
Occupational diseases compensation systems and prevention: the Belgian experience

- Vaccination
- Pregnancy
- Advising companies
- Stop work
- Training
- ‘WORK RELATED’ DISEASES vs OD:
  - Low back pain: preventive intervention
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Diseased (incident cases)</th>
<th>Not diseased</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exposed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not exposed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enfermedades (casos incidentes)</td>
<td>No enfermedad</td>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposición</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No exposición</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1000</td>
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</tbody>
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Occupational accidents insurance and prevention

Context:

Belgian system= private insurance companies under control of social security system

Tools:

• Declaration of accidents as a tool for prevention
• Identification ‘aggravated risk’ companies
• Bonus malus
**Bonus-Malus Level Pure Premium structure**

(professional risk blue collar worker)

For each **NACE code**
the association of private insurers (ASSURALIA)
calculates a
reference premium level
based on the totality of insurance companies data
on costs of accidents + extra costs

**A total of 1000 reference premiums!**
These are references for insurance companies, and
are not compulsory.
In practice, the basic tariff will be very close to the
reference.
Bonus-malus in figures

- fabrication of metal doors and windows

= basis 5% of gross wages total workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average in Bonus-Malus</th>
<th>10 workers</th>
<th>40 workers</th>
<th>160 workers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.500 - 16.000</td>
<td>12.500</td>
<td>41.000 - 64.000</td>
<td>97.000 - 257.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.000 - 64.000</td>
<td>50.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>97.000 - 257.000</td>
<td>200.000</td>
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### Bonus-malus in figures

Demolition of buildings = basis 13 %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>In bonus-malus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 workers</td>
<td>32.000</td>
<td>27.000 – 42.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 workers</td>
<td>130.000</td>
<td>108.000 – 168.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160 workers</td>
<td>520.000</td>
<td>253.000 – 673.000</td>
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</table>
‘Aggravated risk’

Accidents at work (not home-work traject)

10 x average of subsector exceeded twice in 3 years
time= not a coincidence!

Fund Occ Acc ➔ Insurance Cy ➔ Employer

Forfetary contribution  3.000 – 15.000 Euro

Risk analysis and preventive measures

Report to FOA- collaboration assessed

Info ➔ Labour Inspection H&S !!

Insurance contract obligatory 3 years instead of 1
Cross-bank social security
More aggravated risk companies
More prevention

Every year, the FAO informs all companies which show a risk which is at least 10 times the average (more than 1000 enterprises!). This may incite these companies to take preventive measures. In doing so, they may avoid to be listed in the years after as an aggravated risk company to which the legal measures apply.