

# The Italian workers' model of struggle for health and safety in the 70s and 80s, its influence across Europe and its meaning for OSH trade union strategy today

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Klaas Zwart, Trade union activist on OSH,  
Co-organisator of the 14<sup>th</sup> EWHN-conference  
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# The Netherlands

Organisation of OSH

Key players in OSH

- Trade unions
- Wetenschapswinkels (science shops)
- Research institutions
- State inspectorate
- EWHN and Stichting Netwerk

Perspective

# •Organisation of OHS

- Highly developed system of social dialogue
  - in company also
- The Works Council has an advisory right.
  - No formal Trade Union involvement at company level, except for the yearly negotiations on wages and working conditions
- OHS is outsourced to specialized firms.  
Services are hired in by the companies.
  - Also the OH-doctor
- The specialized firms are respected as knowledge provider on OHS

# Situation in the early seventies

Knowledge was not spreaded,

Trade unions were quite traditional;

Occupational Health and Safety is an item more difficult to organise on than working conditions

Research on OHS was expensive and exclusive

Occupational health services used to be owned by the production companies

“The boss, the OH-doctor and Inspectorate are knowing what is good for both”

# Mid seventies

Wetenschapswinkels to provide and spread knowledge

Trade unions and rank and file radicalising

Traditional institutions were democratized

sometimes in spite of fierce opposition from patriarchs

Society modernized and workers emancipated

Scientist became more social aware and involved in social struggles of Trade Unions and civil society

Environmental awareness ( a silent spring)

# Trade unions

- The trade unions in FNV develop policy on Occupational Health and Safety.
- In particular Industriebond FNV and FNV Bouw.
- Coordinated by autonomous TU-departments on OHS.
- The involvement of trade union rank and file is quite large.
- But we are also focussing on the big institutional and political “important” issues (ARBOwet, inspectorate, Better Regulations)

# Wetenschapswinkels

- Early seventies formation of several “Wetenschapswinkels” as spin off of social awareness and involvement at Dutch universities.
- Mid eighties the budgets of the Wetenschapswinkels are frozen and projects strictly budgeted.
- From the nineties on the Dutch universities ought to act in a market conformity way.
- Formation of Stichting Netwerk, the Dutch section of the European Work Hazards Network

# Research institutes

- TNO arbeid (Nederlandse Organisatie voor toegepast-natuurwetenschappelijk onderzoek (TNO)) Applied Scientific Research (TNO) is a research institute with the aim of applying for governments and other market of scientific knowledge into practice.
  - Merger with NIA in the late eighties
- Some well known researchers are now working at TNO Arbeit
  - Research questions are almost always directed via governmental institutes



# State inspectorate

- The Inspectorate SZW is working on honest , healthy and safe work and security for all. She does this on the basis of risk and environmental analyses .
- **Priorities in 2016**
  - The fight against illegal labor , fraud and pretence,
  - Psychosocial workload ( workload, stress, bullying and discrimination)
  - Accidents flexible workforce ( freelancers and temporary workers ) get extra attention this year .
- **Total 260 Labor inspectors!** (this is inclusive MHC, Seveso. This means that in the Netherlands the change to be inspected is one in 20-30 years)

# Stichting Netwerk

- 1996 6<sup>th</sup> EWHN-conference in Egmond, Holland
  - 400 participants from trade unions, State inspectorate, research institutions and universities whereof 200 from Holland
- 2016 14<sup>th</sup> EWHN-conference in Rotterdam, Holland 27-29 May
  - 200 participant from trade unions, State inspectorate, research institutions and universities, whereof hopely 120 from Holland

# Perspective

- Trade Union FNV is now one organisation
- One general trade union with branches in each sector
- General discussions on strategic and tactical goals
- Occupational Health and Safety is an important issue in Trade Union-discussions
- Co-operation with OSH experts is again set on top of agenda.
- Full support for the 14<sup>th</sup> EWHN-conference

