

Reports from EUExcert Partners

EUEXCERT AND NORDIC IN

Nordic-IN is a trade union federation covering all the 5 Nordic countries and represents about 1.2 million workers.

Most of the workers in the explosives sector are covered by our work although there is still influence from state-owned operations.

We also represent EMECF, which is the European Chemical Trade Union which covers most workers at a European level.

Despite this, a lot of work needs to be done to spread information and explain the intentions of EUExcert to the trade union partners in the Nordic countries and at a European level. They must take part of the results of our project.

The advantage for us has been that we have learned much about the explosive sector and the creation of networks, which is an essential part of the project, has produced valuable results. We have been able to integrate the Nordic safety meetings in our work so everyone is now very aware of EUExcert and positive about the continuation of the project.

The complicated structure of this sector creates tension between the many outside organisations and we are aware that it is not easy to get a



European level agreement on training.

The most difficult part of the project is to reach the aim of a European certificate. Many problems arise and the time limit is a barrier.

I shall be happy if we can get acceptance by the majority of involved countries and create a common European view on competences. A national body will have to take responsibility for training which will be a difficult process.

Companies must work hard to ensure their workers are competent. Historically, it has been mainly the training

institutions which support the project and want it to be extended - they could be the driving force to export the benefits to companies.

I should like to see much more interest in training at the workplace level.

Many companies have been streamlined and no longer have the resources to provide training programmes for the future.

Kent Kärrlander

Norwegian View of the Project

1. DESCRIBE RESULTS OF THE EUEXCERT PROJECT

1.1 For your organisation

Nammo Raufoss has succeeded to make a common training program together with the Norwegian armed forces by using the experience from the EuExcert project from the start. The knowledge from the project has also given us experience to change internal education and training and made it better. I have learned a lot from each country and the way they handle regulation in explosives sector.

1.2 For your country

For Norway the results are not that good, because the Norwegian reference group has not been functioning properly. Still I know that FEEM has been involved from Norwegian side and Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) are aware of the work in EuExcert group. There is still a lot of work left to try to coordinate the explosive sector in Norway and the rest of Europe.

1.3 Especially related to the safety in the explosives sector

Higher level on education and training programs. The written examinations are better and can confirm that the knowledge has been higher.



2. DESCRIBE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE FROM THE PROJECT

2.1 What you have learned from transnational cooperation

It is difficult because of the language and most of the people in the group have English as a second language.

2.2 What you have learned about the explosives sector

There are big differences in how the laws and regulations are handled by the different government in each country. There are many similarities in the laws and regulations especially in the Nordic countries.

2.3 What you have learned about the overall ambition in the project

It is often a challenge to limit the project to the goal. The time and money is limited for each partner in the project. I think that we must be patient, because this kind of work takes time.

3. DESCRIBE YOUR AMBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE

3.1 For your organisation

It is to complete this project and use the knowledge to improve the standards in my corporation. If there is a new project I will consider taking part if I am asked.

3.2 For the explosives sector

It depends what you mean by sector. If it is Europe it is a big challenge and I hope that we manage to establish a foundation that can follow up on this on a full time schedule.

3.3 For education and training in the explosives sector

Same answer as 3.2. and it depends on how we manage to get a common requirement and get a EU directive to follow it up in each country.

Sigmund Sofienlund

Lithuanian Work in the Project

LITHUANIA

Dr. Jonas Sarlauskas, Institute of Biochemistry, Vilnius, Reports :

Activity in connection with EUExcert and explosives sector in Lithuania for the period 02.10.2007.--12.31.2007 :

- Vilnius group was invited to become a member of EUExcert after six month long email consultations between Hans Wallin and Jonas Sarlauskas.

- Hans Wallin visited Vilnius on 3 September 2007 and gave an invitation lecture on EUExcert activity to a national reference group. The Institute of Bio-chemistry became a member of EUExcert on 2 October 2007.

The most important events and our activity for this beginning period are listed below:

- 1) Preparation of the oral and PDF presentations and a poster about Lithuania situation and intentions – for Coimbra EUExcert meeting - 2 days - 02-03.10 (J.Sarlauskas and N.Cenas)
- 2) EUExcert meeting in Coimbra – 2 days – 03-05.10 (J.Sarlauskas)
- 3) Meeting with the reference group members from Kaunas district – Kaunas EOD officers and Rukla Military Engineers School staff, joint tra-

vel to Gaiziunai military range for visiting and preliminary investigation of explosions places.

Discussion about courses for EOD specialists in Lithuania – 1 day – 10.10.2007 (J.Sarlauskas).

4) Meeting with the reference group members from Kazlu Ruda region , inspection of a bomb and land mines disposal places in military range, a discussion about safety of explosives and their hazards for the nature and human health, sampling of explosives contaminated soil, (took part a reference group members from MoD and the military ranges) - 1 day — 19.10.2007 (J.Sarlauskas and N.Cenas).

5) Preparation of speaker presentation about explosives, EUExcert network, new EC directives concerning explosives sector, about homeland security, domestic terrorism and improvised explosive devices (IED) in the European Union and Lithuania (last 15 years).--2 days– 23-24.10.2007 (J.Sarlauskas).

6) Seminar and my, as the EUExcert national representative, presentation for Military Academia staff and collaborating scientists with the military sector from other Lithuania institutes – 1 day – 25.10.2007(J.Sarlauskas).

7) Consultation (with information collection and its preparation) for the Na-

tional TV broadcasting system group from Channel “LTK” (explosives, safety, security, domestic terrorism acts, IED construction, accidents from explosions) – 1 day - 23.11.2007 (J.Sarlauskas).

8) TV Channel “LTK” presentation about explosives safety, short EUExcert presentation on accidents from the explosions, terrorism and IED – 1 hour – 04.12.2007(J.Sarlauskas).

9) Visits to Ministry of Defense, presentations and consultations with the MOD staff – 32 hours (8 times for the period from October to December 2007) (J.Sarlauskas).

10) Preparing of a report file with illustrations - Vilnius group concentrated report for EUExcert Newsletter- 21-22.12.2007 - 12 hours (J.Sarlauskas).

11) Beginning of collection of Lithuanian language terms, words and definitions concerning explosives sector – 16 hrs— November-December 2007 (J.Sarlauskas).

12) Beginning of the preparation of short English annotations of Lithuanian regulating law documents concerning explosives sector - 14 hours in the period : November-December 2007 (J.Sarlauskas and Z. Anusevicius).



The U.S. Faces Critical Issue with Retirement of Experts

Hans Wallin KCEM presented the EUExcert project at the 34th Annual conference on Explosives and Blasting technique in New Orleans January 27-30 2008.

At the same conference the president of ISEE Jerry Wallace said that the situation with retiring experts must be met by serious actions in order to avoid loss of competence.

- The EU (as well as much of the rest of the world, more later) is facing a critical issue with retirement of experts over the next decade. It is much to your credit that you have noted this, and are working with the DaVinci program to identify the many and varied skills necessary to be an expert in explosives, Jerry Wallace said to Hans Wallin, project leader in the EUExcert project.

- The United States is facing the same issue, with (as reported in the paper by Dr. Worsley of the University of Missouri) 4-5,000 mining engineers expected to retire in the next decade, and the probability that the educational system will only have prepared/graduated 1,500 engineers to replace those retiring. This leaves a tremendous shortage

begging to be filled.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that South Africa is facing a situation similar to the EU and USA.

It was the point of his acceptance speech that the industry must focus on this issue, META focus he called it: Mentoring, Education, Training, and Acceptance (of the industry by the public).

A reasonably full copy of his speech will be printed in the "Presidents" column of the next ISEE Journal.

- As for some of the statistics, I find at times that the industry looks at education and training as an expense, rather than as an investment as it should be.

Jerry Wallace cited a published study of 8,000 construction workers that showed job/skills training led to a 12% reduction in injuries and claims overall, but was especially important in that it reduced injuries and claims to workers age 24 and below by 42%. That is a tremendous return on



Hans Wallin

investment in his opinion.

During one recent mine refresher training, the instructor quoted a study that showed that for each \$1.00 spent on training the workers, the employer saved an average of \$1.50 in insurance/workplace related injury costs. In these economic times, realizing a 50% return on an investment is considered extraordinary.

- Perhaps what the business people need to do is invest in their workers, rather than obscure financial instruments (my opinion entirely).

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