



MEDIA RELEASE

Facilitating Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessments through OiRA

29 April 2015

Micro and small enterprises present special challenges in achieving healthier and safer workplaces. Restricted time and resources are frequently highlighted as a barrier to adopting a proactive approach to health and safety management. Moreover, such enterprises may experience difficulty in complying with occupational health and safety legislation and tend to underestimate the risks posed by their workplaces.

In view of this, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) in collaboration with the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA-MT) has officially launched the Online Interactive Risk Assessment tool (OiRA), which can be used for work in an office setting.

Speaking during a half-day seminar organized by OHSA-MT in collaboration with the EU-OSHA on the use of OiRA, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Dr Helena Dalli said that in view of the importance of risk assessment that needs to be carried out by small businesses which comprise 97% of businesses in Malta, this innovative OiRA tool is easily accessible, even from a tablet or smartphone. It offers guidance during the risk assessment process and can also be updated at anytime. Furthermore, it offers solutions regarding measures that one can take to regulate his or her position as regards health and safety issues within the business.

OHSA Chairperson Dr Deo Debattista said “Micro and small enterprises and self-employed persons face particular difficulties to comply with occupational health and safety legislation. This is because of the lack of resources to allow them to fulfill their obligations. Tools such as OiRA go a long way to help them achieve compliance not least because they are simple and do not require any technical competence and can be used without charge.”

OiRA is an online risk assessment tool which facilitates the process of risk assessment. OiRA was mainly developed to assist small and micro-enterprises; however, it can be used by anyone interested in identifying and assessing the risks that may be present at the place of work.

Following the identification and assessment of risks, one can formulate an action plan which will stipulate the way risks must be addressed. The action plan will be tailored to the business’s requirements, hence providing a practical approach.

OiRA has been also developed into the Maltese language and takes into consideration local occupational health and safety legislation to facilitate its use.

The event was aimed for micro and small enterprises, and those who attended were given a number of practical insights on the use of OiRA in their offices.

Media Contact:

Romina Rieck Zahra
Senior Manager (Communications & PR)
Occupational Health and Safety Authority
Email: romina.rieckzahra@gov.mt
Tel: (+356) 21247677

Other Information:

Occupational Health and Safety Authority
17 Edgar Ferro Street
Pieta' PTA 1533
email: ohsa@gov.mt
fax: 21232909