



**Grant application
under Budget Heading 04.03.01.08
Industrial relations and social dialogue**

**Call for proposals 2015
VP/2015/001/0078**

**Working title:
“Working safer with construction machines – a multi
stakeholder approach”**

**Lead applicant: EFBWW
Co-applicants: FIEC, CECE**

Work programme and short description of the project

“Working safer with construction machines – a multi stakeholder approach”

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1. Introduction

Construction activity in the EU amounted to 1.2 Bln € in 2013, nearly 9% of the EU27 GDP, and almost 14 million jobs many of which are in rural or less industrialised areas. Construction is to a high degree locally and regionally oriented and will remain in future an economic sector of high importance for Europe. The sector is highly affected by new technologies and new generations of tools and machinery used in the sector. This interaction of new techniques and technologies and existing work processes and the integration of new technologies in production will often improve productivity as well as working conditions. However, it may also at times result in new hazards and possible unsafe work situations.

The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), decided to address the issue of (fatal) accidents in connection with the use of construction machinery and the perceived insufficient protection of the respective European Standard for construction machines. EFBWW and FIEC received reports from Germany and France explaining the situation regarding accidents (Germany) and the overall problem of general safety and ergonomics (France) as well as reports on an initiative that looked into solving existing problems. After discussions in the “social dialogue working party on occupational safety and health” and the involvement of external expertise, an ad-hoc working party was established to further deal with the subject and to propose joint activities.

The construction worker’s safety and health conditions when operating the various kind of construction machinery is very much depending on the design as well as the educated use of the respective machinery. Workers need to understand the risks, their consequences, and the precautions that they need to take to enable safe use of construction equipment. The manufacturers of construction equipment and machinery strive to deliver products to the market that deliver highest productivity, lowest environmental impact as well as highest standards of safety for workers and those in the equipment’s vicinity. New safety technologies feature high in the industry’s investment and R&D budgets. Technologies are developed in continuous dialogue with operators and tested in real-life conditions. Manufacturers deliver their machines with a wide range of services, including dedicated training courses and support in how to use the equipment in the safest and most efficient manner.

Machinery safety standards can contribute to a decrease of accidents and occupational hazards. Through CECE, the Committee for European Construction Equipment, as well as the European standardisation bodies, manufacturers are working to transpose, update and improve European regulations and standards at a continuous basis. The support and contribution to the standardisation process by all parties concerned, is essential to continue improvements to safety in the construction sector.

Against this background, the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW), the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) and the Committee for European Construction Equipment (CECE) decided to apply for a joint project aiming at improving the safety and health conditions when working with construction machinery by establishing, in a first step, a better dialogue between all parties concerned. Such dialogue should enable to investigate partners’ concerns, exchange information, review solutions and explore ways and means to improve existing design and configuration of machinery and the normative processes

1.1. Understanding the work environment

To understand the complexity of the problem one needs to realise the main characteristics of construction work. Unlike other (stationary) workplaces, a construction site and each of its workplaces are continuously changing and require a collaboration between workers of various professions and occupations. These characteristics have strong implications on occupational safety and health. When using construction machinery, here especially earth-moving machinery, the above mentioned characteristics are of high relevance when considering the safety of surrounding persons (either workers or civil persons) and have been the source of serious and fatal accidents. Hazard sources include the (heavy) machine itself, the amount of moved ground or material, the interaction with other parts or types of machinery (quick coupler), possible inadequate operation of the machine, and the overall safety of the construction site. Machine design issues, especially its ergonomics, may play a role as well (access to the machinery, driver seats, overall ergonomics of the machine).

A further ground for accidents on construction sites can be related to operator visibility around the machines. To ensure worker safety, the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC requires that *“appropriate devices must be provided to remedy hazards due to inadequate vision”*. Both industry and equipment user groups as well as the regulator consider that the harmonized European standard EN 474-1, which complements the Machinery Directive with respect to visibility from the driving positions, should be improved and a revision is under way.

Within the scope of the project, the project partners intend to cover issues with regard to newly developed and produced machines, but also explore the situation of older machinery still in use.

2. Goals of the project

The project partners believe that a better dialogue between them could support not only the current revision process, but could also help establish a more structural exchange of information and deepened understanding. This would in particular also benefit the normative process, in terms of quality and credibility as well as speediness and implementation.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the better protection of operators of construction machines and the surrounding persons. To this end, we intend bringing together producers and users of some specific types of machinery. The aim is to have direct communication between these two main stakeholders, allowing to create ways for the improvement of machinery design by improving mutual understanding of concerns and limitations, and exploring how existing normative routes can be enhanced. The users' side will be represented by companies, as well as by workers/worker representatives. The direct communication between the producer and the user, including workers who operate the respective type of machines will provide a realistic view on the diversified service conditions.

The project partners therefore intend to organise five one-day workshops, to organise discussions between the users and producers of construction machinery in the context of the normative environment. The aim is to have an exchange of views, share concerns, and to identify possible solutions or routes towards finding solutions.

This project proposal is a European Social Partner project including the construction as well as the machinery-producing sector. With this project, we are aiming at contributing to various EU-principles and policies, i.e. among others: social dialogue, subsidiarity principle, occupational safety and health at work, new approach for standardisation, demographic change. Because of the structure of the participating project partners, project results will be disseminated all over Europe. Expertise from this project and all its results shall also deliver input for any activity of the European legislator on both levels, legal as well as standardisation.

Planned deliverables are:

- A summary report on the inquiry
- A joint declaration including proposals for the better involvement of interested parties in the standardisation process
- Fact sheets for the various topics dealt with in the workshops

Deliverables shall be translated into various languages and, especially the fact-sheets, are directed to the stakeholders on company level and of both sectors involved.

2.1 Goals of the workshops

The first of the five workshops will serve to establish which main issues and concerns the project partners believe need to be explained, discussed and further explored. This workshop takes stock of the actual situation in various construction activities and its specific working conditions as well as of existing structures and means of dialogue between users and producers.

A further workshop will deal in particular with the existing regulatory and standardisation processes.

Specific issues related to the use of machines and that could become subject of one of the subsequent workshops are:

- Access to the machines/ ergonomics
- The operator's view/visibility
- The use of quick couplers
- Safety on construction sites (when using earth-moving machinery)
- Operator qualifications and training

Each workshop will not only identify areas of concern, hazards, design problems, process problems, etc., but also discuss possible solutions. FIEC and EFBWW also intend to identify more in detail possible areas of hazards coming from various types of construction machines. This will be done via an inquiry, based on a form sent to the national affiliated members of FIEC and EFBWW. This activity shall serve to the preparation of the first workshop.

It is intended to communicate the findings of the workshops widely in the construction and machinery-manufacturing communities. Specific communication needs and tools will be decided following each workshop. In doing this, the partnership of the project is also aiming at closer cooperation between the two concerned sectors (construction and the machinery producing metal sector).

3. Links with the objectives and priorities of the budget heading and other EU policies

This action fully fits within the objectives of the sub-programme (“Support for European Social Dialogue”) as defined in the “Call for proposals 2015 for industrial relations and social dialogue projects”. The action is focusing on the quality of work and especially the safety and health conditions in work processes. In this way the action is also directly contributing to healthier and longer working lives.

The action is a part of the social partner work programme of the construction industry for 2015 and builds on previous discussions within the social dialogue construction. This application is the result of the preparatory work of an ad-hoc working group, especially dealing with hazards coming from various types of construction machinery.

This project application is clearly in line with the EC Communication (COM[2014]332 final) on ‘A strategic framework on health and safety at work 2014 – 2020’. More particularly, the project intends to involve stakeholders in discussions and co-operation on several of the strategic priorities pointed out by the Communication, i.e.:

- Contributing to national strategies in a clearly localized area,
- Facilitating compliance with OSH legislation by presenting specific solutions
- Tackling the problem of demographic change by improving the ergonomics of machinery
- Contributing especially to the strategic objective of an aging workforce and the prevention of work-related diseases
- Potentially contributing to the objective of a better coordination of EU and international OSH activities by providing standardisation organisations with material and proposals

The Commission’s Communication also calls for the active collaboration of social partners with the aim of enhancing job quality in order to support productivity and competitiveness. Challenges to be addressed include the capacity to put in place effective and efficient risk prevention measures. Once again, social partners can show their capacity to find responses which meet both workers’ and companies’ interests. By contributing to the innovation of construction machinery the project is also contributing to a sustainable industry in Europe and meets vital aspects of the EZ 2020 strategy.

Especially the aspect of the machines ergonomics is also meeting the topical complex issue of demographic change linked to an ageing workforce and workers’ health. It is therefore able to contribute to other areas of the EU policy in order to present a consistent EU-policy.

The project approach (bringing together producer and user) is explicitly based on the subsidiarity principle and therefore trying to minimize the interference of policy makers. In respect to the latter, the project is a practical contribution to the Commissions new concept for standardization as presented with Regulation n° 1025/2012, especially the specific role of social partners (interested parties) in the standardisation process and related to formal objections. Furthermore, this Social Dialogue project is very timely in view of on-going discussions regarding the safe design of construction machinery as announced by the European Parliament, the European Commission and discussed in the CEN TC 151.

4. Partners and staff involved

a. *Involvement of social partners at European level*

The European sectoral social partners for the construction sector, namely the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC) will be partner in this project, together with the Committee for European Construction Equipment (CECE).

The EFBWW will coordinate the project and FIEC and CECE will collaborate in the execution of the project activities and the decision-making processes regarding all relevant aspects of the action (see also item 6 of this document).

All three organisations will be represented in the project steering group. The three partners will execute the overall research activities as well as the preparation and running of the five one-day workshops, the main project goal. They will also jointly work on the preparation and dissemination of the project deliverables.

b. *Involvement of the social partners and members at national level*

The role of the social partners, members of EFBWW and FIEC, at their national level will be on the one hand to disseminate and promote the project results and, on the other hand, to prepare and participate in the respective workshops. CECE will also involve its members in this activity.

Furthermore, it is also expected that the national affiliated organisations are encouraged to improve the social dialogue in their respective country.

c. *Staff involved*

The EFBWW staff involved in the project will be the following:

- Sam Hägglund, General Secretary (permanent, full-time)
- Rolf Gehring, Secretary Health and Safety (permanent, full-time)
- Frank Leus, Assistant, (permanent, full-time)
- Marina Saegerman, Accountant (permanent, 4/5)

The FIEC staff involved in the project will be the following:

- Domenico Campogrande, Economic Advisor (permanent, full-time)

The CECE staff involved in the project will be the following:

- Stephan Belaen, Technical Manager (permanent, 80%)
- Sigrid de Vries, Secretary General (consultancy basis)

d. *External Expertise*

Since the area of standardisation, design and health and safety aspects are highly specific and technical, the project partners consider it essential to work with external expertise. The single workshops are dealing with various aspects and the project partners' role is mainly to present concerns, shortcomings in the design of the machinery, problems occurring in practice, issues with the normative process, and presenting general descriptions of problems as well as possible solutions.

An external coordinating expert shall advise, prepare and moderate the workshops. The task shall include the preparation of the various workshops, as well as its execution and reporting on the five workshops, including the presentation of solutions, alternatives and changes for specific aspects, discussed during the workshops.

Additionally, for each workshop and additional external expert shall support the discussion on normative matters, technical details, design, ergonomics or other types of problems/solutions.

IndustriAll European Trade Union (industriAll Europe) will act as an associate organisation in the project. IndustriAll Europe represents the workers' side in the producing sector of construction machinery. IndustriAll Europe will contribute expertise for the workshops by finding persons representing the workers' side in construction machinery manufacturers, with experience in the Health & Safety dimension of product design. IndustriAll Europe will additionally actively support the dissemination of the project results.

e. *Activities to be sub-contracted*

The activity of the external coordinating expert and the specific workshop related experts shall be subcontracted.

Translation, interpretation or printing will be subcontracted according to the EU funding rules

5. Transnational dimension and dissemination

The EFBWW represents 76 affiliated unions in 34 countries and FIEC has 29 national federations in 26 European countries. CECE has national member organisations in 13 European countries that represent around 1200 manufacturing companies that produce in Europe and abroad and deliver machines and training to the market in all corners of the EU. IndustriAll Europe represents more than 190 national affiliated organisations in 38 countries. This coverage will ensure the transnational dimension of the action and ensure an effective dissemination in the producing and user sector and in all the European countries.

All four organisations will make use of the network of their respective members and national affiliates, in order to ensure a large transnational dimension and dissemination of the project. CECE will create contacts to various producer companies with factories in various countries.

All partners and their respective affiliates will also disseminate the recommendations to the various stakeholders concerned, both at European and national level. Additionally, they will feed the project results into the related standardisation processes. The proposals for a better involvement of interested parties in the standardisation process are also directed to the European Commission.

6. Timetable of activities

For carrying out the action, we will establish a Steering Group. This Steering Group shall consist of six members: two each from EFBWW, FIEC and CECE as well as staff of the three organisations. The EFBWW will be the overall co-ordinator.

The project partners intend to undertake this project according to the following work-plan and timetable.

Before each of the steering group meetings, the EFBWW will arrange the necessary preparatory activities, i.e. preparing and sending invitations, documents and further information relevant for the respective meeting. Working language for the steering group meetings is English. The workshops will work with simultaneous interpretation into three languages. Only the first workshop, intending to gather stakeholders from more countries will work with five languages.

The following meetings and activities will be carried out during the project:

Preparatory phase

In a first step, the project partners will appoint the members of the steering group. During the preparatory phase of the project, the Steering Group will agree on the work-plan regarding the execution of the five one-day workshops. Furthermore, a detailed plan for an enquiry will be elaborated.

EFBWW will document its experiences and material from previous activities in the social partner working party on construction machines and will prepare an inquiry about the various construction occupations and work situation/hazards when using construction machines.

1st Steering Group - Tuesday 7 December 2015

- Agreement on the work-plan
- Confirmation of the project timetable
- Agreement on a structure for the first one-day workshops and responsibilities
- Discussion of the draft form for the inquiry
- Discussion of a draft dissemination plan

2nd Steering Group - Tuesday 9 February 2016

- Detailed preparation of the 1st workshop
- Planning of the following Steering Group meetings
- Discussion on internal reporting and evaluation activities
- Reporting to the European social dialogue
- Possible reports on national information or activities related to the project topics
- Updating on EU activities in the related area

Main activity

The main activity will be the organisation of five one-day workshops taking place in Brussels. We will report about all the activities to the European Social Dialogue Construction. Dissemination activities at European level focus on other economic sectors and European institutions.

1st one-day workshop - Thursday 24 March 2016

Topic: introduction / general exploration of issues & topics

3rd Steering Group - **Thursday 5 May 2016**

- Evaluation of the 1st one-day workshop
- Adjustment of the workshop concept for the coming four workshops
- Status report concerning the inquiry
- Preparation of the following workshops – discussion and decision on topics
- Discussing further dissemination activities

2nd one-day workshop - **Thursday 2 June 2016**

Topic: normative issues and process

3rd one-day workshop - **Monday 12 September 2016**

Topic: specific topics - to be decided (see the list under 2.1)

4th one-day workshop - **Monday 28 November 2016**

Topic: specific topics - to be decided (see the list under 2.1)

5th one-day workshop - **Friday 20 January 2017**

Topic: specific topics - to be decided (see the list under 2.1)

Follow-up phase

It is foreseen to arrange possible further dissemination activities during the follow-up phase.

4th Steering Group - **Tuesday 7 February 2017**

- Presentation of a draft report on the five one-day workshops
- Presentation results of the inquiry
- Discussion of the draft proposals for a better involvement of interested parties in the European standardisation process
- Agreement on the project documents: Summary report on the inquiry, joint declaration, proposals for the better involvement of interested parties in the standardisation process
- Reporting on the respective dissemination activities – including further planning of dissemination action
- Submission of a draft joint declaration
- Reporting (including timelines) on the coming activities: finalization of documents, translation, proofreading, layout, printing)

5th Steering Group - **Tuesday 6 June 2017**

- Final evaluation of the project
- Discussion on the draft project report for the European Commission
- Discussing possible follow-up activities, especially considering a lasting cooperation between the two sectors