

TRAINING OF LOW EDUCATED WORKERS FOR PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH (TOLEW) is a project aimed at workers in the construction, cleaning and wood working sectors of Kastamonu, Northern Turkey. Due to actual economic development, these sectors are currently growing very fast in the region. However, labour force capacity in Kastamonu is not growing at the same rate as economy itself, as the level of education of workers in the cleaning, wood working and construction sector is largely insufficient, in particular regarding basic and ICT skills. This can have serious effects on the safety of workers, as these skills are needed in order to guarantee that workers understand and respect health and safety regulations. If basic skills and knowledge on safety issues are lacking, workers are more prone to accidents, which not only puts their health at risk, but which also affects the general productivity of the enterprise.



proje ortakları



[www.tolew.eu](http://www.tolew.eu)



**Educated  
Worker,  
Qualified  
Company**

## Health & Safety for the Wood Sector

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. Project Number: 2008-1-TR1-LEO05-03215 TOLEW PROJECT. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

**Kastamonu University-Turkey  
Vocational High School  
EU Project**



kastamonu university [www.kastamonu.edu.tr](http://www.kastamonu.edu.tr)  
contact: +90.366 215 09 00 / 129





## TOLEW

As the demand for unskilled and low-skilled workers is also declining, it is obvious that workers of the region need to be provided with better education, in order to raise productivity and competitiveness.

In order to raise awareness towards security issues and thus prevent work accidents, education needs to deliver a two-fold task: On the one hand, specific knowledge on health and safety in the respective sectors has to be conveyed. On the other, basic skills and ICT competences are crucial for workers in order to function in today's world of work and particularly in order to react correctly when confronted with dangerous situations at work.

In Turkey, wood workers usually work in factories seven days a week in a shift system. They are typically working under precarious working conditions and are frequently exposed to dust and noise. As for the worker's educational background, most of them have accomplished basic education and then have had some vocational training at the workplace. Although the responsible institutions do inspect the health and job safety conditions in

the sector, wood workers are highly at risk of getting injured. The reason for this lies in the fact that the workers generally do not show any interest in the topic and thus do not obey the health and safety norms. Considering these conditions, it is obvious that the workers' awareness must be increased in order to reduce the risks posed to their health and safety.

Workers in the wood sector are exposed to potentially hazardous materials and circumstances in their daily routines and are thus particularly prone to occupational illnesses and job accidents. Analysing the reasons for occupational accidents, most of them can be reduced to a small number of causes, which all apply to a greater or lesser extent to the wood sector.

While only few accidents happen out of force majeure, most of them are a result of organisational deficiencies concerning safety or the workers' unawareness of potential dangers. These, however, are factors which can be improved by the strict implementation and control of safety regulations and also by training the workers properly. If employees are aware of the hazards they face on an everyday basis and know how to react in emergency situations, they are less likely to suffer work-related injuries or illnesses.

Reducing the risks of workers is not just a moral and legal obligation there is a strong business case for it as well. Not only do the employees suffer when things go wrong, also the enterprise itself does. It is likely to lose on productivity and to face claims for compensation. This is why TOLEW shall enhance the cooperation between education and economy, in order to improve the workers' conditions and to boost economy in the wood sector of Kastamonu.

## THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: WORK AND SAFETY IN THE WOOD SECTOR

- Lifting Techniques
- Welding safety
- Occupational illness and job accidents
- Principles of avoiding accidents, injuries and illness
- Electrical Threats
- Legal rights and responsibilities of workers
- Work at height
- Radiation
- Work in front of screens
- Dust prevention
- Basic fire protection principles
- Noise protection
- OHSAS 18001
- Signs and Symbols
- Cleaning and organisation norms
- Chemicals and biological materials
- Transfer and storage of chemicals
- Basic ergonomics
- Forklift Safety
- Hand tools
- Safety in limited areas
- Basic first aid

