

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.



Eğitim ve Kültür

proje ortakları



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**Educated
Worker,
Qualified
Company**

Health & Safety for the Cleaning Sector

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
Project Number: 2008-1-TR1-EE05-03215 TOLEW PROJECT.
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**Kastamonu University-Turkey
Vocational High School
EU Project**



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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.

Cleaners are a target group which cannot be defined very easily. They work in all industry sectors and workplaces, and obtain various employment



statuses. In many cases they work “invisibly” at night or in the early morning, sometimes alone.

Precarious working situations are prevalent and these often result in high staff turnover. In Turkey, most cleaners are insufficiently educated and thus are unable to find an occupation other than cleaning.

They usually do not know anything on the usage of chemicals and other equipment, nor do they know the health issues related to this. What is more, in many cases employers neglect their duty to inform the cleaning workers on the health hazards posed to

them by the use of chemicals and other working conditions.

These socio-economic factors make it difficult to ensure the safety and health of cleaning workers and thus make them particularly prone to occupational accidents and illnesses.

Workers in the cleaning sector are exposed to potentially hazardous materials and circumstances in their daily routines and are thus particularly prone to occupational illnesses and job accidents.

WORK AND SAFETY IN THE CLEANING SECTOR

- Chemicals (solvents)
- Radiation
- Lifting Techniques
- Basic fire protection principles
- Cleaning and organisation norms
- Electrical Threats
- Basic Ergonomics
- Basic First Aid
- Legal rights and responsibilities of workers

