



2nd International Conference
 “Contemporary Ergonomics
 challenges in Europe”

Rīga, 26th of November, 2015



Conference financial support:



SIA "ERGOLAIN Design"



Latvijas Ergonomikas biedrība

Program:

- 12:30 Opening
- 12:45. First part**
- 14:15 Coffee break
- 15:15. Second part**
- 16:45 Closing and discussion



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OPENING AND WELCOME

Silence moment



**A silence moment to remember the people
 murdered in Paris terror attacks
 13th of November, 2015**



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Ergonomics actual challenges in Latvia

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Short History of Ergonomics in Latvia

- Ergonomics in Latvia is relatively new field for practical work and science investigations.
- Words “ergonomics” and “human factors” in Latvia become more recognized after the collapse of the Soviet Union from 1991 and after joining the European Union in 2004.
- Latvian Ergonomics Society was founded in founded in 2006.

Ergonomics - studies

- At the *University of Latvia* ergonomics as study subject exist since 2004 and at the *Rīga Technical University* – from 2006 in master degree professional educational programmes “**Work Environment Protection and Expertise**”.
- Ergonomics as separate study subject has been lectured at the Latvia University of Agriculture since early 1990ties in the full-time and part-time study programs of woodworking and forest exploitation.
- Basics of Ergonomics are lectured for medicine and social science students at the Riga Stradins University from 1996 and in other private and state universities in Latvia.

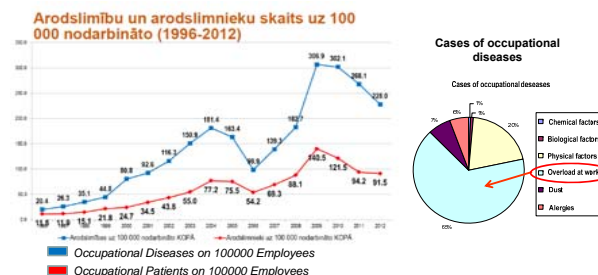


LATVIAN ERGONOMICS SOCIETY (LES)

- **SOCIETY** founded in 2006 and for the moment we have 70 sustainable members, incl. 7 organisations.
- **SOCIETY members are:**
 - occupational health and safety experts,
 - enterprise managers,
 - occupational health medical doctors,
 - scientists in different sciences,
 - University’s academic personnel and students
 - Designers, architects and others.
 - LES unifies specialists from many branches.
- **MISSION:** LES promotes ergonomics scientific and practical development in Latvia to improve work and life quality.

Ergonomics problems (1)

Research topics mainly are connected with physical load ergonomics because, in recent years in Latvia rapidly increases occupational diseases connected with WRMSD



Ergonomics problems (2)

Main reasons:

- work processes containing hard manual handling,
- compulsory work postures,
- inappropriate workplaces,
- lack of employees involvement in decision making,
- Insufficient physical activities after the work or in leisure time for employees,
- frequently workers agree to work without contracts a.o.

Ergonomics problems (3)

Stress and violence at work

- stress factors related to inappropriate application of ergonomics
- repetitive work, high pace,
- just in time operations,
- 24 hour employees,
- psychological incompatibility at the work team (fight for roles, status etc.)
- fair for losing the job,
- now problems with migrants and refugees.



Potential solutions (1)

- Develop understanding in society, students and employees about ergonomics role in occupational health and safety by training and involvement in scientific research projects.
- Continue collaboration with
 - ☐ FEES (Federation of European Ergonomics Societies)
 - ☐ IEA (International Ergonomics Association)
 - ☐ CREE (Centre for Registration of European Ergonomists)



Potential solutions (2)

- Continue education about the significance of ergonomics and promote understanding about benefits of ergonomics coherence with productivity and wellbeing among Latvian society, including employers and employees.
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Return on investment analysis

Potential solutions (3)

- Start certification process on certified European Ergonomists (Eur.Erg. title) under Latvian Ergonomics Society.
- We express appreciation to CREE (Centre for Registration of European Ergonomists) for responsiveness and support to certify first European ergonomists in Latvia and now to establish national assessment board.



Potential solutions (4)

- Additional attention is required to intensify the involvement of governmental and non-governmental institutions supporting ergonomics evolution.
- **State Labour inspectorate**
- **Trade union collaboration with LES:** <http://www.lbas.lv/about/trade-union?locale=en>
- **Collaboration with employees from various societies:**
 - Latvian Business efficiency association (www.efektivs.lv)
 - Latvian Work Safety association (<http://www.ldas.lv/home/startpage/lv/>)
- **Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK):** <http://en.lddk.lv/>
- Etc.

**THANK YOU
FOR
ATTENTION!**