

## Promoting Occupational Safety and Health amongst rural companies in Romania through OSH caravans

Almost 100 rural companies and individual farms located in 3 Regions, and scattered across 19 counties (of Romania's total number of 42 counties) will participate in a series of OSH caravans organized by Romtens Foundation and its partners over four months (June - September 2015). These activities are organized as part of a large ESF project and they aim at raising awareness, among managers and employees, regarding the importance of observing and enforcing the OSH legislation.

The OSH caravans, carried out in 19 rural communities, will consist of information & education sessions held by OSH specialists, short training sessions and workshops, all supported by the dissemination of a series of informational and promotional materials addressing the main risk factors identified in the targeted enterprises and individual farms. A wide range of risks shall be addressed - physical, chemical, biological, mechanical, etc. Amongst these risks are those associated with working with toxic / chemical substances, manual handling, working in the field and extreme conditions (low and high temperatures), biological factors involved in work performed on animal farms, by working with bees, using agricultural machinery, mechanical factors to be found in forestry companies, etc.

The campaign will mainly focus on the importance of prevention and protection, which implies observing and enforcing the OSH legislation, the importance of the prevailing collective OSH prevention measures (as compared to individual OSH measures), of adapting the work process to the technology progress and - above all - of providing integrated workplace health training programs. The organizers' main scope is to recall to the caravans' participants, that each and every one of them is responsible for developing and implementing an OSH prevention culture, in order to mitigate work accidents and professional diseases.

The impact of the campaign will be evaluated through a series of instruments, among which a questionnaire filled in by the participants. Furthermore, all of the companies involved will participate in a competition in which the best OSH promotion programme will be awarded. The awards being offered during a ceremony to be held during the final conference

The initiative of this campaign belongs to the Romtens Foundation which, along with its partners, the University of Perugia, DAD Expertise, Euro DSM Management and Consulting, and Human Development Europe Association is implementing, in Romania, the "Human Resources Development in 19 Rural Communities in the Centre, South-East and South-Muntenia Regions - PSCR2" project, co-funded by the European Social Fund through the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013. "Investing in people!"

