



International Section on Education and Training for Prevention of the
International Social Security Association (ISSA)

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**Berlin Declaration for the Development of a Culture of
Prevention in Health and Safety:**
From School to Work

Adopted at the **3rd international seminar** of the International Section on Education and Training for Prevention, with the participation of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

Young workers constitute a high-risk population with respect to occupational health and safety (OHS, because they are exposed to significantly more physical and organizational constraints. They also sustain more accidents than do older workers.

The objectives of this declaration are:

- **To set forth the objectives** of education and training in prevention:
 - Make all citizens, in particular workers, more aware of the risks they incur or create for themselves and others;
 - Give citizens the knowledge and tools they need to take part in risk prevention.
- **To reaffirm and apply** to the steps discussed below **the principles** favouring the development and maintenance of a “culture of prevention” as defined in the *Québec Protocol*:
 - Acquisition of OHS competencies during the education process;
 - Regular evaluation of acquired skills and competencies;
 - Need for exemplary health and safety practices;
 - Conformance to standards and regulations applicable to material, equipment and the environment.
- **Define the elements of a collaborative strategy** between the various players involved (prevention, schools, professional training, companies), as well as their contributions, requirements and interrelationships.

From School to Work: A Three-Step Health and Safety Strategy

- I. Educate about health and safety prevention from an early age.
- II. Offer training on occupational health and safety.
- III. Provide support and coaching to young adults in their first jobs.

These three steps differ based on the context in which they take place, the age of the target audience, the content covered, and the players responsible for their application. Nevertheless, these steps constitute a continuum, each step being a prerequisite for the next.

For each of these steps, the overall strategy requires concerted action between the various partners involved.

I. Health and safety education starting in primary school

Young people must receive an education that will prepare them to deal with the main risks encountered in everyday life and enable them to participate in the prevention of accidents and other health-related risks.

Education is one of the primary means of developing the potential of individuals and stimulating the creation of conditions favourable to health, safety and well-being. In this context, safety is seen as being an integral part of health, in accordance with the definition established by the WHO.

Players:

- Organizations directly involved with education, health, safety and youth through various national policies.
- Organizations representing parents.

Axes of intervention:

- Learning, at the earliest possible age, about behaviours and good practices that make it possible to detect, avoid and control health and safety risks encountered in everyday life.
- Integration of health and safety into programs and training materials, as well as into initial and continuing education for instructors.

II. Acquisition of occupational health and safety competencies during professional and technical training

Young people must receive training and instruction that will enable them to deal with occupational risks.

Players:

- Public and private institutions in charge of:
 - the prevention of occupational accidents and illnesses;
 - training and teaching.
- Social partners.

The *Québec Protocol* constitutes a framework for collaboration between these institutions. It defines the principles and methods for a concrete approach.

Axes of intervention:

- Participation of players in determining OHS competencies, designing programs, developing teaching materials and training instructors in accordance with OHS requirements.
- Development of the knowledge and skills required by future workers and employers to identify sources of danger, evaluate risks, and implement preventive measures to eliminate or at least control such risks.

III. Provide orientation and support to young workers on health and safety issues

Young people entering the job market must be informed of the risks associated with their work and receive appropriate training, instruction and supervision.

Players:

- **Responsibility is shared between:**
 - The State, which must establish the obligations of employers;
 - Organizations representing employers and workers, whose support is important to secure.

Axes of intervention:

- Development of health and safety management tools.
- Implementation of support and training mechanisms.
- Elaboration of standards and regulations.

Call to Action

The International Section on Education and Training for Prevention invites all participants to the Berlin seminar to promote the development of a culture of prevention from school to the workplace:

- By promoting collaboration between the fields of prevention, education, training and research.
- By exerting their influence during the drafting of policies and programs in order to ensure they take into account health and safety.
- By committing to promote and value national as well as regional partnership agreements between the institutions and/or other organizations identified previously.

Together, these actions will achieve the objective of safeguarding the health and safety of young workers.