



HELLENIC INSTITUTE  
FOR OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH AND SAFETY  
(ELINYAE)



## Foundation of the ELINYAE

The foundation of the Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (ELINYAE) fills the gap in Greece that has long existed on issues concerning work conditions and the prevention of occupational risks. An important element in its success was the consensus and co-operation between employer groups (the Federation of Greek Industries, the General Confederation of Handicraft and Merchants of Medium and Small Enterprises and the Greek Federation of Traders' Association) and the employee confederation (the General Confederation of Greek Labor) during its foundation but also from there continuous support. The Institute was set up as a civic non-profit organization on the 25th of June 1992.

## Objectives of the ELINYAE

According to its constitution the objectives of the ELINYAE are:

- to detect, record, process, investigate and analyse the various hazardous agents and conditions in the work environment and the effects they may have on the health and safety of the employees,
- to elaborate regulations, rules and the relevant legislation,
- to monitor international developments and experiences and forward documentation on OSH matters,
- to promote the exchange of information within the social partners on issues of occupational health and safety,
- to contribute to the investigation and solution of problems, arising from the interaction between the work environment, the general environment and expectations for work and living standards,
- to study the impact of applications of new technologies and of new preventative measures for occupational risks,
- to provide expertise on issues of occupational health and safety.

In order to achieve its objectives, ELINYAE:

- has created several branches and a technical infrastructure through the appointment of personnel from various disciplines in various regions in Greece,
- suggests sampling methods and measurements and carries out analysis of physical, chemical or biological

hazards in the work environment. Performs biological monitoring of hazardous substances and compares these with published Biological Exposure Indices,

- collaborates with various employer groups and employee unions at a National and International level,
- collaborates with educational institutions and other scientific bodies in Greece,
- organizes educational programmes for Safety Engineers, Occupational Physicians, Members of Worker's Committees for Health and Safety, Business Executives, Trade Executives, and, Employees on safety and health issues at the operational, sectoral, local, national and international level,
- carries out research programmes on topics that interest employers and employees,
- collects, edits, and disseminates information,
- supports the improvement of work conditions and the development of a safety culture among employers and employees.

The multidisciplinary composition of the staff of ELINYAE has as an exclusive goal the prevention of occupational risks and the improvement of working conditions.

## Financial resources of the ELINYAE

The main financial source of the ELINYAE is from, the Account for Employment and Vocational Training (LAEK) as specified by the National General Collective Labor Agreement (EGSSE) and the European Union (Technical Support, second and third Community Support Framework). Other financial sources are from services provided by ELINYAE, donations, seminars etc. In addition, contributions are obtained from European programmes, assets from property, subsidies, specific contributions and funding from public and private enterprises, institutions, individuals, and other organizations in Greece and abroad.

## Structure of the ELINYAE

The Institute consists of 4 centers:

### 1) Occupational Safety Center

The center deals with safety issues and ergonomic aspects in order to improve working conditions and prevent accidents at work. Its main topics of interest are

accident prevention, ergonomics, safety in construction work, safety in industry, transport safety, safety in agriculture and department of major industrial accidents.

Its main tasks are:

- to perform safety audits and ergonomic analysis in the work environment
- to provide expertise in cases of occupational accidents upon request
- to collaborate in EU research projects

### 2) Occupational Health and Hygiene Center

The center deals with Occupational Medicine, Industrial Hygiene, Biochemistry and Analytical Toxicology.

The occupational physicians carry out medical examinations on workers who have been exposed to physical and chemical parameters in the work environment.

The Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene measures noise levels, vibrations, thermal stress and humidity. It also carries out air sampling for the measurement of contaminants such as volatile solvents, metal dusts etc.

The Laboratory of Biochemistry and Analytical Toxicology measures the air samples provided by the Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene for volatile and semi volatile organic compounds and metal dusts in the work environment. It also determines organic volatiles and/or their metabolites as well as heavy metals in biological fluids.

### 3) Documentation and Information Center

The center collects, organizes, maintains and disseminates information concerning occupational health and safety. Its library provides access to relevant literature and information resources. The library's catalogue is available in the following address:

<http://www.elinyae.gr:8090/Opac2/zConnectENU.html>

The center produces and distributes the publications of the Institute (books, pamphlets, cds, quarterly journal and electronic newsletter). The IT department supports the IT and telecommunications' infrastructure of the Institute. The website and the e-learning platform are two significant services, provided to the public.

The center is involved in the international network for Occupational Health and Safety of the International Labor Office (ILO-CIS National and Collaborating Centers). It also collaborates with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

### 4) Vocational Training Center

The center fulfils the training needs as those arise from the implementation of the Greek and European Legislation on issues of occupational and environmental health and safety, while estimating at the same time the priorities of the Greek reality. It provides specialized training programmes with the integration of know-how that derives either from internal researches or from the Greek and international bibliography, scientific practice and experience. It defines, organises and conducts training programmes, seminars, half-day seminars, presentations etc., for members of Worker's Committees for Health and Safety, employees, unionists executives, employers, business managers, safety engineers, occupational physicians and generally for those who either are chosen or have decided their own to participate in the above programmes. It also carries out studies and conducts research programmes on Occupational Health and Safety Training issues.

## Regional Branches

The establishment of the regional branches was necessary to cover the needs of those regions that have a substantial industrial base. These are first-hand information, vocational training and research programmes with specific local requirements, support services for employees and employers on matters concerning occupational health and safety and promotion of co-operation between local authorities. The regional branches are an integral part of the organization and the function of the Institute.

At the moment there are five regional branches in operation. These are in Thessaloniki, in Ioannina, in Tripoli, in Volos, in Komotini and soon Heraklion, Crete.

## Board of Directors (2008-2011)

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## General Director

Minas Analytis

143, Liossion & 6, Thirsiou Str.  
104 45 **ATHENS**  
Tel.: +30 210 8200100  
Fax: + 30 210 8200222, 8813270  
e-mail: info@elinyae.gr

90, 26th October Str.  
546 28 **THESSALONIKI**  
Tel.: + 30 2310 501050  
Fax: +30 2310 501055  
e-mail: info.the@elinyae.gr

7, Kaplani Str.  
454 44 **IOANNINA**  
Tel. +30 26510 83290  
Fax: +30 26510 83294  
e-mail: info.ioa@elinyae.gr

33, Alamanas & Koletti  
383 34 **VOLOS**  
Tel.: +30 24210 91670  
Fax: +30 24210 91671  
e-mail: info.vol@elinyae.gr

G. Manoudi Str.  
69 100 **KOMOTINI**  
Tel.: +30 25310 84603  
Fax: +30 25310 84603  
e-mail: info.com@elinyae.gr

8, Plateia Kolokotroni  
221 00 **TRIPOLI**  
Tel. +30 2710 221100  
Fax. +30 2710 221122  
e-mail: info.tri@elinyae.gr



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