

# ΕΛΙΝΥΑΕ



HELLENIC INSTITUTE for OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY



## ELINYAE: The chronicle of its creation

The creation of ELINYAE is the result of a significant social dialogue, representing the first associative bond between organised labour and capital. The need for establishing the institute was underlined in the late seventies, and in particular by the I.L.O. mission, which wrote the PIACT report. In the years that followed, this necessity continued being reported by all employers' and workers' organisations. As a result, the route leading to the creation of ELINYAE was initiated by Article 7 of the National General Collective Agreement (EGSSE) in 1988. Article 6 of the same agreement in 1991-1992 consolidated and concluded the process.

Following that, a bipartite committee undertook the task of drawing up the Institute's Charter and Articles of Incorporation. The committee comprised experts from the country's most significant employers' and workers' organisations, that is the General Confederation of Greek Labour (GSEE), the Federation of Greek Industries (SEV), the General Confederation of Handicraft and Commercants of Medium and Small Enterprises (GSEVEE) and the Greek Federation of Traders' Association (EESA). Given their efforts, drafting of the founding documents was finalised in July 1992. The legal status is that of civil partnership of non-profitable character and its role is advisory.



*The Minister of Labour Mr. ADAMOPOULOS George, representatives of the social partners and members of the Administrative Board of ELINYAE*

# ELINYAE: A necessity of our times for the improvement of occupational health and safety in Greece

The founders of the European Union (EU) and those who stress the need of a social Europe point towards two objectives:

- The creation of an area in which people, capital and their related financial activities move freely and without any obstacles under a single set of rules.
- An area in which Europe's human capital enjoys the goods of economic prosperity, resulting from the achievement of the first objective and under conditions of social protection.

Bearing that in mind, Article 118A of the Single European Act clearly defines the obligation of the EU, as well as of its member states, to initiate legal provisions and in doing so, provide the necessary measures and framework for Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). In Greece, until the introduction of the

framework law 1568/85, OHS legislation was fragmented and technically oriented, therefore, not providing the instruments for OHS monitoring at enterprise level. This situation, not only caused reduced levels of production, but inevitably made the increase of occupational hazards a reality. Consequently, the economic and social cost was tremendous, for both enterprises and the national economy.

Greece needs to comply with the EU's directive 89/391. The directive extends the mechanisms for preventing occupational hazards in all enterprises. This clearly demands the provision of scientific and technical support to and of serving the policy of OHS. In that direction, the creation of the Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (ELINYAE) comes forward to cover the gap in the protection of health and safety at work.

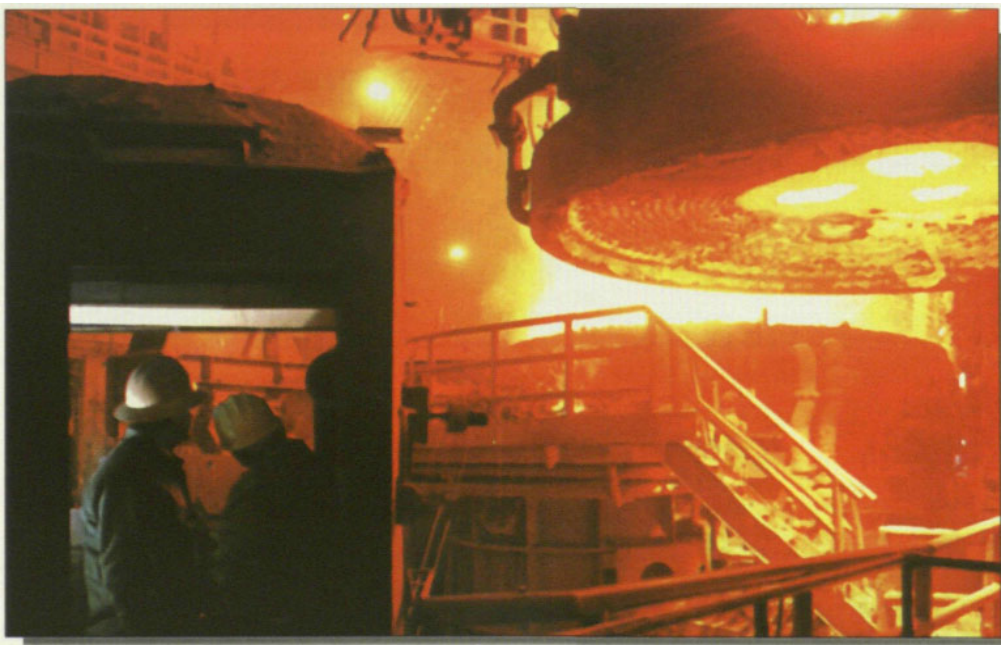


# The objectives of ELINYAE

The purpose of ELINYAE is non-profitable, consisting of the provision of scientific and technical support to and serving the policies of health, hygiene and safety at work in Greece. Specifically, it aims at the transgression of the deficiencies in the field of OHS, and in particular, within the areas of information, research, training and education. With that goal in mind, the Institute hopes to meet the demands that arise by the creation of the single European area, as well as by the application of the EU's frame directive 89/391.

The long-term objective of ELINYAE can be summarised as follows:

1. To locate, record, process, analyse and investigate the various noxious agents and conditions of the working environment and their effects on occupational health and safety.
2. To work out regulations, rules and pertinent legislation.
3. To monitor international development and experience and promote the documentation of related matters.
4. To promote communication between information and education of both social partners on issues of occupational health and safety.
5. To contribute to the investigation and solution of problems, arising from the interaction between the working environment and conditions on the one hand, and the general environment



and living conditions on the other.

6. To study the impact of new technology on occupational health and methods for the prevention of occupational hazards.
7. To serve as an Expert Body on issues of occupational health and safety, if asked by either social partner (i.e. employers or employees).

The above objectives will be promoted through three main lines of activities:

- The Information
- The Applied Research and the provision of expert services
- The Training

## **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

The financial resources of ELINYAE are derived from:

- The percentage of up to 10% on the 0,45% of the employers' contributions pertaining to vocational training as provided for by Article 4 of the National General Collective Labour

Agreement (EGSSE) of 1991. This contribution constitutes the basic financial general resource of the Institute. It is stipulated in Article 6 of the 1991-1992 National General Collective Agreement, as well as in Law No 2224/1994, Article 14, Paragraph 6. They clearly define the legal commitment of the contributing parties and guarantee that the expenses of operating the institute will be covered by the total of employers' contributions pertaining to vocational training.

- Sums that partners will agree to pay.
- Sums coming from the European Union (EU).
- Sums received by those who resort to the services of ELINYAE
- Donations, income from publishing activities, events, seminars, workshops etc.
- Utilising assets of ELINYAE
- Subsidies, special fees and funding from public and



private enterprises, institutions, individuals and organisations in Greece and abroad.

- Contributions of any of the founding partners of ELINYAE
- Any other legal income, which is accepted by decision of the Administrative Board.

and occupational diseases.

3. The reduction of social tension in working environments.
4. The creation of a mutual information and conveyance centre for scientific achievements and experiences.



## **PERSPECTIVES**

The results that are anticipated with the establishment and impact of ELINYAE are as follows:

1. The creation of material and technical infrastructure with adequate manpower at its headquarters and regionally, as well as commensurate laboratories in order to meet its needs.
2. The reduction of the economical cost arising from accidents at work

This effort represents the first attempt that is being made outside the official body of Labour Inspection. With that in mind, ELINYAE can be the driving force in allowing OHS conditions to be accessible to all. In that direction its success depends on the trust and support of the parties that are involved (State, employers, employees). Without their simultaneous support, the effort of ELINYAE will be dispersed and fragmented.



# An evaluation of the first two years (1992-1994)

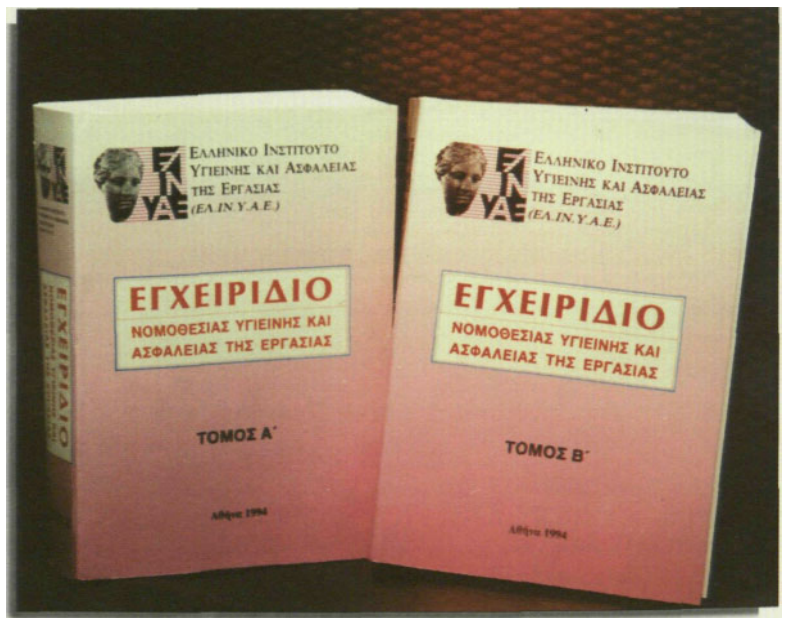
The first priority of the Administrative Board, that was appointed by its founding organisations, was to secure the financial resources for the commencement of the institute. This target was achieved through the European Social Fund and in particular the funds were provided for the on-going programme "Technical Aid". The acquisition of these funds allowed the Institute to initiate its operation in October 1993, with a basic scientific and administrative staff, as well as equipment.

In the first stage of ELINYAE's development the activities and significant projects were the following:

1. The publication of the Manual of Greek Legislation on OHS, in both printed and electronic media.
2. The development of curricula for the training of safety officers and occupational physicians.
3. The training of safety officers and trainers, by

means of interstate cooperation (Germany, Italy, Denmark).

4. The training of safety officers in oil industries.
5. The creation of an enterprises' register containing data on OHS conditions.



6. The study of training needs in OHS matters.
7. The establishment of a specialised library.
8. The promotion of activities on Personal Protective Equipment in cooperation with the Greek Standardisation Organisation.
9. The promotion of international cooperation, as well as participation within the network of OHS institutions operating within the EU.



# The five year development programme (1995-1999)

**ELINYAE**'s strategic plan includes the activities to be carried out during the years 1995-1999. These activities will be promoted through three main areas {Information- Documentation, Applied Research, Training) and the consolidation of their respective centres:

- The Information and Documentation Centre
- The Applied Research Centre
- The Training Centre

## **THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE**

It develops and enriches

ELINYAE's central library, operates an OHS information desk, edits the Institute's publications, compiles statistical data regarding accidents at work and occupational diseases. It also undertakes the collection, processing, exchange and dissemination of information by all probable means, including data banks and electronic networks. These activities are facilitated by the following 3 units:

- The Information Unit
- The Publishing Unit
- The Statistics Unit



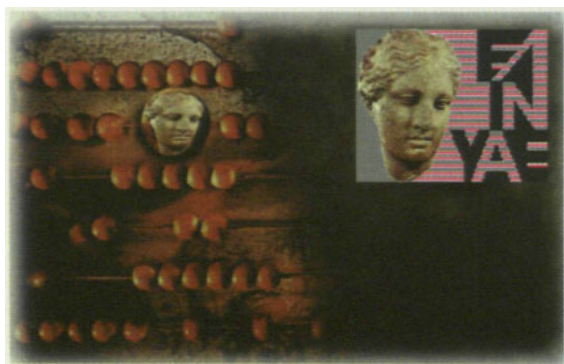
## **THE APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE**

It conducts research and studies of concern to both parties (employees - employers), locating, recording, analysing and investigating the various noxious agents and conditions of the working environment and their effects on OHS. If asked, by any of the parties, the centre also provides expert/advisory services. Its scientific units include:

- The Occupational Medicine Unit
- The Safety at Work Unit
- The Ergonomics Unit
- The Working Environment Unit
- The Epidemiology Unit
- The Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Hazard Statistics Unit.

## **THE TRAINING CENTRE**

It develops the curricula and training strategy on



the basis of the demands brought up by the EU's frame directive 89/391, as well on

the results and recommendations of the scientific studies, that are undertaken within the Information - Documentation and Applied Research Centres.

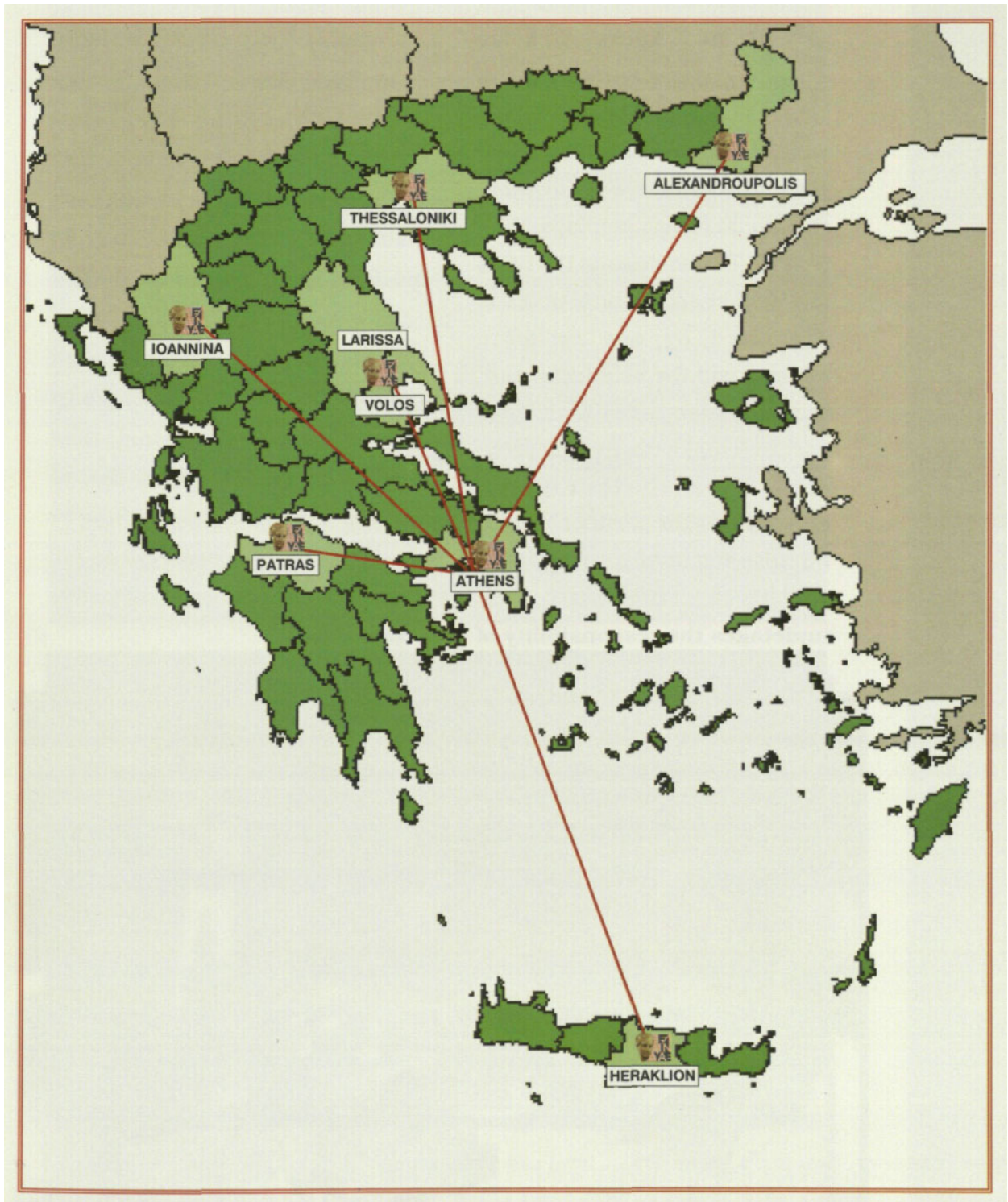
## **REGIONAL BRANCHES**

In order to meet its goals, as well as to create the material and technical infrastructure for OHS in Greece, the central administrative and scientific services of the Institute in Athens are to be facilitated by the work of regional branches. There are planned to be established in Alexandroupolis, Patras, Larissa or Volos, Ioannina, Heraklion and Thessaloniki. The branch in Thessaloniki will develop as a centre conveying international scientific development and experience with the Balkan countries.

Their objective will be to cooperate with the local authorities, as well as with the employees' and employers' organisations and provide scientific and technical support to and of serving the policies of OHS in Greece. Their activities are to be complemented with the following 3 offices:

- The Technical Assistance Office
- The Information Office
- The Training Office

# REGIONAL BRANCHES of ELINYAE





# Expert and advisory services

**T**he Administrative Board approved the idea of providing expert and advisory services to employees' and employers' organisations on issues corresponding to OHS. That is done on the basis of a written application, which is examined by one or more members of the scientific staff, but also discussed with both parties (employees - employers). In particular, the Institute not only informs the parties by letter, but also requests their approval on the scientific staff, that undertakes the respon

sibility of providing their expert / advisory services. The parties are also asked to appoint their own representative. Upon completion of the project, the scientific staff submits a report to ELINYAE, which in turn informs the parties not only on the results, but also upon the recommendations made. The Institute's aim is to participate as an expert; therefore, it limits its role to that of advising on issues pertaining to OHS. It is not responsible for judging on the provision of health allowances.





# Organisational structure of ELINYAE

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

The founders of ELINYAE convened on 17 May 1993 and decided, according to the Article 6 of the incorporation statute, that for the period of 17 May 1993 till 17 May 1996 the Board of Directors shall consist of a representative nominated by its founding organisations.

President : • KRTTIKOS Alexandros

Vice Presidents : • POLITIS Dimitrios (GSEE)  
• SKIADAS Alexandros (SEV-GSEVEE-ESEE)

Members : • AGORGIANITIS Evangelos (GSEE)  
• GEORGOPOULOS Sotirios (GSEE)  
• THEOHARI Christina (GSEE)  
• MOTSOS Georgios (GSEVEE)  
• POLYCHRONOPOULOS Ioannis (ESEE)  
• TSAMOUSOPOULOS Ilias (SEV)



*The President of ELINYAE Mr. KRITIKOS Alexandros (centre) with the two Vice - Presidents, Mr. POLITIS Dimitrios (left) and Mr. SKIADAS Alexandros (right).*

## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**IOANNOU Christos:** General Director of ELINYAE, PhD in Economics (London School of Economics), MSc in Economics (LSE), BA of the Athens Economic University.

## **MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC STAFF**

**ALEXOPOULOS Charalambos:** Head on issues of Occupational Medicine and Epidemiology, Occupational Physician.

**BANOOTSOS Ilias:** Head of Safety at Work, Ergonomics and Working Environment Units, Production Engineer (BSc Aston University), Ergonomist (MSc Birmingham University).

**BATRA Paraskevi:** Head on issues of Information - Documentation, Graduate of the National Technical University of Athens (Electrical Engineering), PhD candidate at the same University.

**DRIVAS Spiridon** Head on issues of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Hazards Statistics, Occupational Physician.

**VELLISSARIOU Konstantinos:** Head on issues of Information Technology, Graduate of the Technical University of Patras (Electrical Engineering).

**ZORBA Konstantina:** Head on issues relating to Training, Graduate of the National Technical University of Athens (Mining and Metallurgy Engineering).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**ANDONOU Marianna:** Executive Secretary  
**KOUTSOGEORGOPOULOS Konstantinos:** Executive Accountant  
**POLIZOGOPOULOU Bassiliki:** Secretary



# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE of ELINYAE

