

# Digitalisation: industry employers zoom in on safety and health

Ceemet has documented over the years how digitalisation is changing the way we work. Although digitalisation creates particular safety and health challenges, it equally provides a multitude of solutions. The European Tech & Industry employers published a report zooming in on how digitalisation improves safety and health at work.

**Brussels, 23 June 2021** – When references are made about digitalisation of work, they mostly refer to the automation of tasks. Ceemet has with its series '*Digitalisation and the World of*' directed the focus to other aspects of digitalisation, e.g. the role of skills and education, that need consideration for the digital transformation to become a success. In its latest report the employers of the European Tech & Industry sector look at the role of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).

## Technology, applications & sensors : striving for a healthier workplace

Digital technology has increasingly complemented human labour in the workplace. With this development particular OSH challenges have been created such as ergonomics and psychosocial risks.

In eight categories, Ceemet lists what should be considered to integrate OSH and mitigate challenges:

- 1) Cobots: New cobots that assist in decision-making require a rethink on how risk assessments can be done best.
- 2) Flexible working: OSH must evolve to provide guidance rather than trying to control all of the known risks.
- 3) New forms of management: Wearables allow to monitor and provide feedback on the employees' health. This results in adapted decisions.
- 4) Sensors & smart Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): smart PPE signals when there is a problem and protects employees by correcting behaviour.
- 5) Ergonomics & exoskeletons: Good ergonomics keep workers as long as possible at their workplace and exoskeletons widened the variety of recruits.
- 6) Psychosocial risks: A human interface software can go some way to avoiding those risks.
- 7) AI: Data derived from AI can help OSH professionals make better decisions. This is a further move toward evidence-based OSH and better protection.
- 8) Sandboxing: Companies need legal or regulatory frameworks to test new solutions.

## Benefit of digitalisation: room left for development

The impact of digitalisation on OSH has been a benefit for industry. In a context of skills shortages and an ageing society skilled workers were kept at the workplace longer. And employers were offered solutions to create a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

*"We haven't reached the limits of what digitalisation can do to create a healthier and safer workplace,"* says Delphine Rudelli Ceemet Director General. *"If we want to move ahead, companies will need a legal framework that allows them to experiment while keeping their employees safe."*

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Ceemet represents the metal, engineering and technology-based industry employers in Europe, covering sectors such as metal goods, mechanical engineering, electronics, ICT, vehicle and transport manufacturing.

Member organisations represent 200,000 companies in Europe, providing over 17 million direct and 35 million indirect jobs.

Ceemet is a recognised European social partner at the industrial sector level, promoting global competitiveness for European industry through consultation and social dialogue.