



XXXI<sup>st</sup> International  
Symposium of the  
ISSA Construction Section

Berlin, 8 to 10 June 2022

**VISION  
ZERO**

Safety. Health.  
Wellbeing.



## XXXI<sup>st</sup> International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section “How to reach Vision Zero in Construction”

Berlin, 8 to 10 June 2022

How to reach Vision Zero in Construction? - This important question was the focus of the “XXXI<sup>st</sup> International Symposium of the ISSA Construction Section”, which took place from 8 to 10 June in Berlin and which was organized by the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in the Construction Industry.

Around 170 participants from 23 countries around the world (e.g., international construction contractors, representatives of public authorities, representatives of OSH organizations) exchanged experiences, new approaches and innovations with regard to OSH, especially in the digital field. The aim of the symposium was to reduce the number of accidents and occupational diseases on construction sites worldwide and to get closer to the goal of Vision Zero.

The symposium was opened by the President of the ISSA Construction Section, Prof. Karl-Heinz Noetel, followed by welcome addresses from the State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, from the Deputy Managing Director of BG BAU and the keynote by the President of the ISSA. The overall topics of the event were introduced by various presentations and a panel discussion.



One of the highlights on the first day was the premiere of the ISSA Construction Vision Zero film, which was highly acclaimed by the symposium participants for its representation of the implementation of the Vision Zero rules on construction sites.

<https://ww1.issa.int/events/prevention/construction-symposium-2022/vz-movie>

The Breakout Sessions on the second day offered further educational presentations on the topics "Accident prevention", "Training and awareness building", "Hazardous substances and occupational health" and "Innovation and new technologies". The participants used the opportunity to actively participate in the discussion after the presentations to exchange views on the contents.



During the breaks, the participants had the chance to learn more by visiting the poster exhibition. Exhibitors from Germany, France, India, Senegal and Zambia provided excellent posters on various interesting topics related to OSH on construction sites.

All participants had the opportunity to vote for the best presentations and posters via a digital voting system. The winners were honoured on the last day during an Award Ceremony.



In a Start-up Pitch Battle, 7 international start-up companies from Japan, Germany, the USA, France, Chile and Israel had the opportunity to present their innovative digital solutions. The topic was "How to improve safety and health on construction sites through digital innovations?". And again, the audience had the chance to vote for the winner of the battle.

<https://ww1.issa.int/events/prevention/construction-symposium-2022/pitch-battle>

As it is very important to the ISSA Construction Section that the contents and goals of the

symposium are documented and also available for the future, the symposium closed with a "Declaration of Berlin" which will be signed by the President of the Section on behalf of all participants.

After the closing, another highlight awaited some of the participants. Technical visits to a switchgear of the electricity grid in Steglitz, to a construction work of a high-rise building at "Alexanderplatz" as well as to the extension of the "Galeria" department store were enjoyed by those who participated. "I was fascinated by the size of the construction excavation in the middle of such a frequented place," said one participant of the visit to the high-rise building at Alexanderplatz.

In addition to the highly beneficial technical contents of the symposium, the participants used the opportunity to expand their networks. After such a long period of pandemic and social isolation, the participants enjoyed the personal contacts enormously. The breaks, a reception and a dinner were used extensively to talk to colleagues they had not seen for a long time or to make new contacts.



Numerous positive feedbacks from the participants about the very successful organization of the symposium, the new and interesting technical contents and the discussions show that the symposium was a complete success.

And most important of all, the new knowledge gained by all participants will help to reduce the number of accidents on construction sites and to get closer to the goal of Vision Zero worldwide.



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