

Study: Integration of UN Development Goal No. 8 into education at African Universities - promoting good work and sustainable economic development (SDG 8)

Study lead: Prof Dr Dingani Moyo, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe
Dr Ulrike Bollmann, German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV – IAG Dresden)

Duration: June 2024 – July 2025

Ethical approval: Ethics Committee of the DGUV

Subject: We cordially invite you to participate in the study

Background:

The promotion of decent work and sustainable economic development (as described in SDG 8) is a challenge, especially for emerging economies where occupational safety and health is still less institutionalized and not yet firmly anchored in law.

The study aims to examine the current status of the integration of SDG 8 into study programs at African universities whose courses have thematic references to safety, health and well-being at work in particular. The project is aimed at universities in all sub-regions of the African continent.

The study will investigate whether and to what extent the following four core topics of SDG 8 are addressed in the study programs and their courses: (1) impact of economic growth on climate and environment; (2) increase in socio-economic inequalities; (3) impact of digitalization on work and employment; and (4) occupational accidents and work-related diseases. The study design follows a previous study conducted in Europe.¹

Study Design:

The study focuses primarily on Master's and PhD programs in the following professional fields: (1) Occupational health and safety / Occupational hygiene, (2) Occupational medicine and nursing, (3) Management of human resources. A total of ten to twelve universities from the various regions of Africa with corresponding degree programs will be approached in order to ask questions in a semi-structured interview to responsible program directors and decision-makers at the universities.

Benefits of the Study:

By participating in the study with your university, you will not only contribute to the development of disciplines such as occupational safety and health, occupational medicine and human resource management, but also promote decent work and sustainable economic development on the African continent as a whole. In addition, you will be participating in the promotion of international networking of experts and universities on SDG 8.

Study team:

Prof Dr Dingani Moyo, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe (Scientific Director of the study)

Dr Ulrike Bollmann, DGUV – IAG Dresden; ENETOSH (Person responsible at DGUV)

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Prof Dr Ing Rudolf Schumachers, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany

The study is being conducted by the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV – Institute for Work and Health (IAG - Dresden)) under the umbrella of the Global Coalition for Safety and Health at Work (ILO) and in cooperation with the European Network Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health (ENETOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Africa Foundation (OSHAfrica).

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¹ Siegrist, J and U Bollmann (2022/23). Promoting good and sustainable work in occupational health education. Occupational Medicine, (73)2, 61–65, <https://doi.org/10.1093/occmed/kqac018>: <https://academic.oup.com/occmed/article/73/2/61/6573922>