

Summary

The high number of accidents in schools and the timely development of a prevention culture were the impetus for the establishment of the work programme called “Raising Awareness in Students of Health and Safety in Schools” as part of the Joint German Occupational Safety and Health Strategy (GDA)¹.

The GDA work programme for schools together with the cooperation of the relevant policy stakeholders ensured that a long-term approach could be agreed upon at policy level. This is coordinated by the Educational Institutions Department of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) which has both the competencies and possibilities needed to conceive and initiate appropriate measures.

Establishing round tables at state level represents a great opportunity. They provide schools, the Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs, the providers of statutory accident insurance and the OSH departments from state and local government with the opportunity to look at current issues and to work on solutions.

Improving cooperation and networking between all those involved in raising school students’ awareness – the statutory accident insurance providers, the state OSH departments, the Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs, schools, school boards and other partners (unions and professional associations) – contributes to long-term sustainable improvements in both OSH and education. As such, the GDA schools programme has fulfilled its mandate from the first phase of the GDA 2008-2012.

¹ For a brief overview of the German school system, see pages 61 – 64 of the EU OSHA "Curriculum Report": <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/TE3008521ENC/view> and or for a detailed overview: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Germany