

Europe has the highest drinking levels in the world, which have significant economic, safety, legal and health implications for workplaces.

Alcohol use during or before work, along with excessive consumption of alcohol generally, makes accidents more likely and it can affect workers' performance, and increase absenteeism and presenteeism. It can also affect the social climate in the workplace and impact on an organisation's image. All of these consequences can lead to loss of productivity and hit employability.

THE COSTS OF ALCOHOL

It is estimated that each year 1380,000 European Union citizens aged 15 – 64 years die from alcohol-related ill health and injury. Moreover, lost productivity costs feature as the dominant element in social cost studies arising from the harm done by alcohol, comprising about half of the total social cost of alcohol to the European Union.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ON ALCOHOL:

- €155.8 billion is the social costs attributable to alcohol in the EU on a yearly basis
- 1 in 4 of male deaths between 15-29 years are due to alcohol
- Chronic diseases, to which alcohol is the 3rd main contributory factor, are in the top of global risks next to such threats like fiscal crises and are expected to cost global economy over 30 trillion USD over the next two decades.
- Alcohol is a major contributory factor in accidents; 1 in 4 of all road traffic deaths are caused by alcohol
- Alcohol is a risk factor in some 60 diseases such as cancer, liver cirrhosis etc.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ON ALCOHOL AND WORKPLACE:

- Problematic alcohol use is responsible for annual productivity losses of 74 billion euros across the EU
- Problematic alcohol use affects the health of up to 25 % of staff in major companies.
- About 20 to 25% of all accidents at work involve intoxicated people injuring themselves and other victims, including co-workers.

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