

# VISION ZERO

## The Vision Zero Forum in Finland

VISION ZERO  
PRACTICE



# The Nordic Experience: The Vision Zero Forum in Finland

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## The Vision Zero Forum in Finland

The Finnish Vision Zero Forum (Nollis®) is a network of workplaces that motivates and encourages workplaces to strive for high levels of safety and well-being at work.

The Forum is based on Vision Zero, a long-term commitment and positive attitude towards the continuous improvement of work, safety, health and well-being. At Nollis® member workplaces, improving safety at work is a continuous activity, regardless of the starting point.

The mission of the Forum is to:

- promote a positive safety culture;
- provide the latest information on safety trends in the workplaces;
- share benchmarking information and best practices;
- produce tools and materials for success at work;
- provide a national and regional network of members.

When a workplace joins the Forum, it commits to the following:

- ▶ We commit ourselves to sharing information on best practices with other workplaces
- ▶ We will improve our workplace safety in co-operation with our employees and management
- ▶ Health and safety are an integral part of our workplace's successful business operations
- ▶ We commit ourselves to annually providing the Zero Accident = Vision Zero Forum's project team with information on occupational safety.

The Forum supports all types of workplaces through services and a network, regardless of the level of maturity of occupational safety and health in the workplace.

The Vision Zero Forum's annual Safety Level Certifications are based on criteria developed in consultation with member

workplaces. The rating is based on factors such as the frequency and severity of accidents in the workplace, and the need to have a proper accident investigation and incident reporting procedure in place.

The Vision Zero Forum awards the occupational safety ranking annually to the workplaces that apply for it.

## Safety Level Certifications awarded in year 2022

- ⇒ Level I - In the World's Forefront of Safety (54 workplaces)
- ⇒ Level II - Approaching the World's Forefront of Safety (36 workplaces)
- ⇒ Level III - Heading for the World's Forefront of Safety (20 workplaces)



According to the October 2023 member survey, the most important reasons for member workplaces to be part of the Finnish Vision Zero Forum are community, networking and peer support, getting ideas, sharing experiences and learning from others, ready-made materials, webinars, annual seminar gathering, regional networking, and company image and tradition.

## History

The Finnish Vision Zero Forum was launched in November 2003 as part of the National Occupational Accident Prevention Programme in cooperation with the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Centre for Occupational Safety. The original name of the forum was Zero Accident Forum as the focus of early days was mainly on the prevention of accidents. Along with the widening of Vision Zero thinking, the name was also changed to Finnish Vision Zero Forum. Since the end of the National Occupational Accident Prevention Programme at the end of

**“Genuine management commitment, resources and action are key to moving things forward in workplaces numbers.”**

2005, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has co-funded the Forum and the Well-being at Work Forum (2008-2011). Since 2007, an annual fee has been collected from member workplaces and from 2011 onwards, the activities have been financed exclusively by membership fees. The activities are coordinated by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

Since its inception, the Forum was aimed at all workplaces interested in becoming world leaders in occupational safety. The Forum emphasizes the importance of safety as a competitive factor in the workplace. The aim was to integrate a Vision Zero approach into the day-to-day activities of workplaces. The cooperation motivates management and employees to continuously improve safety at work.

The idea was that the new forum would provide interested workplaces with material and tools to put safety and Vision Zero thinking into practice. In addition, good practices and examples from different organizations and workplaces will be made available to workplaces. International experts and experience were also to be drawn on.

The idea was that the workplaces committed to the Vision Zero Forum would lead the way on safety issues. By their example, they show that there are both ways and means to improve safety at work effectively. The Forum is open to all workplaces.

The Zero Accident Forum Steering Committee is made up of representatives of the Forum's member workplaces. They represent different sectors and groups of workers. The Steering Committee's tasks include presenting the views of the workplaces and strengthening cooperation, defining the conditions of membership of the Forum and major policies concerning its activities, deciding on the Safety Level Certifications, and developing the Forum's activities in cooperation with the member workplaces.

### How Vision Zero is seen in Forum

Vision Zero is part of a responsible workplace. It means a long-term commitment and a holistic and positive approach to the continuous improvement of safety, health and well-being at work.

The purpose of Vision Zero is to:

- provide direction for the joint development of safety, health and well-being at work
- stimulate debate and create a common understanding of the importance of safety
- make development goals and objectives visible to the whole work community
- find new solutions for improving safety at work through cooperation - learning from each other and learning together.

Vision Zero is about people and cooperation, not numbers. At its heart, it's about caring about your own and others' health and safety - everyone has the right to get home from work in good health. Improving safety at work is about working together. In addition to cooperation within the workplace, it is also worth sharing experiences and ideas with other workplaces.

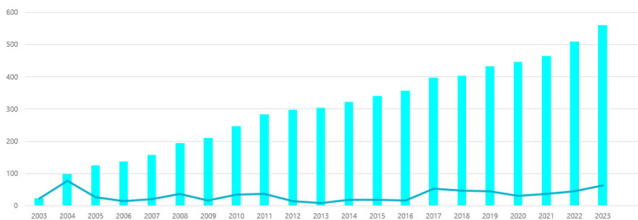
Vision Zero approach provides a strategic direction for promoting safety at work. However, mindset alone is not enough: we need good practices, smooth cooperation, areas for improvement and measures. Genuine management commitment, resources and action are key to moving things forward in workplaces.

The aim of the Vision Zero approach is to create a holistic approach to development: it is not only about accidents at work, but also about health, ability to work, job satisfaction, job performance and skills development.

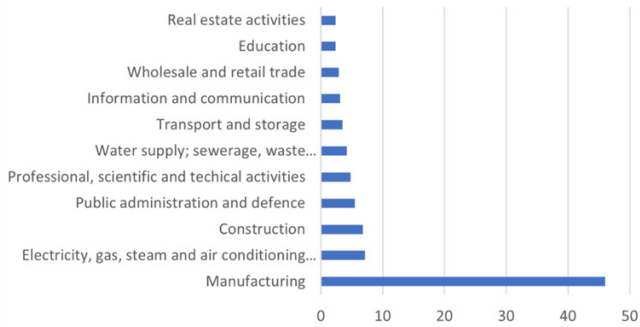
## The Vision Zero Forum in numbers

The Vision Zero Forum has 550 member workplaces from 55 different industries. The largest sector is manufacturing with 46%, followed by electricity and construction. The network reaches almost one in five Finnish workers.

### Membership growth during 2003-2023



### TOP 10 industries of VZF



### Number of member workplaces by size

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF WORKPLACES
1-50	113
51-250	159
251-500	90
501-1000	71
1001-5000	59
5001-9999	13
10 000 -	10

We estimate that, on average, there are fewer accidents in Forum workplaces than in other Finnish workplaces. According to the safety data reported annually by member workplaces, the accident frequency rate in the Forum workplaces appears to be more than 10 points lower than the general statistics of the Finnish Workers' Compensation Center (accidents per 1 000 000 working hours). The reporting accuracy in the Forum is based on one day of absence, compared to three days of absence in the general statistics.

### Concluding Remarks

After 20 years, the Forum continues to grow in popularity. It is based on continuous development and renewal and on cooperation with the workplace. Workplaces are genuinely involved, not just one-way recipients.





**This article was presented at the A+A 2023 held in Düsseldorf from 24 to 25 October 2023.**

**A publication of the International Section of the ISSA on Information for Prevention.**

**Published in 2024.**