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## TECHNICAL NOTE 2

# Germany

SafeHabitus Community of Practice for farm  
safety and health

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In Germany, the Social Insurance for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture (SVLFG) is responsible by law for social security in the green sector.

The SVLFG comprises statutory health insurance, long-term care insurance, old-age insurance and accident insurance. Accident insurance has a statutory mandate to prevent accidents at work and occupational illnesses as well as work-related health hazards by all appropriate means.

The SVLFG has a self-governing body in which the professions of the green sector are represented. This self-administration takes the form of several committees in which occupational health and safety issues are discussed and prevention is further developed.

[The SafeHabitus project](#) offers an additional approach to examining fundamental aspects of safety and health at work in the green sector, highlighting important aspects for improving safety and health at work.

Against the background of decades of experience in accident prevention, it is especially vital to understand why [certain types of accidents continue to occur](#). Structural change in agriculture and the mechanisation of work processes are the main reasons for the continuing decline in accident figures. Nevertheless, the level of fatal and serious accidents has hardly changed. More work therefore needs to be done on the causes and circumstances, particularly in this area, and SafeHabitus offers a unique opportunity.

CoP comprises of a range of representatives from research centres and associations and commercial actors. This enables a holistic view of the question of why occupational health and safety is not given the importance it should have according to regulations and the public perception.

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## Germany

### Location

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### More info

Internet: [www.safehabitus.eu](http://www.safehabitus.eu)  
[www.SVLFG.de](http://www.SVLFG.de)

YouTube: [SVLFG - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/SVLFG-YouTube)



## ■ About the CoP

The SVLFG's participation in the EU SafeHabitus project was publicised in the press and on its website [SVLFG | EU-Project SafeHabitus](#). The press work was accompanied by an appeal to join and participate in the German CoP. This call was also publicised in the self-governing bodies of SVLFG, whose members have extensive contacts in the networks of Germany's green sector. The call for participation continues and is being promoted.

The interested parties who responded were informed in detail about the project, their role and the requirements for participation. However, the non-compensation of the time spent represented a major barrier for interested parties participating in the CoP.

The current core group of the CoP derives from personal networks and those with a special affinity with the topic of occupational health and safety. The German CoP currently consists of 13 members from the agricultural and forestry sector. Commercial actors (farmers, entrepreneurs), academia, social organisations and professional associations are represented by the members, with a good balance of age and gender. The group is therefore comparatively heterogeneous.

CoP members focus on the people in the work process. Of course, profitability is also important for them, but it is not the overriding consideration. For them, work quality and work safety belong together. They organise the work process together with their employees and want to improve together.

## ■ Objectives

Three fields of action were identified on the basis of the national occupational safety and health situation (workshop result based on accident statistics and exemplary accident reports; Image 1), which the CoP will focus on during the project term – competence, motivation and well-being.

Competence was identified as the most important of the three fields of action, and the CoP will focus exclusively on this field of action in 2024. Vocational training and the acquisition of skills are therefore currently at the centre of the CoP's work. The CoP sees a particular need for action in publicising and disseminating information and training opportunities, especially for young people. To this end, the CoP will work on conceptual solutions to raise awareness of the programmes and services tailored to the green sector. This could be a social media campaign to the target group and specific needs of the green sector.

As the project progresses over time, the CoP will then also address the other two fields of action. Overlaps cannot be ruled out, as the fields of action have points of intersection.

In general, it can be assumed that the CoP developments will give rise to new approaches to the topic of occupational safety, which cannot yet be addressed.

## ■ Main achievements

Vocational training in the green sector in Germany was evaluated, and it was found that insufficient attention is paid to occupational safety and health. Surprisingly, the evaluation highlighted that the topic of occupational safety is not taught as expected, particularly in vocational training (apprenticeships). This will need to be discussed together with the teaching institutions as to how the topic of occupational safety can be better communicated to the target group and be integrated into curricula. The SVLFG's training and further education programmes were also evaluated by the CoP members with a wide range of practical expertise. Opportunities for improvement were identified and formulated. It has already been established that the inclusion of social media plays an important

role. This needs to be worked on promptly in order to achieve presentable results that can be put up for discussion.



Image 1: Presentation of the last group work on possible measures in the fields of action. Photo by [Sarah Öztürk, SVLFG], used with consent.



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