



## INTERVIEW

Dr Hussy and Dr Höller  
on their new roles in  
the DGUV

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## TOP STORY

## Prevention services reach just one out of five companies

### Prevention Report delivers first findings

On 25 June 2019, the National Prevention Conference handed over its first Prevention Report to the Federal Ministry of Health. It outlines the services provided for prevention work and health promotion; it also makes specific recommendations for ongoing improvements. For the first time, the report also contains detailed figures. Whereas the member bodies of the National Conference on Prevention invested €1.27 billion in prevention services in 2012, the figure for 2017 was over €1.8 billion. Social accident insurance alone spent around €1.2 billion on its prevention work in 2017.

The Preventive Health Care Act came into force on 25 July 2015. As a result, the German Social Accident Insurance was required to develop a national prevention strategy together with the other branches of statutory insurance and to ensure its implementation and continuation. An important element of the strategy is the agreement on the Federal Framework Recommendations. These includes joint objectives, organisations to be involved and obligations regarding documentation and reporting.

In accordance with its statutory mandate for prevention, there are two objectives that are relevant for social accident insurance: 'Healthy Growing Up' and 'Healthy Life-Work-Balance'. The latter takes into account the requirements stipulated in the Joint German OSH Strategy (GDA) and is aiming primarily at employed persons. This target group is especially at risk of psychological stress and a lack of physical activity. As seen in the report, the social insurance institutions offer a wide range of preventive measures. 'Our prevention services are particularly effective at reaching people in the workplace', explains Dr Stefan Hussy, Director General of the DGUV. These services include advice on topics such as Workplace Health Management, personalised prevention, OSH inspections and the training of persons responsible



Photo: DGUV

The DGUV is investigating whether the lack of physical activity in office environments can be counteracted with dynamic workstations.

for OSH, especially managers. According to the Prevention Report, although the social insurance institutions offer companies a variety of OSH services, most companies are still not aware of these services. 'We currently only reach a fifth of the more than five million companies and educational facilities', said Hussy. It is for this reason that the social accident insurance system will continue to expand its commitment to cross-institutional advisory services for companies in the future. To achieve this, the prevention departments of the German social accident insurance institutions will expand appropriate training to provide guidance on the services offered by the other branches of social insurance.

Web: [www.dguv.de](http://www.dguv.de) > Webcode: dp1317087  
(German only)

### FYI Prevention

In September 2019, the Health and Work Initiative (iga) will publish a new report. iga. Report 40 looks at the effects and benefits of workplace health promotion and prevention. Among the topics examined are stress and sitting habits.

Web: [www.iga-info.de](http://www.iga-info.de)  
(German only)



Photo: Jan Röhl, DGUV

## Goal-oriented

Dear Reader,

Apps, podcasts, news feeds – in an age of constantly evolving information channels, good communication is becoming increasingly important. The same holds true for disseminating knowledge on health and safety. Germany's social insurance institutions already provide many services in this area as part of their prevention work. However, there is room for improvement still, as confirmed by the recently published report from the National Prevention Conference. Up to now, people know too little about existing prevention services.

Social accident insurance already has a high penetration rate through workplaces and educational institutions. Nevertheless, we still need to make better use of our channels. Safety supervisors are playing a key role in our communication. In the future, they will be even more active as 'guides' in matters of safety and health in order to raise awareness of the prevention services of other social insurance institutions.

Prevention is a matter close to my heart and has always been an integral part of my career. In my new role as Director General of the DGUV, there will be many other topics added to my portfolio and I'm looking forward to that. My goal is to work together to develop good solutions to the challenges facing social accident insurance in an increasingly digital world.

**Dr Stefan Hussy**  
Director General of the DGUV

# 'We have to think from the client's point of view'

Digitalisation is creating significant challenges for companies and administrations alike. Social accident insurance must also address the issue at various levels - internally and externally. DGUV Kompakt spoke about digitalisation and other topics with Dr Stefan Hussy, the new Director General of the DGUV and Dr Edlyn Höller, Deputy Director General.

**Dr Hussy, you took on the position of Director General of the DGUV on 1st of July 2019. Dr Höller, you have been Deputy Director General since 1st of November 2019. What expectations do you have for your new roles?**

**Hussy:** The question is actually somewhat different for me: What expectations do companies, insured persons have of social accident insurance, and how do the social accident insurance institutions view the DGUV as their umbrella association? I worked for several years in the private sector and then for various accident insurance institutions. This always involved a change of perspective and I want to use my experience to contribute more to the strategy and policy work of the DGUV. The strategic direction of Germany's social accident insurance system in an increasingly fast-changing environment is very important to me. I am going to have a lot of discussions with the self-governing committees, with the accident insurance institutions and, of course, with DGUV employees. They're the ones that have the competence and ideas that we need to continue developing social accident insurance into a future-proof system. My expectation is that we will take on this challenge together.

**Höller:** Because I've worked for the DGUV since 2004, I have the advantage that I understand the inner process of an association and I've known many of our partners for a long time. I have been involved in many of the current topics from the very beginning or have initiated projects myself. The new role means that there is an even broader range of topics and increased responsibility. Now it's a matter of consolidating the expectations, wishes from various sides associated with a

change of management with the vision and ideas that Dr Hussy and I bring with us. Together with our members, we are going to develop a programme for the future.

**Let's move on to the topic of the future that everyone is talking about – digitalisation. What challenges will the DGUV and social accident insurance have to tackle in the coming years?**

**Hussy:** You can look at that from various perspectives. One is that the DGUV and the accident insurance institutions have clients. They just expect us to communicate with them in a different way. I'm not only talking about media and information, but also everyday processes; for example, if a business owner wants to report an accident or an insured person wants to submit a taxi receipt. Many people are used to sending this via an app to an insurance company, but we don't have anything like that yet. We have to think more from the client's point of view. The other perspective looks at our own processes. We may have to start thinking about dark processing, that is, fully automated processes. This will affect accident insurance institutions seriously. Work steps that are now performed by people will require fewer people in the future. The key question is: How do we train our own em-

**The strategic direction of Germany's social accident insurance system in an increasingly fast-changing environment is very important to me.'**

**Dr Stefan Hussy**

employees so that they can meet the challenges of the future and feel comfortable doing so?

**Höller:** But now is not the time for scare-mongering. On the one hand, there will be fewer jobs, but on the other, there are many areas where the qualities and qualifications of workers are still required and cannot be digitalised. These include personal contact with insured persons and providing them and companies with advice.

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**‘On the one hand, there will be fewer jobs, but on the other, there are many areas where the qualities and qualifications of workers are still required and cannot be digitalised.’**

**Dr Edlyn Höller**

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Digitalisation, Prevention 4.0, disabled sports: Dr Stefan Hussy and Dr Edlyn Höller explain what tasks the DGUV has ahead of it.

#### What about Prevention 4.0?

**Hussy:** This is primarily about how we react to a changing world of work – in particular, work mobility. Thanks to the Risk Observatory at our Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the DGUV (IFA), we are well prepared in terms of technologies such as collaborative robots, smart glasses, exoskeletons, etc. However, how do I reach a person who is here today and there tomorrow? How can I keep them informed and, if necessary, enforce something so they have decent working conditions?

**Höller:** A good example of a new type of work is the platform economy. Take for example a bike courier who receives his orders via an app and nobody really cares whether his bike is roadworthy or not. On the other hand, the scenario where a group of solo self-employed people erect scaffolding together. Are they people we should cover with insurance, or do we leave them to themselves? This serious discussion is currently taking place in the DGUV's Self-Governing Committee.

**The German Social Accident Insurance has been committed to disabled sports in various ways for many years now. Will this continue?**

**Höller:** The focus is often on Paralympic sport and elite sport. However, we don't do this to show off athletes and their medals, but because sport is a vehicle for spreading

the word about rehabilitation. Many studies prove how important sport is in rehabilitation. It not only helps train physical movement in a fun way, but also supports the community. Sport also helps to reintegrate people into society. Our commitment to disabled sports serves primarily to raise awareness of this issue.

**Promoting disabled sports is part of the inclusion strategy of the social accident insurance. Another aspect is the integration of rehabilitation and prevention. What does this mean?**

**Höller:** We have to do more to improve personalised prevention services – examples of these are the Dermatologist Procedure or the Healthy Back Academy run by the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Health and Welfare Services. I still see potential for closer integration of rehabilitation and prevention. For example, if a rehabilitation manager is helping to reintegrate a patient into their workplace and discovers that the working conditions in the company are also a strain on other employees, they should pass this information on to the prevention services team. This also works the other way around. I believe this integration is a great opportunity for both areas.

**Hussy:** Safety inspectors have a new role to play here. It's about thinking of how I can

work with my colleagues in rehabilitation or with other social insurance institutions. How can I help companies to make sure that people with disabilities have better working conditions? How can I be the contact person for the company who doesn't always have the solution, but who knows that there is a rehabilitation consultant or an integration office? We want to work out this issue of being a 'guide' very clearly. Being the company's point of contact for all issues relating to safety and health - this includes inclusion and integration.

**One more question on prevention. Five accident blackspots were pointed as part of Vision Zero. What is your strategy for addressing these?**

**Hussy:** Vision Zero was formulated in the position paper on prevention. We are striving for a world without fatal or serious accidents. The current *kommitmentsch* campaign on culture of prevention is an instrument for implementing this. The campaign addresses these accident blackspots and underpins them with its six fields of action. By focusing on the accident blackspots, the safety inspector for a company has a real opportunity to discuss certain topics and put them into a context relevant to the company. This is very different to the previous approach, where we tried to communicate these topics in a rather abstract way.

## RECOMMENDED

# Ride an e-scooter – but do it safely!



Photo: Public Domain

There was no law to wear a helmet for the first electric scooters in 1916. Today, wearing a helmet is strongly recommended to prevent head injuries.

E-scooters have been permitted on public roads since the middle of June. People curious to try them out, have been hopping on these agile and quiet two-wheelers and taking them for a spin through the hustle and bustle of city streets. This alternative to a car is becoming more and more popular. However, there is also a downside to e-scooters. They can also be dangerous, as shown by the first serious accidents. Electric scooters can only be a useful extension of existing means of transport if they can be used safely on the road. The German Social Accident Insurance has published tips on how to keep safe when enjoying a ride on an e-scooter. A series of FAQs provide people with answers on how to use very small electric vehicles and ride them safely.

**Web:** [www.dguv.de](http://www.dguv.de) › **Webcode:** d1182352 (German only)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Not a dumb idea at all

The DGUV's **kommmitmensch** prevention campaign is currently focusing on road safety. More and more people are using bicycles, e-bikes or e-scooters to get to work. However, the alarming results of a DGUV study show that between 300 and 400 people die every year in Germany as a result of accidents on their way to work or an educational institution. The campaign's new series of posters depict dangerous activities on the road as 'dumb ideas' and then show 'clever ideas' for dealing with new mobility in cities (see [www.kommmitmensch.de](http://www.kommmitmensch.de)). Companies can find information on what they can do to reduce the risk of accidents for their employees. 'We deliberately put 'dumb ideas', that is, rule-breaking behav-



Photo: DGUV

The aim of posters showing rule-breaking behaviour on the road is to encourage companies to talk about safety issues.

our, at the core of our communication. We expect this to surprise people, which will then cause them to think about their own way of dealing with safety and health," said Gregor Doepke, Head of Communication at the DGUV.

**Web:** [www.kommmitmensch.de](http://www.kommmitmensch.de) (German only)

# WIM Compass provides direction



The goal of Workplace Integration Management (WIM) is to help a person return to work after a long period of illness. The Federal Association for Rehabilitation has launched a new section of its website, which provides practical tips and advice to both employers and workers.

**Web:** [www.bar-frankfurt.de/bem-kompass](http://www.bar-frankfurt.de/bem-kompass) (German only)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**26-27 September 2019**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Rehabilitation Symposium of the BG Hospital Group**  
**LUDWIGSHAFEN**  
<https://reha-symposium.bg-kliniken.de>

**14-18 October 2019**  
**World Social Security Forum**  
**BRUSSELS**  
[www.issa.int/wssf2019](http://www.issa.int/wssf2019)

**5-8 November 2019**  
**A+A 2019**  
**DÜSSELDORF**  
[www.aplusa.de](http://www.aplusa.de)

## NUMBER OF THE MONTH

# More than 3700

... cases of skin cancer due to natural sunlight have been reported since the inclusion of this disease in the Register of Occupational Diseases in 2015.

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