



Efficient processes through streamlining and networking

The DGUV is currently completing the first phase of unifying its former membership number system. The important intermediate step of creating a central business register is nearing completion. The ultimate goal, a single business number, will be a new identifier and represents a milestone in the expansion of digital membership management for the German social accident insurance institutions.

As part of implementing ‘Act Seven amending Book IV of the German Social Code and other Laws’ from 12 June 2020, the German social accident insurance is working towards implementing a single business number by the beginning of 2023. This will replace the different numbering systems currently used by the various social accident insurance institutions for their membership registers.

The previous membership numbers and the new business number are used by the social accident insurance institutions to identify business owners and their businesses. These numbers are used, among other things, in matters related to



Illustration: stock.adobe.com

contributions or the allocation of remuneration statements. As part of the changeover to a single business number, a central business register is currently being developed.

‘The central business register will unify the previous member numbering systems’, said Dr Stefan Hussy, Director General of the German Social Accident Insurance, and added ‘It is the basis for a new identifier. This will also be a means to further digitalise Germany’s social accident insurance system’.

The single business number can then be used to progressively link the data of business owners and their companies with other number sets both inside and outside the social accident insurance system. In the future, this will make it easier and faster for businesses and the relevant social accident insurance institutions to communicate. This means that the social accident insurance will present a unified front when communicating with insured businesses in the future.

The new single number also means that the way businesses are allocated to social

accident insurance institutions is more transparent. It will be a unique identifier for business owners and their companies across all institutions.

In addition, by establishing a single business number, the German social accident insurance will be creating a unique identifier that can be used by other branches of Germany’s social security system. It will be particularly useful for facilitating communication within the German social security system in the future. It is planned to link the business number to the business numbers of the Federal Employment Agency, so that it can be used by the entire social security system as a uniform reference number in the future.

An important phase is soon to be finalised. In spring 2021, the development of a central business register is scheduled to be completed. Concurrently, a second project phase is now running. Its aim is to consolidate the register and represents the final step toward implementing the single business number.



Talking with Michael Sauer

“A professional and unbureaucratic response – irrespective of jurisdiction”

Dear Reader,

Even though the pandemic is demanding all our attention, we should not lose sight of other events. In February 2020, for example, there was the horrific attack in Hanau, near Frankfurt, in which several people were violently killed. A tragic event that shocked and moved people nationwide.

When such a terrible event happens, the first priority of the German social accident insurance is to provide assistance to victims who were on the scene at the time of the attack, either professionally or as volunteers. All those affected should receive the help they are entitled to and need – one of the lessons learned from the events at Berlin’s Christmas Market attack in December 2016. This help must be provided as quickly as possible, without red tape, and irrespective of jurisdictions. As such, the German social accident insurance has set up a central contact point for large-scale emergencies and developed a standard procedure. This was also used in Hanau. In the interview opposite, you can read how the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Public Sector in Hesse (UKH), in its role as coordinating body, helped those affected by the attack, and continues to do so to this day. Michael Sauer, Managing Director of UKH, also talks about how crisis management can function effectively in the event of such unforeseen disasters: be prepared, respond in a focused manner, educate and inform, as well as create and use networks.

It’s clear that good crisis management needs good cooperation. When dealing with a crisis, everyone must pull together and have a common goal in mind, which is also the right course of action during a pandemic.

Dr Stefan Hussy
Director General of the DGUV

This February marks the first anniversary of the attacks in Hanau and Volkarsen. In Hanau, a man shot nine people; and in Volkarsen, a car ploughed into a Carnival parade injuring more than 100 people. Following terrible events such as these, the German social accident insurance is also involved in the care and treatment of those affected. In these two cases, the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Public Sector in Hesse (UKH) coordinated on behalf of all social accident insurance institutions as well as partially for other institutions involved. Those affected are still being cared for and supported today. DGUV Kompakt spoke to Michael Sauer, Managing Director of the UKH.

Mr Sauer, one year ago, there were two attacks in Hanau and Volkarsen. You speak of large-scale emergencies – what do you mean by that?

The term ‘large-scale emergency’ might sound very technical at first, but such an event is associated with a lot of suffering for families and it also affects workers. However, definitions and terms are needed to describe processes. According to the definition, large-scale emergencies take place outside of a workplace in a public space, such as a plane crash, terrorist attack or rampage. There is likely to be a large number of people who are injured or harmed. And at least two social accident insurance institutions are involved. If these three criteria are met, the DGUV standard procedure for coordinating the event is triggered – with a central contact point for the DGUV and a coordinating body at state level.

Why is it necessary to have centralised coordination of emergency aid?

Large-scale emergencies are a significant challenge for the entire public sector. In such situations, government agencies and aid organisations must demonstrate that they are capable of taking action. For the social accident insurance institutions, this means acting unbureaucratically and professionally, irrespective of their own jurisdiction. It is essential to organise effective assistance quickly and to communicate with one voice to the outside world. In extreme situations, we must ensure that competencies are pooled, and that communication, rehabilitation and prevention are coordinated. The social accident insurance has learned lessons from past events, for example from the attack at Berlin’s Breitscheidplatz Christmas Market in December 2016. A project to improve coordination was launched and it was completed in 2019. The DGUV now has a central point of contact. It pools information from state agencies and the social accident insurance institutions – and checks whether the procedure should be set in motion. Coordination at state level is handled by the relevant social accident insurance institution for the public sector in the affected state on behalf of all social accident insurance institutions involved.



To coordinate activities, we were immediately able to call on the well-functioning crisis network in Hesse that we had already established.

How did the UKH react to the attack in Hanau?

The DGUV’s central contact point initiated the standard procedure; the UKH was appointed as the coordinating body. We have collaborated with a wide range of organisations for many years: these include ministries, emergency services, the City of Frankfurt’s Psychosocial Emergency Care



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European Pillar of Social Rights

In the first quarter of this year, the EU Commission will present its action plan for implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). Its aim is to improve equal opportunities and access to the labour market, create fair working conditions, and improve social protection and social inclusion. The umbrella organisations of the German social insurance system, including the DGUV, participated in the public consultation by submitting a statement.

Working Group, and the Hesse Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs' Crisis Intervention Team for the Education Sector. Fortunately, we also have a good relationship with the Federal Government's Commissioner for Victims, Professor Edgar Franke. Our internal crisis team is well prepared for such cases and was able to start work immediately.

How did those affected learn about the help provided by Germany's social accident insurance?

Aid organisations distributed information on site on our behalf; for example, information on accident protection for first responders, insurance cover and benefits under the social accident insurance system, and the brochure 'Trauma Management for Adults'. Representatives from the UKH also took part in the round table. In addition, the UKH's dark website for crisis situations was activated immediately – with direct contact options for those affected and with information on insurance protection and benefits. We published the emergency number of the Federal Government's Commissioner for Victims and made extensive use of the channels and reach of social media to distribute this information.

Over 100 people were injured in Volkmarshausen. What were some of things you could specifically do to help?

43 people contacted us, including first responders, members of aid organisations, and witnesses to the attack. The UKH focused on providing individual psychological support, general counselling and psychological first aid. It also organised group discussions for crisis intervention. We are

still caring for some people today and we expect that more people will contact us.

Are the offers of help reaching the people affected?

Yes, assistance is provided directly and effectively. The victims have been grateful for receiving it. Feedback has been consistently positive. An evaluation and exchange of information took place in November 2020 at a conference of the coordinating bodies. We presented our final reports at the conference.

How well do you think the social accident insurance system is positioned?

If we manage to pool our expertise, align our activities related to communication, rehabilitation and prevention, and use our know-how to help people – including those outside our system – then we all have a great opportunity to consolidate and enhance our reputation as reliable actors in Germany's social security system. The German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Public Sector in Hesse has certainly contributed to this with its coordination work.



Michael Sauer, Managing Director of the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the Public Sector in Hesse

In addition to the digitalisation of the economy, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown how vulnerable many workers are in terms of their social security, especially those in non-standard employment. The goal of the EPSR is to strengthen Europe's social dimension and help shape the ongoing digitalisation and the transformation to climate neutrality in a socially acceptable and fair way.

Therefore, the umbrella organisations of the German social security system welcome the action plan, but are calling for more attention to be paid to certain areas. They have asked the European Commission to promote the issue of workplace prevention and to place greater emphasis on the benefits of effective prevention, including the financial benefits. The goal must be the prevention of fatal and serious occupational accidents and diseases in line with Vision Zero. Occupational safety and health guidelines that are outdated need to be revised.

In addition, there should be greater focus on preventing cancer at the workplace as part of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Platform workers and solo self-employed workers should be given easier access to social protection. Similarly, it is important to better include people with disabilities in all measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Germany's social insurance system welcomes measures that promote work-life balance, improve women's participation in the labour market and thus reduce the gender pay gap.

➔ www.dsv-europa.de ›
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New endowed professorship



Photo: UWG/janke

Anke Steinmetz is the new endowed professor of physical and rehabilitative medicine.

Anke Steinmetz is the new professor of physical and rehabilitative medicine at Greifswald University's Faculty of Medicine (University Medicine). She holds the newly established endowed professorship funded by the DGUV and works in the Clinic and Polyclinic for Trauma, Reconstructive Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine.

As a specialist in physical and rehabilitative medicine, Professor Steinmetz will help boost this area at University Medicine, especially since there are only two other professorships in this field in Germany. In addition to

rehabilitation, the chair includes the diagnosis and treatment of structural and functional disorders, especially of the musculoskeletal system. The aim is to fully restore the health of patients with highly complex problems. This is the reason why the German Social Accident Insurance e. V. (DGUV) is funding this endowed professorship. It is named after the rehabilitation physician Kurt-Alphons Jochheim, who is considered the founder of integrated medical-occupational-social rehabilitation.

➔ www.medizin.uni-greifswald.de (German only)

DGUV and China cooperate in workplace accident statistics

Since the start of the year, the DGUV has been working with China on a project for workplace accident statistics. The aim is to develop procedures for collecting and evaluating data on occupational accidents and work-related health hazards in China. The resulting data will allow benchmarking of safety and health and then act as the foundation for social policymaking decisions in China.

The EU-funded project is part of the EU-China Cooperation on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion programme which

aims to promote the European Union's cooperation with China in the area of employment and social affairs. The project will run for 2.5 years. It will enable the DGUV to increase its knowledge of statistics for workplace accidents and occupational diseases with regard to collection methodology, as well as analysis, comparability and coding of relevant data. It also contributes to uniform social standards at European level and worldwide.

➔ www.dguv.de/en > International

Number of the Month

€4.9 billion

... was spent by Germany's social accident insurance institutions on providing curative treatment of insured persons in 2019.

www.dguv.de >
Webcode: p021566

Business Inclusion Award 2021

Highlighting the potential of people with disabilities is the aim of the Business Inclusion Award. The award looks for best-practice examples of hiring and training people with disabilities, of retaining employees

whose abilities have changed, and of maintaining employability.

The award was initiated by the Federal Employment Agency, the Confederation of German Employers' Associations, the Diversity Charter and the UnternehmensForum. The patron of the Business Inclusion Award 2021 is the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Hubertus Heil. The DGUV supports the Business Inclusion Award.

In order to get people back to work after a workplace accident or occupational illness, there needs to be companies which provide career prospects, overcome barriers and recognise potential. Companies can apply until March 31, 2021. The award ceremony will take place at the beginning of November.

➔ www.inklusionspreis.de (German only)



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