

## Successful prevention strategies in the hairdresser's trade

Effective schemes to help people with occupational skin diseases and to change working conditions.

### ***Topic Track:***

***Success Stories, Case Studies, and Solutions for Stakeholders***

### ***Extended abstract:***

## **SKIN DISEASES IN THE HAIRDRESSERS' TRADE – SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION WITHIN HAIRDRESSING COMPANIES**

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Using an example in the hairdressers' trade this presentation will show how expenses for rehabilitation due to skin disease shrunk by more than 60 % from 35.5 mill. Euro in 1998 to 9.3 mill. Euro in 2008 due to highly successful prevention schemes. BGW was able to make the member companies' fees go down several times – 25 % in 2001 and another 17 % in 2007.

Several aspects were decisive for this positive development. In the difficult 90's of last century BGW and the German hairdressers' association agreed on staying in dialogue about the problem. This dialogue included opinions and experience of both hairdressers and especially producers of hairdressing products.

Producers of hairdressing products committed to offering less aggressive products only. The so called „Sour Permanent Wave“ was taken off the market voluntarily. Further on the industry developed dust-free bleaching powder that could not affect the workers' respiratory tract any more.

But it was even more important to make hair dressers use preventional measures consequently in their personal secondary prevention scheme.

At the same time the German hairdressers' association and all active parties in the market developed spezial technical rules for maintenance of industrial health and safety standards in the hairdressers' trade (TRGS 530), that help both employers and employees working according to skin protection and other protection schemes.