

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
INCREMENTAL SAFETY CULTURE**

IWISC-1

23-24 JUNE 2026



Copenhagen

Background

Safety is paradoxically defined and measured more by its absence rather than by its presence. Efforts to improve safety have traditionally tried to reduce or diminish the number of unexpected and unacceptable outcomes (accidents), as far as possible, step-by-step – a so-called decremental safety practice optimistically leading to zero accidents at the end. A decremental safety practice therefore limits learning to learning from accidents, from what has failed, or did not go well. And since accidents are exceptional, learning itself also becomes exceptional, with a focus on what **not to do or avoid**, what to *eliminate, prevent or protect* against, basically a **protective safety approach** that is not conducive to productivity.

An incremental safety practice advocates the opposite approach: focus on what goes well and learn from that to make sure that there are as many expected and acceptable outcomes as possible. Incremental safety practices aim to strengthen work that goes well to learn from successes, rather than failures; and to find ways to strengthen support, and facilitate everyday activities everyday activities that go well, as most of them do. Learning becomes productive and is about **what should be done and reinforced**, *promoted, supported and facilitated*. Hence basically a **productive** approach.

And since work nearly always goes well learning can become a regular rather than an exceptional activity. This shift in perspective has profound implications for healthcare, industry, and other complex systems. With your support, The First International Workshop on Incremental Safety Practices (IWISC-1) will gather a small number of international experts, researchers, and practitioners to explore, and develop this exciting new approach. With your support IWISC-1 will set the stage for incremental safety practices as a global movement. dedicated to improve safe performance by learning from everyday practices. To ensure sufficient time for discussions and networking, the number of participants will be limited to 50 (on a first come basis).

Objectives and outcomes

IWISC-1 will serve to:

- Establish incremental safety practices as a recognised field of inquiry and practice.
- Share experiences ambitions and methods across sectors including healthcare, industry, commerce and transport.
- Build an international community of practice with shared frameworks and practical tools.
- Generate momentum for a continuing series of IWISC workshops.
- Introduce interested participants to Incremental Safety Practices.

Workshop Details

Dates: 23-24 June 2026

Venue: IDA Kalvebod Brygge 31-33 (check it out on Google maps), This is the glorious conference facility of IDA - The Danish Society Of Engineers in the harbour of Central Copenhagen, Denmark Copenhagen has excellent public transport, including reputedly the best metro system in the world (fully automated trains that run at 90 second intervals). The venue is close to both the Central Station and the famous Tivoli Gardens. With comfortable and inexpensive hotels (Wakeup Copenhagen and Cablnn) close by, and the Copenhagen Marriott Hotel right next door.

The meeting will start with a conference dinner at IDA on the evening of June 23rd and continue with presentations and discussions throughout June 24th. Be aware that June 21 is the summer solstice, hence the longest day of the year. (A total of 17 hours and 32 minutes, the sun rises at 04:25 and sets again at 21:58). June 23rd is also Saint John's Eve, which in Denmark is celebrated with bonfires and fireworks. Be sure not to miss this event in the Tivoli Gardens,

although it may be a bit crowded. You can easily walk there (850 meters) after the inaugural dinner.

This first meeting will be limited to around 50 participants in keeping with the principle of long discussions interrupted by short presentations rather than the other way around. Delegates are expected from across Europe and beyond.

Format: Keynotes, case studies, interactive workshops, plenary discussions, brief tutorials on request.

Organisation

The workshop is organized by Erik Hollnagel, David Slater, Jeanette Hounsgaard, Bettina Thude, Niki Damen, Tom Laursen Tom McDaniel, Nippin Anand, and Henning Boje Andersen, who will all attend. The workshop is held with the support of Framsynt and the Incrementalsafety Network (incrementalsafety.com).

Meeting format

the meeting format will be long discussions interrupted by short presentations, and will include a couple of panel discussions.

Delegate Fee: €450 standard (with reduced rates for students and early bird bookings)
Expected Surplus: Used to fund student bursaries, invited speakers, professional AV support, and future IWISC activities.

Expressions of Interest

Registration

When the official call for this workshop is released in the spring of 2026, a registration will be opened.

Why Attend IWISC-1?

Be among the first to learn about this new approach to OHS, and make a contribution from the start.

- Thought leadership: Align with a pioneering international initiative led by globally recognised safety leaders.
- Visibility: Sponsor recognition on the website, printed materials, delegate packs, and at the venue. Please enquire for further information
- Networking: Direct access to an international community of practitioners and decision-makers shaping the future of safety.
- Impact: Contribute to the definition and development of new methods to improve resilience, effectiveness, productivity, safe performance and quality in complex industrial systems.

Documentation.

By the time of IWISC-1, two books will have been published: (Additional documentation is available from www.incrementalsafety.com)

E. Hollnagel & D. Slater (Eds.) *Incremental safety practices*. Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge. (this is a collection of X chapters that document incremental safety practices around the world.

Hollnagel, E. *Decremental and incremental safety cultures: Safety-I and Safety-II revisited*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. This is more in the nature of a textbook that presents the science behind the incremental safety approach

Sponsorship Opportunities

TBD