

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Ireland's national winners of the Good Practice Awards competition – Kildare County Council and Astellas Pharma – were first-time entrants to the European biennial awards scheme.

Having both submitted practical examples of good practice in the management of OSH within the context of an aging workforce – the theme of the European Healthy Workplaces Campaign for 2016-2017, the national winners went forward to the European leg of the competition where they were judged against other national winners in Europe.

Although they have not succeeded in going forward to the final of the Good Practice Awards, which took place in Malta on 26 April, invaluable lessons have been learned along the way. In this issue of 'Health & Safety Times' we profile initiatives rolled out by both Kildare County Council and Astellas Ireland's Kerry Plant, which are now ongoing and will pave the way for future health and wellbeing programmes in each organisation.

The theme of the project as submitted by Kildare County Council – 'The Health Promotion of an Ageing Workforce' – aims to promote a healthy lifestyle for ageing employees, where emphasis has been placed on nutrition, exercise and positive mental health.

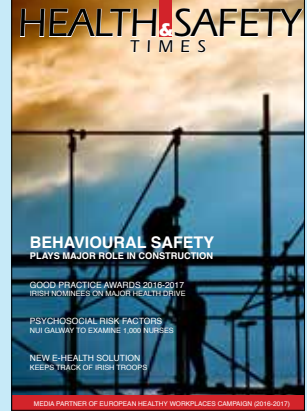
'Keeping Our People Young' – the submission by Astellas Ireland's plant in Killorglin – was essentially an extension of a number of annual health and fitness projects already in place in recent years; the 'Astellathon' kicked off in 2015 followed by the '5 Star Challenge' two years ago, and now the 'Live Longer Challenge' starts in February.

Though they may not have progressed to the final in April, invaluable lessons have been learned by both camps in promoting and encouraging their employees to lead healthier lifestyles in the long term.

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The Health and Safety Authority's free 30-minute short online course aims to assist employers on how to effectively and appropriately handle workplace bullying complaints.



9 NURSING STUDY

NUI Galway is seeking 1,000 nurses to take part in a national study to examine the psychosocial risk factors they face and how burnout is having an impact on their ability to provide treatment and care to the elderly population.



11 HSA STATISTICS

The 44 work-related fatalities in 2016 represent a 21 per cent drop on the total (56) reported in 2015, according to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), yet farming fatalities continue to rise, with 21 deaths reported in 2016, compared to 18 in 2015.



12 BEHAVIOURAL SAFETY

A new series of behavioural safety workshops is providing both employers and employees with an opportunity to consider their approach to workplace safety, under a new initiative spearheaded by the Construction Industry Federation in conjunction with Annette Tierney's Theatre at Work.



18 EU GOOD PRACTICE AWARDS

Kildare County Council and Astellas Pharma – both first-time entrants to the European Good Practice Awards – represented Ireland as national winners of the latest biennial competition, which is held as part of the EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Campaign.



23 EU HEALTHY WORKPLACES FILM AWARD

German film 'To Be a Teacher' won the Healthy Workplaces Film Award 2016 for the best film on a subject related to work at the International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film.



24 EURO NEWS

An inspection programme by health and safety regulators across the European Union is to determine how legally required safety information on hazardous chemicals is communicated in company supply chains and followed in workplaces.



27 NISO NEWS

With the regional rounds of the All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz season taking place nationwide throughout February and March, it's now time for teams to put plans in place to be in with a chance of becoming the Occupational Safety Quiz Champions for 2017!



28 IOSH NEWS

The Ireland Branch of IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) has vowed to continue supporting industries in a bid to cut workplace accidents, following recent news of a 21 per cent reduction in the number of fatal injuries during 2016.



29 DEFENCE FORCES

A new healthcare system has been devised by Ireland's Defence Forces to electronically track all Irish soldiers, sailors and aircrew in a bid to protect their health and wellbeing at home, at sea and on overseas operations. The bespoke technological solution aims to revolutionise how healthcare is delivered directly to Irish troops.

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30 PEER SUPPORT NETWORK

With a peer support network now successfully in operation to help firefighters and other frontline emergency services personnel in Chicago to deal with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other behavioural health issues, would a similar model work here in Ireland?



37 HSE FLU VACCINATION

The HSE's Immunisation Campaign is now calling on all healthcare workers and other emergency services personnel to prevent the spread of influenza and save lives every year by getting vaccinated themselves.



38 CPL INSTITUTE

The Cpl Institute, which now incorporates both Nifast and Heartbeat Safety, offers a range of solutions to help clients improve business results through the introduction of integrated professional development, health and safety, healthcare, fleet safety and e-learning courses.



39 LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

The employees of Longford County Council had plenty of reason to celebrate when they scooped the 'Best Local Authority Award' for 2016 at the 25th Occupational Safety Awards in Killarney, Co. Kerry.



40 REACH REGULATIONS

Irish chemical companies should mark 31 May 2018 as a date to remember. This is the final REACH registration deadline for pre-registered low volume substances, and after this deadline, companies may not place their products on the market over one tonne per annum without a valid registration.



41 UK NEWS

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has called on Prime Minister Theresa May to make clear to Britain's bosses that any watering down of workers' rights following Brexit is off the table.



45 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

French companies are now required to guarantee their employees a "right to disconnect" from their smartphones and other technology after working hours, under new legislation which came into force at the start of the year.



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