



# ENHANCING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN TEACHING PROFESSION

PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL MORIARTY

PRESIDENT EFEE

SOFIA 13 JUNE 2018

# THE IRISH CONTEXT

- Healthy Ireland –Department of Health- Framework to improve health and wellbeing in the public sector
- Occupational Health Strategy for Teachers-Department of Education and Skills



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY FOR TEACHERS

**Employee Assistance Service**

**Occupational Health Service**



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY

- **Focus on healthy/decent workplaces**
- **Focus on prevention rather than cure**
- **Provides supports and resources for teachers and close family members**

# EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE SERVICE

- **Provides teachers and family members with easy access to confidential counselling.**
- **Assistance with coping with effects of personal and work related issues.**
- **Free and confidential 24/365**
- **Telephone and face to face counselling.**

# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

- **Provides employers with advice on health matters that are relevant to employees**
- **Can refer employees who are 4+ weeks absent or repeated short absences**
- **OHS may contact employee , assess fitness to teach, provide supports, agree return to work programme**

# INTEGRATED WORKPLACE HEALTH MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

- **Education employers and teacher unions in Ireland are collaborating on a proposal to survey employees in first and second level schools**
- **Initiative focuses on health needs of employees and health and safety risks**
- **Ultimate aim = health screening, health promotion and return to work protocols**

# ETUCE AND EFEE – ONLINE INTERACTIVE RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

OiRA tool being developed through social dialogue .

ETUCE and EFEE with support of European Agency for Safety and Health at Work ( EU OSHA)

Identification of potential risks which may result in harmful stress

Multiplicity of risks –job insecurity , work load , technological change , societal factors , personal factors etc.



# ONLINE INTERACTIVE RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

- **Meeting held in Bilbao on June 18**
- **Meeting planned for Dublin October 22/23**

# SMALL STEPS PROGRAMME –DONEGAL ETB

- An employer initiative focussing on inclusion , participation , encouragement and choice
- Began as a project for the National Workplace Wellbeing Day in Ireland
- Aim is to be a positive and caring organisation which supports employees to reduce stress factors increase self esteem and increase job satisfaction

The background is a solid teal color with a subtle gradient. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit traces or a stylized tree structure. These patterns consist of thin lines that branch out and terminate in small circles.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

END