DEVELOPING HEALTHY WORKPLACES IN IRELAND – INTEGRATED APPROACH TO EMPLOYEE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

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This introduces Eli Lilly’s Live4Life wellbeing programme, which is a holistic integrated approach to employee Health, Safety and Wellbeing. It aims to link the organisation’s safety culture journey with employee wellbeing – making it personal and empowering employees to ‘Do the right thing’ at work and at home. It outlines that in adopting a strategic approach to managing employee Health, Safety and Wellbeing, companies can make a dramatic impact – with relatively small effort and expenditure – by leveraging processes already in place in the organisation. It discusses the ‘Work Positive’ wellbeing survey and the development and spread of the Live4Life programme. It shows how management commitment and employee engagement has a positive effect within the organisation leading to increased education, participation and overall employee wellbeing.

WORK AND SPIRITUALITY, NEW APPROACHES AND IDEAS – THE SPECIAL SESSION AIDS TO CLARIFY AND PROMOTE THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF HEALTH AT WORK

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South Africa is an upper middle-income economy with a fledgling tertiary sector (service, financial and knowledge economy) rooted in the primary sector (mining and agriculture) and secondary sector (manufacturing). South Africa’s diverse economy has contributed immensely to the mortality and morbidity of the South African workforce as a result of occupational injuries and diseases. While there is limited data on occupational injuries and diseases for South Africa, there is a range of factors that contribute to occupational injuries and diseases. These factors are known to be complex and interrelated, and are often influenced by social and economic factors, as well as workplace conditions and practices. The special session aims to clarify and promote the spiritual dimension of health at work, by bringing together experts from different fields and disciplines to share their knowledge and experiences, and to learn from each other.

UBUNTU THE AFRICAN SPIRITUALITY IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Occupational Health (OH) is dedicated not only to prevent diseases but also to promote health in its global dimension, including the spiritual wellbeing. This dimension must not be confused with mental wellbeing or religious beliefs, since it refers to intangible assets and deep feelings such as ethics, compassion, dignity, tolerance, engagement, inclusiveness, sustainability and individual growth among others. In this respect, spirituality is complementary to the other dimensions of wellbeing at work such as the physical, mental and social ones.

Though this dimension has not been much studied in the field of Occupational Health up to now, it is more and more an emerging demand from people willing to give sense to their life by allowing these intangible assets to become factors of their wellbeing at work and in their private life. Surveys in Europe have shown that the young generation prefers a meaningful job than a lucrative one. The meaningfulness of work strongly depends on its coherence with the fundamental values of individuals. Moreover, it has been shown that the ‘Sense of Coherence’, the basic concept of Salutogenesis – science focusing on factors that support human health and well-being, rather than on factors that cause disease – is closely linked with ‘good health’ and implicitly related to spiritual values of individuals. Therefore, it becomes more and more obvious that OH has to open to this new field of research and to the transfer of these new factors into practice.

And the Science of Management too has opened its research on its spiritual dimension for many years now, as illustrated by the Spiritual Division of their international Academy of Management. New forms of management focusing on care (benevolent leadership for example) belong to these emerging issues that OH should promote and develop since they contribute to set up healthy and productive workplaces.