

OSHVET Poster Competition Brief



Introduction

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA), as part of its involvement in the OSHVET project, is launching a **poster competition** on the theme of **carcinogens**. The competition is open to individuals and teams of up to **three students** from all **Further Education and Training (FET) Colleges in Ireland**. Closing date for submissions is **31st March 2026**.

What do FET Colleges need to do?

- Inform the HSA that their students/FET college will be participating in the poster competition by emailing joan_cahill@hsa.ie by **30th November 2025**.
- Manage the competition internally with their students.
- Select and submit **two posters** from their college for national judging by the OSHVET panel.

What do Students have to do?

- **Design a poster** to raise awareness of carcinogens.
- This might include
 - what they are,
 - routes of exposure,
 - the harm they can do, and
 - how people can protect themselves from this harm at work.
- You can include one or more examples of carcinogens in your entry.

How will the posters be judged?

A national judging panel, including representatives from the HSA, FET Ireland and other EU OSHVET partners, will review the shortlisted posters.

We wish that everyone could be a winner, but we only have a limited number of prizes. So, here are some tips for what the judges will be looking for:

- **Relevant:** content reflects the theme.
- **Creativity and uniqueness in approach:** original and engaging ideas.
- **Content:** clear, accurate and informative.
- **Effective communication:** concise text and strong visuals.
- **Impactful:** makes people think and inspires action and behaviour change.

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What is the Poster Format?

- One page only, A4 or A3 size.
- Posters may be created digitally or traditionally (on paper).
- If designed on paper, they must be **submitted digitally** (for example, scanned or photographed).
- Infographic-style layout or illustration are welcome.

How do FET Colleges submit their shortlisted posters?

- Each college must submit their two shortlisted posters to the national round using a **ShareFile link** before the closing date.
- The ShareFile link will be emailed to the **contact person who notified the HSA of their college's participation**.
- Each poster must clearly show:
 - The **names of the entrants**.
 - The **college they represent**.

Prizes:

1. **One4all vouchers:**
 - 1st place: €100 per group member.
 - 2nd place: €50 per group member.
 - 3rd place: €25 per group member.
2. **Posters Displayed:**
 - Winning posters (1st, 2nd and 3rd) will be on display at the **Carcinogens Conference, October 2026**.
3. **Attendance at Carcinogens conference:**
 - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are invited to attend the **Carcinogens Conference on 28th or 29th October 2026**, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), Dublin 2 (elapses over two days).
 - Public transport costs will be reimbursed by the HSA.

What will happen to my entry after the competition?

- All entries will become the property of the HSA, including copyright.
- The HSA may use entries in future promotional or awareness-raising campaigns.
- The HSA accepts no liability for loss or damage to submitted work

Who are the Health and Safety Authority?

- The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has overall responsibility for the administration and enforcement of health and safety at work in Ireland.

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- We monitor compliance with legislation at the workplace and can take enforcement action (up to and including prosecutions).
- We are the national centre for information and advice to employers, employees and self-employed on all aspects of workplace health and safety.
- The HSA also promotes education, training and research in the field of health and safety.

What is OSHVET?

- OSHVET is a project run by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA).
- It aims to raise awareness of occupational safety and health (OSH) among teachers and students in further education and training.
- It provides practical information and resources at regional and national levels across the EU, EFTA and accession countries.

What are Carcinogens?

- Carcinogens are cancer-causing agents.
- Cancer is estimated to be the leading cause of work-related deaths in the EU, with over 120,000 people diagnosed with work-related cancer each year.
- Examples include:
 - chemicals used at work, or
 - Substances produced during work activities (for example, hardwood dust, silica dust from stone cutting).
- Carcinogens can be naturally occurring, such as asbestos, which is mined from the ground.
- More information on and resources on carcinogens can be found at:
<https://stopcarcinogensatwork.eu/>

OSH Education Resources for FET

Please see the HSA website for education materials and initiatives relevant to FET (https://www.hsa.ie/eng/education/educational_materials_and_initiatives/further_education_and_training_resources/). More information about the safe use of chemicals in FET can be found at:
https://www.hsa.ie/eng/publications_and_forms/publications/education/chemicals_in_further_education_and_training_fet.pdf.