NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY 2025

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INTRODUCTION

- National Skills Strategy 2025 - Ireland’s Future

- Published in January 2016, the Strategy sets out the Government’s commitment to improving and using skills for sustainable economic growth, to develop a well-skilled, adaptable workforce that contributes to, shares in and benefits from opportunities of economic expansion.

- It is about
  - Improving people’s lives
  - Making Ireland a better place to live and work
  - Driving sustainable economic growth

View Strategy online at:
Ireland will be renowned at home and abroad as a place where the talent of our people thrives through:

- The quality and relevance of our education and training base, which is responsive to the changing and diverse needs of our people, society and the economy;
- The strength of relationships and transfer of knowledge between employers, education and training providers, and all sections of society, and the resulting impact on how people are prepared for life and work;
- The quality of our workforce – a nation of people armed with relevant knowledge, entrepreneurial agility and analytical skills;
- The effective use of skills to support economic and social prosperity, and to enhance the well-being of our country;
- The effective use of technology to support talent and skills provision, to grow enterprise, and to enhance the lives of all within society.
NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY: OBJECTIVES

- Education and training providers will place a stronger focus on providing skills development opportunities that are relevant to the needs of learners, society and the economy.

- Employers will participate actively in the development of skills and make effective use of skills in their organisations to improve productivity and competitiveness.

- The quality of teaching and learning at all stages of education will be continually enhanced and evaluated.

- People across Ireland will engage more in lifelong learning.

- There will be a specific focus on active inclusion to support participation in education and training and the labour market.

- We will support an increase in the supply of skills to the labour market.
NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY: ARCHITECTURE

National Skills Council

Skills Council: oversee research, advise on prioritisation of skills needs and how to secure delivery.

EGFSN

EGFSN: research and analysis

Regional Skills Fora

Regional Skills Fora: structured dialogue on needs, informed by research and local analysis
The new network of nine Regional Skills Fora:

- Provide a coherent way for employers and further and higher education providers to work together to build the skills needs of each region;
- Help employers to better understand and access the full range of services available across the education and training system;
- Enhance links between education and training providers in planning and delivering programmes, reduce unnecessary duplication and inform national funding decisions.

Membership of the fora includes education and training providers, Depts. of social protection, Jobs and Enterprise, Chambers of Commerce, IDA, EI, enterprise reps. IBEC.

Work independently to establish work programme and determine priorities for region.

Nine Regional Skills Fora Managers are now appointed – see www.regionalskills.ie for more information.
As part of the Government’s Action Plan for Jobs, a national network of Regional Skills Fora has been established to provide a more systematic way for employers and the education and training system to work together to build the supply of skills to support job creation and the growth and development of each region.

The network is part of the new skills infrastructure provided for in the new “National Skills Strategy: Ireland’s Future”, and provides a platform for further and higher education providers to interact with employers and employer representative bodies to share experience and expertise and collaborate to anticipate and address skills needs at a local and regional level, while facilitating the sharing of good practice at a national level.

The network will:
- Provide a coherene structure for employers and the further and higher education system to work together in building the skills needs of their regions;
- Help voewholders, educators and employers become an active part of the new regional and national skills provision and delivery in their region;
- Improve the efficiency of the education and training system and reduce duplication and non-relevant national funding initiatives.

A team of 8 Regional Skills Forum Managers are coordinating the work programme and activities of each forum.

**Our Region**

Cork and Kerry region has a population of over 670,000 with almost 440,000 between the ages of 15 and 64.

There is a rich geographical diversity including Cork city and some of the most scenic rural areas in the country. The region boasts a considerable industrial base and hosts some major multinational corporations but, of the more than 27,000 active enterprises, the vast majority (over 90%) have fewer than 10 persons employed.

In the South West region in 2014, the highest number of medium to large enterprises was in industry (mainly food, metal products, Med/tech, pharmaceutical, electrical, and chemical) followed by the wholesale and retail sector, and accommodation and food services (MHAWL, 1, 2015).
ALIGNING PROVISION WITH EMPLOYER NEEDS-
HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- National Skills database
- National and Regional Labour Markets Bulletin, Monitoring Ireland’s Skills Supply, Trends in Education and Training Outputs
- Vacancy Overview May 2014
- Occupational Employment Projections 2020 (3 yearly latest 2014)
- Expert Group on Future Skills Needs sectoral reports
- Joint participation by employers and providers in local and regional structures.
- Links with other public bodies-Protocols with LEOs/INTREO etc

- Built into design of programmes and courses
- Seeded by colleges for students
- Work based delivery of education and training programmes
- College staff with prior business experience
- Lectures by industry experts

- Professional body accreditation
- Company or sector specific programmes commissioned from providers
- Input by employer reps on provider boards/committees/informal links
- National structures and processes for targeted skills programmes e.g. Apprenticeship, Springboard, ICT skills
- Funding for employer led training bodies e.g. Skillnets, FIT

- Labour market intelligence
- Employer input to course design
- Employer input to delivering and assessing course outcomes
- In course and post completion work placements

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SUMMARY

140 ACTIONS,
50 STAKEHOLDERS,
LINKED TO 32 OTHER GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
NEW SKILLS ARCHITECTURE
NEW DES UNIT-SKILLS PLANNING AND ENTERPRISE ENGAGEMENT
WORKING ACROSS DEPARTMENT AND INTER DEPARTMENT WORKING WITH ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYERS DIRECTLY.
THANK YOU

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