



etbi

Education and Training
Boards Ireland
*Boird Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Éireann*

FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING CONFERENCE 2015

ETBs Building Individual Empowerment, Social Cohesion & Economic Prosperity in 21st Century

Thursday 26 November 2015
Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co Kildare

This inaugural conference will bring together those who **lead, manage** or **coordinate Further Education and Training (FET)** in **ETBs** to:

- ◆ Discuss matters of common interest.
- ◆ Facilitate collaboration in the building of an integrated FET service promoting individual empowerment, social cohesion and economic prosperity.
- ◆ Provide an opportunity for practitioners to influence policy makers.

Across Europe FET is seen as the engine for human progress in the 21st century.

This conference will recognise and affirm the work of those working in the FET sector and address the following key questions.

- What is the EU context for FET?
- What contribution can the FET strategy make to modern Ireland?
- How can the labour market be an ally in raising the status and profile of the FET sector?
- How can ETBs provide evidence of the wider benefits of learning?
- How can we build an attractive widely-understood profile for FET?

Registration and Other Details on Back Page

Conference Programme

9.00	Registration – Tea / Coffee Scones
9.40	Welcome & Housekeeping: Michael Moriarty, General Secretary, ETBI
9.50	Conference Opening Address – Damien English, TD, Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation
10.05	Further Education and Training: An EU Perspective - Cerys Furlong
10.30	Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives: Implications of FET Strategy for ETB Provision - Fiona Hartley
10.50	Small Group Discussions
11.10	Health Break
11.20	Raising the Status of Further Education and Training: The Labour Market as an Ally - Dr John Sweeney
11.45	Linking Further Education and Training to Labour Market Needs - John McGrath
12.05	Small Group Discussions
12.20	Panel (Cerys Furlong, Fiona Hartley, John Sweeney) responds to issues raised – followed by Plenary Discussion
1.10	Lunch
2.00	Report on Wider Benefits of Learning Project - Mary Kett
2.20	Building a Recognisable Brand for Further Education and Training - Nikki Gallagher
2.45	Small Group Discussion
3.05	Health Break
3.15	Panel (Mary Kett, Nikki Gallagher, Phil O’Flaherty) responds to issues raised in group discussions – followed by Plenary Discussion
4.15	Rapporteur’s (Dr Dermot Stokes) Report
4.30	Conference Conclusion

Notes on Speakers

Cerys Furlong joined NIACE in January 2014 as Director for Wales, from the Open University where she was Assistant Director (External Strategy). Cerys has worked in the post-16 education and skills sector in Wales for over ten years and has considerable experience of local government, having previously worked for a number of senior politicians in Wales including a former First Minister. In NIACE Cerys is responsible for staff, policy, strategic development, membership and resources for all NIACE's work in Wales.

Fiona Hartley was appointed to the post of Executive Director (Designate) SOLAS in August 2012. Fiona had been Chief Executive Officer of County Wicklow VEC since 2006 and prior to that was Education Officer with County Dublin VEC from 1999. Fiona has also worked in City of Dublin VEC – initially in the Prisoner Education Service and then as Deputy Principal and Principal of Whitehall College of FE.

Dr John Sweeney has worked as a lecturer, researcher, writer and policy adviser. He was awarded a PhD in Labour Market Economics (Leuven University 1998) for his study of low-skilled workers in EU economies. He worked for the National Economic and Social Council between 2002 and 2015 writing, among other reports, *The Developmental Welfare State* (2005) and *The Irish Economy in the Early 21st Century* (2008), and was the national expert in producing the OECD report, *Employment and Skills Strategies in Ireland* (2014). He is now a freelance writer and labour market consultant.

John McGrath, Manager of the Research Department of SOLAS, provides skills analyses to SOLAS, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, Government Departments and Agencies. He holds a Master's Degree in Economic Science (Trinity College), a Master's Degree in Politics (UCD) and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Statistics (Trinity). John has 20-plus years' experience of research on the Irish labour market and is a former economic advisor to the Irish Government. In the last 15 years, he has worked as an international labour market consultant in Europe and Asia for the EU and IMF.

Mary Kett worked in the field of adult and community education for many years, as a tutor, organiser, researcher and development coordinator in both Ireland and the U.K. From 2001-2012 she worked for the DES on the BTEI programme. She conducted a review of the Adult Literacy programme on behalf of the DES in 2012 and earlier this year completed a review of the Wider Benefits of Learning on behalf of ETBI.

Nikki Gallagher is Director of Communications and Secretariat at SOLAS. Nikki joined SOLAS from the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) where she spent ten years as Head of Communication. As part of her role at the OCO, Nikki was responsible for the Education and Participation function of the Office. Prior to this, Nikki spent several years in Leinster House as a National Press Officer. Nikki commenced her career at BBC Radio, London.

Stan McHugh (Conference Chair) has been involved in education and training all of his working life, having worked as a secondary school teacher until 1990, and since then as a senior educationalist in a number of Irish national agencies, including CERT, NCVA and FETAC. He holds a Master's Degree in Education from Trinity College Dublin.

Phil O'Flaherty has been Principal Officer in the Further Education and Training Section of the Department of Education and Skills since 2013. Phil was previously Principal Officer in the Department's Qualifications Unit, having also worked in the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Dr Dermot Stokes (Conference Rapporteur), Adjunct Professor, School of Education Studies in DCU, was National Coordinator of the Youthreach programme from '88 until '12 and served as National Expert for the OECD LEED Programme on local youth employment strategies in Ireland in 2012/13.

Conference Fee €110.00

Fee covers all meals but not overnight accommodation

Following the conference, ETBs and other participants, as appropriate, will be invoiced for the relevant conference fee.

Conference Registration [HERE](#)

Venue Details

Killashee House Hotel,
Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland
Tel: +353 45 879277
Email: sales@killasheehouse.com



A special **overnight accommodation** rate of €80.00 per single and €120.00 per double/twin has been negotiated with the Hotel, you must inform them that you are attending the conference to obtain the discount.

Directions, transport links (including details of diversions for on-going road works around the Piper's Hill area) and other details relevant to those attending the Conference can be found on the ETBI website (www.etbi.ie).



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