

HEI FET Forum



Higher Education Institutions
Further Education and Training Forum

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The Further Education and Training sector has undergone transformational change over the past five years with the establishment of the Education and Training Boards, the formation of SOLAS as the National policy and funding body and a significant increase in the number and diversity of learners. The sector is evolving and changing to meet increasing demands.

The HEI FET Forum will work with stakeholders in FET in achieving the objectives set out in the FET Strategy (SOLAS, 2014) and in making a contribution to this field of practice. In particular, the Forum 3 year strategy (2017-2020) aims to address the high level goals set out for FET which highlighted:

Skills for the Economy

Active Inclusion

Quality provision

Integrated Planning and Funding

Standing of FET

Foreword

A Strategic Plan for the HEI FET Forum¹ has been developed following the establishment of a national network of Higher Education Institutions engaged in the development and provision of third level professional qualifications for those working or, intending to work, in the Further Education and Training (FET) sector in Ireland.

The Plan has been developed in consultation with all member Institutions and has been informed by recent publications including:

- » **Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019 (SOLAS, 2014)**
- » **Further Education and Training: Professional Development Strategy 2017-2019 (SOLAS, 2016)**
- » **Teaching Council (2011) Further Education: General and Programme Requirement for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Qualifications**
- » **Teaching Council (2011) Policy on the Continuum of Teacher Education**
- » **Teaching Council (2016) Cosán: National Framework for Teachers' Learning**
- » **Strategy for Technology-Enhanced Learning in Further Education and Training 2016-2019 (SOLAS/ETBI, 2016)**
- » **Department of Education (2016) Action Plan for Education 2016-2019**

The Strategic Plan also acknowledges the *Riga Conclusions 2015*, which set out to “introduce systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development for VET² teachers, trainers and mentors in both school and work based settings” (European Commission, 2015).

¹ Higher Education Institutions: Further Education and Training Forum

² Vocational Education and Training

Background of HEI FET Forum

During 2012, a number of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with Teaching Council of Ireland approved teacher education programmes for Further Education came together to form the Higher Education Institutions Further Education and Training Forum (HEI FET Forum). The Forum is a national network focussed on the continued enhancement of teaching and learning in the Further Education and Training sector. It aims to support the sector through collaborative working approaches and the development of communities of practice. In particular, the Forum aims to:

- » **Share knowledge and practice in education, specifically for the further education and training sector, with regard to qualifications for teachers, tutors and other facilitators of learning in Further Education and Training;**
- » **Contribute to the quality of teaching, learning and research in Further Education and Training;**
- » **Promote awareness about initial and continued professional development for practitioners and new entrants to the sector;**
- » **Explore common areas of interest such as research, programme design, assessment and placement;**
- » **Contribute to an emergent community of practice in Further Education and Training**

The HEI FET Forum membership comprises eight Higher Education providers as listed:

1. **NUI Galway**
2. **Mary Immaculate College**
3. **Waterford Institute of Technology**
4. **National College of Ireland**
5. **Marino Institute of Education**
6. **Maynooth University**
7. **Dublin City University**
8. **National College of Art & Design**



Vision, Mission & Values

Vision

The Forum's Vision is to enhance and contribute to the quality of teaching and learning engagement, pedagogy and research in Further Education and Training.

Mission

The mission of the HEI FET Forum is to contribute to the continual improvement of the quality of teaching and learning in Further Education and Training by drawing on the combined expertise of its members.

The Forum's strength lies in its capacity to deliver relevant educational programmes and to undertake collaborative research that will inform programme development, contribute to the enhancement of practice, and inform national policy. The Forum embodies a spirit of collaboration among Higher Education Institutions and external stakeholders aimed at supporting excellence in Further Education and Training.

Values

Our values are based on the underpinning principles of adult education including respect for the learner, equality, empowerment, open collaboration and trust.

Governance

The Forum aims to ensure it fulfils its stated goals and objectives by ensuring a regular process of sustainable engagement with partners and stakeholders; securing funding to ensure the financial viability of the Forum; securing an on-line and off-line presence: and securing permanent administration in a national location.

Strategic Goals 2017 - 2020

The strategic goals of the HEI FET Forum as articulated in the Forum's Strategy document are:

» **Professional Development:**

development and delivery of high quality practitioner orientated professional development initiatives and programmes that prepare practitioners for working in the sector and that support responses to societal, economic and industry challenges.

» **Research:**

develop and contribute to an emergent field of research in Further Education and Training (FET). Assemble a repository of research proposals; secure funded research; and determine targets for peer-reviewed research publication.

» **Policy and Advocacy:**

build relationships with key national and international stakeholders and advisory bodies with a view to contributing to national policy.

» **Engagement with Practitioners:**

engage with practitioners in FET through collaboration at a national and regional level with Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), the Further Education Network (FEN), Further Education Support Services (FESS) and other relevant FET practitioner bodies and networks.

» **Pedagogy in FET:**

promote and model adult learning theories, philosophies, and pedagogies in FET teaching and learning activities.

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Institutions and Programmes

INSTITUTION	TITLE OF FET PROGRAMME
NUI Galway	Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education)
Marino Institute of Education	Professional Diploma in Education (Further Ed).
Dublin City university (DCU)	BSc Education & Training (Further, Adult and Continuing Education)
Mary Immaculate College	Graduate Diploma / M.Ed. in Adult and Further Education
Maynooth University (MU)	Higher Diploma in Further Education (Fulltime and part time)
National College of Art and Design (NCAD)	Masters in Socially Engaged Art, (Further Adult and Community Education)
National College of Ireland (NCI)	Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Learning and Teaching (Further Education Track)
Waterford institute of Technology (WIT)	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Teaching in Further Education and Adult Education and Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching in Further Education

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Visit the Forum at
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