



2nd Extraordinary National Skills Council meeting

8th of June at 14:00 (virtually)

This 2nd Extraordinary National Skills Council meeting on 8 June 2022 will be the starting point for the Assessment Consultations. In this meeting, there will be participation by NSC Members, RSF Chairs and Managers, and Members of the Cross-Departmental Project Team. A draft agenda and questions of discussions are presented below.

Agenda for the 2nd Extraordinary National Skills Council meeting

Time	Activity	Participants
14.00-14.05	Opening by the Chair	Bob Savage, Vice President, Regional CIO for EMEA and Cork Site Leader Dell Technologies
14.05-14.10	Introduction by DFHERIS	Jim Breslin, Secretary General, DFHERIS
14.10-14.35	Opening presentation by OECD with initial findings and potential opportunities for the four priority areas	Andrew Bell, Head of OECD Skills Strategies
14.35-14.50	Q&A	
14.50-15.50	Discussion on Priority Area 2 – fostering greater participation in lifelong learning in and outside of the workplace	OECD team
15.50-15.55	Closing by OECD	Andrew Bell, Head of OECD Skills Strategies
15.55-16.00	Closing by the Chair	Bob Savage, Vice President, Regional CIO for EMEA and Cork Site Leader Dell Technologies

Questions for discussion

1. From our consultations thus far, guidance has emerged as an important tool for encouraging participation in lifelong learning in Ireland.
Where is it most important for Ireland to invest resources in career and LLL guidance?
 - a. Improve early career guidance interventions for students at 2nd level, as well as youth in FET and HE
 - b. Improve ongoing career guidance for adults who are either active or inactive members of the labour market
 - c. Create one centralised national portal for individuals and enterprises to navigate LLL opportunities themselves
 - d. Better target career guidance services to the groups most in need (e.g. workers facing a high risk of automation)
 - e. Other

2. Ireland's skills ecosystem requires collaboration across multiple stakeholders.

How could Ireland best strengthen a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to providing and promoting relevant LLL opportunities for all?

- Better engage employers in the design of LLL programmes and curricula
- Support greater co-ordination and collaboration on LLL between governmental departments
- Promote greater co-ordination and collaboration on LLL between national and regional/local levels
- Improve the user-friendliness and visibility of information on LLL outcomes and skills needs
- Other

3. In Ireland, the main obstacles identified by individuals wanting to participate in lifelong learning activities are related to family reasons (44%) and schedule (29%).

Which of the following options would be most effective in addressing the obstacles most cited by individuals wanting to participate in LLL – family reasons and schedule constraints?

- Further expand childcare subsidies
- Provide more flexible (e.g. hybrid format) and remote LLL opportunities to improve accessibility
- Institute paid training leave or a wage subsidy scheme to encourage training during working hours
- Promote on-the-job learning
- Other

4. Enterprises are an important player in promoting engagement in lifelong learning.

What should be Ireland's top policy priority to engage enterprises in promoting effective lifelong learning among their employees?

- Encourage and support enterprises to map out the skills of their employees
- Raise awareness and strengthen evidence about benefits to employers of investing in the skills of their employees
- Compensate enterprises for the time employees are participating in LLL
- Provide information and training for enterprises, and especially for SMEs, on navigating LLL opportunities and presenting them to employees
- Other

5. Managerial skills are among the main skills enterprises in Ireland have identified as skills needed for the development of the enterprise (36% identified this as a needed skill, compared to 24% in the EU on average, and 30% in the UK). These are skills that are generally not acquired before entering the labour market, but rather through lifelong formal, non-formal, and/or informal learning.

What can be done to promote continuous improvement of managerial skills in the workplace?

- Raise awareness of the need to strengthen managerial skills
- Provide greater financial support for firms looking to enhance management capability
- Strengthen or better target management skills development programmes
- Create more opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and support
- Other