Draft Implementation Progress Report for
National Strategy for Higher Education
Quarter 3 2012

The National Strategy for Higher Education was launched in January 2011.   In order to ensure effective oversight of implementation of the strategy the Department of Education and Skills has established an **Implementation Oversight Group**. The Oversight Group is co-ordinating, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of recommendations contained in the National Strategy on an ongoing basis in conjunction with other expertise and stakeholders as required.

The Oversight Group has agreed a short to medium term Implementation Progress reporting template that details actions under four broad strategic headings together with a number of supporting objectives. The strategic headings are congruent with the aims of the National Strategy. Each action is the responsibility of a designated organisation. It is the intention of the Department of Education and Skills to report regularly on the implementation of the strategy.

The actions, responsibility, timelines and current status are presented in the following Table.

Strategic Objective		Specific Actions	Timeline	Lead Org.	Input from	Current Status Q3 2012
Excellence in Teaching, Learning, Research and Engagement	**1.1**	National Student Survey	National Pilot commence Q1 2013	HEA	IUA/IOTI /QQI	Following a review of the project a new oversight group has been established. Project manager appointed and new project structure established. Revised plan, incorporating a full-scale national pilot now in place. Pilot to run in Q1 2013.
	1.2	National Employer Survey	Pilot complete by Q3 2012	HEA	IUA/IOTI through IBEC	The results of the survey are being finalised by IBEC. Preliminary findings were presented to the University Industry Roundtable in October. Pilot completed and IBEC due to report to HEA.
	1.3	Transition Review	Q1 2013	NCCA/HEA/ IUA/IOTI		Transitions Steering Group established in September 2012 chaired by DES. IOTI Registrars Group considering issues. NCCA/SEC considering Leaving Cert predictability and grading issues. IUA Taskforce Expert to report by year end.
	1.4	National Platform for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning	Q4 2012	HEA	IUA/IOTI	Approval for establishment given by DES. Board to be appointed by end Q4 2012
	1.5	Part-time Higher Education and Training Policy Framework	Completed Q3 2012	HEA		Complete and approved within HEA. Policy issues identified and subject of discussions between HEA and DES
	1.6	Policy and structures for HEA engagement with QQI.	Delayed pending establishment of QQI	HEA	IUQB, HETAC, QQI	Discussions on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding have taken place between HEA and QQI Executives and the outcome will be discussed at first QQI

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						Board meeting in December 2012. MOU is expected to be signed in 2013.
	1.7	Research and Graduate Education.	Completed Q1 2012	HEA	IRCSET/ IRCHSS	The Irish Research Council has been established through the merger of The Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology as a sub-board of HEA with effect from 19th March 2012.
		HEA Status report on Research and Graduate Education in development	Q4 2012	HEA	DES	The HEA is developing a new research and graduate education strategy.
	1.8	Institutional student feedback system	Ongoing	IOTI/IUA		Within the Institute of Technology sector new arrangements have been agreed and are being implemented. Within the university sector various arrangements are in place that provide for student feedback.
	1.9	Review 1st year curriculum and supports	Ongoing	IOTI/IUA		Ongoing within academic planning and approval processes at Institutional level.
	1.10	Course accreditation for work placement/service learning	Ongoing	IOTI/IUA		Ongoing within academic planning and approval processes at Institutional level.
	1.11	Research Prioritisation Report Establishment of Prioritisation Action Group	Completed Q1 2012	DJEI		Report approved by Government for implementation and launched 1 March 2012. Research Prioritisation Action Group established to drive implementation, meeting monthly since then.

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	1.12	Development of National IP Protocol and submission to Govt Establishment of Central Technology Transfer Office	Completed Q2 2012 Q1 2013	DJEI		IP Protocol launched June 2012 and follow-up implementation being progressed. TTSI II initiative to commence shortly.
	1.13	Internationalisation - Institutional internationalisation strategies	Ongoing	IUA/IOTI	Int Ed Strategy Imp.Group	The International Education Strategy – 'Investing in Global Relationships" was published in 2011 and is being implemented by the HEIs. Support structures have been established in IUA and IOTI to facilitate this. Link to report: http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Ireland-s-International-Education-Strategy-2010-2015-Investing-in-Global-Relationships.pdf
	1.14	Integration of international students	Ongoing	IUA/IOTI		QQI has begun work on the Code of Practice/International Education Mark. Timetable for release will be discussed by QQI Board in December 2012.
	1.15	Continue to implement and build upon NFQ	Ongoing	QQI		
	1.16	Co-ordinate development of subject guidelines framework in	TBC	QQI	IUA/IOTI	QQI will be established in November 2012. Work programme for 2013 will be discussed

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		conjunction with subject experts from institutions				at first QQI Board meeting in December 2012
	1.17	Initiate full and comprehensive review of external examiner system and grading system	TBC	QQI		QQI will be established in November 2012. Work programme for 2013 will be discussed at first QQI Board meeting in December 2012
	1.18	Review of PhD provision will take place when new national framework has been developed by HEA (in consultation with QQI) – formal assessment informed by good practice and international metrics	TBC	QQI	HEA	Will be informed by Status report on Graduate education being developed by HEA (see 1.7).
	1.19	Ensure alignment and balance between learning outcomes, pedagogy and assessment in course of QA of institutions and Programmes	TBC	QQI		QQI will be established in November 2012. Work programme for 2013 will be discussed at first QQI Board meeting in December 2012.
	1.20	Begin development of National framework of RPL based on work already underway by EGFSN/NQAI	TBC	QQI		QQI will be established in November 2012. Work programme for 2013 will be discussed at first QQI Board meeting in December 2012.
	1.21	Assist HEI's to develop structures and procedures to involve wider community in programme design and revision.	TBC	QQI	IUA/IOTI	QQI will be established in November 2012. Work programme for 2013 will be discussed at first QQI Board meeting in December 2012.
	1.22	Enterprise Engagement Forum	Ongoing	DES		Forum chaired by Secretary General established October 2011; Bi-annual meetings are being held. Second IUA/IBEC University Industry Roundtable took place October 2012.

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Sustainability and Funding	**2.1**	Sustainability Study	Q1 2013	HEA	DES	A new sustainability study has been scoped work packages agreed and work started. This will complement the current work on system configuration.
	2.2	Consultation on Review of Funding Models	Completed	HEA	IOTI/IUA	The consultation process is complete and the views of stakeholders are currently being examined with a view to implementing initial changes to the funding model in 2013.
	2.3	Strategic Dialogue Process 1st Phase Implementation in place	From Q1 2012	HEA		1st Phase Implementation in place. Planning for 2013 taking place.
		Development of KPIs and agreement with HEIs	By end Q3 2012	HEA	HEIs	
	2.4	Performance management capacity review	Q4 2012	HEA		A performance evaluation review is to be published by end Q4 2012.
	2.5	Organisational Review of HEA	Q4 2012	DES		Due to commence in Q4 2012
	2.6	Centralisation of Student Grant Administration	Completed Q3 2012	DES		Independent Appeals Board established. Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSSI) commenced operation for new applicants for 2012/13 academic year.
System Development	**3.1**	System Configuration	Q3 2012	HEA		Institutional submissions were received as planned in July 2012. An analysis of the alignment between the submissions and the National Strategy objectives has been completed.
	3.2	Commission System Level Analysis	Q2 2012	HEA		Completed
	3.3	Appoint International review Panel	Q1 2012	HEA	International Panel	Completed
	3.4	International panel and HEA	End Q3/Q4	HEA	International	Ongoing

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		Executive to consider HEI submissions and 'blueprint'	2012		Panel	
	3.5	HEA to engage with HEIs on Proposed outline structure	Q1 2013	HEA	HEIs	HEA to advise Minister on outline structure for future HE system by Q1 2013.
	3.6	Establish HE Agency Network	From Q1 2012	HEA	Research Agencies	1st meeting held with Research funding agencies. Policy position on 'whole of government' approach to HE developed within HEA. Currently being considered by Policy and Planning Committee.
Governance and HR/IR	4.1	Legislation – Develop Issues and Timeframes Scoping Paper	Q4 2012	DES	HEA/IUA/ IOTI	HEA issues paper completed and submitted to DES. HEA currently prioritising issues and preparing more detailed legislative requirements advice. IUA and IOTI Governance Reform proposals submitted to Minister Q2 2012.
	4.2	Implement strategy for review and transfer of DES funded institutions to HEA.	Q1 2013	DES/HEA		Submissions requested from all DES directly funded institutions on their future position within the HE system in light of the HEA landscape paper.
	4.3	**Subject/Discipline Reviews** Carry out Creative Arts Review Teacher Ed. Review	Q4 2012 Completed Q3 2012	HEA HEA		Creative Arts Review team has met and will report by end 2012. Initial Teacher Education Review complete and published Q3 2012.
	4.4	Develop Policy for Engagement with non-DES funded private providers	Completed Q2 2012	DES/HEA	DES	Report accepted by Authority.
	4.5	Public Service Agreement	Ongoing	DES/IUA/ IOTI		Revised sectoral action plan published Q2 2012 reflecting implementation progress to

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						date and latest developments. Link to report: http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Corporate-Reports/Croke-Park-Agreement/
	4.6	Long-term HR development	Q1 2013	DES/IUA/IOTI/ HEA		HR Reform to be included in Sustainability study referred to above. See 2.1