

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NATIONAL SKILLS COUNCIL

18th February 2020



National Skills Council

Chair: Mr. Bob Savage, Vice President, Regional CIO for EMEA and Cork Site Leader, Dell Technologies.

Council members present:

Seán Ó Foghlú, DES; Mr. William Beausang, DES; Prof. Mark Ferguson, SFI; Ms. Nessa White, ETBI; Mr. Liam Ryan, SAP Labs Ireland; Dr. Brendan McCormack, THEA; Mr. Pádraig Walsh, QQI; Ms. Deirdre McGlone, Hotel & Travel Advisor, Prof. Philip Nolan, IUA, Mr. Paul Healy, Skillnet Ireland, Mr. Peter Mulrine, Mulrine and Sons Sales.

Apologies:

Ms. Julie Sinnamon, EI; Mr. Martin Shanahan, IDA; Dr. Orlaigh Quinn, DBEI; Mr. John McKeon, DEASP; Mr. Andrew Brownlee, SOLAS; Mr. Alan Wall, HEA, Mr. Martin McVicar, Combiift.

Secretariat

Ms Kathleen Gavin, Mr Paul Keating, Ms Therese Callery

In attendance:

Mr. John Conlon, DEASP; Ms. Vivienne Patterson, HEA; Mr. John Howlin, DPER; Ms. Nora Condon, SOLAS; Ms. Kathleen Gavin, DES; Mr. Kevin Daly, DBEI, Mr. Tony Donohoe, EGFSN.

Presenters:

Ms Nora Condon, SLMRU; Ms Ruth Morrissey, DBEI; Mr Larry O Connell NESC, Mr Damian Thomas, NESC, Observers

Ms. Joanne Tobin, DES; Mr. Frank Hanlon, DES; Ms Leona De Khors, DES; Ms Laura Devaney, Department of Taoiseach; Mr Frank Maughan, DCCA.

Agenda item	Key points discussed	Action
1. Welcome and minutes of previous meeting.	<p>The Chair welcomed 3 new members to the Council, Ms. Deirdre McGlone, Hotel & Travel Advisor; Mr. Peter Mulrine, P Mulrine & Sons Sales and Mr. Paul Healy, Skillnet Ireland.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>	<p>No action</p> <p>No action</p>
2. Information Updates	<p>Update on EGFSN work plan 2020 Tony Donohoe (EGFSN) gave an update on the EGFSN work plan for 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Demand for Skills in Ireland's Construction Sector to 2030 • Management Skills for SMEs • Design Skills Demand Analysis • Skills for the Low Carbon Economy • International Financial Services Skills <p>William Beasuang (DES) commented that a number of sectors are experiencing skills needs, especially as the economy is almost at full employment. The challenge is how to make sure the education and training system has the data and evidence needed to identify and address these priority skills needs.</p> <p>Updates via Dashboard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated yearly figures for Skillnet Ireland 2019 were made available at the meeting 	<p>No Action</p> <p>No Action</p>

<p>Forecasting Skills Impact of Low Carbon and Digital Transition</p> <p>Needs Identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the spectrum of skills useful? How would this list of needs be further developed? What opportunities exist to design and/or reintroduce third level courses to support the transition? Where are the gaps? What specific steps could be taken to develop better insights, to narrow the knowledge gap? What R&D is required to support the priority skills and further the low carbon transition? <p>Take-Up is critical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we increase number of participants in re-training/upskilling? Issues to consider include return on investment, tiered competency frameworks, transferability of competency, flexible delivery, 	<p>structural effect and impact on the economy than the changes in the low carbon transition.</p> <p>It was agreed that the low carbon transition is having a direct effect in some regions and not in others and it is hard to identify the skills needed to address Climate Action.</p> <p>There was discussion on how other Countries such as Sweden and Denmark are dealing with transitions.</p> <p>Climate Action is part of the EGFSN work plan for 2020. It was suggested that the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan is the roadmap for the context of the EGFSN study. The Action Plan contains metrics and targets.</p> <p>NESC suggested that the Climate Action Plan is the framework for the EGFSN study and the EGFSN need to go deeper in terms of identifying skills needs.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Climate Action Plan is Ireland's minimal response to Climate Change. There are challenges in sectors such as construction where new skills are needed for new types of housing and buildings.</p> <p>New technology and new skills are providing solutions to challenges in the agri sector.</p> <p>It was agreed that the education and training system is already responding to skills needs in the Climate Action area. Programmes such as Springboard+, apprenticeships, FET Strategy and existing education and training provision are part of the response.</p>	
---	---	--

<p>industry standard/ requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should the forms of dialogue and educational engagement vary across sectors, for example does it need to differ and how across automotive industry, farming community, construction workers? How do we measure and communicate connections between the Just Transition agenda and forthcoming upskilling and reskilling programmes for maximum impact? 	<p>Areas such as retrofitting, energy, sustainable buildings are areas where skills are needed.</p> <p>Industry in some cases are not aware of what is ahead in terms of their skills needs. There needs to be better communication amongst all stakeholders.</p> <p>There is a need for educators to upskill in relation to Climate Action. The need for new courses/new modules is important as is the communication of this provision to industry.</p> <p>Taoiseach's welcomed the focus of the NSC meeting on Climate Action and it was agreed that the education and training system is crucial to a successful response to the skills needs/upskilling needs/reskilling needs to Climate Action.</p> <p>There is a challenge for the education and training system to continue to respond to the necessary short/medium/long skills needs to meet emerging technology and emerging Climate Action needs.</p> <p>There was also a discussion of the need for Leadership within the education and training sector around all the issues covered.</p>	
<p>6. Strategic Discussion for next NSC meetings</p>	<p>The NSC agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May – Remote working Sept – Lifelong learning / HCI Nov – Tertiary Education/Indecon Report 	<p>Remote Working is the Strategic Discussion item for the NSC May 2020 meeting</p>

7. AOB and closing remarks.	NSC Winter Statement 2019 was discussed. The Statement focused on the HCI and Regional Skills Needs	NSC Winter Statement 2019 was approved Next meeting Thursday 14th May 2020 at 10am
------------------------------------	---	--