

Minutes of Meeting No. 65 of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 at 1.30p.m. in Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street

<b>Present</b>	Una Halligan	Chair
	Marie Bourke	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
	William Parnell	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
	Inez Bailey	NALA
	Tom Boland	HEA
	John Burke	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (present for items 5.2 - 7)
	Liz Carroll	ISME
	Ned Costello	Irish Universities Association
	Margaret Cox	I.C.E. Group
	Bill Doherty	Cook Medical
	Tony Donohoe	IBEC
	Bryan Fields	SOLAS
	Declan Hughes	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
	Brendan McDonagh	IDA Ireland (in place of Ray Bowe)
	Colm Mac Fhionnlaioich	Enterprise Ireland
	Frank Mulvihill	Former President IGC
	Brendan Murphy	CIT
Alan Nuzum	Skillnets	
Peter Rigney	ICTU	
<b>Apologies</b>	Deirdre McDonnell	Department of Education & Skills
<b>Not Present</b>	Joe Hogan	Openet
<b>In Attendance</b>	Gerard Walker	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
	Aisling Penrose	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
	Alan Power	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
	Catherine MacEnri	Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (present for items 5.2 - 7)
	John McGrath	SLMRU, SOLAS
	Jasmina Behan	SLMRU, SOLAS
	Ivica Milicevic	SLMRU, SOLAS

**1. Minutes of EGFSN Meeting Number 64**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, were approved.

**2. Matters Arising**

The HEA undertook to revert to the group in relation to the capacity of HEIs to provide additional places on ICT courses, as discussed at the June meeting.

**3. Chairperson's Report**

**Membership Changes**

- William Parnell, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, has replaced Marie Bourke in the role of Head of Secretariat to the EGFSN.
- Alan Nuzum is resigning from the EGFSN as he is departing his role as CEO of Skillnets.
- Mary-Liz Trant has left the HEA to take up a position with SOLAS. A replacement will be assigned by the HEA.

**Publications Since Last Meeting**

- National Skills Bulletin 2015 (17 July 2015)
- Monitoring Ireland's Skills Supply 2015 (23 July 2015)

### Meeting with Minister Bruton

- The Chairperson met with Minister Bruton on 20th July to discuss the work of the EGFSN including:
  - An overview of the key skills in demand and occupations and areas of skills shortages.
  - Progress on gaps in supply and demand particularly in relation to Data Analytics and ICT skills.
  - Graduate trends and progression to employment in STEM fields.

### Progressing skills issues/implementation

- Financial Services Strategy - The first meeting of the International Financial Services Education & Skills Liaison Group, which the EGFSN will participate on, through the Secretariat, will take place on 30th September.
- BioPharma Skills - The EGFSN Secretariat presented on skills issues at a meeting held on 6th July hosted by PharaChem Ireland & IDA.

### Work Programme for 2016

- A discussion on the work programme for 2016 will take place at the December meeting. Members are requested to consider any important skills issues for inclusion in the work programme and to provide input to the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.
- The Springboard 2016 Guidance document is being prepared. Any skills areas which Members feel should be incorporated into the guidance document should be supplied to the EGFSN Secretariat.

### Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 commenced on 1 September 2015, the objective of which is to make any lobbying activity more transparent. The Secretariat has been advised that the EGFSN is exempt from registering under the Lobbying Act, but should operate in accordance with the Transparency Code set out in the Act which entails the publication on the website of: the list of members, the Terms of Reference, minutes of meetings and agendas.

## 4. Items for Approval

### 4.1 *Hospitality Skills final report*

The Secretariat presented an overview of the key findings and recommendations in the report and sought approval to proceed to publication.

**Action: The report was approved to proceed to publication, subject to final textual changes.**

### 4.2 *Regional Labour Markets Bulletin 2015*

The Secretariat presented an overview of the report's main findings and sought approval to proceed to publication.

**Action: The report was approved to proceed to publication.**

## 5. Items for Discussion

### 5.1 *National Skills Bulletin 2015: Response to Issues Identified*

The objective of this briefing document is to summarise skills shortages identified in the National Skills Bulletin 2015 and to identify potential policy responses issues. The Secretariat provided an overview of the key issues identified in the report.

**Action: The findings of the report were discussed and noted by the Group.**

## **5.2 EGFSN Input to National Skills Strategy**

The Secretariat presented on drivers of change impacting on skills and talent requirements and on Lifelong Learning practices in high performing countries. The two pieces of work will form the basis of inputs to DES in the development of the new National Skills Strategy.

**Action: The two items presented on will form the basis of inputs to DES for the development of the new National Skills Strategy.**

## **5.3 Data Analytics Implementation**

The Secretariat circulated, at the meeting, an update of responses received from organisations responsible for delivering the recommendations set out in the EGFSN's Data Analytics Skills report from 2014. Overall, good progress has been made in relation to a number of the areas of recommendation.

**Action: It was agreed that circulation of the report be undertaken to key stakeholders responsible for driving implementation of the recommendations.**

## **5.4 Labour Market Infographics**

The Secretariat gave a presentation on proposed infographics on skills shortages in specific sectors, based on data contained in the National Skills Bulletin.

**Action: It was agreed to proceed with exploring the feasibility of producing the infographics.**

## **5.5 Regional Skills Fora**

The Department of Education and Skills presented an overview of the structures in place at regional level and the objectives of the Regional Skills Fora. The aim is to make the education and training system more responsive to local employer needs, and to provide an improved platform for dialogue between industry and the education and training system. There are currently 6 regional project plans in place, and it is envisaged that by year end this will increase to 8 regions. It is proposed to bring together all the regional fora later in the year in order to identify issues and objectives common across all regions.

## **6. Documents for Noting**

The following documents were circulated for noting:

### **6.1 EGFSN Communications Schedule**

A full listing of recent event participation, presentations and media coverage was included in the meeting documentation folder, for information.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Several Members expressed the view that consideration should be given to reducing the number of items on the agenda for future meetings in order to allow greater discussion time around key agenda items.

There being no other business the meeting ended.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.