

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	National Training Fund
Name of the instrument - English translation	National Training Fund
Scheme ID	109
Country	 Ireland
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Training fund
Sub-type of instrument	National level collection and national level distribution
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	Employers are obliged by law to contribute a fixed share of payroll (0.7%) to a training fund. The fund provides for expenditure on training for those seeking employment, training for persons in employment, literacy, and numeracy, training for those in the community and voluntary sector, and also provides funding for the identification of existing and future skills needs for the economy. Eligible costs are defined under the separate programmes funded through the National Training Fund.
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Level of operation	National
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	Not applicable
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable
Relevance	Key instrument
Legal basis	National Training Fund Act 2000
Objective(s) and target(s)	To support the training of those in employment and those who wish to take up employment. It also is used to provide funding of research into existing and future skills requirements of the economy.

Year of implementation	2000
Year of latest amendment	2019
Operation/management	The Department for Education and Skills assumed responsibility for the Fund in 2010. The fund provides for expenditure on training for those seeking employment, training for persons in employment, literacy and numeracy, training for those in the community and voluntary sector and also provides funding for the identification of existing and future skills needs for the economy.
Eligible group(s)	The fund provides for expenditure for those seeking employment, training for persons in employment, literacy and numeracy, training for those in the community and voluntary sector.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	No
Education and training eligible	Depending on the programme/initiative.
Source of financing and collection mechanism	The fund is mainly resourced by a compulsory levy on employers of 0.7% of reckonable earnings of employees in certain employment classes, which is collected through the PAYE/PRSI system.
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	Depending on the programme/initiative. Allocation: The department of Education and Skills decides training support policies and allocation of NTF funds to different agencies/programmes. Then, typically, a system of annual calls and competing proposals from companies/groups of companies is applied. It is also used to fund programmes such as Skillnets and MOMENTUM. Grants are allocated to companies which best meet pre-defined criteria (specified through top-down procedures).
Eligible costs	Eligible costs are defined under the separate programmes funded through the NTF.
Volumes of funding	Collected: 2017: EUR 431 000 000 2018: EUR 565 500 000 2019: EUR 684 824 000 Disbursed: 2017: EUR 357 111 518 2018: EUR 415 360 217 2019: EUR 485 590 000
Beneficiaries/take up	Total beneficiaries (all programmes) 2016: 206 131 2017: 177 090 2018: 185 688 NB: 2019 figures still incomplete in the 2019 report.
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	Department for Education and Skills (audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General).
Monitoring/evaluation reports available	Review of National Training Fund (2018), Indecon: https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2018-press-rele...
Most relevant webpage - in English	https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Corporate-Reports/Financial-Re...

Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Corporate-Reports/Financial-Re...
Recent changes	<p>2019. Responsibility for the National Training Fund was shifted from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to the Department of Education and Skills. A reconfiguration of government departments</p> <p>Recent changes in response to COVID-19</p> <p>No changes</p>
Sources	<p>http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2000/en/act/pub/0041/</p> <p>https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Corporate-Reports/Financial-Re...</p> <p>https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2018-press-rele...</p> <p>https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/national-tra...</p>