

Three Major Initiatives Launched for Modern Methods of Construction to address Labour Market Skills Needs, Housing Shortages and Progress Green Agenda

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 **IRELAND**

Timeline

2025 Implementation

ID number 51034

Background

The launch of three major initiatives in Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) during 2025 involving collaboration and partnership between three separate government departments demonstrates the role of Further Education and Training (FET) and other skills agencies in delivering upskilling and reskilling to meet the needs of the current and future labour market for sustainability, and its role is delivering wider government policies, such as housing.

The three different initiatives were

- (a) Publication of the MMC Action Plan.
- (b) Commencing construction of a MMC National Demonstration Park Centre of Excellence.
- (c) Launch of an online MMC learning platform.

Objectives

MMC Action Plan

This is a cross-government initiative detailing eight key themes of the plan:

- (a) senior management training;
- (b) information sharing;
- (c) new roles and labour retention;
- (d) use of digital and AI tools;
- (e) certification;
- (f) early learning engagement;
- (g) policy levers;
- (h) training provision.

The plan outlines also 58 targeted actions across those eight themes to scale up the

adoption of MMC.

The MMC Action Plan helps provide the skills needed to enable more widespread adoption of innovative construction methods. It aims to accelerate skills development, drive innovation, and support the transition to more efficient, sustainable construction. It is a key deliverable under the national strategy Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland, and supports Ireland's broader goals for housing, climate and regional growth.

MMC Demonstration Park

This is an additional facility to National Construction Training Campus, to serve as a dedicated centre for MMC techniques, immersive learning and support for the growing demand for MMC skills. This investment delivers the following actions detailed in the above MMC Action plan.

Action 9 Establish offsite regional knowledge sharing hubs for industry to showcase new technologies and collaborate to accelerate the adoption of offsite processes in Ireland

Action 19 Develop clear educational pathways to ensure skills developed by the onsite labour force can be transferred into offsite facilities

Action 34 Development of specific training courses/ modules and incorporating offsite manufacturing installation manuals for onsite erection and assembly, including MMC case studies and lessons learnt

It also indirectly delivers to other specific actions by increasing the capacity of the FET sector to deliver a wider range of MMC courses to a range of roles in the construction industry.

National online MMC learning platform

This initiative delivers on a range of actions outlined in the above action plan.

Description

MMC Action Plan

The MMC Action Plan was developed by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), in partnership with industry and education providers. It was launched jointly by the Ministers for DFHERIS, Housing, Heritage and Local Government, and Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, as well as the Minister of State for Further Education, Apprenticeship, Construction and Climate Skills, as a cross-government initiative.

MMC Demonstration Park

The formal commencement of construction of the Park was also held on the same day the above Ministers launched the MMC Action Plan. This is a cross government capital investment.

This joint capital investment adds a new dimension to the existing National Construction Training Campus, located in the midlands county of Offaly. The park will serve as a dedicated centre for MMC techniques, immersive learning and support for the growing demand for MMC skills delivered by Ireland's Further Education and Training (FET) sector.

The campus is managed by Laois Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB) and funded through SOLAS, the National Further Education and Training (FET) Agency.

National online platform

In May 2025, the national online platform, Skillnetmmcaccelerate.ie, was launched to help workers, learners, and employers access tailored training, education, and career pathways focused on modern methods of construction.

The Skillnet MMC Accelerate platform was developed by Skillnet Ireland in partnership with the Construction IT Alliance (CitA). It aims to empower Ireland's construction sector to meet its housing and infrastructure targets by fast-tracking the adoption of MMC. The platform is a dynamic tool that helps workers, learners, and employers access tailored training, education, and career pathways focused on MMC. The career pathways highlight in-demand roles in MMC and help workers find the right training for their needs. The platform identifies job roles within MMC job families outlining typical job roles and progression routes, making it easier for workers to identify upskilling opportunities.

2025 Implementation

The three different initiatives for MMC in 2025 were:

- (a) Publication of the MMC Action Plan.
- (b) Commencing construction of a MMC National Demonstration Park Centre of Excellence.
- (c) Launch of an online MMC learning platform.

Bodies responsible

- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
- Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
- Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government
- Laois Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB)
- Further Education and Training Authority (SOLAS)
- Skillnet Ireland

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Learners with disabilities
Adult learners
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons
Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)
National, regional and local authorities

Other

Other government departments

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Optimising VET funding

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats

Developing and updating learning resources and materials

Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting Centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs)

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for green transition and sustainability

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Major cross-government Modern Methods of Construction \(MMC\) initiative announced](#)

[Modern Methods of Construction Action Plan](#)

[Modern Methods of Construction \(MMC\) Demonstration Park - Mount Lucas National Construction Training Campus](#)

[Skillnet Ireland](#)

Related policy developments

2021 **Approved/Agreed**

Transforming Learning 2020-24: Ireland's National Further Education and Training Strategy

The FET strategy 2020–24 was developed in consultation with the FET sector and other key stakeholders. Consultation was wide-ranging and included bilateral meetings, regional workshops and a public call for submissions.

 IRELAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Three Major Initiatives Launched for Modern Methods of Construction to address Labour Market Skills Needs, Housing Shortages and Progress Green Agenda: Ireland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/51034>