

# Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence (AMTCE) Opens in Dundalk, Ireland's Border Region with Northern Ireland

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

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## Timeline

2025 **Completed**

ID number 51025

## Background

In March 2025, the new Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHEIRS) formally opened Louth Meath Education and Training Board's (LMETB) Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence (AMTCE), a centre of vocational excellence.

This investment delivers on Ireland's industry 4.0 strategy, the transition from knowledge-based to data-driven manufacturing operations. The AMTCE represents a significant step in delivering skills and capabilities for the current and future workforce.

The AMTCE is located in Dundalk, at the border with Northern Ireland, and therefore strategically located on the Dublin to Belfast transport corridor, a key economic driver that connects the two largest cities in the Island of Ireland.

The AMTCE is a state-of-the-art facility, requiring a total capital investment of EUR 26 million, the largest single capital project in the Further and Education and Training (FET) sector in its history and co-funded by DFHEIRS and Border Enterprise Development Fund (BEDF), administered by Enterprise Ireland. The BEDF funds projects to advance productivity and innovation in the border region.

## Objectives

The Government of Ireland's *Industry 4.0 Strategy 2020-2025* set out the supports for the digital transformation of the manufacturing sector and its supply chain, setting out the ambition that by 2025, Ireland will be a competitive, innovation-driven manufacturing hub of the fourth (4.0) industrial development and adoption. The role of the FET sector is aligned in the particular goal of the strategy to:

*Facilitate the current and future workforce to develop the skills to deliver the Industry 4.0 transformation and exploit the new opportunities arising in manufacturing and supply chain firms through Industry 4.0 technology*

The national FET strategy also states a key priority of the FET sector to serve as a resource for enterprise and its employees.

## Description

The AMTCE is part of LMETB's FET provision as a centre of excellence, delivering a range of learning options with world class facilities for Industry 4.0 standard, funded by SOLAS as the national agency for FET.

The Centre delivers both full awards and micro qualifications to the employed and jobseekers in Robotics and Collaborative Robotics, Advanced Construction Technologies, Additive Manufacturing and 3D Printing, Cybersecurity, ICT Innovations, Manufacturing Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing for Pharma, Med Tec, Bio Pharma, Food and Beverage industries, and Operational Optimisation.

There are also apprenticeship options.

After opening in March, in July 2025, the AMTCE hosted the launch of a research report, *Identification and Analysis of the Advanced and Sustainable Manufacturing Future Skills on the Island of Ireland*. This event was attended by the Minister of State for Further Education, Apprenticeship, Construction and Climate Skills and the Minister for the Economy in Northern Ireland. This research report was a collaboration between LMETB's AMTCE, Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR) and Queen's University Belfast, Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC), funded by Intertrade Ireland, a Northern Ireland enterprise agency, funded by the Northern Ireland government.

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The formal opening of the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence increases the capacity and capability of the FET sector to train, upskill and reskill the current and future workforce to meet the fast paced technologies of manufacturing and logistics industries.

## Bodies responsible

- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
- Enterprise Ireland
- Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)
- Further Education and Training Authority (SOLAS)

## 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)

### Education professionals

Trainers  
Guidance practitioners

### **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**

Higher Education

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Coordinating VET and other policies  
Optimising VET funding  
Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET  
Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

### **Modernising VET infrastructure**

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training  
Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses  
Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8  
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  
Acquiring key competences  
Integrating digital skills and competences 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**

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

### **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

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

## European and international dimensions of VET

European vocational core profiles

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Minister officially opens EUR26 million Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence in Dundalk](#)

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[National Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence - AMTCE](#)

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[Enterprise Ireland: Opening of Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence in Dundalk](#)

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[Ireland's Industry 4.0 Strategy 2020-2025](#)

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[Future FET: Transforming Learning The National Further Education and Training \(FET\) Strategy 2020-2024](#)

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[Border Enterprise Development Fund \(BEDF\)](#)

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[2025 Research Report: Identification and Analysis of the Advanced and Sustainable Manufacturing Future Skills on the Island of Ireland](#)

## Related policy developments

**2025 Completed**

### **The National Skills Council (NSC): new partnerships and first strategic advice to government, following OCED Report on Ireland's Skills Strategy**

A review was conducted in partnership with the OECD. The review concentrated on four areas:

- balance in skills;
- lifelong learning;
- innovation;
- governance.

The report identified four priorities:

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#### **Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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## 2025 Implementation

### Further Education and Training (VET) Funding Model Review

The process of review started in 2019 with the agreement on the guiding principles and approach. An international expert panel was appointed, with an internal funding model review advisory group and data modelling working group established to support the panel's work.

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#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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## 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.

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#### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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#### “ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence (AMTCE) Opens in Dundalk, Ireland's Border Region with Northern Ireland: 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/51025>