

Registration Form

To reserve your place please contact Sheena Stewart at 01-6070526 or sheena.stewart@fas.ie or complete and return this form to:

Sheena Stewart
Planning & Research
FÁS
27-33 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin 4

Name:

Title:

Organisation:

Contact Number:

Email:

There is no fee for attendance at this conference.

Background on speakers

■ Pete Lunn

Dr. Pete Lunn is an economist with over 15 years professional experience in academia and journalism. He has a B.A. in Psychology, Physiology and Philosophy, a Ph.D. in Neuroscience, and an M.Sc. in Economics. Dr. Lunn joined the ESRI in March 2006 after a period as a national journalist specialising in science and economics, first for the BBC, where he was Assistant Editor of Newsnight, and then as founding Editor of NewsTalk 106-108 in Ireland.

■ Rody Molloy

Rody Molloy has been Director General of FÁS – the National Training and Employment Authority since October, 2000. He has a Masters Degree in Public Management from Trinity College, Dublin.

Prior to his appointment to FÁS, Rody had been a career civil servant since 1973, serving in the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Industry and Commerce, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Industry and Commerce and the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.

■ Anne Heraty

Anne Heraty is Chairperson of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and Chief Executive of CPL Resources plc. A publicly quoted company, CPL provides recruitment and outsourcing services across a range of disciplines and sectors. Anne holds a BA degree in Mathematics and Economics from University College Dublin. Anne is a Board Member of Forfás, a Non-Executive Director of Bord na Móna and was the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006.

FÁS – Training & Employment Authority

27-33 Upper Baggot Street, Dublin 4, Ireland
Telephone +353 (0)1 607 0500
Fax +353 (0)1 607 0600

For more information visit www.fas.ie or e-mail info@fas.ie

Future Skills Needs

Comparing International Perspectives

October 23rd 2007

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
No. 6, Kildare Street, Dublin 2



Funded by the Irish Government and part financed by the European Union under the National Development Plan



Conference Programme

Chair: Ms Anne Heraty, Chairperson, Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN)

- 8.30** Registration
- 9.00** Welcome – Mr Rody Molloy, Director General, FÁS
- 9.05** Opening Address – Mr Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- 9.15** ‘Tough Choices, Tough Times’; Marc Tucker, National Centre on Education and the Economy, USA.
- 10.15** ‘The Leitch Report’; Andy Westwood, Special Advisor, UK.
- 11.00** COFFEE
- 11.30** ‘The National Skills Strategy’; Martin Shanahan, EGFSN
- 12.00** ‘Comparing the Three Approaches – Points for Reflection’, Pete Lunn, ESRI.
- 12.15** ‘Challenges for Ireland’, Rody Molloy, FÁS
- 12.30** Open Discussion
- 1.00** LUNCH

Conference Outline

Future Skill Needs Comparing International Perspectives

The task of meeting future skills needs has become a common theme across all advanced economies. It is now widely acknowledged that in the absence of clear strategies, developed countries are in danger of experiencing significant skills deficiencies in the future that will hamper competitiveness and inward investment. Faced with this challenge, policy makers worldwide have been responding to ensure that their countries will be in a position to meet the increased demand for skilled workers. In Ireland’s case, an important step in this regard was taken in March with the publication of ‘Tomorrow’s Skills: Towards a National Skills Strategy’. The report sets out the challenges that we face in establishing a competitive skills advantage.

Internationally, countries have been engaged in similar forward-looking exercises. FAS believes that it is important for Irish policy-makers to be aware of this international research and to consider and reflect upon its relevance to the Irish context.

Hence, the aim of this conference is to learn from current international practice in skills strategy formulation in order to inform the Irish approach. In particular, the conference will consider the lessons for Ireland from forward-looking strategies recently developed in the US and the UK.

Marc Tucker, President of the National Centre for Education and the Economy, will present the US report ‘Tough Choices, Tough Times’ which outlines the skills challenges in order for the US to be successful in the future and includes radical proposals for the US education system. Andy Westwood will present the Leitch Report’s findings on skill needs and policy responses in the UK including the returns on investments in skills. The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs National Skills Strategy report will be presented by Martin Shanahan, Head of the Secretariat of the EGFSN.

Responses to these reports will be given by Pete Lunn of the ESRI and Rody Molloy of FÁS. The event will be chaired by Anne Heraty, the Chair of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs.

Background on speakers

■ Marc S. Tucker

Marc S. Tucker is President of the National Center on Education and the Economy, a leader in the movement for standards-based school reform in the United States. Mr. Tucker authored the Carnegie Report, ‘A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century’, created the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce and co-authored its report, ‘America’s Choice: High Skills Or Low Wages!’ which helped to launch the standards movement in the United States. He created the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, authored its 2006 report, ‘Tough Choices, Tough Times’, and serves as co-chair of the programme to implement the recommendations made in the report.

■ Andy Westwood

Andy Westwood was a member of the Leitch Review team and is now Special Adviser to the new Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills in the UK. Previously, Andy was a Director at the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion and a Research Fellow at the Work Foundation (formerly the Industrial Society). Andy has also worked for the Department for Education and Employment, the Employment Policy Institute and in further education.

Recent publications include ‘Broad Work’ (with Max Nathan), ‘Are We Being Served?’ ‘Manchester: Ideopolis?’ and ‘Is New Work Good Work?’ Andy has been a regular commentator in the press and on TV/radio with a regular spot on BBC Radio 5 Live.

■ Martin Shanahan

Martin Shanahan is Head of Human Capital and Labour Market Policy at Forfás and has managed the work of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs since February 2005. He was responsible for the National Skills Strategy report published earlier this year. Martin previously worked with Fáilte Ireland - the National Tourism Development Authority and CERT - the State Tourism Training Agency. Prior to this, Martin held senior management posts in private industry. Martin holds degrees in Management from DIT and Trinity College, Dublin.

You are invited to

The FÁS Skills Strategy Conference

Future Skills Needs

Comparing International
Perspectives

On Tuesday October 23rd 2007

At the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland,
No. 6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2