Workshop 2:

VET for labour market integration and social inclusion
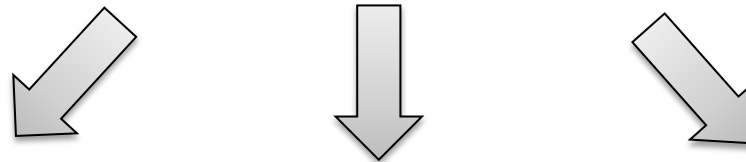
1 July 2020, 10:50 – 12:20

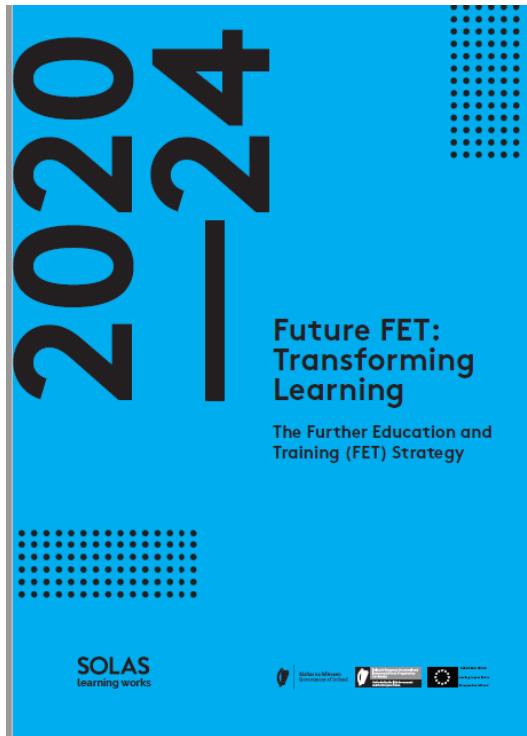## Mary Lyons, Director, SOLAS National Innovation

Who we are?

SOLAS - The Further Education and Training Authority - is a state agency in Ireland established on October 27, 2013

SOLAS funds the Education & Training Boards (ETBs) and other bodies engaged in the provision of further education and training programmes

Other functions include planning, coordination, research and monitoring of further education and training provision
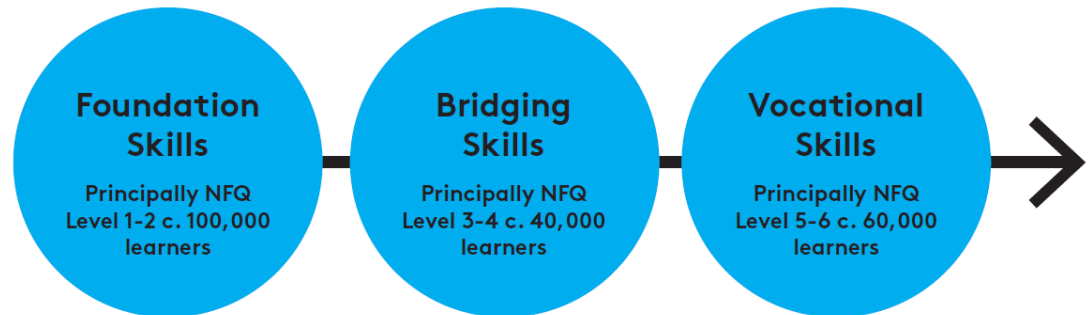
This is FET

SOLAS learning works

2020 | 2024

Future FET: Transforming Learning

The Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy

SOLAS learning works

Serving around **200,000** unique learners each year - both employed and unemployed

A continuum of learning opportunities from Level 1 to Level 6 of the National Framework of Qualifications

FET by Broad Type of Provision

Foundation Skills

Principally NFQ Level 1-2 c. 100,000 learners

Bridging Skills

Principally NFQ Level 3-4 c. 40,000 learners

Vocational Skills

Principally NFQ Level 5-6 c. 60,000 learners

Focus on upskilling and reskilling employees in low skilled work from 2019

SOLAS learning works

2018-2021 FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT

Background Paper

September 2018

Employees whose skills level are below Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, in jobs with a low skill requirement, 50+ years, in sectors/occupations at risk of economic displacement

SMEs and other organisations with limited capacity to identify and meet skills development needs of their employees

Industry sectors with particular skills needs, arising from emerging opportunities or as a result of economic vulnerabilities

SOLAS
learning works

ecollege

eCollege is a fully online learning service funded by SOLAS. It provides flexible online learning opportunities aligned to industry recognised certifications, coupled with online tutor support

Online

eCollege is online 24/7

Learners can study at a time and place that suits them

eTutor supported

All courses have eTutor support Monday to Friday

Learners can also use practice labs, practice tests and ebooks to support course learning

Certified

All courses result in industry certification from Microsoft to Adobe and many more

Generally equivalent to Level 5 & 6 NFQ qualifications
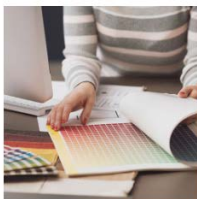
eCollege offer

Digital Improvement
Suitable for those building on basic digital skills

International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL)
Office Productivity

Digital Command
Suitable for those looking to gain in-depth skills for specific software packages or business skills

Graphic Design and Illustration using Adobe Illustrator
Web and Graphic Design

Print and Digital Media Publication using Adobe InDesign
Web and Graphic Design

Project Management Certified Associate
Business

Microsoft Access
Office Productivity
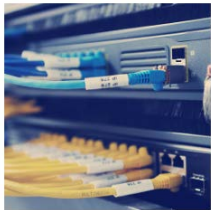
Microsoft Excel
Office Productivity

Certified Digital Marketing Professional
Web and Graphic Design

PRINCE2® Foundation
Business

Digital Specialisation
Suitable for those looking to gain specialist, professional skills

CompTIA Network+
IT Professional

Introduction to Programming using JavaScript
Computer Programming

Introduction to Programming using Python
Computer Programming

Java Foundations Certified Junior Associate
Computer Programming
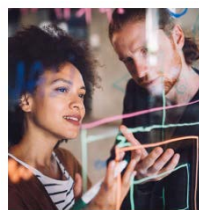
Java SE 8 Programmer I
Computer Programming

Java SE 8 Programmer II
Computer Programming

Software Testing – ISTQB Certified Tester – Foundation Level
Computer Programming

Windows Operating Systems Fundamentals
IT Professional

Changing Career to the IT Sector
IT Professional

Acceleration of Innovation in upskilling & reskilling options as a result of Covid-19 emergency

On March 22nd 2020 eCollege opened up free of charge to those affected by Covid-19:
- Short-time working
- Recently unemployed

ecollege

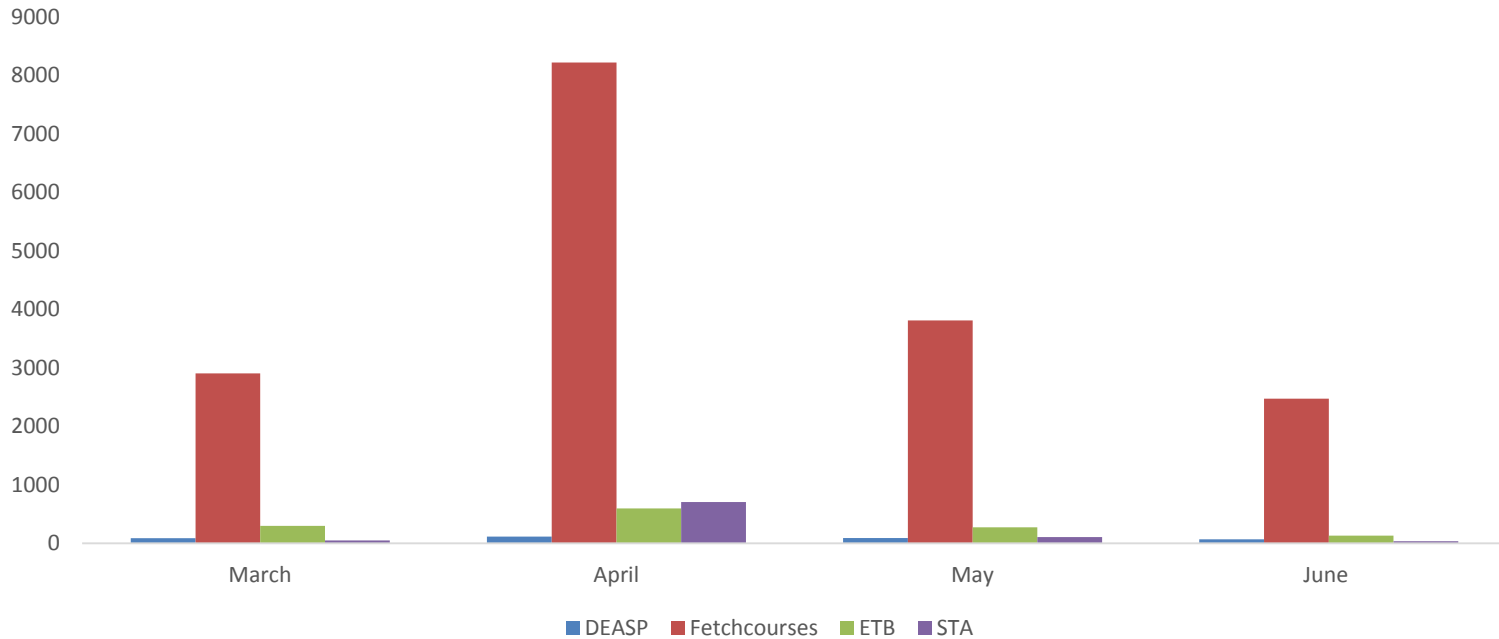| Application process streamlined ✔ |
| Contracts with suppliers renegotiated ✔ |
| Additional funding obtained ✔ |
| Targeted promotional campaign activated ✔ |

eCollege learners – what is the demand?

Summary of eCollege referrals by origin 24th March 2020 to 28th June 2020

eCollege enrollments in **3 months** from 24/03/20 to 28/06/20 equals **19,948 (**typically 12,000 learners per annum)
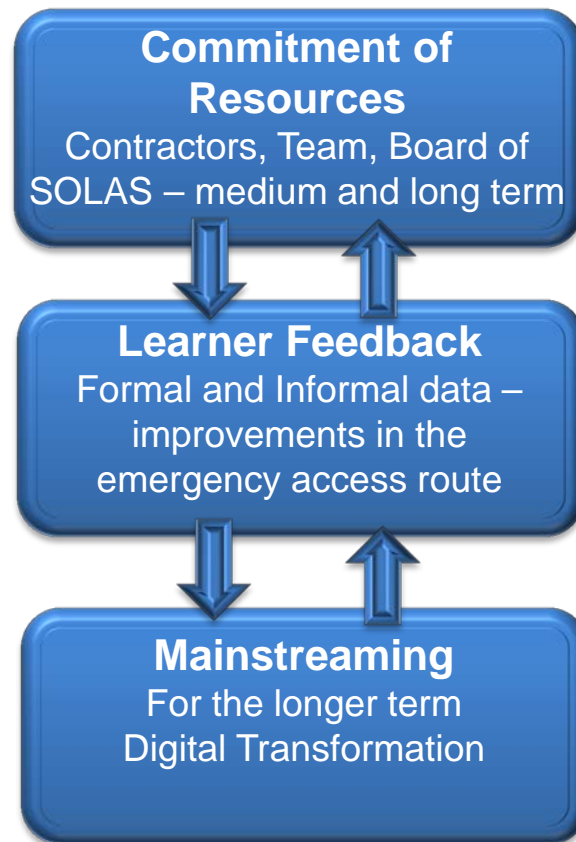
Most in demand courses % of Total

ECDL	-	22%
Project Management (Prince2 & PMBOK)	-	19%
Microsoft Excel (Specialist/Expert)	-	15%

Success Factors

What?

Strategic Plan
Make eCollege courses more widely available

↓

Targeted
To those who could most benefit – highly motivated

↓

Timing
Took immediate action

How?

Commitment of Resources
Contractors, Team, Board of SOLAS – medium and long term

↓ ↑

Learner Feedback
Formal and Informal data – improvements in the emergency access route

↓ ↑

Mainstreaming
For the longer term
Digital Transformation

ecollege

Digital Transformation

Technology will be a key enabler to ensure that #FutureFET meets our current and future learners needs and expectations

By leveraging technology we envisage a FET system that is:

Accessible (ease of use) at a time and pace that suits learners

Proactive re. learner needs

Strategically funded to meet the learners needs

Efficiently leveraging technology to support delivery