



Changes in the Further Education Landscape

Presentation to the Principals and Deputy Principals
Association (PDA)

Thursday 15th November 2012

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Task Ahead

- *"What we are involved in is the most far-reaching and fundamental reform of the further education and training sector the country has seen. It is a gargantuan task in change management that requires the co-operation, willingness and enthusiasm of everybody involved in further education and training. ..."*

Minister Ciarán Cannon: in the Dáil , 23 February 2012



Changes in Further Education

Establishment of SOLAS

Establishment of Local Education & Training Boards (ETBs)

Establishment of Intreo

Aggregation of HETAC/FETAC and NQAI into Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

New procedures on assessment and validation of programmes



Further Education Sector must:

- provide value for money;
- are as effective as possible in improving the knowledge, skills and competencies of those in employment - changes in technology, business processes and markets make the shelf life of current skills significantly shorter;
- provide access and progression opportunities for those who wish to progress to third level education;
- assist unemployed people to acquire the skills needed to access and progress to further employment, training or education opportunities.

Solas

- SOLAS will be the new National Further Education & Training Authority (similar to HEA)
- Will replace FAS
- Will operate under the Department of Education & Skills
- Will co-ordinate and fund adult education and training programmes nationally (including PLCs)
- SOLAS Implementation Group set up to address how best to integrate FET services at local level
- Transformation Groups established



Education and Training Boards

- Number of VECs is being reduced from 33 to 16
- Headquarters of each ETB has been designated
- CEO designates announced
- No staffing structure published
- Education and Training Board Bill published
- Wider remit for ETBs compared with VECs
- VEC Adult Education Services and Fás Training Services locally will integrate to form a separate pillar of educational provision, with a focus on learners and jobseekers



Intreo

- FÁS Employment Services is now integrated into Department of Social Protection
- Interim protocols established with VECs pending the establishment of the ETBs
- Intreo will link with the ETBs re student referral



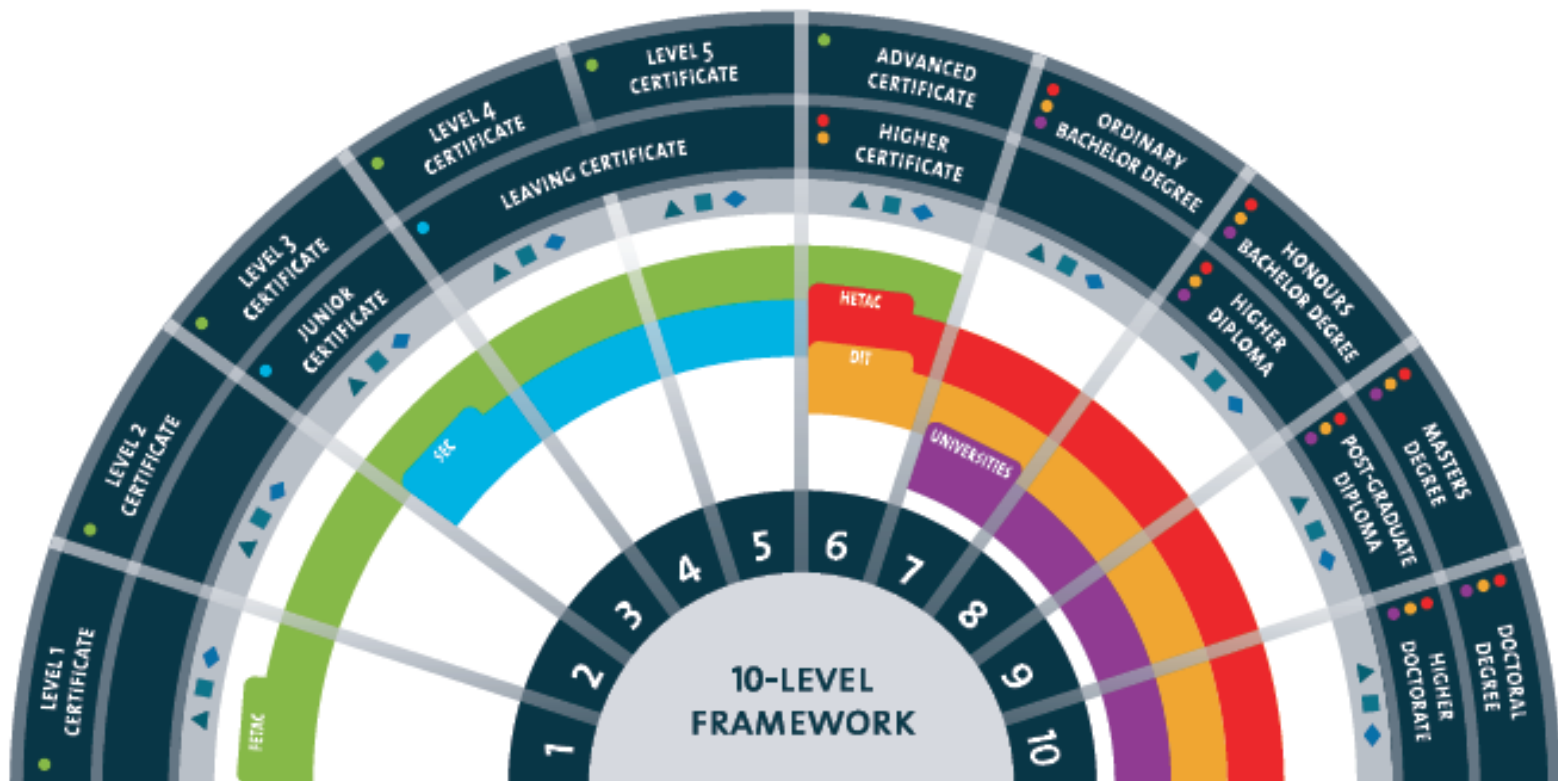
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

Quality and Qualifications Ireland was established on 6 November 2012 under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012. The new Authority is being created by an amalgamation of four bodies that have both awarding and quality assurance responsibilities: the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC), HETAC, NQAI and IUQB. The new Authority will assume all the functions of the four legacy bodies while also having responsibility for new or newly-statutory responsibilities in particular areas.

These significant changes to the FET sector will have some expected key impacts

- A clearer focus on the needs of learners and job seekers.
- Greater focus on skills provision for occupations in growth areas like the services, ICT, medical devices, food, and bio-pharma sectors.
- With the support of other bodies, SOLAS will analyse demand for future FET provision and respond to emergent skills needs.
- Online and blended provision of FET courses will be expanded in keeping with the current digital age.

National Framework of Qualifications





Quality Assurance

- All providers offering FETAC awards are required to have a Quality Assurance Agreement system agreed by FETAC. To do this a provider has to demonstrate its capacity to monitor, evaluate and improve the quality of programmes and services it offers to learners.

Validation

- Every programme leading to a common award must be validated by FETAC prior to commencing. Only registered providers, who have agreed quality assurance systems with FETAC may submit programmes for validation. Validation is the process by which FETAC evaluates a programme before it is delivered. Programme Approval Agreement in place for VECs.



Monitoring and Evaluation

- FETAC monitors and evaluates programmes. Information is gathered on providers' programmes, services and the quality assurance systems which support them. Based on this quality assurance and validation may be reviewed.



FETAC New Assessment Arrangements

- Assessment by Teacher
- Internal Verification
- External Authentication
- Results Approval Board
- Appeals Process
- Certification



The Assessor (The Teacher)

- Must comply with assessment policies, processes and procedures
- devise assessment instruments, marking schemes and assessment criteria
- assess and judge learner evidence
- record outcome



Internal Verifier (The FETAC/PLC Co-ordinator)

a) Verifies that all assessment procedures have been applied

b) monitors the outcome of the Assessment Process i.e. the assessment results on a sample basis



External Authenticator

- An external authenticator visits Centre and authenticates per award based on broad award/field of learning expertise
- external authenticator to moderate assessment results by sampling learner evidence according to the providers own sampling strategy



Results Approval Board

- approve and sign-off assessment results
- make results available to learners



Appeals Process

- advise learners of Appeals Process
- allow a minimum of 14 days for learners to lodge an appeal of the assessment process or result
- process all appeals



Request for Certification

- submit all learner results to FETAC
- when doing so, flag results under appeal

FETAC KEY Dates 2013

(May/June Certification)

- 12th June 2013 –Final submission date for the May/June Certification Period. All authenticated results must be submitted, learners appeals flagged and the declaration completed.
- 16th June 2013 – Final Statement of Results available to download.
- 15th July –FETAC will issue certificates to all Centres for June certification period.



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