Minutes of Meeting No. 65 of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs
23rd September 2015 at 1.30p.m. in Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street

Present
Una Halligan Chair
Marie Bourke Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
William Parnell Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Inez Bailey NALA
Tom Boland HEA
John Burke Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (present for items 5.2 - 7)
Liz Carroll ISME
Ned Costello Irish Universities Association
Margaret Cox I.C.E. Group
Bill Doherty Cook Medical
Tony Donohoe IBEC
Bryan Fields SOLAS
Declan Hughes Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Brendan McDonagh IDA Ireland (in place of Ray Bowe)
Colm Mac Fhionnlaoich Enterprise Ireland
Frank Mulvihill Former President IGC
Brendan Murphy CIT
Alan Nuzum Skillnets
Peter Rigney ICTU

Apologies
Deirdre McDonnell Department of Education & Skills

Not Present
Joe Hogan Openet

In Attendance
Gerard Walker Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Aisling Penrose Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Alan Power Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Catherine MacEnri Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (present for items 5.2 - 7)
John McGrath SLMRU, SOLAS
Jasmina Behan SLMRU, SOLAS
Ivica Milicevic SLMRU, SOLAS

1. Minutes of EGFSN Meeting Number 64
The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17th June 2015, were approved.

2. Matters Arising
The HEA undertook to revert to the group in relation to the capacity of HEIs to provide additional places on ICT courses, as discussed at the June meeting.

3. Chairperson’s Report
Membership Changes
- William Parnell, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, has replaced Marie Bourke in the role of Head of Secretariat to the EGFSN.
- Alan Nuzum is resigning from the EGFSN as he is departing his role as CEO of Skillnets.
- Mary-Liz Trant has left the HEA to take up a position with SOLAS. A replacement will be assigned by the HEA.

Publications Since Last Meeting
- Monitoring Ireland’s Skills Supply 2015 (23 July 2015)
Meeting with Minister Bruton
- The Chairperson met with Minister Bruton on 20th July to discuss the work of the EGFSN including:
  - An overview of the key skills in demand and occupations and areas of skills shortages.
  - Progress on gaps in supply and demand particularly in relation to Data Analytics and ICT skills.
  - Graduate trends and progression to employment in STEM fields.

Progressing skills issues/implementation
- Financial Services Strategy - The first meeting of the International Financial Services Education & Skills Liaison Group, which the EGFSN will participate on, through the Secretariat, will take place on 30th September.
- BioPharma Skills - The EGFSN Secretariat presented on skills issues at a meeting held on 6th July hosted by PharaChem Ireland & IDA.

Work Programme for 2016
- A discussion on the work programme for 2016 will take place at the December meeting. Members are requested to consider any important skills issues for inclusion in the work programme and to provide input to the Secretariat in advance of the meeting.
- The Springboard 2016 Guidance document is being prepared. Any skills areas which Members feel should be incorporated into the guidance document should be supplied to the EGFSN Secretariat.

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015
The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 commenced on 1 September 2015, the objective of which is to make any lobbying activity more transparent. The Secretariat has been advised that the EGFSN is exempt from registering under the Lobbying Act, but should operate in accordance with the Transparency Code set out in the Act which entails the publication on the website of: the list of members, the Terms of Reference, minutes of meetings and agendas.

4. Items for Approval

4.1 Hospitality Skills final report
The Secretariat presented an overview of the key findings and recommendations in the report and sought approval to proceed to publication.

**Action: The report was approved to proceed to publication, subject to final textual changes.**

4.2 Regional Labour Markets Bulletin 2015
The Secretariat presented an overview of the report’s main findings and sought approval to proceed to publication.

**Action: The report was approved to proceed to publication.**

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 National Skills Bulletin 2015: Response to Issues Identified
The objective of this briefing document is to summarise skills shortages identified in the National Skills Bulletin 2015 and to identify potential policy responses issues. The Secretariat provided an overview of the key issues identified in the report.

**Action: The findings of the report were discussed and noted by the Group.**
5.2 **EGFSN Input to National Skills Strategy**  
The Secretariat presented on drivers of change impacting on skills and talent requirements and on Lifelong Learning practices in high performing countries. The two pieces of work will form the basis of inputs to DES in the development of the new National Skills Strategy.

**Action:** The two items presented on will form the basis of inputs to DES for the development of the new National Skills Strategy.

5.3 **Data Analytics Implementation**  
The Secretariat circulated, at the meeting, an update of responses received from organisations responsible for delivering the recommendations set out in the EGFSN’s Data Analytics Skills report from 2014. Overall, good progress has been made in relation to a number of the areas of recommendation.

**Action:** It was agreed that circulation of the report be undertaken to key stakeholders responsible for driving implementation of the recommendations.

5.4 **Labour Market Infographics**  
The Secretariat gave a presentation on proposed infographics on skills shortages in specific sectors, based on data contained in the National Skills Bulletin.

**Action:** It was agreed to proceed with exploring the feasibility of producing the infographics.

5.5 **Regional Skills Fora**  
The Department of Education and Skills presented an overview of the structures in place at regional level and the objectives of the Regional Skills Fora. The aim is to make the education and training system more responsive to local employer needs, and to provide an improved platform for dialogue between industry and the education and training system. There are currently 6 regional project plans in place, and it is envisaged that by year end this will increase to 8 regions. It is proposed to bring together all the regional fora later in the year in order to identify issues and objectives common across all regions.

6. **Documents for Noting**

The following documents were circulated for noting:

6.1 **EGFSN Communications Schedule**  
A full listing of recent event participation, presentations and media coverage was included in the meeting documentation folder, for information.

7. **Any Other Business**

Several Members expressed the view that consideration should be given to reducing the number of items on the agenda for future meetings in order to allow greater discussion time around key agenda items.

There being no other business the meeting ended.

**Date of Next Meeting**  
The next meeting will take place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2015.