

Annex C: Sources on Vacancies, Skill Shortages, Labour Shortages Gaps and Utilisation of Skills

Ireland

- **FÁS/EGFSN National Skills Bulletin** – the National Skills Bulletin 2007 by FÁS/the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) covers analysis of the following labour market and skills themes: employment and occupational trends; employment permits issued to non-EU nationals by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; information on difficulties in filling positions from the monthly FÁS/ESRI Vacancy Survey; movements in the number of vacancies advertised through FÁS, the Irish Times and Irishjobs.ie; and estimation of the supply emerging from the Irish education and training system. By synthesizing all of the above information, the bulletin comments on the balance between the demand and supply for each occupation and recent and current skill shortages defined in terms of their characteristics.
- **FÁS vacancy data** – the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) of FÁS collects vacancy data from various sources. These include vacancies notified to FÁS, the Irish Times and Irishjobs.ie. FÁS, in conjunction with the ESRI, also carries out a monthly survey of employers on difficult to fill vacancies. As these data sources are available on a monthly basis, they can provide up-to-date information on the current demand for skills. It is important to note that a duplication issue arises when examining vacancy data: the same vacancy may reappear in the same vacancy stock and/or can be advertised simultaneously through various sources.

Northern Ireland

- **NI Skills Monitoring Survey** – the NI Skills Monitoring Survey 2005 was designed to provide a comprehensive snapshot of current skill needs of NI employers in the non-agricultural sectors. The survey provides an overview of issues connected with skill shortages, skill gaps and training, from an employer’s perspective. Of particular interest are those areas where recruitment difficulties are related to external skill shortages and therefore subject to a ‘skills’ solution.

- **Skills at Work in NI** – the ‘Skills at Work in NI 2006’ report presents evidence on work skills in NI, on which hitherto evidence was lacking, drawn from data collected for the 2006 UK Skills Survey¹⁷. The survey’s aim was to gather information on the skills used at work via questions directed at workers themselves.
- **DEL vacancy data** – vacancies recorded by DEL are those vacancies notified to Jobcentres/Jobs & Benefits offices. The figures do not represent the total unsatisfied demand for staff by employers within NI but are only those vacancies notified by employers to DEL. Employers may subsequently amend the original amount by adding or cancelling vacancies. The reported statistics do not take into account such amendments. DEL vacancy figures should be broadly comparable to the vacancy data collected by the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) of FÁS.

¹⁷ The 2006 Skills Survey is a survey of jobs, where the main features of the jobs are reported by the individuals themselves who carry them out. It is supported by a consortium formed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and several government agencies: the Department for Education and Skills, the Department for Trade and Industry, the Learning and Skills Council, the Sector Skills Development Agency, Scottish Enterprise and Future Skills Wales. This consortium is supplemented by the East Midlands Development Agency, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Department for Employment and Learning (Northern Ireland) who have funded additional regional samples. The Department for Employment and Learning supported funding for a target of 500 interviews within Northern Ireland.