

**Draft Minutes of Meeting No. 91
of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs
21st July 2022 – MS Teams**

Present:	Tony Donohoe	Chair
	William Beausang	DFHERIS
	Helen McMahon	EI
	Breda O'Toole	IDA
	Aisling Soden	IDA
	Vivienne Patterson	HEA
	Shauna Dunlop	SOLAS
	Joan McNaboe	SOLAS
	Marcus Breathnach	DETE
	Laura Bambrick	ICTU
	Stephanie O'Brien	DFHERIS
	Emma Kinsella	DFHERIS
	Noel Martin	DFHERIS
	James Maher	DFHERIS

Apologies:	David Hegarty	DETE
	Jonathan McMillan	EI

Secretariat:	Don O'Connor	DETE
	Alan Power	DETE
	Rhodri Lloyd	DETE
	Harry Williamson	DETE
	Jesse Carley	DETE

1. Introductions, Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The publication of the AI Skills report was welcomed by the Chair, who thanked the EGFSN team for its hard work.

2. ICT Skills

The Chair invited Alan Power and Harry Williamson to present the first interim report on ICT skills demand indicators.

Alan provided the context for the report, explaining how previous EGFSN reports predicted increased demand for high-level ICT skills across all sectors, as the digital transformation of the economy is accelerated. Education and training need to be responsive to changing skills needs, and more granular and specific insights are required in order to achieve this. The outputs of the study could take the form of an annual report and skills ‘dashboard’ designed to support a responsive skills provision system.

Harry then provided an insight into the methodology of the study and sample outputs produced to date. Using data from a variety of sources such as CEDAFOP and the DETE Employment Permits section, it is possible to see trends in demand for high-level ICT roles across sectors.

The Chair thanked Alan and Harry for their presentation and opened the discussion.

The group expressed interest in the data that have been compiled and engaged in a discussion of how best to present the data for maximum utility in policy formation. The focus should be on granularity and timeliness. While there are many different factors to be considered, it is crucial to avoid overloading this pilot project with complexity.

The Chair asked the team to take the group’s comments on board and come to the next meeting with a sample dashboard of potentially helpful indicators derived from this experimental work to date.

3. OECD Skills Strategy Ireland

The Chair invited Emma Kinsella to give a presentation on the progress of the review, and introduced the topic of the EGFSN’s position in the new architecture for discussion.

The question of implementation phases of EGFSN reports was raised, and whether this is the best use of the group’s resources. It was agreed that the data provided by EGFSN reports forms a core part of the skills system, and that there is a need to ensure that this data is used in a manner that will have the greatest impact. The question of balance between sectoral studies and more “cross-cutting” approaches was discussed. This links to a general issue in enterprise policy and EGFSN work programme in future years will need to take into account any general shift in thinking on this including in the forthcoming White Paper on Enterprise. The need to include service jobs which support high-level occupations in future reports was also raised.

The discussion also raised the issue of career guidance, both initial and lifelong. A national guidance portal has been suggested to address needs at all stages of the individual’s career planning.

The Chair thanked the participants for the discussion. It was proposed that a dedicated (in-person) workshop should take place later in the year to reflect further on the different types of labour market intelligence being produced, including by EGFSN.

4. Biopharma Skills Update

Don O’Connor provided a brief update on this report, which aims to forecast skills needs for the BioPharmaChem sector over the period to 2027. Cruinn Advisory Ltd have been hired to carry out the study, and the project will include expert interviews, regional workshops and data analysis

It was noted that it is a particularly important goal with this project to produce granular results that will be most helpful to DFHERIS and those within the skills provision system.

5. International Financial Services Update

Don O'Connor provided a brief update on this study, which has just issued its Request for Tender and established its steering group.

The project aims to identify 6-7 high-potential sub-sectors within IFS and identify any potential skill gaps out to 2027. The project will kick-off in September with a view to completing in Q1 2023

6. Annual Activity Statement 2021

The draft Annual Activity Statement was presented to the group. The Chair invited members to provide feedback by June 30th.

7. AOB

The Chair thanked the members and concluded the meeting.

EGFSN Secretariat

August 2022