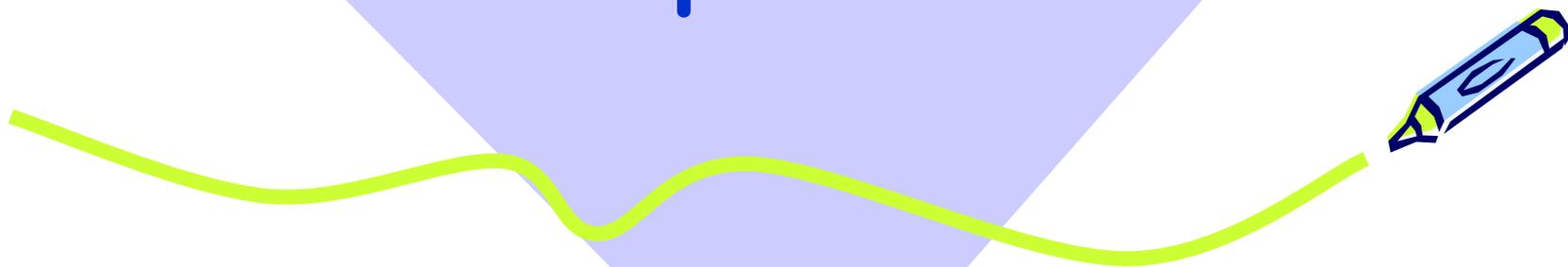
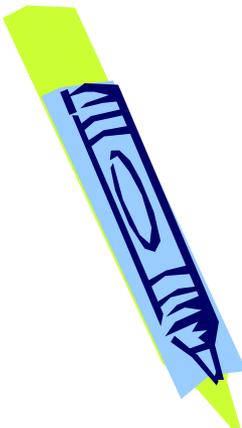


Leonardo da Vinci
Partnership
23rd April 2012

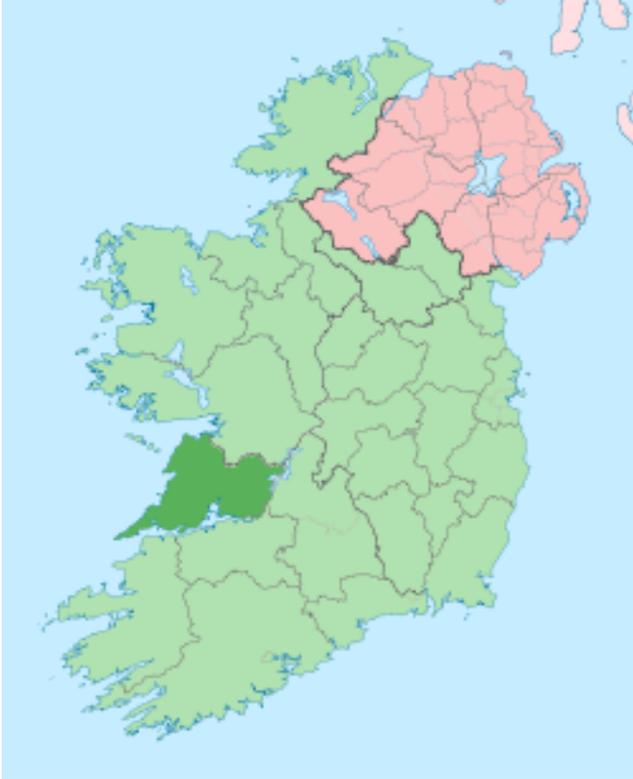


Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Service

- Overview of Co. Clare
- Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Service Overview
- Current Context: Role of VET
- Recurring Themes in Adult Education & Training Environment
- Few final words on change



Co. Clare



Total area of 3,400 square kilometres (1,300 sq mi).

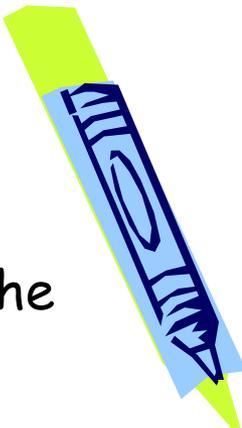
7th largest of Ireland's 32 traditional counties in area and the 19th largest in terms of population.

The Banner County



Facts

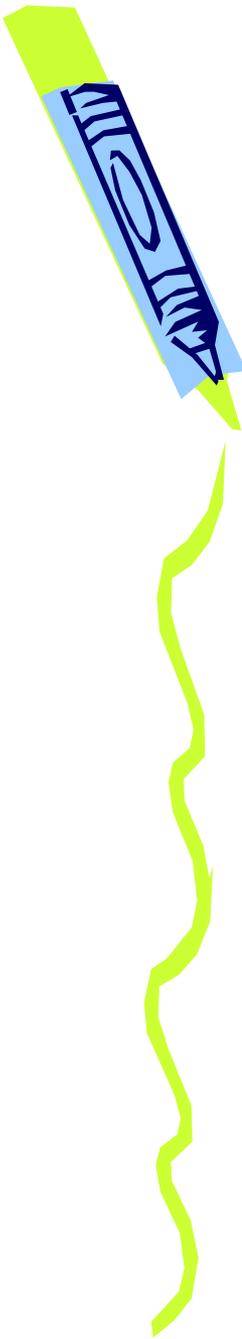
- The population of Clare accounted for 116,885 people at the most recent census in 2011. (58,134 males and 58,751 females).
- The main urban areas are Ennis with a population of 24,253 and Shannon with 9,222.
- The demographic profile for Clare in general is fairly young: 22% are under age 14, while 12% are over 65, compared to the national average of 20% and 11%, respectively.
- The vast majority of the population are native Irish people, accounting for 86%; immigration to Clare is relatively low compared to places with larger urban areas in Ireland such as Dublin for example.
 - Most immigrants are Europeans totalling an additional 7,520; there is also a small African minority of 1,124 people while other groups are very small in number.



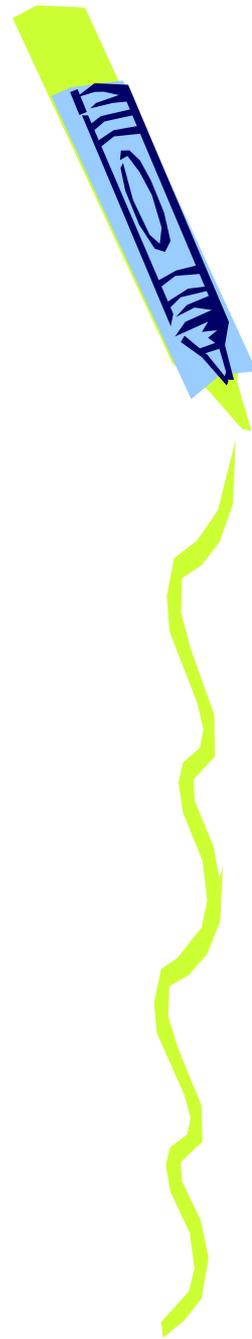
Demographics

Persons on Live Register (Number) by Social Welfare Office, Sex, Age Group and Month

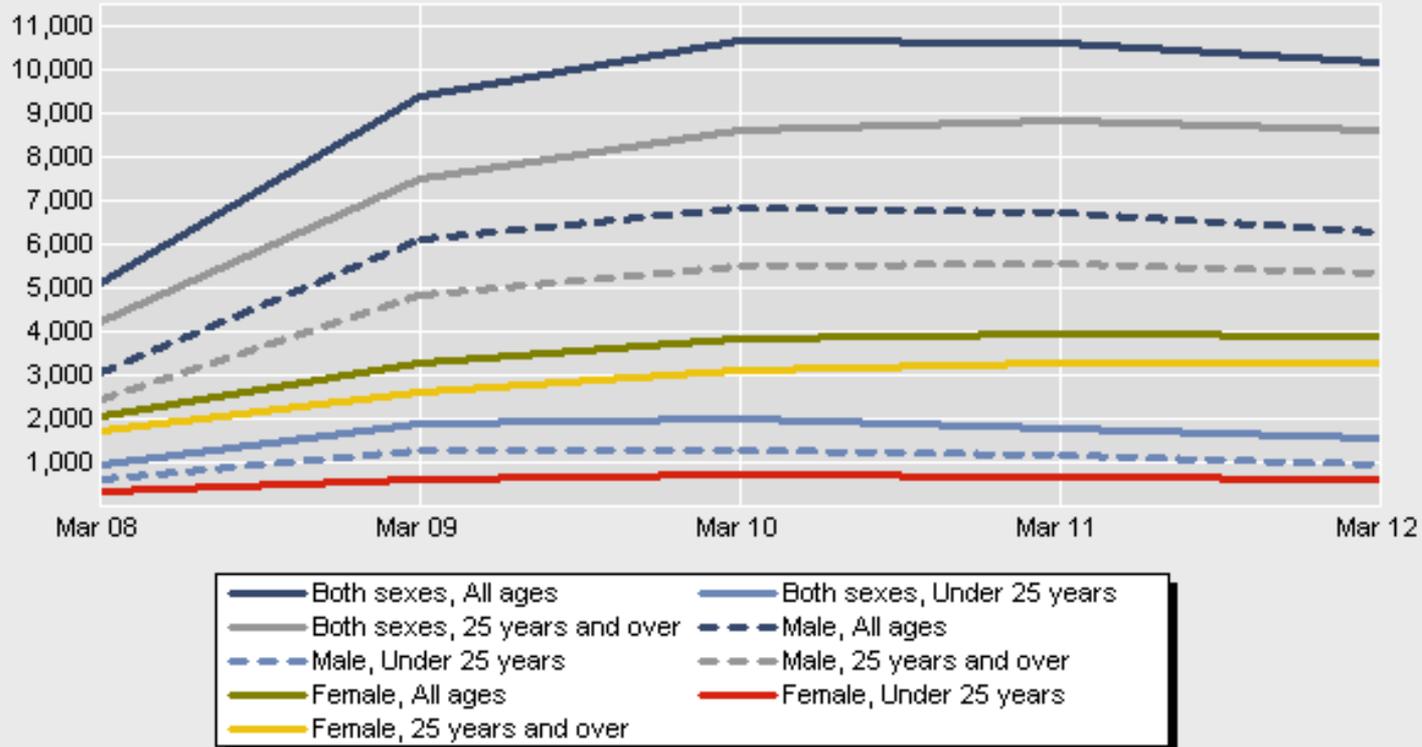
	2008M03	2009M03	2010M03	2011M03	2012M03
Clare County					
Both sexes					
All ages	5,126	9,361	10,633	10,623	10,167
Under 25 years	921	1,878	2,026	1,792	1,581
25 years and over	4,205	7,483	8,607	8,831	8,586
Male					
All ages	3,061	6,096	6,822	6,690	6,275
Under 25 years	598	1,250	1,303	1,139	971
25 years and over	2,463	4,846	5,519	5,551	5,304
Female					
All ages	2,065	3,265	3,811	3,933	3,892
Under 25 years	323	628	723	653	610
25 years and over	1,742	2,637	3,088	3,280	3,282



Demographics



Persons on Live Register (Number)
by Sex and Age Group and Month
Clare County (Number)

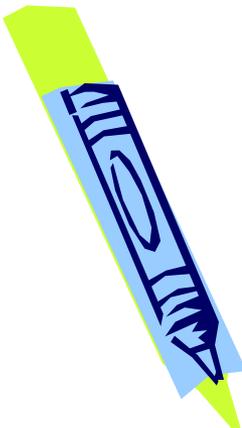


© CSO



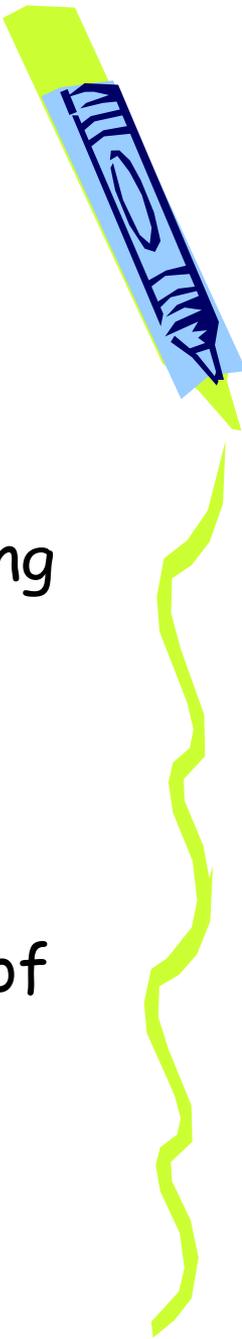
Further Education in Ireland

- Multiple functions in Irish life, including:
 - economic,
 - social
 - civic and
 - community roles.
- Adult learning contributes to the promotion of social as well as economic outcomes, while also providing opportunity for personal development or enrichment for the individual, which is a key goal of lifelong learning.
- Further Education provides second chance education for those that did not achieve upper secondary and provides an important outlet for re-engaging adults who have not completed the formal schooling system.



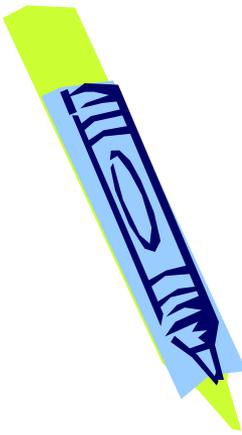
Further Education in Ireland

- Non-formal learning opportunities facilitate citizens to respond to:
 - demographic change and the impact of migration,
 - changes in technology and their impact on living as well as working conditions,
 - promote active citizenship, cultural development and health and well-being.
- VECs also have a key role to play in promoting social inclusion and improving the quality of life of individuals and communities who are disadvantaged and marginalised, not just economically but also socially.



Mission Statement

Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Service aims to create an environment where learning is encouraged and supported in response to the diverse needs of the community



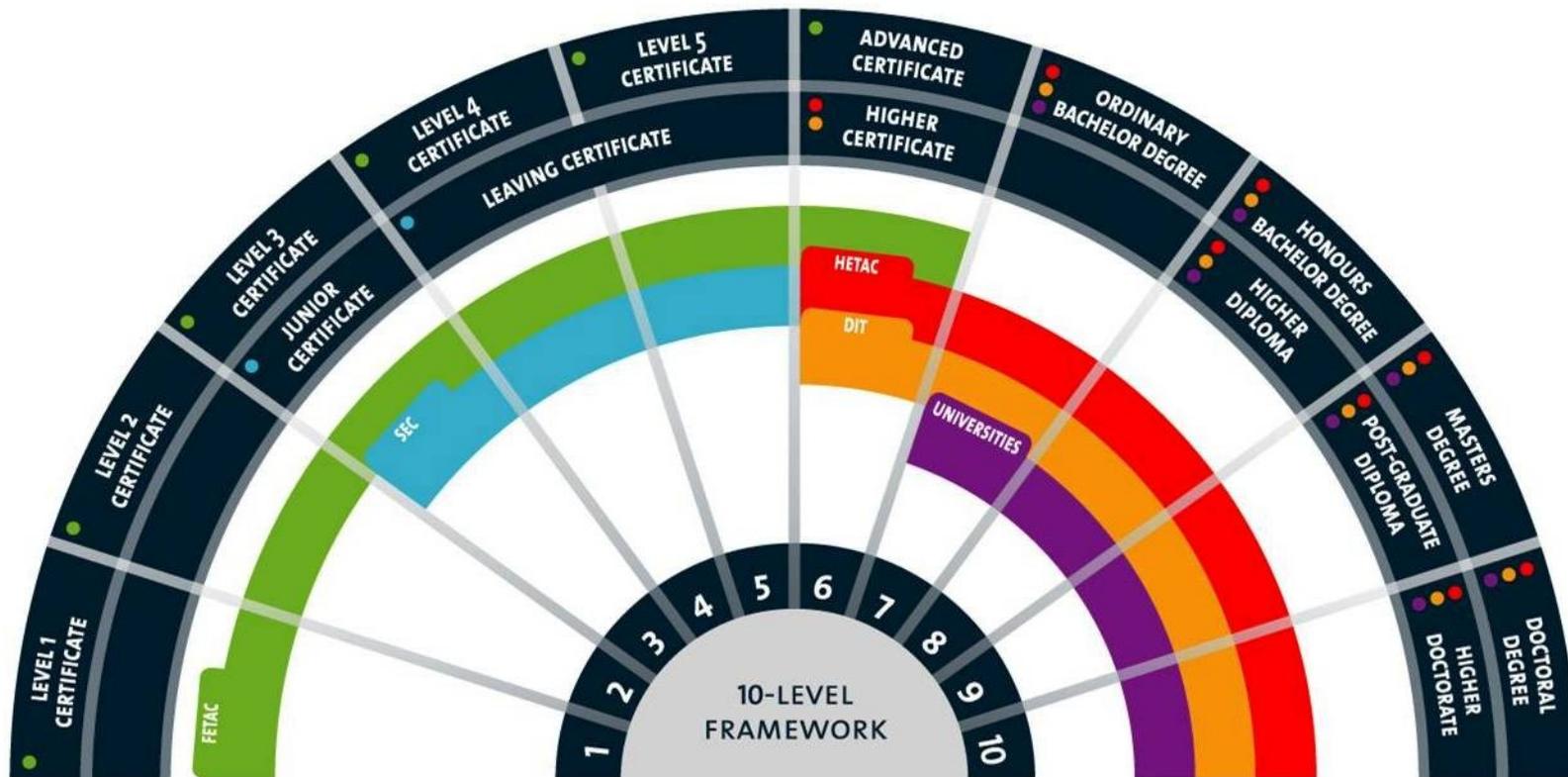
Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Service

Provides high quality educational opportunities which

- Are quality assured
- Have content, delivery methods, resources and settings suited to adult learners
- Are delivered in a wide range of venues across Co. Clare
- Have high quality, experienced, well qualified tutors
- Offer learners a wide range of appropriate learner supports
- Recognise learner achievement with appropriate certification
- Provide opportunities for systematic progression pathways



The National Framework of Qualifications (2003)



Correspondences established between the NFQ and EQF Levels

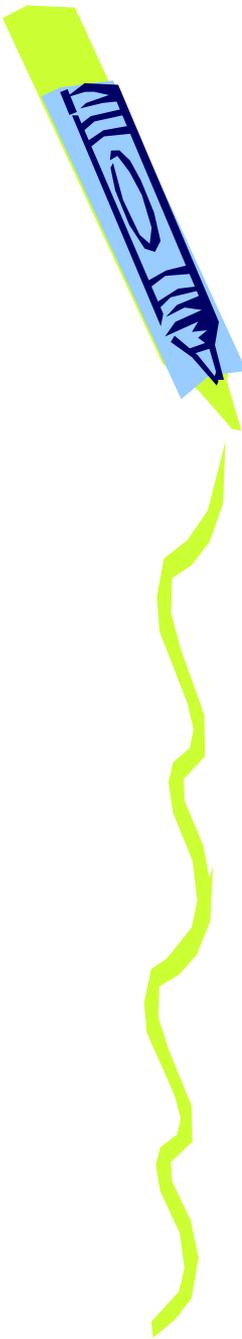


Irish NFQ	EQF
10	8
9	7
8	6
7	6
6	5
5	4
4	3
3	2
2	1
1	1



Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Service

- Full Time Programmes
- Part Time Programmes
- Learner Supports
- Guidance Service



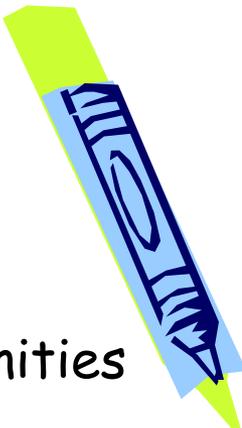
Full Time Learning

Full-time VEC Learning Programmes give participants opportunities to;

- Raise their education levels
- Acquire knowledge and skills that are relevant to the labour market
- Gain major awards at levels 3 - 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications
- Progress to further education, training or employment

Programmes:

- VTOS (Kilrush, Ennis, Scarriff) - 160 places
- Youthreach (Ennis, Shannon, Scarriff, Miltown Malbay and Kilrush) - 85 places



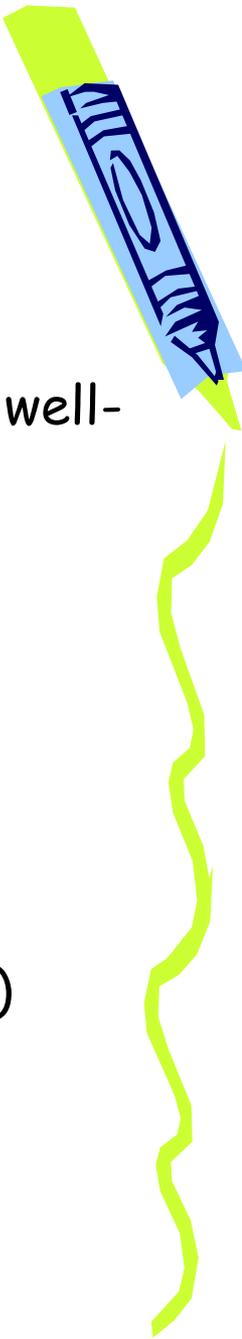
Part Time Learning

VEC Part-time Learning Programmes offer adults:

- Quality Assured provision that is delivered by experienced, well-qualified tutors
- Opportunities to enhance their general education
- Opportunities to acquire and develop the core, transferable skills that are so critical to working and living in the 21st Century.
- A choice of starting points and progression options
- Options for achieving recognized certification: National Framework of Qualifications Levels 1 - 5

Programmes:

- CABES (Clare Adult Basic Education, ESOL, Family Learning)
- Work Place Education and SkillVEC
- BTEI (Back to Education Initiative)
- Community Education (4198 learners in 2011)



Learner Supports

VEC Adult & Further Education Service recognises that, for many adults, returning to education is not easy. For this reason, they offer a wide range of learner support services to enable adults overcome barriers and gain maximum benefit from their participation in learning.

Adult learners participating in VEC learning programmes have access to a wide range of learning resources and support services. These include:

- Childcare Support : VEC Childcare centres in Kilrush and Ennis
- Student Grants / Allowances
- Travel & Meal Allowances
- Study Skills Support & Facilities
- One-to-One Teaching / Learning Activities
- Adult-friendly Delivery Methods, Course Content & Facilities
- Self-directed Learning Tools & Facilities: Multi-media Resources, e-learning tools, Libraries, etc
- Some of the above supports, e.g. student grants, are only available to certain full-time students



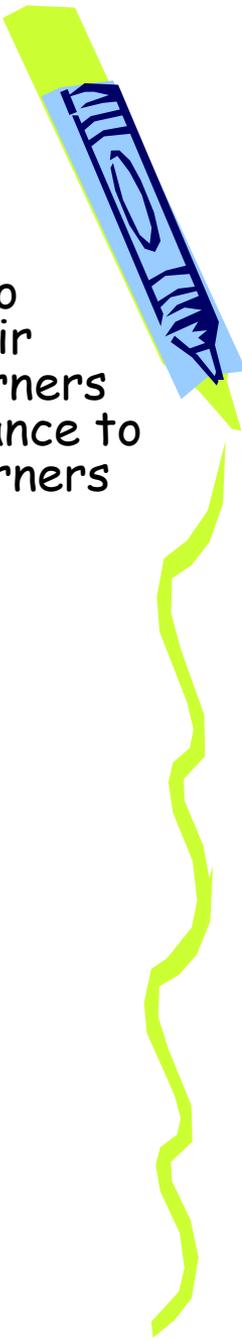
Information and Guidance

The aim of the Adult Guidance provided through Co. Clare VEC is to enable learners gain a better understanding of themselves and their options in the context of a rapidly changing world. Clare Adult Learners Guidance Service adopt a 3 step approach to the provision of guidance to ensure that each learner gains maximum benefit from it. Adult learners have access to guidance;

- Before they join a course
- During their time on the course
- In preparation for moving-on from the course

Some Features of the Service:

- One to one and groups session with information officers/ guidance counsellors
- Network of Information resource rooms (Scarriff, Kilrush, Ennis, Ennistymon, Shannon)
- Annual Course Directory (On line and hard copy)
- Employers database
- Mature students information nights and group workshops.

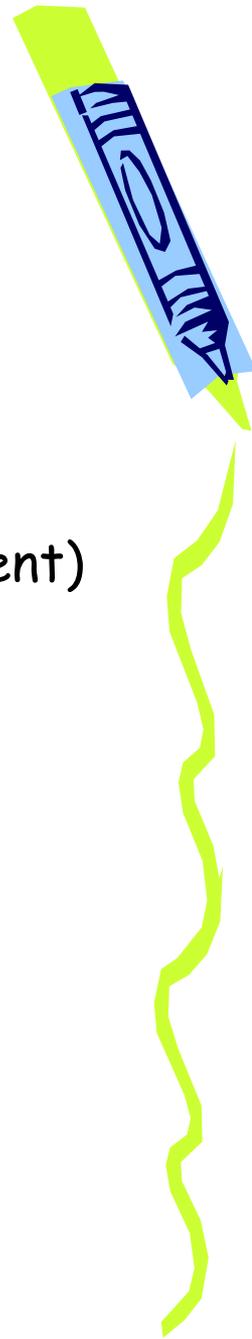


Research, innovation and best practice.

Co. Clare VEC Adult Education Service have been at the forefront in the design and delivery of Adult education initiatives. We also have a long established record of working effectively in partnership with a wide range of local stakeholders.

Some action research projects include

- Clare Family Learning Project (Horizon Funded Project)
- Citizenship and Voter Education (Grundvig Funded Project)
- Project Joblink (Integra Funded Project)
- Community eLearning Project (Leader and Shannon Development)
- Literacy through the Ages
- Clare Learning Network (EQUAL Funded Project)
- Development Education in Adult Learning (Irish Aid Funded Project)
- Equality for Women (Justice, Equality & Law Reform Funded Project)
- Labour Market Activation Programme
- New Programme development (CAS)



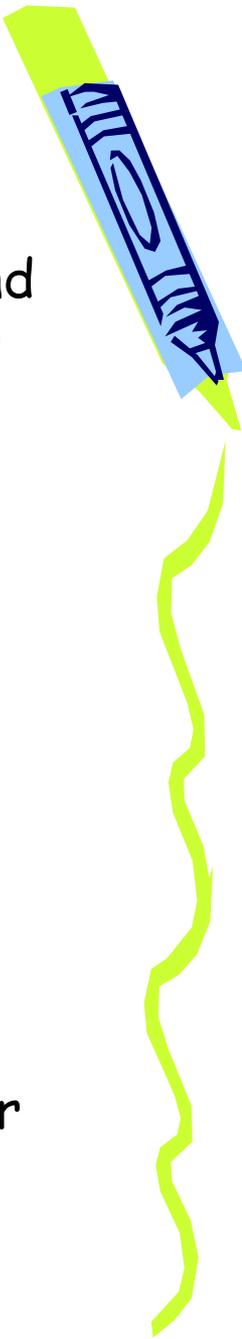
Current Context: Role of VET

- Backdrop of short and medium term education and training policy objectives and drivers of changing skills needs within enterprise, including:
- The National Skills Strategy (NSS) vision for 2020 that 48 percent of the labour force will have NFQ level qualifications at 6-10, 45 percent of the labour force will be at NFQ levels 4/5 and the remaining 7 percent will be at NFQ levels 3 and below.
- A major strand in achieving the NSS vision is to upskill at least 500,000 people within the labour force (employed and unemployed). Of this 330,000 people are targeted for upskilling below levels 4/5.
- The current high unemployment challenge, particularly increasing long term unemployment and responding to structural shifts in the economy such as the increasing role of services and the implications of the collapse in the construction sector for future skills needs.



Current Context: Role of VET

- Cyclical challenge of the current recession - the overrepresentation of young people among the unemployed and the difficulties in opening up labour market opportunities for them.
- Longer term structural challenge of tackling early school leaving.
- Changing skills needs within enterprises, including those impacted by factors such as
 - technological changes;
 - minimum qualifications requirements introduced through regulation or industry standards and;
 - increasing skills requirements within occupations, even those considered relatively low skilled.
- The need to provide more flexible and diverse forms of provision that enhance access and the learning experience for the individual, in addition to being current and relevant to enterprise needs.



Recurring Themes in Adult Education & Training Environment

- Urgent need for reform of traditional education / training systems, institutions and work practices
- Need for development of a coherent & integrated VET system within an integrated National Lifelong Learning System & Infrastructure
- The bedrock of an effective Adult Education system is the capability of its personnel:- leaders & policy-makers who understand the requirements of future-oriented VET and professional, qualified teachers & trainers.
- Emerging technologies must be utilised within all strands of the system - for communication, collaboration, teaching & learning



Recurring Themes in Adult Education & Training Environment

- Qualification systems must be further developed, particularly in relation to learning outcomes - with the adoption of a common language used to describe skills, competences, qualifications - linked to occupations
- New curricula & delivery methods must be employed to facilitate learners' development of key competences / transferable skills - for employability, further learning & active citizenship purposes
- Inclusive engagement strategies, approaches & methodologies that promote equity and wider participation - particularly for those most disadvantaged.
- Integration of Careers Education, Careers Guidance & Careers Information within - not as an add-on - all education & training programmes
- Partnership working - workplaces & education institutions, learning communities, regions & cities, cross sectoral networks, etc



Change is inevitable and imminent

- Amalgamation of the VECs into Local Education & Training Boards (ETB's)
- Disbanding of FAS - staff being redeployed into the ETBs and NEES.
 - Creation of SOLAS, (Seirbhísí Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna), the new further education and training authority.
 - Emerging National Employment and Entitlement Service (NEES) has a distinct remit in relation to guidance and training referral.
- Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Bill, 2011 provides for a new single national agency, the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland, replacing FETAC, HETAC, NQAI and IUQB



Any Questions?

