

Minutes of the High Level Group Meeting on International Education

Gresham Hotel, 2.30pm

Tuesday 13th December, 2016

Refer to Annex 1 for list of Attendees.

Refer to Annex 2 for list of Subgroups

1. Introductory Remarks – Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the group and requested a tour de table of introductions.

The Chairperson stated that the intention of today's meeting is to update the members on membership of the Group, to discuss and agree the Subgroups that will oversee progress on the implementation of the Strategic Actions from the Strategy and to briefly discuss each of the Priority areas to see how best to proceed.

2. Membership of High Level Group on International Education

DES have looked at the membership to ensure it continues to be broadly and appropriately representative and are considering adding a number of new organisations to the group. DES will inform members as soon as final decisions have been made.

3. Strategic Priority 1: A Supportive National Framework

- Discussion on Strategic Priority 1 and its implementation
- Establishment and membership of sub-group

DES gave a brief overview of Strategic Priority 1- five strategic actions aimed at Government Departments and Agencies.

DES gave an update on the International Education Mark - legislation needs to be amended before the IEM is in place. Heads of bill currently being prepared and will go to Government in January 2017, for implementation in 2018. This will include learner protection.

A more cohesive strategic approach to the recruitment of international researchers and scholars will be examined throughout the period to 2020.

Department of Justice confirmed that ILEP criteria had been updated and published on their website.

Stayback

EI raised the issue of the importance of knowing if the stayback will be extended prior to recruitment in January. DES stated that this matter will be the subject of Subgroup discussions in January with a view to early decision.

Sub-group

ICOS and HECA stated their interest to be able to input into this subgroup and DES explained that they will consider this request. DES also outlined to the Group that

each of the Subgroups work is prepared for the HLG to adopt and agree, so everyone would have the opportunity to see and input to decisions.

4. Strategic Priority 2: Internationally Orientated, globally competitive institutions
-Discussion on SP 2 and its implementation
-Establishment and membership of sub-group

DES advised that the Higher Education Systems Performance Framework is currently being reviewed and the revised framework will address internationalisation aspects.

The HEA is currently reviewing processes and dialogue and devising an enhanced process across all Institutes. The HEA mentioned they had published a paper on Brexit the previous week and it was available on their website.

http://www.heai.ie/sites/default/files/brexit_and_ireland_final.28.11.16.pdf

DES stated their intention to invite the USI on to the HLG and the submission is currently with the Minister.

5. Strategic Priority 3: Sustainable growth in the high-quality English Language Sector

- **Discussion on SP 3 and its implementation**
- **Establishment and membership of sub-group**

DES welcomed the progress that had been made in the ELT sector. The Education in Ireland brand will assume the lead role in promoting the Non-EU Adult ELT sector in the International markets, once the IEM is in place.

IUA requested access to the strategy produced by Fáilte Ireland. DTTAS to revert back to DES re ELT strategy for possible circulation to the group.

MEI raised the absence of the Department of Justice on this Subgroup. DES and DJE to discuss.

IUA mentioned the strong pathway between ELT and HEIs and noted the absence of HEIs on the subgroup. All agreed that HEIs should be included on the Subgroup.

6. Strategic Priority 4: Succeeding Abroad

- **Discussion on Strategic Priority 4 and its implementation**
- **Establishment and membership of sub-group**

Priority 4 has ten strategic actions for delivery aimed at DES, DFAT and EI in particular.

The diversification of markets (action 1 & 2) is being actively considered by DES and DFAT including in relation to the development of the new Trade and Investment Strategy. The aim is to enhance interaction with high potential markets while continuing to focus on core markets.

Brexit Update

14 November – Education Sector stakeholders’ event took place.

14 December – Further Education and Training Forum to be held in Croke Park.

19 December – Higher Education and Research Forum and workshops to be held in Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Mid January 2017 – Primary and Post Primary Sector Forum

Next Steps

- Government Cabinet Committee on Brexit. Next meeting to take place next Tuesday 20 December at which the Minister for Education and Skills will attend.
- All Island Civic Dialogue to be re-convened in Spring 2017.
- Preparation of EU negotiating package and bilaterals with the U.K to be accelerated in 2017.

EI spoke about market changes - Brazil had been a major focus but now countries like Nigeria were becoming more popular.

DFAT spoke on the importance for coherence between strategies. Having a two way stream between embassies, keeping communications open and accessing knowledge on the ground.

HEA requested to be on this Subgroup.

AOB

HECA asked which strategic priority does the issue of capacity of institutions to meet increased student number requirements fit.

DES responded that Strategic Priority 1 and 2 appear most relevant. There are separate processes in place dealing with Future Funding and Student Accommodation.

Next Meeting

To be held early second quarter, 2017

Subgroups' Meetings: Mid to end of January, 2017. DES to confirm by email exact dates of these meetings before Christmas break.

ANNEX 1:
ATTENDANCE LIST

Representing

Name

Departments and agencies

Department of Education and Skills	Mary Doyle (Chair) Vincent Landers Wendy Ross Sarah Moroney Mary Whelan David Smith
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	Catherine Lawlor
Department of Justice and Equality	Gerald O'Regan Lorna Conway
Dept. of Transport Tourism & Sport	Maria Melia
Enterprise Ireland	Terry McParland
Higher Education Authority	Gemma Irvine
Higher Education Consultants Assoc	Prof Diarmuid Hegarty
Quality and Qualifications Ireland	Bryan Maguire Deirdre Stritch Sue Hackett
<i>Representative groups/institutions</i>	
Technological Higher Education Association	Miriam Ryan
Irish Council for International Students	Sheila Power
Irish Universities Association	Sinéad Lucey Lewis Purser Josephine Page
Marketing English in Ireland	David O'Grady Therese Dillon
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Philip Curtis
Science Foundation Ireland	Ciara Cotter
Assoc. of Study Abroad Providers In Ireland (ASAPI)	Claire McGowan

Apologies

Dept. of Justice and Equality	Michael Walsh
Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Alma Ní Choigligh
Higher Education Authority	Gerry O'Sullivan
Technological Higher Education Association	Jim Murray
Enterprise Ireland	Giles O'Neill
Conference of Heads of Irish Colleges of Education (C.H.o.I.C.E)	Holly Cowman

ANNEX 2

SUBGROUP LIST

SUBGROUP 1: A supportive national framework
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MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills Department of Justice & Equality Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation Higher Education Authority Quality and Qualifications Ireland Irish Universities Association Technological Higher Education Association Science Foundation Ireland

SUBGROUP 2: Internationally oriented, globally competitive institutions
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MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills Higher Education Authority Irish Universities Association Technological Higher Education Association Higher Education Colleges Association

SUBGROUP 3: Sustainable growth in the high-quality English language training (ELT) sector
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MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills Enterprise Ireland Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Marketing English in Ireland Sector Reps

SUBGROUP 4: Succeeding Abroad

MEMBERSHIP:

Department of Education & Skills Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Enterprise Ireland Irish Universities Association

Technological Higher Education Association
Higher Education Colleges Association