



Regional Skills

MIDLANDS

Partnerships for Skills



WHO WE ARE

The Midlands Regional Skills Forum (RSF) is part of a national network supported by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) focused on fostering stronger links between enterprise and education and training providers (ETP).

WHY WE EXIST

The creation of the Midlands Regional Skills Forum reflects the strong focus on the skills agenda as part of Government policies such as the National Skills Strategy 2025 and Midlands Regional Action Plans for Jobs, which focus on enhancing regional economic growth and increasing job opportunities.

MIDLANDS REGIONAL SKILLS FORUM

Training Bodies

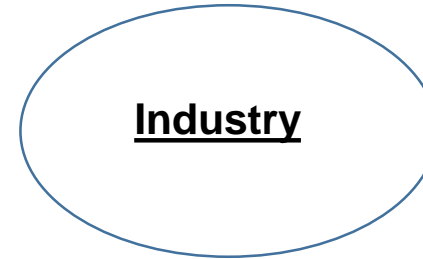
- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Laois and Offaly Education and Training Boards
- Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Boards
- First Polymer Skillnet

Agencies

- Department of Social Protection
- Enterprise Ireland
- IDA Ireland
- Local Enterprise Office (representing the 4 counties)
- Offaly County Council (representing the 4 counties)

Business/Employer Organisations

- Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
- Ibec
- Chamber Ireland



WHY HAS THE RSF BEING ESTABLISHED?

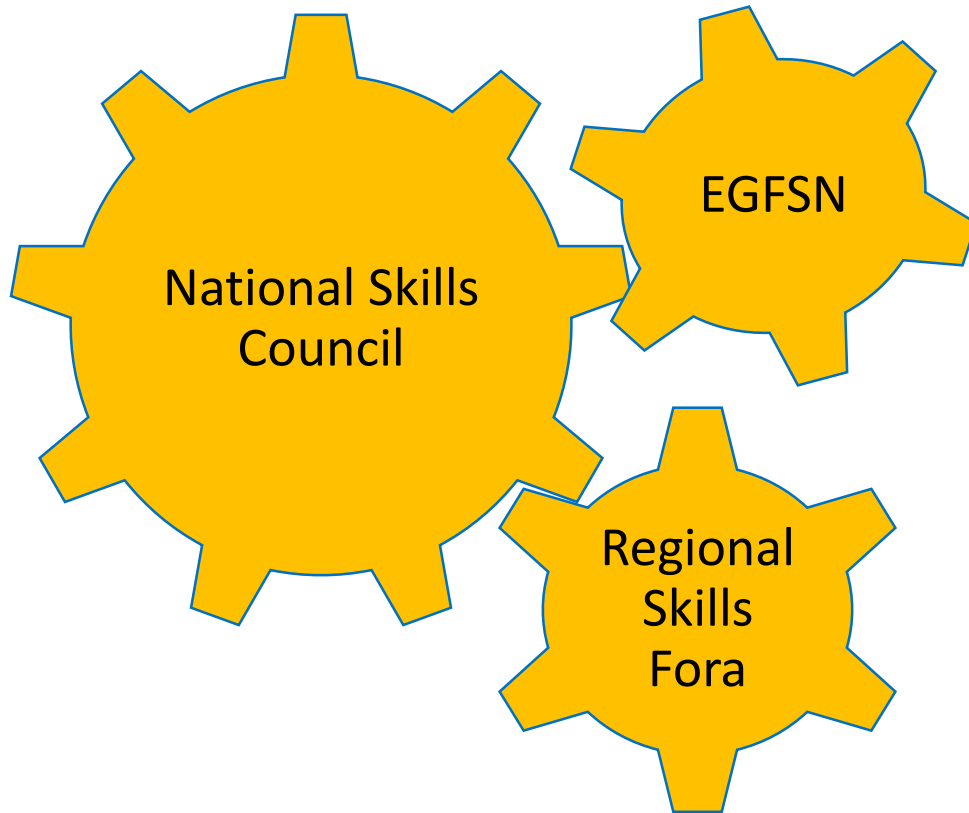
Bigger picture

- Government policy on economic recovery and jobs
- Cabinet Committees
- Feed into the National Skills Council
- Prioritisation of provision to meet the range of skills needs.

What will the Regional Skills Fora do?

- Engage with relevant regional/local stakeholders
- Identify and disseminate regional/local skills gaps
- Identify and disseminate regional/local responses

NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY: ARCHITECTURE



Skills Council: oversee research, advise on prioritisation of skills needs and how to secure delivery.

EGFSN: research and analysis

Regional Skills Fora: structured dialogue on needs, informed by research and local analysis

WHAT WE DO

- To build links between education and training providers and business to ensure the skills needs of business are met to support job creation, sustainability of business and the availability of talented human resources
- Provide a cohesive structure for employers and the further and higher education system to work together in building the skills needs of the region
- Help employers better understand and access the full range of services available across the education and training system
- Enhance links between education and training providers in planning and delivering programmes, reduce duplication and inform national funding decisions

NEW SKILLS STRUCTURES

- More robust labour market information and analysis of employer needs
- Better alignment of education and training provision with the skills needs of each region
- Greater collaboration and utilisation of resources across the education and training system and enhancement of progression routes for learners
- Maximisation of employment, career progression and entrepreneurship opportunities available to learners in each region.

HOW IT WILL SUPPORT EMPLOYERS



- Do you have a skill shortage?
- Is there a project you are putting on the long finger that needs doing?
- Are you limited with time and resources?
- Do you need more resources yet cannot give time to recruitment?
- Do you need support in marketing and growing your business?
- Are you familiar with all the Education and Training available in the region?
- Are you interested in upskilling your team yet do not know how to start the process with the training institutions.

EVENTS TO DATE

Immediate	Future	Ongoing
Networking/Establish Links	Networking/Establish Links	Networking/Establish Links
Set up Midlands Regional Fora		Set up Midlands Regional Fora
Hosted the National Life Science Career Fair – Biopharma & MedTech in <u>Athlone</u>	Host the National Life Science Career Fair – Biopharma & MedTech in the <u>Midlands</u>	JSSP Programmes – paid placement
Linking CIF with the Education & Training Bodies	Linking Construction Industry with all programmes	Linking Construction Industry with all programmes
	Host a national construction industry event in conjunction with CIF in the Midlands	
Working with DJEI on the Food & Beverages Sector		Working with DJEI on the Food & Beverages Sector
	Roadshows on STEM (2017)	
Work with IDA in meeting with potential new companies coming to the Midlands – access skills	Work with IDA in meeting with potential new companies coming to the Midlands – access skills	Work with IDA in meeting with potential new companies coming to the Midlands – access skills

SECTOR FOCUS IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE INITIATIVES

	Time Frame:
• Biopharma & MedTech Sector (Life Science)	2016
• Construction Sector	2016/2017
• Food & Drink Sector	2016/2017
• Manufacturing (Robotics)/Engineering Sector	2016/17/18
• Hospitality & Tourism Sector	2017/2018
• ICT, Fintech	2018/2019

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