

**Work-based learning models at
EQF-levels 5 to 7:**

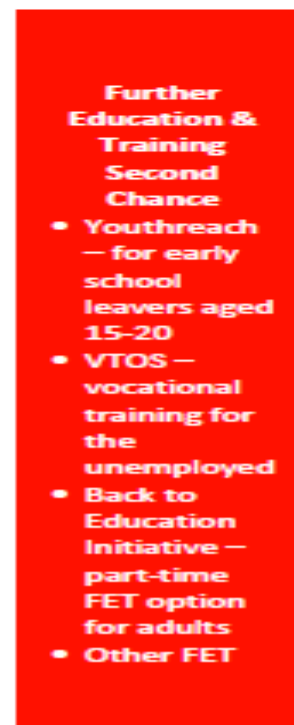
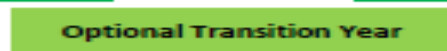
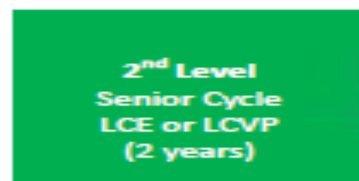
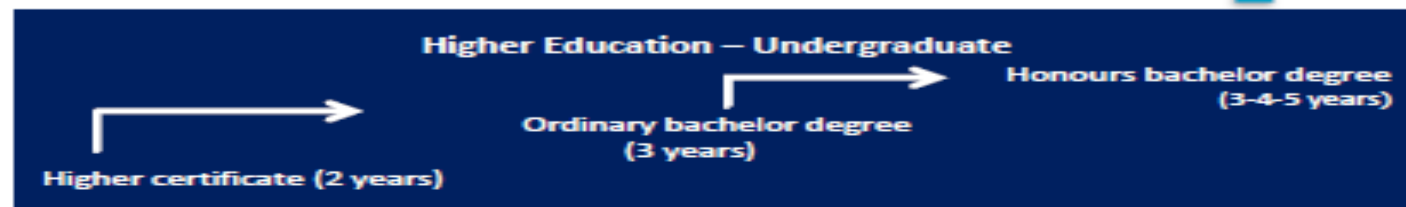
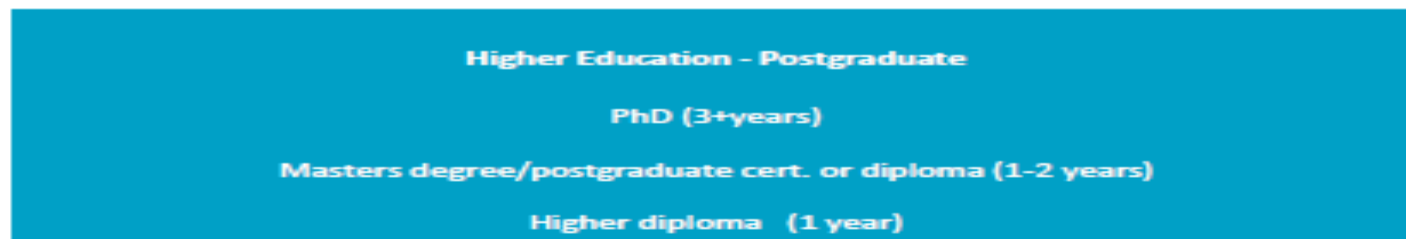
BiBB, 29 April 2015, Bonn

Ireland

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Higher VET in Ireland

- Ireland joined EU in 1973 when GDP was approx. 60% of EU average
- By 2008, Irish GDP was approx. 110% of EU average
- Higher education prospered because of EU Social Fund support to the point that 65% of Irish 18 -25 year-olds entered higher education
- Economy suffered serious decline 2008- 2011
- Government introduced re-training programmes for those who lost their jobs and to assist others into the labour market



Levels		
NFQ	EQF	ISCED
10	8	6
9	7	
8		5a
7	6	5b
6	5	4
5	4	3
4	3	
3	2	2
2	1	1
1		0

Recent Developments 1: Higher Education

- National Strategy for Higher Education, 2011
- Engagement with wider society must become more firmly embedded in mission of HEIs
- Encourage more mobility of students & staff between HEIs and industry
- Establish technological universities with very strong links with enterprise, with focus on science and engineering and workplace learning

Higher Education Strategy (continued)

- There should be clear routes of progression and transfer as well as non-traditional entry routes
- There should be system-wide collaboration between HEIs; and smaller HEIs should merge
- All HEIs should ensure that all teaching staff are both qualified and competent in teaching and learning

Recent Developments 2:

Apprenticeships

- A new government agency, SOLAS, established for Apprenticeship training
- A majority of its key National Apprenticeship Council are industrialists
- SOLAS has decided to allow the creation of more apprenticeships; currently there are only 27 accredited apprenticeships but 85 applications for new ones. Approval likely for some.
- Ireland may move closer to the German Model

Recent Developments 3: Mergers

- 4 agencies for QA and awards have merged to form Quality and Qualifications Ireland
- Teacher Training colleges to be reduced from 19 to 6
- Institutes of Technology must merge if they wish to become Technological Universities
- The number of local education agencies for further education reduced from 33 to 16

Work-based learning: Business Management in DIT

- Many higher education programmes in Ireland involve a placement in industry
- DIT College of Business has 6 honours degrees with placement, usually in 3rd year
- Students are paid and must maintain a log of their progress which must be signed each week by their supervisor
- Performance on the placement is assessed and ECTS credits (30) are allocated

Industry involved in programme design

- DIT operates programmes in which industry partners were involved in the design
- Partners include Enterprise Ireland, Ericssons, Musgraves & Supervalu (supermarket groups), ICT Ireland, Institute of Advertising, Marketing Institute of Ireland
- In some instances the partner pays the lecturers but DIT is responsible for the award

Work-based learning: Engineering in UCD

- UCD (Ireland's largest university) has changed its Engineering programmes from 4-year Bachelor to 3 + 2 year Bachelor + Master's "Bologna" model
- A mandatory internship is part of year 1 of the Master's programme
- Duration of internship: 8 months (Jan to Sept)
- 30 ECTS for successful completion
- UCD has policy document entitled Internship/Work Practice Experience: Guidelines and Good Practice

Engineering Work-based Learning

- Placements usually occur in penultimate year
- Most placements are in Ireland but can be overseas
- Increasingly, employers see the internship as part of their recruitment policy: a chance to see a student in action before hiring him/her
- Most universities have an Industry Liaison Committee to advise on programme development

Conclusion

- Ireland now enjoying economic growth of approx. 4% per annum
- Pressure growing for end to austerity measures
- Teachers seeking restoration of pay levels
- Capital investment in education being restored
- Thank you!