

2021



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Education and Training
Boards Ireland

*Boird Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Éireann*

Further Education and Training



**Mainstreaming RPL
in the ETB FET Context**

Wednesday 8th December 2021

Time	Session	Speaker
10.00am - 10.05am	Set the Scene	Master of Ceremonies Deirdre Goggin Munster Technological University Cork
10.05am - 10.20am	Welcome Address	Denis Leamy Chief Executive Cork Education and Training Board
10.20am - 10.40am	Mainstreaming TOBAR Evaluation Recommendations	Dr. Cathal de Paor Senior Lecturer and Director of Continuing Professional Development, Mary Immaculate College (MIC) University of Limerick
10.40am - 10.50am	Launch of TOBAR Evaluation	Denis Leamy Chief Executive Cork Education and Training Board
10.50am - 11.10am	RPL in Practice; Employer Experience	Lt.Col. David Fitzpatrick Irish Defence Forces
11.10am - 11.25am	RPL in Practice; Learner Experience of RPL	Lorraine Brogan
11.25am - 11.35am	Overview of Morning Session	Master of Ceremonies Deirdre Goggin Munster Technological University Cork
11.35am - 11.50am	Break	
11.50am - 12.10pm	Update on Consultation of European Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning	Ernesto Villalba Garcia Expert CEDEFOP
12.10pm-12.25pm	RPL Policy and Strategy Context	Andrew Brownlee Chief Executive Officer SOLAS
12.25pm - 12.40pm	RPL QQI Policy Framework in Ireland	Andrina Wafer QQI Head of International Mobility and Prior Learning
12.40pm - 12.55pm	RPL in FET Programme Design and Development	Siobhan Magee Further Education Support Service Fiona Fay Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board
12.55pm - 13.35pm	Panel Discussion: Master of Ceremonies Deirdre Goggin Munster Technological University Cork	Cathal de Paor Ernesto Villalba Garcia Andrew Brownlee Andrina Wafer Lt.Col. David Fitzpatrick Lorraine Brogan Crona Gallagher Director of Further Education and Training Donegal Education and Training Board
13.35pm - 13.50pm	Closing	Martha Bolger Director of Further Education and Training Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board



Deirdre Goggin

Currently a research fellow in the MTU Extended Campus, Munster Technological University. She has worked in higher education since 2000 in a lecturing and research and development capacity and has been actively involved in the area of RPL since 2003.

Within MTU she supports staff capacity and capability building and policy development. She has worked with industry on RPL and workplace learning and in the internal infrastructures necessary to build sustainable RPL systems and processes. In addition to the external development work on RPL, Deirdre supports senior staff in customised course developments in collaboration with industry partners responding to current and emerging industry needs and encompassing RPL.

She has been a consultant to many higher, further education and training and private colleges in Ireland and Europe on RPL policy and practice development and contributed to the practice and scholarship on RPL at national, European and International levels.



Denis Leamy

Chief Executive of Cork Education and Training Board since 2019.

Cork ETB manages 28 schools, 5 Further Education Colleges, 1 Training Centre and 160 Community Education Centres providing education and training to over 37,000 learners with an annual State budget of €220 million.

Previously, he was CEO of Pobal for ten years, an Irish Government Interagency body for Social Inclusion and Local and Community Development with an annual budget of €600 million. A graduate of Maynooth University and Institute of Public Administration, he has a wide range of experience of managing youth and family projects in Dublin and Kilkenny and across the EU.

He is Chair of the OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Directing Committee since 2018 and a member of OECD LEED Forum Board since 2012. He is Vice-Chair of the Munster Technological University Governing Body.



Dr Cathal de Paor

Works in the Faculty of Education, Mary Immaculate College (MIC) as a Senior Lecturer and Director of Continuing Professional Development, with responsibility for teacher education programmes in the Further Education and Training sector.

Prior to moving to MIC in 2006, he worked in the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), and before that as a teacher.



Lt Col David Fitzpatrick

25 years' service in the Irish Defence Forces. Originally commissioned into the Infantry Corps of the Irish Army, he has held a wide variety of training and education related appointments throughout his military career, including as Officer Commanding 2 Brigade Training Centre (2012 – 2014), Officer In Charge of the 92nd Cadet

Class (2015 – 2017) and Deputy Commander of the Education and Training Task Force of the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM) (2019 – 2020). He has completed a number of other UN, EU and NATO tours of duty overseas to Liberia, Kosovo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan.

David holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the National University of Ireland Galway and is also a graduate of UCD Michael Smurfit Business School (Graduate Diploma in Strategy, Innovation and Change) and Maynooth University (MA in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies).

David currently holds the appointment of Defence Forces' Registrar which is nested within the Defence Forces' Directorate of Education and Training. This appointment takes lead responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and review of DF academic quality assurance policies, procedures and processes, and is the DF primary liaison officer with all awarding bodies and collaborating educational partners. These partnerships contribute form part of the 1,200 – 1,400 courses of training and education conducted by the Defence Forces each year with an associated student throughput of circa. 47,000 over any three-year period. Many of these courses of training and education contribute to a variety of academic awards from Level 6 to Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications. (NFQ).



Lorraine Brogan

Joined the Irish Defence Forces at age 17 and recently reached the milestone of 21 years served. She is graduating from Carlow IT in January 2022 with a distinction and is currently undertaking postgraduate studies in Waterford I.T.



Ernesto Villalba

An expert at the European Center for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop) since 2011. He is responsible for the area of validation of non-formal and informal learning, where he works, together with the Commission and in consultation with social partners, in the development and update of the European Inventory and the European

Guidelines on validation. He is a member of the European Qualification Framework Advisory Group. Before joining Cedefop he worked as a scientific officer at the Center for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) at the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, contributing to the Education and Training Monitoring (former, progress report towards Lisbon objectives) and carrying research in the area of transversal skills and its measurement (civic competence, creativity, learning to learn).

Ernesto has served in different committees and working groups of the OECD, UNESCO and the European Commission. He holds a Ph.D. in International and Comparative Education from Stockholm University. He is in the editorial board of the European Journal of Education.



Andrew Brownlee

CEO in SOLAS, the state agency responsible for further education and training (FET) and apprenticeships in Ireland. Since taking up the role in September 2019, SOLAS has overseen the FET sector's response to COVID, launched an ambitious new FET strategy, Transforming Learning, a new literacy

and numeracy strategy, Adult Literacy for Life, and has overseen the inclusion of FET & apprenticeship options as part of the CAO decision-making process. Prior to his appointment as CEO, Andrew was Executive Director for Strategy and Knowledge at SOLAS, where he played a key role in putting in place a strategic performance framework for the FET sector and implementing reforms to support a more integrated system. Andrew joined SOLAS from the Higher Education Authority where he was Head of System Funding and led the development a new funding model for HE. Prior to joining the public sector, Andrew had a long and distinguished career in management consultancy, working for PwC, PA Consulting and Fitzpatrick Associates. He has a Master's in Economics and Accounting from the University of Edinburgh.



Andrina Wafer

Passionate about educational practice that collaboratively opens up equity of opportunity to have talent, potential and learning recognised and nurtured. A child of a generation that learned contested educational change with 'an caghdán nua', the 'new curriculum' and Transition Year, Andrina became

a teacher and cross-sectoral practitioner in adult, youth service and community education initiatives, with a special interest in labour market responsive curriculum development. Also privileged to work with NCVA with responsibility particularly for the initial levels of an early-stage Framework, liaising with Teastas, working then with FETAC, now QQI, in a role that includes supporting International Mobility and Prior Learning, because Ireland and our people live, learn, work and succeed in a global context. Andrina has overall responsibility for policy relating to RPL within QQI, contributes to stimulating and connecting practice generally and contributes on validation (RPL) to the EQF Advisory Group as part of QQI's work for the Department.



Siobhan Magee

Siobhan Magee is a member of the Further Education Support Service, www.fess.ie, which supports the SOLAS funded Further Education and Training Sector in implementing their QQI Quality Assured activities, including Programme Development and Assessment. Siobhan is a member of the RPL Practitioner Network National Steering Group, www.rpl.ie. She has

previously worked as European Projects Officer for FETAC, and as the National Co-Ordinator of the FETAC Level 6 International Teleservices programme.



Fiona Fay

Fiona Fay is currently a FET Quality Assurance Officer and the Early Learning and Care programme manager with Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB. Fiona was closely involved in the development of the ETBs' Early Learning and Care shared curriculum development project. She led the Tobar RPL project in DDLETB. Fiona has worked over many years in VEC and other organisations in adult education, work-based education and ESOL.



Cróna Gallagher

Director of Further Education & Training with Donegal ETB and Chairperson of ETBI's Active Inclusion Strategy Group. She previously worked as an Adult Education Officer with Donegal VEC (1999-2016) and has extensive experience in youth and community work and in adult education, in Ireland and overseas. She is a trained facilitator, conflict coach and mediator



Martha Bolger

Director of Further Education and Training with Kilkenny and Carlow ETB. During Martha's time in FET (Over 25 years) Martha has worked with adults and young people through Community and Adult Education initiatives, all the while facilitating inclusion for the marginalized cohorts in society. A former CEF and AEO, Martha is currently a

member of the ETBI Active Inclusion Strategy Group and Vice Chair of the Director of FET Forum.



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