

Draft Implementation Progress Report for National Strategy for Higher Education Quarter 4 2012

The National Strategy for Higher Education was launched in January 2011. In order to ensure effective oversight of implementation of the strategy the Department of Education and Skills has established an **Implementation Oversight Group**. The Oversight Group is co-ordinating, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of recommendations contained in the National Strategy on an ongoing basis in conjunction with other expertise and stakeholders as required.

The Oversight Group has agreed a short to medium term Implementation Progress reporting template that details actions under four broad strategic headings together with a number of supporting objectives. The strategic headings are congruent with the aims of the National Strategy. Each action is the responsibility of a designated organisation. It is the intention of the Department of Education and Skills to report regularly on the implementation of the strategy.

The actions, responsibility, timelines and current status are presented in the following Table.

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Strategic Objective		Specific Actions	Timeline	Lead Org.	Input from	Current Status Q4 2012
Excellence in Teaching, Learning, Research and Engagement	1.1	National Student Survey	National Pilot commence Q2 2013	HEA	IUA/IOTI /QQI	Pilot to run in Q2 2013.
	1.2	National Employer Survey	Pilot complete by Q3 2012	HEA	IUA/IOTI through IBEC	The findings of the survey have been published on the HEA website at: :http://www.hea.ie/files/files/National%20Employer%27s%20Survey%20%28Pilot%29%20Report.pdf
	1.3	Transition Review	Q1 2013	NCCA/HEA/ IUA/IOTI		Transitions Steering Group established in September 2012 chaired by DES. IOTI Registrars Group considering issues. NCCA/SEC considering Leaving Cert predictability and grading issues. The IUA Taskforce is actively working on proposals for reform and will report during Q1 2013.
	1.4	National Platform for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning	Q4 2012	HEA	IUA/IOTI	Established.
	1.5	Part-time Higher Education and Training Policy Framework	Completed Q3 2012	HEA		Ready for publication.
	1.6	Policy and structures for HEA engagement with QQI.	Delayed pending	HEA	IUQB, HETAC, QQI	Discussions on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding have taken

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			establishment of QQI			place between HEA and QQI Executive. The HEA Authority and the QQI Board will be updated on the matter at their initial meetings in January and March 2013 respectively. The MOU is expected to be signed in 2013.
	1.7	Research and Graduate Education. HEA Status report on Research and Graduate Education in development	Completed Q1 2012 Q4 2012	HEA HEA	IRCSET/IRCHSS DES	The Irish Research Council has been established through the merger of The Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology as a sub-board of HEA with effect from 19 th March 2012. The HEA is developing a new research and graduate education strategy in conjunction with DES.
	1.8	Institutional student feedback system	Ongoing	IOTI/IUA		Within the Institute of Technology sector new arrangements have been agreed and are being implemented. Within the university sector various arrangements are in place that provide for student feedback.
	1.9	Review 1 st year curriculum and supports	Ongoing	IOTI/IUA		Ongoing within academic planning and approval processes at Institutional level.
	1.10	Course accreditation for work placement/service learning	Ongoing	IOTI/IUA		Ongoing within academic planning and approval processes at Institutional level.

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	1.11	Research Prioritisation Report Establishment of Prioritisation Action Group	Completed Q1 2012	DJEI		Report approved by Government for implementation and launched 1 March 2012. Research Prioritisation Action Group established to drive implementation, meeting monthly since then.
	1.12	Development of National IP Protocol and submission to Govt Establishment of Central Technology Transfer Office	Completed Q2 2012 Q3 2013	DJEI		IP Protocol launched June 2012 and follow-up implementation being progressed. Development of new €22m Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative Programme for Universities and Institutes of Technology, aimed at driving forward the commercialisation agenda. This 4-year programme will run from 2013-2016. IUA in collaboration with EI will advertise for the position of head of the CTTO during February.
	1.13	Internationalisation - Institutional internationalisation strategies	Ongoing	IUA/IOTI	Int Ed Strategy Imp.Group	The International Education Strategy – ‘Investing in Global Relationships’ was published in 2011 and is being implemented by the HEIs. Support structures have been

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						established in IUA and IOTI to facilitate this. Link to report: http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Ireland-s-International-Education-Strategy-2010-2015-Investing-in-Global-Relationships.pdf
	1.14	Integration of international students	Ongoing	IUA/IOTI		QQI has begun work on the Code of Practice/International Education Mark. Timetable for release will be discussed by QQI Board in March 2013.
	1.15	Continue to implement and build upon NFQ	Ongoing	QQI		QQI held workshop on “A Vision for the Qualifications System” in December 2012. Update will go to QQI Board in March 2013.
	1.16	Co-ordinate development of subject guidelines framework in conjunction with subject experts from institutions	TBC	QQI	IUA/IOTI	QQI was established on 6 November 2012. Work programme and rolling agenda for 2013 will be discussed at QQI Board meeting in March 2013.
	1.17	Initiate full and comprehensive review of external examiner system and grading system	TBC	QQI		QQI was established on 6 November 2012. Work programme and rolling agenda for 2013 will be discussed at QQI Board meeting in March 2013.
	1.18	Review of PhD provision will take place when new national framework has been developed by HEA (in consultation with QQI) –	Q1 2013	QQI	HEA	Will be informed by Status report on Graduate education being developed by HEA (see 1.7). An updated Framework has been drafted and will be published by end Q1

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		formal assessment informed by good practice and international metrics				2013.
	1.19	Ensure alignment and balance between learning outcomes, pedagogy and assessment in course of QA of institutions and Programmes	TBC	QQI		QQI was established on 6 November 2012. Work programme and rolling agenda for 2013 will be discussed at QQI Board meeting in March 2013.
	1.20	Begin development of National framework of RPL based on work already underway by EGFSN/ QQI and build on SIF funded projects in this area.	TBC	QQI		QQI was established on 6 November 2012. Work programme and rolling agenda for 2013 will be discussed at QQI Board meeting in March 2013.
	1.21	Assist HEI's to develop structures and procedures to involve wider community in programme design and revision.	TBC	QQI	IUA/IOTI	QQI was established on 6 November 2012. Work programme and rolling agenda for 2013 will be discussed at QQI Board meeting in March 2013.
	1.22	Enterprise Engagement Forum	Ongoing	DES		Forum chaired by Secretary General established October 2011; Bi-annual meetings are being held.
Sustainability and Funding	2.1	Sustainability Study	Q2 2013	HEA	DES	The new sustainability study will be submitted to DES in Q2 2013.
	2.2	Consultation on Review of Funding Models	Completed	HEA	IOTI/IUA	The consultation process is complete and the views of stakeholders are currently being examined with a view to implementing initial changes to the funding model in 2013.
	2.3	Strategic Dialogue Process 1 st Phase Implementation in place	From Q1 2012	HEA		1 st Phase Implementation in place. Planning for 2013 taking place in the context of the

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		Development of KPIs and agreement with HEIs	By end Q3 2012	HEA	HEIs	development of the HE system configuration.
	2.4	Performance management capacity review	Q1 2013	HEA		A performance evaluation review is to be published by end Q1 2013.
	2.5	Organisational Review of HEA	Q1 2013	DES		Commenced in Q4 2012
	2.6	Centralisation of Student Grant Administration	Completed Q3 2012	DES		Independent Appeals Board established. Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) commenced operation for new applicants for 2012/13 academic year.
System Development	3.1	System Configuration	Q3 2012	HEA		All documents associated with system configuration, ESRI report, International Panel report and Gap Analysis have been published. A draft configuration for discussion has been published and dates are set for consultation meetings with HEI's during February 2013.
	3.2	Establish HE Agency Network	From Q1 2012	HEA	Research Agencies	1 st meeting held with Research funding agencies. Policy position on 'whole of government' approach to HE developed within HEA. Currently being considered by Policy and Planning Committee.
Governance and HR/IR	4.1	Legislation – Develop Issues and Timeframes Scoping Paper	Q1 2013	DES	HEA/IUA/IOTI	Scoping Paper being finalised for submission to Minister by end Q1 2013.
	4.2	Implement strategy for review and transfer of DES funded institutions to HEA.	Q1 2013	DES/HEA		Submissions received from all DES directly funded institutions on their future position within the HE system (see action 3.1).

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	4.3	Subject/Discipline Reviews Carry out Creative Arts Review Teacher Ed. Review	Q4 2012 Completed Q3 2012	HEA HEA		Report complete and undergoing final edits. To be published Q1 2013. Initial Teacher Education Review complete and published Q3 2012.
	4.4	Develop Policy for Engagement with non-DES funded private providers	Completed Q2 2012	DES/HEA	DES	Report accepted by Authority.
	4.5	Public Service Agreement	Ongoing	DES/IUA/ IOTI		Revised sectoral action plan published Q2 2012 reflecting implementation progress to date and latest developments. Link to report: http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Corporate-Reports/Croke-Park-Agreement/?pageNumber=1
	4.6	Long-term HR development	Q1 2013	DES/IUA/IOTI/ HEA		HR Reform to be included in Sustainability study referred to above. See 2.1