

**FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATION**

**on a**

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**in**

**EDUCATION STRATEGY**

**For IRELAND**

**August 2014**

## **PART 2: QUESTIONS FOR CONSULTATION**

The Department of Education and Skills is drafting a Foreign Languages in Education Strategy. The views of stakeholders are being sought to inform the development of this Strategy. Outlined below are a number of key questions. You are invited to provide your feedback on each question. There is also a space at the end of this template for any other more general comments you may wish to make that are relevant to the issue of foreign languages in education. It would be important to note that the submissions received will be available for general distribution.

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**Asia Trade Forum, Irish Exporters Association**

Organisation, if any, whose views are being represented:  
**Asia Trade Forum, Irish Exporters Association**

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## 1. Raising Awareness

*What measures should be undertaken to promote awareness, at national, community, enterprise and individual level, of the importance of language learning and to increase interest in and motivation for foreign language learning?*

In 2013, Enterprise Ireland reported exports of €1.2 billion to the Asia Pacific region, a 19% increase on 2012. Bord Bia has indicated an overall increase of 6%, with a trebling of demand from China in the last three years to reach €390 million. These increases are expected to accelerate.

Irish graduates with good Asian linguistic and cultural skills will have a key role to play in Ireland's future commerce with Asia.

In regard to Asian languages, there is a need to:

*Promote awareness of the **ever-increasing significance** of the entire Asian region for Irish export trade and FDI.*

*Increase access to the study of Asian languages at all levels with a particular focus on support for progression to fluency.*

## 2. Supporting migrant languages in educational settings

*How can we encourage our migrant children to become proficient in the language of their adopted community, while at the same time maintaining oral, written and cognitive academic language proficiency in their own mother tongue?*

## 3. Learning and Teaching

*How can foreign language learning be supported for students from post-primary educational settings and thereafter? You may wish to concentrate on one educational sector.*

The IEA's Asia Trade Forum runs programmes with three universities (UCC; UCD; UL) to promote the study of Asian languages (UCC) and Asian business practice (UCD; UL). The IEA contribution to these programmes includes facilitating student projects on market entry strategies with member companies and also internship placements. Government support and sponsorship of these programmes would add to their reputation and would improve resourcing for their delivery and promotion.

#### **4. Teacher Education**

*How can we ensure an adequate and on-going supply of highly-skilled, professional teachers/trainers of foreign language at all educational levels to meet on-going and emerging needs?*

#### **5. Assessment and Qualifications**

*How can enhanced flexibility, choice and continuity in foreign language learning programmes, their assessment and accreditation be provided, particularly at Further and Higher Education?*

It is important that students of Asian languages in Ireland can have their abilities accredited to international standards in a way that is clear for potential employers.

#### **6. Assuring Quality**

*What measures should be in place to support quality assurance measures, evaluation processes and research projects and to provide a knowledge and evidence base for policy making in the area of foreign languages?*

#### **7. Supporting Multilingualism in Business and Society**

*How can we promote a multilingual society and support service providers, both public and private, in meeting emerging needs?*

*a) What role can the education system play?*

The Irish Exporters Association is currently planning a survey that will be conducted with members in early 2015 to include a needs analysis of members regarding Asian languages. At present we are delivering industry/education partnership programmes with UCC; UL; and UCD. We will continue to work with these and other institutions as the needs of industry are further articulated.

## 8. Other Comments

*Please add any other comments you may have below that you believe are relevant to the development of the Strategy.*

The IEA's work on the Asia Trade Forum is almost entirely dependent on limited, annual, private sector sponsorship. This negatively impacts on longer term planning and security for the programmes we offer. Core funding for these activities is required to guarantee continuity and to maximise the reach of our programmes.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this template. Your feedback will help to inform the development of the Foreign Languages in Education Strategy

Please email this template to [foreignlanguages@education.gov.ie](mailto:foreignlanguages@education.gov.ie) , or post it to: Tim O'Keeffe, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1