



SPRINGBOARD
Building our future

**Irish higher education
contributing to job
creation and economic
recovery**

The Springboard initiative

Mary-Liz Trant, National Springboard Co-ordinator
EU Presidency Conference 28 May 2013

Springboard's mission



Ireland: currently 14% unemployment

Diverse profile of job seekers

Reskilling for new careers a key intervention

Target participants



SPRINGBOARD



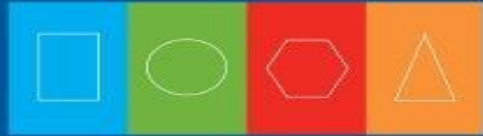
Unemployed people with a previous history of employment
Including those with no higher education qualifications



SPRINGBOARD

Expert Group on Future Skills Needs

All Springboard courses in areas where there are skills needs

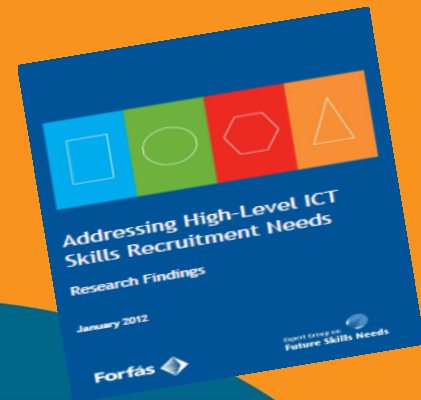


Guidance for Higher Education providers on current and future skills needs of enterprise

Springboard 2013

Forfás

Expert Group on Future Skills Needs





SPRINGBOARD



**Identified
current and
future skills
needs in
Ireland**

How Springboard works



Call for Proposals

Certificate, degree, post-graduate level courses

Industry involvement = 50% of available marks

Expert panel recommends courses to be funded

Courses part-time, free

12 months maximum

Online system

35+ public and private colleges

To date:

10,000 places

State funding €40m



The screenshot shows the Springboard website with a navigation menu (HOME, ABOUT SPRINGBOARD, FAQ, HOW TO APPLY, NEWS, LINKS, CONTACT, REGISTER, LOGIN) and a main banner featuring a man pointing at a rising line graph. Below the banner are buttons for 'SEARCH COURSES' and 'AM I ELIGIBLE?'. A red banner announces 'NEW START' for June 2013. A central section lists in-demand qualifications: Bio-Pharmachem, Business/Management Skills, Food & Beverage, Green Economy, ICT, International Financial Services, and Medical Devices. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'VIEW ALL COURSES' and 'ARE YOU AN EMPLOYER?'. A feedback icon is also present.

Challenge: Providing adequate guidance for prospective participants



Dedicated Freephone helpline put in place – handled 4,250+ calls in 2012

New links built with national social protection services



Comprehensive evaluation framework



Some outcomes to-date

40% of graduates back in employment +6months

Top employment area = ICT

Participant satisfaction=89%

Graduation rate = 63%

Guidance provision still a challenge

Recognition of Prior Learning





SPRINGBOARD
Building our future

Thank you

Questions,
comments?

www.springboardcourses.ie
springboard@hea.ie