



## EDUCATING FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### Preliminary Announcement - October 2008

The Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) in partnership with Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology (IADT) and the Dundalk Institute of Technology as lead college in the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) project, ACE (Accelerating Campus Entrepreneurship<sup>1</sup>) are pleased to announce a one-day conference to be held in **Dublin Castle on Tuesday, 17 February 2009**. This conference explores how we can encourage, develop, enable and facilitate entrepreneurship in higher education and training programmes in Ireland.

#### Why is Entrepreneurship important?

The key characteristics of entrepreneurship are cited as innovation, creativity, risk-tolerance, leadership, ambition and sustainability. Entrepreneurship is considered to be the key support towards propagating and developing a spirit of enterprise and innovation in the future workforce. It can help graduates better understand the social and economic forces driving the organisation they may one day join. Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship will offer a head start on creating and sustaining a business or organisation and promote long-term sustainable economic development in Ireland. The characteristics of entrepreneurship underpin the learning outcomes of the National Framework of Qualifications and are central to training people to make a significant contribution to the Irish economy.

#### Who should attend the Conference?

Those involved in enterprise (public and private) interested in understanding and fostering the key characteristics of entrepreneurship in higher education and training programmes. As well as enterprise support agencies, county enterprise boards, chambers of commerce, innovation centres, business advisors, mentors, consultants, higher education and training academics and heads, campus companies, public agencies, professional bodies, funding bodies and policy and support agencies.

#### Conference Objectives

The Conference will focus on the issues and inputs required to embed entrepreneurial ingenuity, innovation and risk-tolerance into learning outcomes and learners across **all disciplines and fields of learning** in higher education and training programmes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dundalk Institute of Technology is the lead college in a Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) project ACE (Accelerating Campus Entrepreneurship). This is a collaborative project in partnership with Blanchardstown Institute of Technology, Cork Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Sligo and National University of Ireland Galway. The project aims to embed entrepreneurship into technology programmes and effect organisational change within and between institutions, schools and departments.

The conference will focus on:

- Exploring innovative approaches from the industry and the academic perspective towards developing entrepreneurship in higher education and training programmes both in Ireland and abroad
- Highlight successful models of best practice and explore the cultural and other challenges in championing and embedding entrepreneurship in different disciplines within higher education and training;
- Provide a platform for key stakeholders to network and access local, regional and national educational providers across Ireland, to maximise the opportunities for national participation.

### **Registration Fee**

The registration fee for the Conference is €100