

Ireland: Community Education Framework

The Community Education Framework is an important step forward for community education in Ireland. It is part of the Irish commitment, named in the current [Further Education and Training \(FET\) Strategy](#), that seeks to ensure consistent approaches to community education across the FET sector.

Community Education plays a critical and unique role in the FET system in Ireland. It not only benefits learners and communities, but also plays an important role in supporting a democratic society. It is now more important than ever that we recognise community education for its ability to foster social cohesion and active citizenship.

Community Education Framework launched

On 4 June 2024, the Irish Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan launched the [Community Education Framework](#), together with SOLAS, the Further Education and Training (FET) authority, and key partners from the FET sector.



Development of Framework

This work was led by SOLAS and was two years of extensive research, development and consultation involving key stakeholders within the FET sector, including feedback from learners. The Framework

belongs to the whole FET sector, and it would not have reached completion without the valuable engagement and support from all of those involved. The development process is described [here](#).

Significant changes and desired effects

The Framework brings significant changes to the Community Education sector. It aims to have structures in place to support innovative ideas and best practice across Ireland. The Framework sets out key principles and an approach for policymakers, funders at national and regional levels, community education providers, and their staff, volunteers, learners and their representatives.

It is constructed around enacting positive change in how we learn; how we provide; how we coordinate; and how we fund; community education in Ireland.

Implementing the Framework

There are 24 actions recommended in the plan under the following four areas: learn; provide; coordinate and fund.

These actions include reviewing accreditation options, capturing the wider benefits of learning, addressing regional gaps and signing memorandums of understanding to underpin partnerships. SOLAS is establishing a National Implementation Steering Group comprising of representatives from key stakeholder groups to oversee this work.

The full Community Education Framework can be read [here](#).

Future FET: Transforming Learning. The National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy

Towards the Development of a Community Education Framework

Community Education Framework

Solas | Learning Works | Community Education Framework Launched by Minister Patrick

O'Donovan