

Welcome to March's issue of our ULearning Skillnet Newsletter. In this issue, we're pleased to announce that we have successfully obtained funding for another year from Skillnets. This is allowing us to give subvention to 200 students, with 50 unemployed learners getting assistance to participate on courses this year.

We have been told also that there will be another call for network proposals later this month so fingers crossed we will secure some extra funding to support more industry learners.

Last month we opened up discussions again with the Atlantic Way (<http://www.atlanticway.com>) exploring joint objectives and generally agreeing that as a successful industry and academic network we have lots of advice and experience to share with their members. I also welcome the appointment of Sarah Kieran new CEO of the Atlantic Way and we look forward to working closely with her over the coming months.

We currently have 45 industry members who have paid full membership to join our network. Presently we are promoting the ULearning Skillnet and encouraging companies to join. The more companies we have the more knowledge exchange and learning we can experience! It is our goal this year to encourage as many organisations as we can to join the Network.

This year we have introduced a number of new programmes to our catalogue of programmes on offer, so please let us know if you are or your organisation are interested in attending any of these programmes. We may be able to offer you subsistence towards the programme fees.

We have an exciting few months ahead organising our working conference on industry and education integration (IEI, 2011). A one day workshop will be held on Oct 21st at the Westpark Conference Centre, where the workshops will be led by a number of international and national respected industry and academic experts. If you are interested in getting a rational, practical and balanced view of what's really going on in terms of industry and education working together and the challenges and opportunities we are facing then this is the workshop for you!!! Early booking is advisable and details available from Sue at info@ulearning.ie or on the website <http://www.ulearning.ie> the website is constantly being updated with articles of interest so continue to check it out.

Please also feel free to forward this issue to a colleague, and let us know if there are any topics you would like us to feature in our newsletters. Ideas for workshops, events, guest speakers are very much welcome! I would also encourage any of you who wish to discuss new programmes or difficulties you may be having with upskilling individuals to let me know.

Finally don't forget if you need to renew your membership or join our network now is the time to do it!

Happy Learning!

Dr. Ingrid Hunt, ULearning Skillnet Manager



***Learning is like rowing upstream:
Not to advance is to drop back ---
Chinese Proverb***

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Industry and Education Integration (IEI, 2011)

Overview

If you are interested in listening to experienced experts who are successfully integrating education, upskilling and training within their organisations and want to get some new ideas on how to work more closely with educational training providers this is the workshop for you!

ULearning Skillnet will host a working conference "Industry and Education Integration" on October 21st 2011. This workshop will be led by international and national experts representing both industry and academia. The workshop will focus on:-

- Academic and Industry Interaction
- Skills Development
- Innovation around education and industry integration
- Employment Based Education and Training
- Future Skills

Who will be joining us?

- Don O' Sullivan - **Vistakon Ireland**
- Jane Lewis - **Cisco** Networking Academy UK & Ireland
- Howard Jones - Director **Eden Project**
- Mike Morris - Head of Education **Cisco**
- Hans Ehms - Head of Supply Chain Innovations, **Infineon Technologies**
- Dr. John Bartlett - Head of Research at **Sligo Institute of Technology**
- Irene Sheridan - Head of Strategic Innovation Projects Unit at **Cork Institute of Technology**
- Ronan O' Boyle - The RED Programme (Re-Employment & skills Development) at the **University of Limerick**
- Noreen Fitzpatrick - Programme Support Manager **Skillnets** Ltd.
- Mike Devane – **American Chamber of Commerce** and Executive Vice President **Quilly Consultancy**
- Keith Finglas – Director **Innovation Delivery**

Who should attend?

CEOs, HR managers, Training Managers, Industry students, Academic Course Coordinators and Developers and any individuals engaged in industry upskilling.

Why should you attend?

- This is an opportunity to engage in an interactive and thought provoking workshop led by experts. A day where you can concentrate on identifying key skills required for your organisation for the future.
- Hearing also from educational providers on how working with industry is a key component in ensuring 3rd level courses are relevant to enterprise skills needs.
- Providing you with a chance to network and explore new relationships

When and where does it take place?

Westpark Shannon Conference Centre, 21ST October 2011, 9.30am – 4.30pm - Refreshments and Lunch will be provided

What do I need to pay?

Payment details (100€ non members) (50€ ULearning members) – Details available from Sue at info@ulearning.ie

Why wait - Register now and book your place! To register your interest and reserve a place, email info@ulearning.ie

OUR TRAINING PROVIDERS



AUA

Atlantic University Alliance announced that applications are open from April 1st 2011, for the following programmes.

Diploma/BSc. Science & Technology Studies	Masters in Technology Management
Postgraduate Diploma in Innovation Management	Postgraduate Diploma in Technology Commercialisation
Specialist Diploma in Environmental Sustainability	Specialist Diploma in Lean & Quality Systems
Specialist Diploma in Medical Device Science	Specialist Diploma in Form & Function of the Human Body

Check out their recently launched website on www.aua.ie for full programme details:

Applications are open for a range of programmes in Science & Technology Studies, Product & Process Innovation and Technology Commercialization.

SLIGO IT

On behalf of ULearning Skillnet and all its members we would like to send on many congratulations to Dr. David Tormey from Sligo IT on his new appointment as acting Head of Department, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering and we wish him well in his new position.

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

University of Limerick has developed a one year diploma in Supply Chain Management for industry (Bachelor level) with the assistance of Infineon Technologies.

This diploma program offers a broad knowledge of the supply chain with a special focus on the fast changing global supply chain in the high technology industry, knowledge concerning interfaces from the development to the production, information systems and information technology needed for the supply chain, knowledge concerning typical human factors in an organization as well as practical training by working on case studies and a project.

The program is structured along the framework of the Supply-Chain Council's Supply Chain Operations Reference model (SCOR) Participants gain a solid academic education in Supply Chain which makes them more proficient in their daily work. Targeted are employees in the supply chain department with a post second level qualification who are keen to upgrade their skills and theoretical knowledge in supply chain or employees with post second level qualifications from other disciplines seeking a mid-career switch to the supply chain department.

In 2010, a group of 8 Infineon employees from Dresden, Dublin, Munich, Regensburg, Shanghai, Singapore and Villach joined the course. The benefit for the participants is already visible and therefore I would like to recommend this program. Hans Ehm, Principal Logistics Systems, Head of Supply Chain Innovations, Infineon Technologies AG.

A group of 10 students are commencing the programme in 4th April, and UL are currently registering interest in the programme for the September 2011 start. This program is delivered as an online distance education program through GoToWebinar weekly with two one week sessions of on campus workshops and group work in Limerick, Ireland.

For further information you can visit: <http://www.ul.ie/ulearning> or <http://tiny.cc/cd79j> Direct link to Diploma page or

contact: Michael Hennessy, Education Programmes Manager t: +353-61-213037 m: +353-87-6775335 e: michael.hennessy@ul.ie



OUR TRAINING PROVIDERS



NUI GALWAY

NUI Galway is hosting an Adult Education Information evening on **Thursday, 5th May 2011 from 6.30 - 8.30pm** in the Orbsen Building, NUI Galway Campus. Prospective students will have an opportunity to meet with course tutors who will be on hand to discuss programme queries on a one- to-one basis.

For further information, contact Adult Education Office (091) 492062 or email adulthoodeducation@nuigalway.ie

New Specialist Diploma in Lean & Quality Systems

A new course in Lean & Quality Systems will run in NUI Galway commencing September 2011.

- Curriculum focused on the topical area of Lean, Six Sigma and Business Process Improvement
- Green belt material covered to enable students to top off their academic award with an industry standard professional qualification
- Delivery via blended learning teaching methodologies
- Medium-term up-skilling for career advancement or specialisation and/or re-skilling for career change or cross-team roles
- Entry requirement of Science or Engineering Diploma or higher

This one-year, part-time Specialist Diploma consists of a project and four inter-related taught modules:

- Problem Solving Tools & Techniques
- Enterprise Modelling & Simulation
- Lean Thinking & Lean Tools
- Quality Science-Six Sigma

The project topic is chosen by the participant in consultation with your supervisor and will be company based where possible.

Participants will gain knowledge of Lean, Six Sigma and various other techniques and systems for streamlining products, processes and services. Problem solving skills will be developed and honed. A focused project module will require participants to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios.

The course is intended for those who wish to focus their skills with a view to moving into specialist and hybrid lean roles e.g. internal lean consultants, waste minimisation specialists, process optimisation advisors. It will allow those with basic engineering qualifications to up-skill and specialise in Lean if taken as a 'top up' course. It will also allow those in other sectors to convert their skills and transfer their experience to this growing discipline.

This course is part of the Modular Programme in Science & Technology Studies. Other courses available within the programme include:

- Diploma in Science & Technology Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Science & Technology Studies
- Specialist Diploma in Environmental Sustainability
- Specialist Diploma in Medical Device Science
- Specialist Diploma in Form & Function of the Human Body

Further information is available from Niamh McHugh, T 091 495845, E niamh.mchugh@nuigalway.ie and on the AUA www.aua.ie and programme www.modularbsc.ie web sites



ITEMS OF INTEREST



Atlantic Way Regional Network Breakfast 8.30am Friday April 1st Westpark Business Campus, Shannon, Co. Clare

Atlantic Way is a voluntary membership network of individuals and organisations who believe that regional-level collaboration is the key to maximizing the potential of the West of Ireland as a world-class centre of excellence for living, leisure, knowledge and work. The recent world economic turbulence, together with its social consequences, should be a sharp reminder to every individual and organisation of their vulnerability to events they don't control. However, by sharing our ideas and by engaging across sectors, we can identify, create, support and drive major projects which will allow us, as a region, to compete more effectively on an international scale - to the benefit of all. To bring this about requires collaboration and the Atlantic Way Network facilitates this important role, linking diverse interests in the areas of business, education, community organisations, local government, voluntary services and development agencies.

Please take up Atlantic Way's open-invitation to engage with our membership through a dynamic mix of guest speakers and break-out sessions this Friday, 1st April at 8.30am. For more details please check www.atlanticway.com or to register for the event please email info@atlanticway.com



greenbusiness.ie Improving environmental performance can lead to cost savings.

greenbusiness.ie is a free resource efficiency advice service for Irish businesses and is funded under the National Waste Prevention Programme. The website <http://www.greenbusiness.ie> has recently been upgraded - useful tips, tools and relevant links are given for water and energy conservation and waste minimisation. Several case studies for different business sectors are included. In particular, the programme highlights how businesses can save money through improved resource efficiency. Free assistance to companies is delivered through on-line tools, telephone helpline and on-site support. Contact details are as follows: Tel: 1850 473361 - Email: contactus@greenbusiness.ie



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Office Opening Hours
Mon-Tue 9.00am – 3.00pm
Wed: 9.00 am-5.00pm,
Thur: 9.00am-4.00pm
Fri: CLOSED

ITEMS OF INTEREST



What is FutureSME?

FutureSME is an €8 million project funded by the EU's Framework 7 programme. Led by The University of Strathclyde, the consortium of 26 partners includes 13 manufacturing Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), research and development organisations as well as SME support agencies. The consortium represents a collaborative effort amongst 8 European countries: Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Slovakia, Sweden and the UK. There are 7 partners in Ireland, including 4 R&D (Tsunami, Lalui, GMIT and Astech), 2 SMEs (Roche Engineering and Eirebloc) and an SME network (Supply Network Shannon - SNS).

FutureSME is developing a sustainable manufacturing and business model for SMEs, which includes strategic and operational tools to enable small companies survive and thrive in an uncertain competitive environment. EU competitiveness depends on the performance of manufacturing SMEs. Within the EU, 75% of GDP and 70% of employment is related to manufacturing. About 10% of European businesses are manufacturers, 99% of whom are SMEs, a total of more than 2.5 million companies. In other words - the ongoing success of manufacturing SMEs is vitally important.

The FutureSME model recognises that manufacturing SMEs come in many forms and that individual SMEs may be driven by a range of goals besides profit or growth, such as passion for the environment or the local society. Critical to future success of SMEs is the ability to continuously evolve and adapt to changing environments and circumstances.

The project's website <http://www.futuresme.eu> provides information on progress to-date, including the availability of a new toolkit for business. The project partnership invites companies to register on the website and try out the various diagnostic and improvement tools which are continuously being added to and updated. The project is particularly interested in working with companies who are willing to test its SME transformation programme. This is available free to a select group of companies during the project time period and will deliver significant benefits. Contact Denis Kearney, denis@tsunami.ie, or Pat O' Meara, admin@sns Shannon.com for further information.

Don't forget you can follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) too!



Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
An Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostálachta



The ULearning Skillnet is funded by member companies and the Training Networks Programme, an initiative of Skillnets Ltd, funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Education and Skills. www.skillnets.com



MEMBERS SECTION



What are the benefits of studying and working with ULearning Skillnet?

"Undertaking the Diploma in Innovation Management with the AUA in conjunction with ULearning Skillnet is proving really beneficial to my work. At work I can see the practical applications of what we are learning on a daily basis. While studying and working can be a challenge, it has helped me focus my time at work and at home better in order to get the most out of my studying. I find myself thinking about problems differently and applying different solutions to old problems with improved success. ULearning is helping me achieve a diploma which fits around my work and is helping me advance my career at the same time." - **Helen Delaney, Creganna-Tactx Medical - Galway**

"At Medtronic, we believe that being part of the ULearning Skillnet is important to the continued professional development of our employees. It also provides us with an 'open door' access to academia and helps us to forge new & promote existing relationships within the Skillnet network." **Alice Forde, Learning & Development Specialist Medtronic Inc.**

Current Research some of our ULearning Skillnet Learners are actively working on

- Root cause analysis research for the medical device industry
- Assessing how Irish Education System can develop Ireland into a Knowledge Economy
- Identifying educational programmes for above average children
- Is twitter a better media relations tool than the traditional press release - an Irish SME prospective

Member Company News

SpamTitan Technologies, a global provider of sophisticated enterprise-level email security solutions, markets SpamTitan, offering small and medium size businesses the most comprehensive protection from email threats, including SPAM, viruses, Trojans, phishing, malware and other unwanted content. They also market WebTitan, an easy-to-install, easy-to-manage and highly secure web filtering solution. SpamTitan Technologies' unique approach in utilising next-generation [virtualisation](#) software eliminates the need for unwieldy hardware, giving customers unparalleled flexibility, versatility and capability but at an affordable price. A division of Copperfasten Technologies, SpamTitan Technologies is a global company with headquarters in Galway, Ireland. Here we are an indigenous Irish SME with 10 employees at the moment, with customers in over 100 countries worldwide. For further information visit www.spamtitan.com

We have just taken part in an industry research paper by Osterman on Messaging and Web Security Best practises

[Messaging and Web Security Best Practices for 2011 and Beyond - An Osterman Research White Paper](#)

This white paper discusses the threats that organizations face from spam, malware and other threats directed at their messaging and Web capabilities. It uses research from recent Osterman Research surveys, as well as information from a variety of other data sources. It was sponsored by five leading vendors of messaging and Web security capabilities - Edgewave, GFI, SpamTitan, Symantec.cloud and Websense.

http://www.ostermanresearch.com/whitepapers/or_or0311.pdf

For further details please check out:-

<http://www.spamtitan.com/> or <http://www.webtitan.com>