

# Skills for the Next Step: Embedding Employability into Higher Education

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Claire McGee

Innovation and Education Policy

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# It started with a ....



Ibec's vision is for  
Ireland to be:

- A balanced, growing  
and prosperous society
- The best place in the  
world to do business



Our strength  
lies in the  
number and  
diversity of  
our members



# Ibec's Education Target

“A world class education and training system that equips people with the skills and attitudes that maximise their contribution to society and lead fulfilling and rewarding lives”



# Priorities for 2017

Investment in education

More 3<sup>rd</sup> level options

Developing relevant  
skills & employability

Business –education  
engagement

Junior and senior cycle  
reform

Career Guidance

# Context #1: Ireland's people

## Population

- 1m of our 4.6m population are under the age of 15
- emigration of 81,000 and immigration of 69,000

## Employment

- Of our 2.17m labour force, 1.98m are in work
- 323,000 self-employed
- 376,000 in public sector

## Unemployment

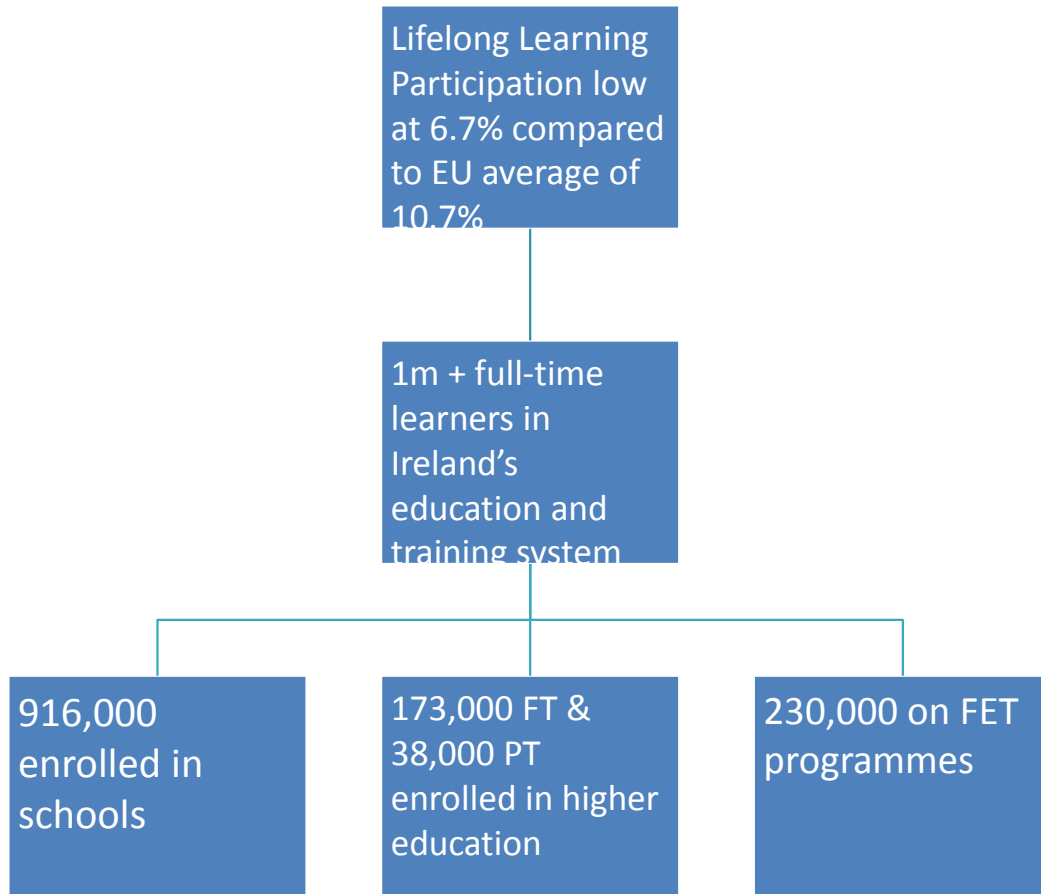
- 8.3% at end 2016, reduced from 15.1% in 2008
- Youth unemployment rate of 18.9%
- 102,000 long-term unemployed

## *Looking to the Future...*

- **60% of those in the labour force will still be eligible workers in 2035.**
- **Those moving from working age into retirement will grow from 0.5m (2011) to 1.4m by 2046.**
- **Enterprise 2025: target of 2.18m in work by 2025**

## Context #2:

# Ireland's education & training system



### Looking to the Future...

- 40,000 additional students in school system over 2015 – 2017 period. Peak enrolments at primary in 2018 and second level in 2025
- Demand for HE places to increase by 30% by 2030
- 50,000 apprenticeship & traineeship places by 2020
- Enterprise 2025: investment in-company training and upskilling to double



# Context #3: Ireland's enterprises

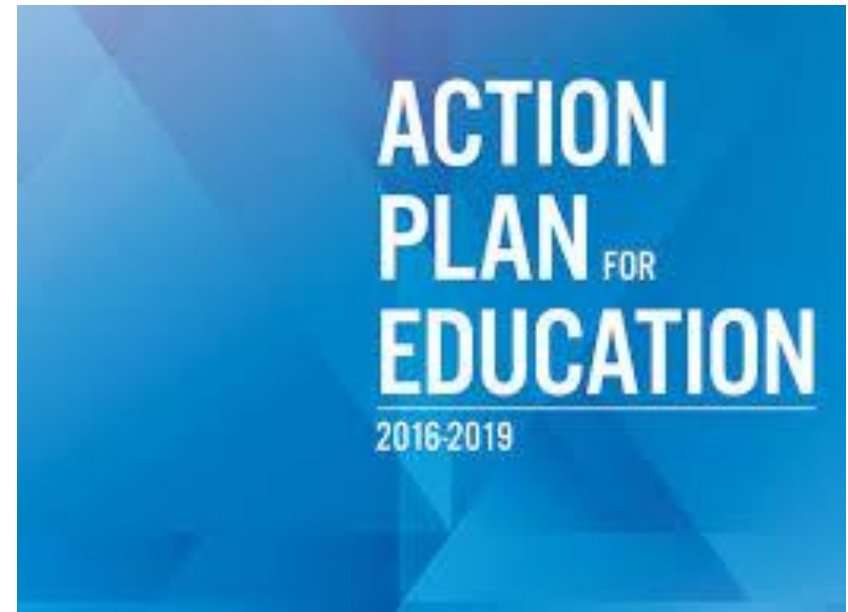


# National Policy Response

- National Skills Strategy 2025



- Action Plan for Education



# Employability....

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**Knowing**

**What**

**We**

**Know!**

# Self Awareness

- **Getting to the end of the next chapter, next essay, next exam**
- **Why are we here ?**
  - **What sparked the interest in this language course?**
    - **What are we achieved?**
- **Progressive teaching practice is reflective**
- **Need to start talking about learning as a reflective practice**
  - **Becoming self aware to know what we know and why**

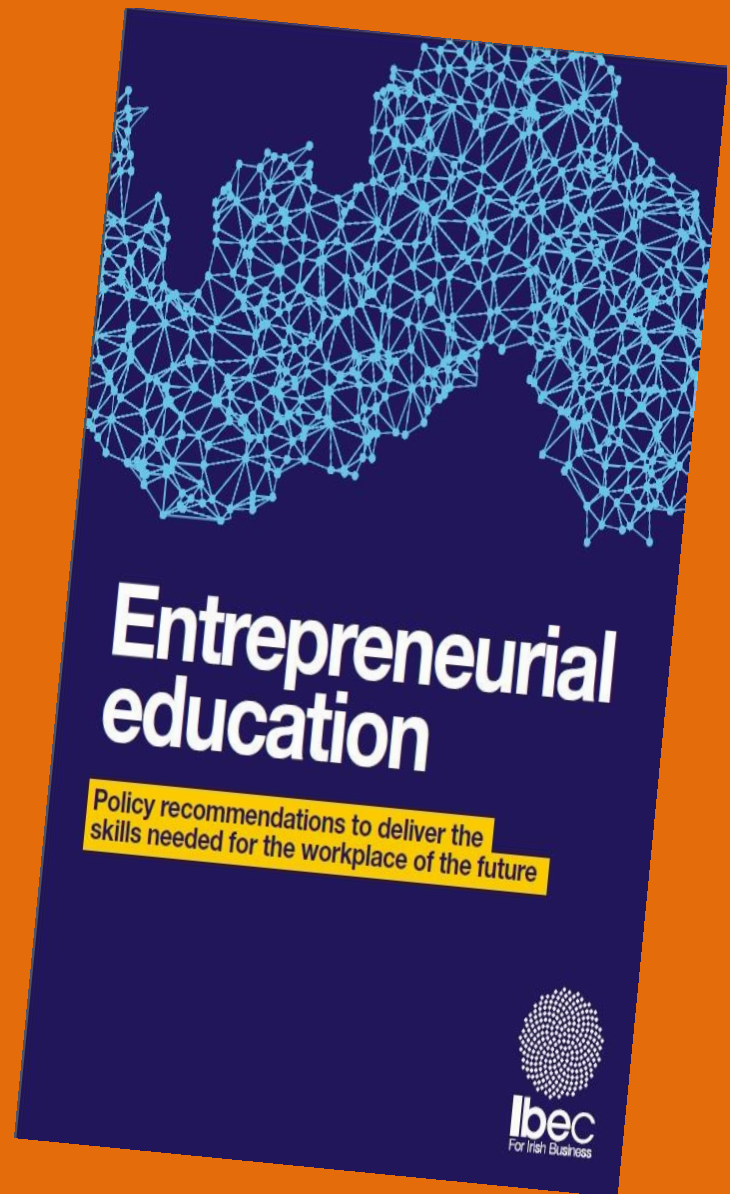
# Key Elements

- **Self Management**
- **Team Working**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Communication**
- **Business and Customer Awareness**
- **Application of Numeracy and Literacy Skills**

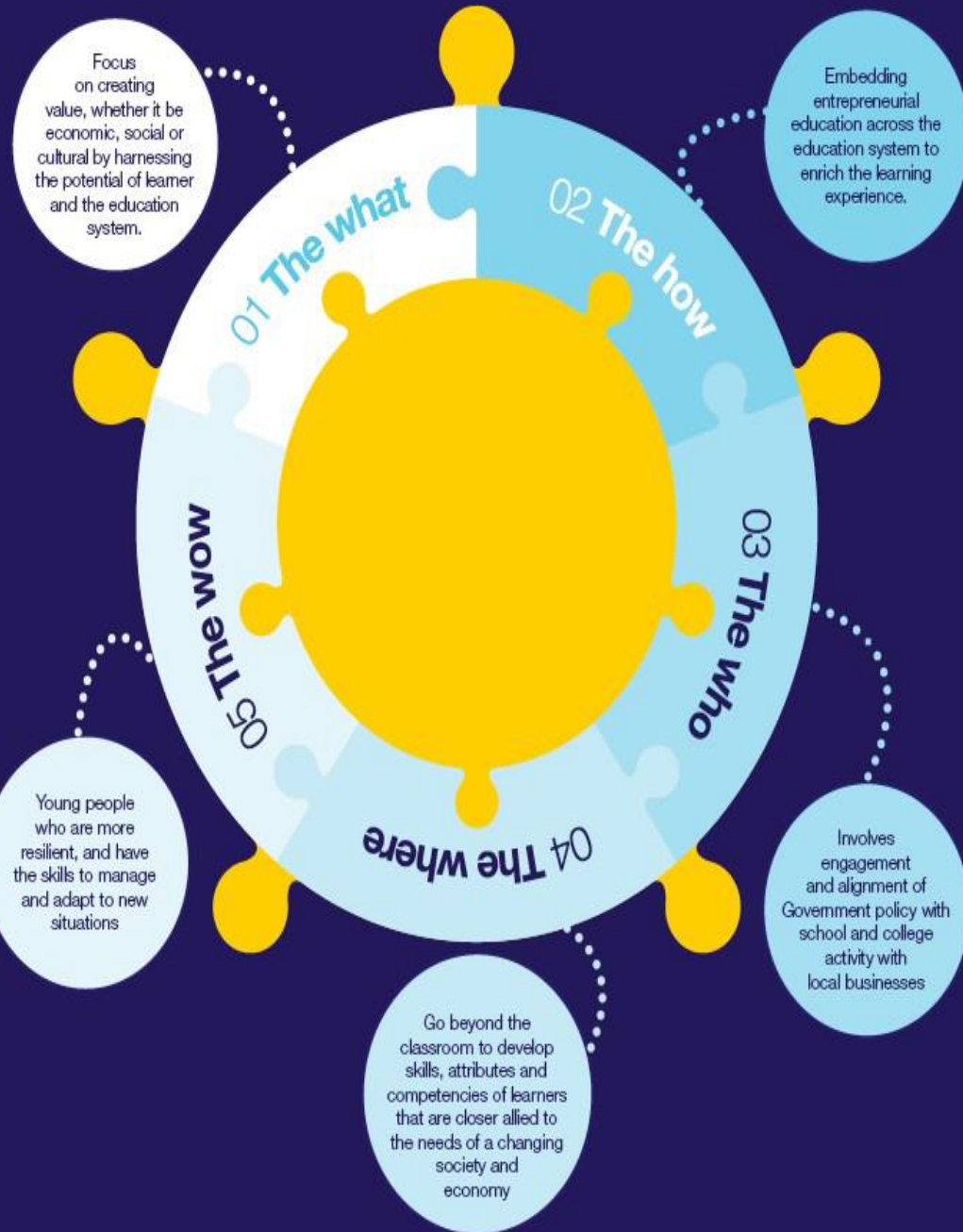
# Developing skills for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Policy recommendations to deliver  
future skills

- Critical and analytical thinking
- Self awareness
- Proactiveness
- Innovative
- Ability to deal with uncertainty



# Entrepreneurial education: five key points



**Ibec**  
For Irish Business

# Employability....

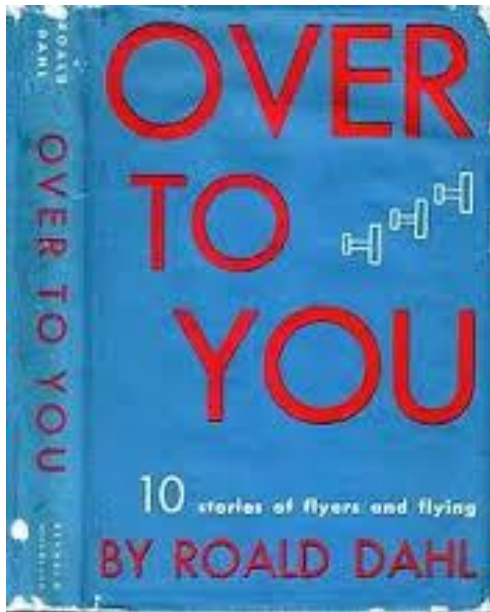
**Do language graduates understand their relevance?**

**Can language graduates present their academic trajectory?**

**Can language graduates tell employers “why me”?**



# Over to you ...



**Contact :**  
**Claire McGee, Ibec**

**[claire.mcgee@ibec.ie](mailto:claire.mcgee@ibec.ie)**