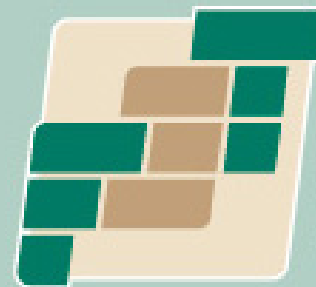


# Welcome



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Comhairle na nDámhachtainí  
Breiseleachais agus Oilúna

# Agenda

- Update
- The Common Awards System
- Programme Validation
- Managing Transition



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# Update

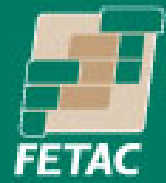
- Making awards
- Consolidating Quality Assurance
- FBS Certification
- Amalgamation of FETAC, HETAC, NQAI
- European Developments



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Korkeakoulutusalan ja  
Koulutuskeskukset

# Quality Framework for Providers

- **Provider Registration**, including arrangements for fair and consistent assessment of learners and for RPL
- **Validation** of programmes leading to Common Awards includes self evaluation
- **Monitoring** the effectiveness of providers programmes and services
- **Five year review** of providers QA



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and Assessment of  
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# Summary of EU Developments

**EU 2020 Growth Strategy**

5 key areas: Employment, R&D/innovation, Climate/energy, Education, Poverty/social exclusion

**Education & Training 2020**

**Copenhagen Process 2002**

Maastricht (2004), Helsinki (2006), Bordeaux (2008) and Bruges (2010), Communiqués

Tools

**Europass  
Mobility  
Instrument/  
C.V.**

**EQF  
Qualification  
Framework**

**EQARF  
Reference  
Framework**

**ECVET  
Credit  
Framework**

**RECOGNITION and QUALITY**



# Common Awards System

**A comprehensive suite of awards  
available to learners**



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# A Comprehensive suite of Awards

Comprehensive suite of awards achieved through

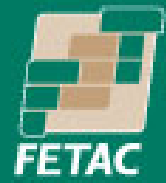
- migration of existing awards into Common Awards System
- development of new awards in new fields of learning



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# Phased Introduction of the Common Awards System

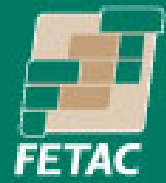
- Development 2004-2006
- Implementation (new awards) 2008
- Migration 2008-2011
- Publication 2010  
onwards
- Deactivation of existing awards  
2011 onwards
- Review of standards 2012



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Ffurdded a Gynhyddu

# A single coherent way of developing awards

- National Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS)
- Breadth and balance-generic, personal/interpersonal, vocational skills
- Clear relationship with other FETAC awards, widening participation, making new pathways



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Eanáire 2007

# Common Awards

- A Common Format - awards specifications
- A focus on the outcomes of learning
- Accessible to all registered providers via validated programmes
- Grading - at level of minor and for overarching award



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Kilnashuaun 10 (Kilnashuaun)

# Award Types (and Codes)

- Major Awards (M)
- Supplemental Awards (U)
- Special Purpose Awards (S)
- Minor Awards (N)



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# Awards Directory and Specifications

Directory searchable by

- Field, sub field and domain
- NFQ level, field, sub-field, domain

Awards Specifications

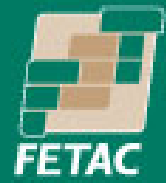
- Level, purpose and outcomes
- Minor Awards Specifications - learning outcomes and assessment techniques
- Unique identification code, begins with level eg 5M for Level 5 Major, 5N for Level 5 Minor



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Kilnabuckley 10 (Kilnabuckley)

# Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS)

- 1 Credit - up to 10 hours of typical learner effort
- All major awards at the same level have the same value (120 Credits at Level 5)
- Default minor Credit Value at each level - provides stability, facilitates planning
- Alternative options for minors at each level
- ECVET- compatible



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# Credits

Level	Credit Values for Major awards	Default Minor Credit Values
L1	20	5
L2	30	5
L3	60	10
L4	90	10
L5	120	15
L6	120	15

*Major awards allow for a specified volume of credit to be carried from the level above or below the level of the award.*

*The credit value remains constant.*

# Grading

- Major, Special Purpose Supplemental, Awards are graded
- Grade is derived from minor common award achievement
- Weighting Per Minor

$$D=3$$

$$M=2$$

$$P=1$$

## Calculations

$$\sum (CV \times W)$$

-----

$$\sum CV$$

## Application

- $1-1.49 = P$
- $1.5-2.49 = M$
- $2.5-3 = D$



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Established in 1969

# Publication and Deactivation

Level	Type	Publication dates	Deactivation date (last date for certification)
3	Major (4) and associated minors	October 2010 (all)	5 December 2011
4	Majors (9+) and associated minors	February 2011 – set 1 October 2011 – set 2	12 December 2012
5	Majors (100+)	February 2011 – set 1 October 2011 – set 2	12 December 2012
		February 2012 – set 3 October 2012 – set 4	12 December 2013
6	Majors (100+)	February 2011 – set 1 October 2011- set 2	12 December 2012
		February 2012 – set 3 October 2012 – set 4	12 December 2013
5	Minors	February 2011- October 2012	Date of the major award of which they are a part or December 2012 or 2013. Check website.*
6	Minors	February 2011- October 2012	Date of the major award of which they are a part or December 2012 or 2013. Check website *

# Consolidating Quality

- Registered providers, agreeing quality assurance procedures
- FETAC publish awards and standards
- Range of programmes and assessment designed by providers
- **FETAC validates programmes**
- Provider delivers programmes, implements assessment process
- FETAC makes the award to learners



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Konsultant na hArdleibhí

# Validation

**Ensures that learners have appropriate opportunities to achieve the standards for awards**



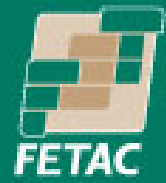
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## Validation ensures that....

- QA policies and procedures are implemented
- Awards standards can be achieved
- Learners achieve certification

*Validation only applies to Common Awards*

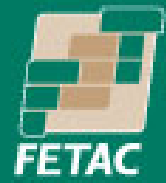
*Validation is at Provider level*



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Representing all sectors

# Programmes

- The learning package designed, developed and delivered by the provider
- Describes how the award standard will be reached
- Provides insight into the learning experiences on offer



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# Programme v award

- Award standard states what the learner will be able to know and/or do on achievement of the award i.e. it is the knowledge, skill and competence associated with the award
- Programme is about the learning experience the learner will participate in, in order to gain that knowledge, skill and competence

In very simple terms the award is the **destination** while the programme is the **journey**.



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# Programme Development and Programme Descriptors

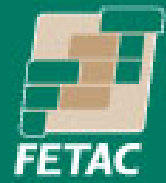


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Korrespondenz mit eugen. Müller

# Programme Descriptor Concept

- All information for a programme is in a single document
- Owned and maintained by provider
- Ensures compliance with FETAC requirements
- Information/communication
- Assessment and self evaluation



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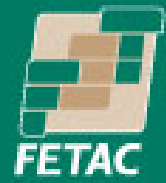
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Ffurio a'r ysgol uwchrif

# Approach to development

Based on the provider's own quality assured approach

FETAC model is:

- Scope
- Programme frame development
- Programme module development
- Ensure coherence
- Complete application



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Korrespondensie van 1990-1991

# Descriptor Elements

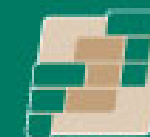
- Title
- Awards
- Profile
- Learner profile
- Objectives
- Entry criteria
- Duration



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# Descriptor Elements Contd.

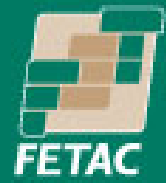
- Delivery mode
- Delivery methodologies
- Programme structure
- Assessment plan
- Review schedule
- Transfer and progression
- Learner supports
- Specific validation requirements



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# Programme Structure

- How many programme modules?
- Compulsory or optional?
- Duration of each module
- Matrix of components
- Matrix of assessment



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Education and Skills

# Programme Modules

For each module:

- Title
- Awards
- Duration
- Aims and objectives
- Content and outcomes
- Assessment
  - Techniques
  - Time
  - Format
  - Assessment guidelines and marking scheme



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# Applying for Programme Validation



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Koronafoorte en rego 2008

# The Validation Process

- Briefing
- Programme development
- Application
- Submission and screening
- Evaluation
- Decision
- Appeal
- Review



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# Application Procedure

## The provider

- Consults the web and selects an award
- Contacts [validation@fetac.ie](mailto:validation@fetac.ie)
- Develops programme
- Evaluates (PAA)
- Makes a validation application



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Fiontartha na hÉireann

# Application Procedure

## FETAC

- Receives the application
- Screens
  - registered provider
  - protection for learners
  - awards identified
  - all required information is in place
- Evaluates (non PAA)



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# Criteria

**Consistency:** Award Programme QA

**Coherence:** Objectives Learner Profile Structure  
Delivery Assessment

**Capacity:** Awareness Ability Facilities

**Compliance:** Awards QA Duration ATP Assessment

The programme's potential to **enable** the learner to meet the standards of knowledge, skill and competence for the awards based on the specified learner profile and the standards for the award.

# Managing Transition

Existing Award → Common Award

Existing Programme → Validated Programme



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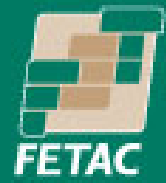
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# Transition Sequence

- 1 New Common Award published
- 2 Information Note for Providers published
- 3 Provider develops new programme, leading to Common Award
- 4 FETAC validates new programme
- 5 Existing programme cycle ends
- 6 New programme commences
- 7 Programme is completed. Evidence is assessed for Certification.

# Certification for Common Awards

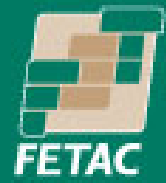
- Only for validated programmes
- Using FETAC Business System (FBS)
- Award determination according to Directory requirements



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Technischen Verbände

# Key Changeover Dates

1. Existing Awards deactivated December 2011, 2012, 2013
2. Programmes Validated 2011, 2012, 2013
3. Existing minors exchangeable until December 2014



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Karneddwr yn eiddo Ffôn

# Timelines

## Programmes Running over:

- 1 academic year – level 4,5,6 – Spring 2012, 2013, 2014
- 1 calendar year – Levels 4,5,6 – Summer 2012, 2013, 2014
- Short duration- minor or special purpose – allow 12 weeks minimum



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## National Framework of Qualifications

- Awards
- Within Programmes



# Access and Transfer: Towards Awards

- Existing minor awards are exchangeable until December 2014
- Towards Major, Special Purpose, Supplemental Awards
- See Information Note for Providers regarding relationship between existing and new minors



# Access and Transfer: Towards Awards

- The grade of a major, supplemental or special purpose award is derived from minor common awards. Exemptions gained from existing awards do not affect the Common Award Grade.
- Transcripts fully record the date and grade of attainment of existing and new minor awards
- Exemptions are recognised within a CAS award, recorded as E when requesting certification
- From January 2015 only Common Awards will be made and used for certification purposes

# Progression

## From programme to programme within FET

- Comprehensive Directory of Awards
- Validated programmes

## To employment

- FETAC Information - recruitment websites, publications
- Employers organisations represented on Standards Advisory Board and Council



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Eileanna agus Tréimne

# Progression

## To Higher Education

- HELS continues in principle
- New Scoring System for access through CAO to 1<sup>st</sup> year, on the basis of level 5 or 6 award – parallel system
- Cap of 400 points,  
<http://www.fetac.ie/fetac/documents/casL56score2010.pdf>
- Existing awards recognised at point of certification
- UCAS- preparatory work initiated

## Internationally

- EU - on basis of National Reference Point recognition (ENIC/NARIC - [www.enic-naric.net](http://www.enic-naric.net)) - NFQ to EQF

# Call to Action!

## FETAC

- Publish on [www.fetac.ie](http://www.fetac.ie) briefings notes, Information Note for Providers
- Public information programme, learner leaflets, Guidance Counsellors, HEIs, Employers etc
- Includes amalgamation messages
- Working with Higher Education Institutions

# Call to Action!

## Providers – QA Drives

- Research major and minor awards
- Use the Directory
- Brief colleagues
- Begin programme development for validation
- Have programme validated
- Plan - including publicity material, information for learners, completion of current programme cycle

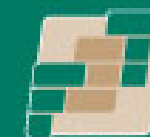


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# Further Information

[www.fetac.ie](http://www.fetac.ie)

**Thank You!**



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