

“Life-long learning at Institutes of Professional
Higher Education”

Eurashe, Prague 16th, 17th October, 2008

Workforce Education (and Lifelong Learning) and the Institutes of Technology in Ireland

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- Higher Education in Ireland
- Economic and Social Developments
- Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures
- The Role of The Institutes of Technology
- A Major Initiative

Higher Education in Ireland

- ▶ Binary system (Universities and Institutes of Technology) with some private providers
- ▶ 80,000 and 64,000 students in 7 Universities and 14 Institutes respectively
- ▶ Most Institutes less than 40 years old
- ▶ Universities and Dublin Institute of Technology make their own awards; others under Delegated Authority or through Higher Education Training and Awards Council
- ▶ Increasing emphasis on 'Fourth Level'
- ▶ As of February 2007 Universities and Institutes under the authority of the Higher Education Authority
- ▶ Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 1999

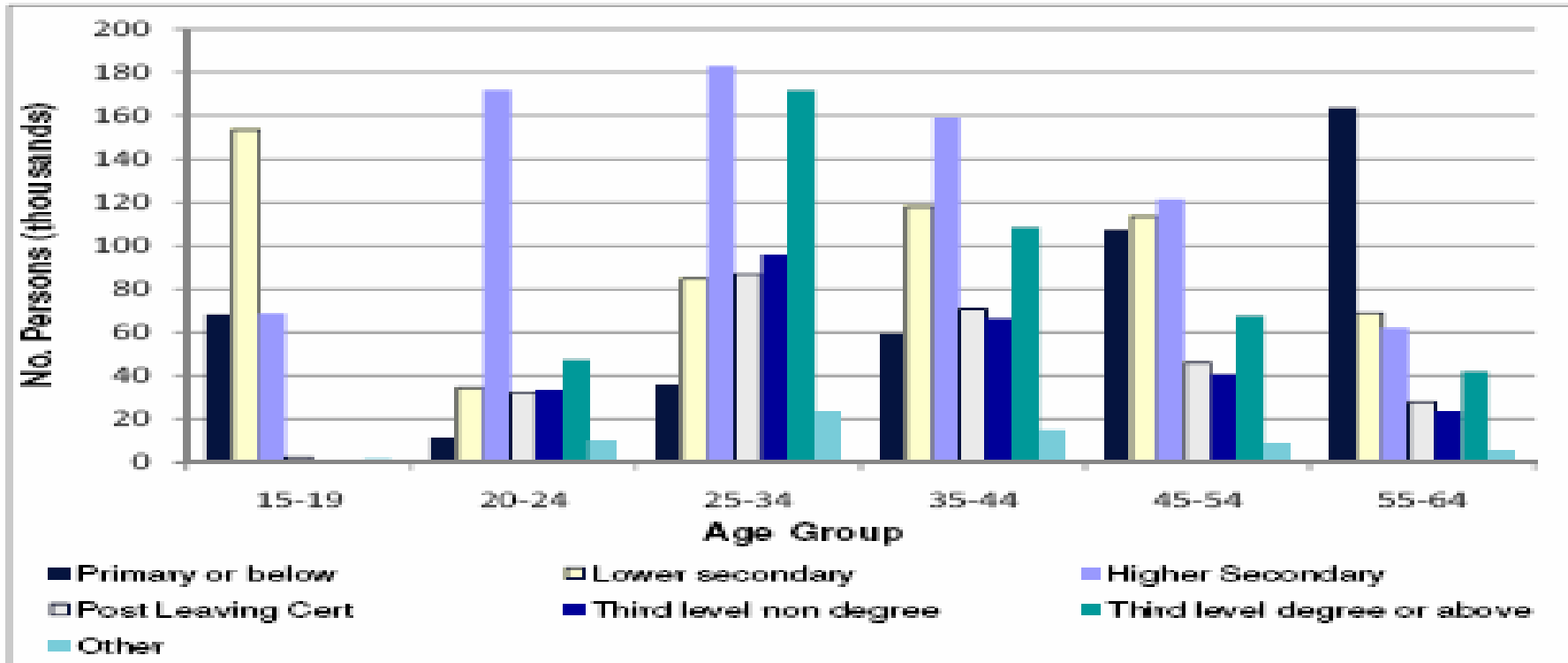
Economic and Social Developments 1 – Our Productivity is Decreasing



Economic and Social Developments 2 – Our Productivity is Decreasing

GDP: Overall Productivity ¹	GNP: Hourly Productivity ²	Productivity in Private Services ³	Productivity in Public Sector ⁴
1. IRELAND	1. USA	1. Switzerland	1. Switzerland
2. USA	2. France	2. France	2. Finland
3. Italy	3. Germany	3. Germany	3. Netherlands
4. Netherlands	4. Netherlands	4. Italy	4. Denmark
5. France	5. Switzerland	5. Denmark	5. New Zealand
6. Denmark	6. Denmark	6. Britain	6. USA
7. Finland	7. Britain	7. Netherlands	7. Germany
8. Germany	8. IRELAND	8. Finland	8. Britain
9. Britain	9. Italy	9. IRELAND	9. IRELAND
10. Spain	10. Spain	10. Spain	10. France
11. Switzerland	11. Korea		11. Spain
12. Singapore	12. Poland		12. Italy
TOTAL: 16	TOTAL: 13	TOTAL: 10	TOTAL: 12

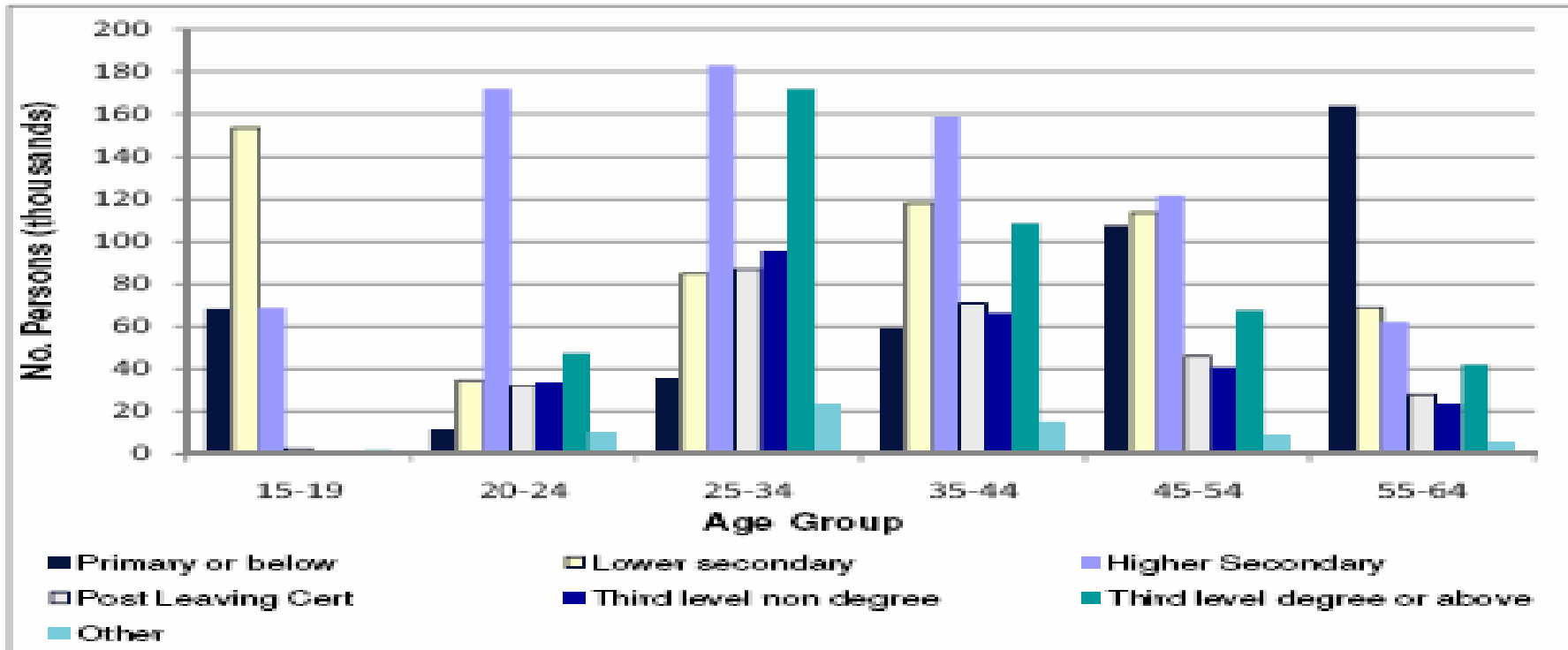
Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures 1 – Strong Full Time Performance for Younger Age Cohorts



Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures 2 – Poor Part-Time Performance

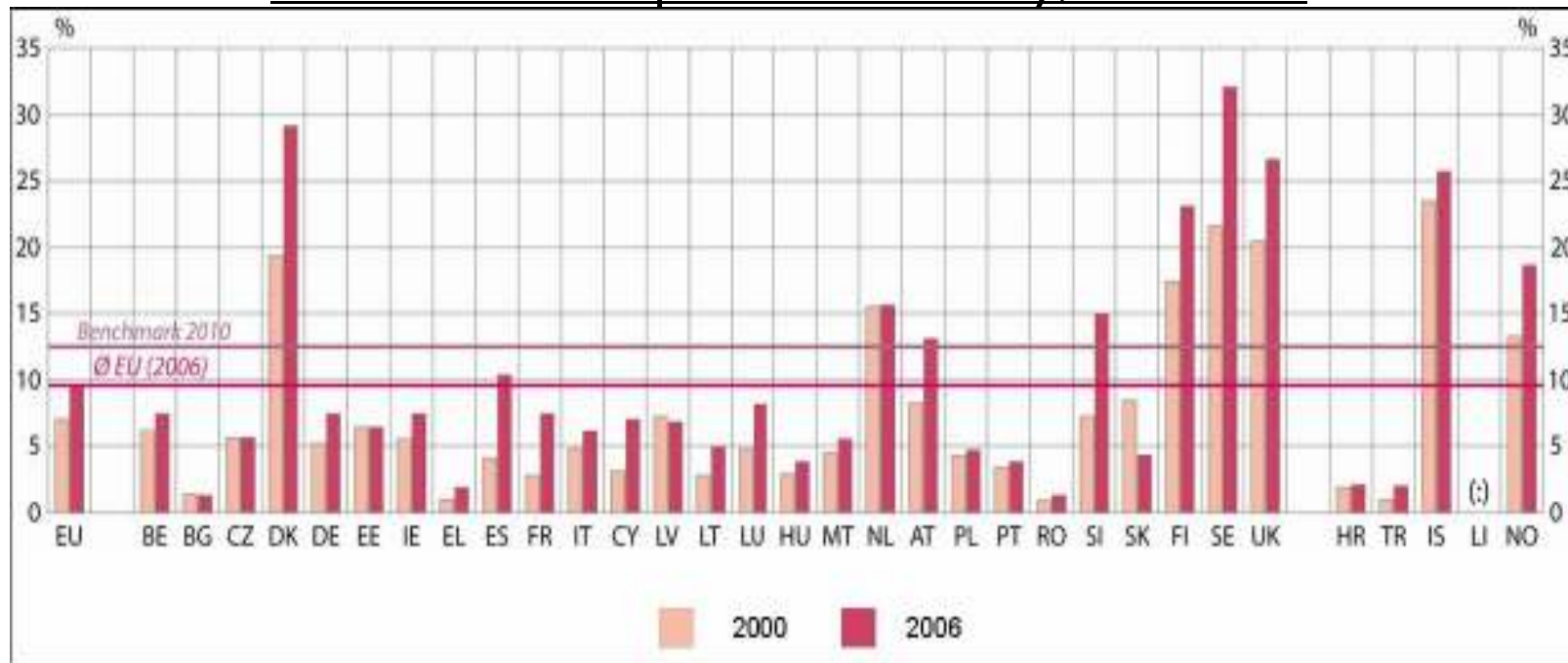
- ▶ 30% of current workforce has not got a Leaving certificate
- ▶ We are 7th in EU (2002) in terms of proportion of working age population classified as highly skilled
- ▶ We are 15th of 30 OECD countries (2001) for those between 25-64 with degree level qualifications
- ▶ We are 12th out of 30 OECD countries for those between 25-34 with degree level qualifications

Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures 3 – Significant Need to Upskill Older Age Groups



Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures 3 – We Compare Badly with Benchmark Countries

Percentage of population aged 25-64 participating in education and training in the four weeks prior to the survey, 2000-2006



Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures 4 – Current Efforts are Patchy

- ▶ 48% of employees report participation in employer sponsored training in the last two years.
- ▶ Training is more likely among more educated employees
- ▶ Employees in large organisations more likely to receive training than in small ones

Lifelong Learning in Ireland – Some Facts and Figures 5 – National Targets



- ▶ Mature students will comprise at least 20 per cent of total full-time entrants by 2013 (13 per cent in 2006).
- ▶ Mature students will comprise 27 per cent of all (full-time and part-time) entrants by 2013 (18 per cent in 2006).
- ▶ Flexible/part-time provision will increase to 17 per cent by 2013 (7 per cent in 2006).

The Role of The Institutes of Technology

- ▶ A strong focus on the needs and requirements of the workplace.
- ▶ Equality of access and seamless transfer and progression to and through full-time and part-time programmes of study
- ▶ Provision of flexible and innovative industry and society-responsive programmes of study
- ▶ Research ethos aligned with the development of a national innovation system and the promotion of entrepreneurship
- ▶ Integrating of research and teaching in order to share, apply, test and create knowledge
- ▶ Integrated web-based services to learners and researchers and management of flexible learning environments.
- ▶ Development of learning communities

A Major Initiative 1

IOTI/DIT – HEA Strategic Innovation Fund Project

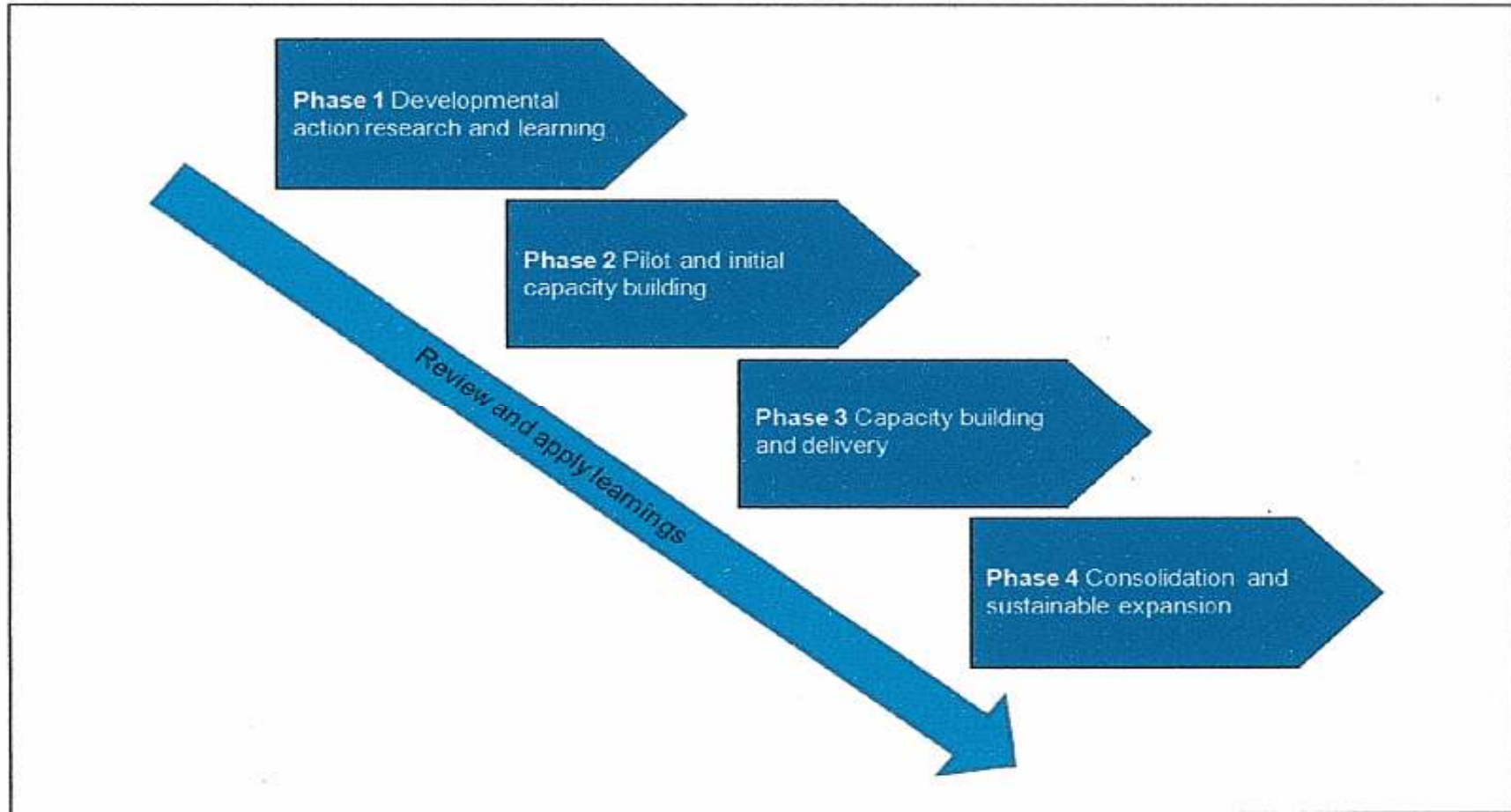
‘Addressing the Needs of the
Knowledge Economy’
- Flexible Learning Sub Project

A Major Initiative 2 – A Flexible Learning Network

The project aims

- ▶ To significantly **expand the number of people in the workforce** engaged in education and development
- ▶ Through **increased access** to and participation in higher education
- ▶ Using **flexible learning**

A Major Initiative 3 – The Plan



A Major Initiative 4 - Project Details

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- ▶ Project Leader - Dr. Richard Thorn, Director, Flexible Learning and Research, Institutes of Technology, Ireland
- ▶ 48 months starting September 1st, 2008
- ▶ Value of project c. €18M (€9M HEA funded, - €9M matched by Institutes)
- ▶ Small central team (project leader, senior executive and senior administrator)
- ▶ Large distributed team from early 2009 (1 instructional designer, 1 career coach plus two matched posts in each Institute)

A Major Initiative 4 - Project Details

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- ▶ Key elements of project
 - ▶ Sharing best practise
 - ▶ Delivery of flexible learning and instructional design pedagogy
 - ▶ Identify existing capacity
 - ▶ Generate detailed industry sector and regional skills profiles
 - ▶ Develop and agree shared 'brand' to highlight efforts of collaborating institutes.
 - ▶ Market and promote flexible learning opportunities

Thank You



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