



INNOVATIVE EUROPE INSTEAD OF IRISH AMERICA! WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE WITH EU-FUNDING - INFO NEWSLETTER NO. 21/2023

„Skills have become the global currency of the 21st century.

Without proper investment in skills, people languish on the margins of society, technological progress does not translate into economic growth, and countries can no longer compete in an increasingly knowledge-based global society“.

OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría

Ireland's membership of the European Union has greatly facilitated its transformation from an antiquated, agriculture dependent economy to one largely driven by hi-tech industry and global exports; also, the EU has always fully supported the Irish peace process, promoting reconciliation, economic and social progress in Northern Ireland and the Border Regions of Ireland after Brexit.

EU SINGLE MARKET access helps create jobs in Ireland: • on the one hand, Irish exporters, can sell without tax in Europe: in 2021, Ireland exported goods to the EU accounting for over €61 billion and had €34 billion of imports; • on the other hand, belonging to the EU Trade Block, international EU trade agreements help Ireland sell more easily in lucrative markets around the world: almost one third, or €52 billion of Irish exports went to the US and € 18.1 billion was imported from the US; € 33.3 billion was exported to the Rest of the World; € 18.1 billion was exported to the UK.

Irish citizens can get training, live and work in another EU Member State due to skills and qualifications being recognized in Europe.

With the the youngest population in the EU, nearly 20% of the population under the age of 15 (1 mil. out of 4,6 mil.), following the economic crisis in 2008 and the aftermath of the Corona pandemics (2020 - 2022), the Celtic Tiger is resurging and its growth-driven economy needs skills relevant for the labour market.

There is a mismatch between the skills acquired by young people in education and those required by employers in the Republic of Ireland/ROI, as well as numbers of available workers, leading to an imbalance, shortage and surplus occupations, as highlighted in IRELAND'S NATIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY 2025.



Exactly here jumps in EUCONTACT AT HOME IN EUROPE Ltd. / EUCONTACT with its **OUTGOING** project scheme, offering young people in FET the opportunity to undertake cross-national work-based learning in **companies / FE Colleges in Europe** in innovative sectors, relevant both for the Irish and European labour market.

We, EUCONTACT, are a **NOT-FOR-PROFIT SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL COMPANY**, with our headquarters in Cork/Ireland and various project-related liaison offices in EUROPE.

What makes EUCONTACT stand out from the crowd - we are, what we do: international, interdisciplinary, at home in the European Educational Area and European Labour Market.



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EU-FUNDING-BIDS
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EUCONTACT focusses on developing and implementing innovative projects, with **young people**, undertaking a **vocational qualification**, as main beneficiaries; we target the further development of the vocational education and training / VET sector, meeting the **social and political objectives of reducing the gaps** between **strongly-developed** and **weakly-developed European regions** in the **SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET**.

The **two-week** work-based learning mobility activities with **companies/FET providers in Europe** are offered in the following **sectors/vocational educational areas**:



OUTGOING SECTORS - VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AREAS for work-based learning/WBL mobility in Europe:

- **Engineering** - Mechanical, Electrical/ Electronic, Industrial/Manufacturing - production; CNC Operators across all manufacturing industry;
- **ICT** - core technology skills e.g. software developers, cloud, security, network administration;
- **Hospitality and Catering - Chefs**;
- **Health & Care: Nurses for General Care**. Demand-oriented, other areas can be included.

The WBL in the strategic sector envisaged is offered in countries **Ireland can learn from**, such as Austria, France, Germany.

OUTGOING countries:

Our project line targets, at **institutional** level, Irish **Further Education Training / FET Providers**, providing **VET at non-academic level**; the main **beneficiaries** are **vocational students and apprentices** in the penultimate and last year of study in the sectors outlined above.

TARGET GROUP of the **OUTGOING** project line:

OUTGOING SERVICES OFFERED from scratch - from project development to implementation:

- Analysis of the vocational areas and skills to promote at European level by the FET provider;
- Identification of work-placement providers in Europe, matching the needs of the FET provider;
- Support with the bidding process to access EU-funding;
- Project implementation: from the linguistic, cultural and professional preparation over carrying out the work-based learning mobility abroad,

monitoring and assessment to assistance with the bid documentation (reports, justificative formal documents).

For more information, visit:

www.eucontact.eu

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Interested? Contact us in English, German or French!

CONTACT: bid@eucontact.eu

