

# Institute of Technology, Sligo

## Progress against Performance Compact targets for 2014.

### 1. Regional Clusters

| Institute Objective                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Performance Indicator                       | Baseline                                                                                                                                                                                          | Interim target, end 2014                                                                                                 | Progress                                                                  | Status |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>1. Establish a cluster of HEIs in the West/North West region (GMIT, LYIT, IT Sligo, NUIG) with appropriate governance arrangements. It is also envisaged that a liaison will be established with the Mid-West cluster.</b> | The establishment of a functioning cluster. | Connacht-Ulster Alliance with GMIT and LYIT; Lionra Network; 'New Frontiers' Regional entrepreneurship programme with LYIT, "Ignite West" Technology Transfer Consortium with GMIT, LYIT and NUIG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cluster defined as the West/North West region in the first instance;</li> </ul>   | West/North West Cluster established between NUIG, GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree governance</li> </ul>                                                       | Governance agreed                                                         |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with other HEIs in the cluster to agree cluster objectives;</li> </ul>     | Cluster objectives established                                            |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with FE sector / ETBs</li> </ul>                                           |                                                                           |        |
| <b>2. Coordinated academic planning.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                      | A coordinated academic plan.                | Individual portfolio of programmes for each HEI in the cluster.                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of programmes in the cluster for full-time programmes</li> </ul>          | Programme mapping document for full time UG programmes developed          |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of programmes in the cluster for life-long learning programmes</li> </ul> | Data collected and mapping underway as part of the Regional               |        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                               |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                                                              | Skills Forum / ETB programme mapping                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of Research activity</li> </ul>                               | Complete in Business and Engineering                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                                                              | Science, Arts and Health Science scheduled for completion by year end                                                                                    |                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of Civic engagement initiatives</li> </ul>                    | Complete in Business and Engineering                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        |                                                                                             |                                                                                                              | Science, Arts and Health Science scheduled for completion by year end                                                                                    |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>3. To develop regional learning pathways with partner institutes and FE institutions to provide clearly articulated progression opportunities among HEIs in the region.</b> | Institutional transfer policies and FETAC entry routes | Review access, transfer and progression policies and practices across cluster institutions  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing access, transfer and progression policies;</li> </ul> | Review of existing transfer, access and progression policies complete                                                                                    |                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        | Develop new entry routes for non-traditional students to full-time and part-time programmes |                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devise formal schema for progression amongst partners and develop common access and transfer policies;</li> </ul> | Formal scheme for progression among partner institutes devised and common access and transfer policies complete in Business & |

|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |                                                                 |  |
|--|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          | Engineering                                                     |  |
|  |  |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          | Other areas scheduled for completion by year end                |  |
|  |  | Harmonise RPL policies and develop agreements to enable students with prior formal and experiential learning to gain direct or advanced entry to particular programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree on regional targets for number of transfers across institutions.</li> </ul> | Systemic capture of transfer numbers from September 2015 agreed |  |

The West / North West Cluster has been existence for over a year. During that time the Steering Group, Operations Group, Research Heads Group, Deans, Heads of Business Group and Deans, Heads of Engineering Groups have met separately on over twenty occasions. Further groups will come together in the coming months; Directors of Flexible Learning, Directors of Support Services, Deans and Heads of Schools of Science, Arts, and Health Sciences will meet.

The key achievements of the Cluster can be summarised as follows;

- A relationship of trust among senior management in the four institutions
- The appointment of two programme managers
- Comprehensive programme mapping across all undergraduate and postgraduate Cluster courses with baseline analysis complete
- Proposals being developed to pause programmes, align student pathways and transfer criteria in Engineering and Business
- A joint award Cluster programme at Level 9 in Regulatory Affairs offered by NUIG and IT Sligo due to begin in September
- Successful joint application between NUIG and LyIT under the Advanced Irish Language Skills Initiative, funding granted for MA in Translation Studies
- Agreement to establish 'The Wild Atlantic Way Research Group' to direct, fund and facilitate collaborative research in the four institutions
- Structured PhD – Following Cluster agreement NUIG supervisors engaging with staff in GMIT, LyIT and IT Sligo on over 70 expressions of interest from IOT staff in pursuing structured PhDs in NUIG, with some staff to begin in September

The West / North West Cluster is committed to student-focused higher education built on excellence in teaching, education and learning, research inter-institutional collaboration and sustainable, planned programme provision in the most geographically diverse Cluster region in the country.

## 2. Participation, equal access, lifelong learning

| Institute Objective                                                                     | Performance Indicator      | Baseline       | Interim target, end 2014 | Progress                                    | Status |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Steadily increase student numbers, facilitating access and progression pathways      | Student Populations (wwte) | 6547           | 6847                     | 6830 <sup>1</sup> WWTE in 2014/2015         |        |
| 2. Increase online student numbers, enhancing access and facilitating lifelong learning | Number of online students  | 930 in 2012/13 | 1,100                    | 1529 <sup>2</sup> online students 2014/2015 |        |

<sup>1</sup> This number is based upon IT Sligo's November 2014 return to the HEA. The March 2015 return will show a different and lower number because of a combination of both ongoing attrition and the departure of a cohort of international students who were registered for 1.5 academic years.

<sup>2</sup> This number is based upon IT Sligo's November 2014 return to the HEA. The March 2015 return will show a different and higher number because a number of programmes have a second semester intake.

### 3. Teaching & Learning

| Institute Objective                                                                                                                              | Performance Indicator                                                                                            | Baseline            | Interim target, end 2014                                                                                                                                                   | Progress                                                                                                                            | Status |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Deliver high quality teaching and learning through 21st Century Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), in collaboration with other providers</b> | Reduced non-progression                                                                                          | 27% non-progression | IT Sligo set a target to reduce non-progression from 27% to 23% over the period of the Performance Compact without identifying specific targets for the intervening years. | Non-progression rate reduced to 24% <sup>3</sup>                                                                                    |        |
| <b>Increase the number of academic staff with postgraduate qualifications in teaching and learning in higher education</b>                       | Increased number of academic staff with postgraduate qualifications in teaching and learning in higher education | 7                   | 8                                                                                                                                                                          | Target met. Currently planning PGCert in T&L in HE with a view to it being completed by all new lecturing staff from September 2015 |        |

<sup>3</sup> Based on HEA draft profiles for 2013

#### 4. Research

| Institute Objective                                                                                                                                                                                         | Performance Indicator                                                                                                                                              | Baseline                                | Interim target, end 2014                          | Progress 2014                                                                | Status |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Increase research income                                                                                                                                                                                    | Amount of competitively won research income                                                                                                                        | €1.1m                                   | €2.0m                                             | €1.98m <sup>4</sup>                                                          |        |
| Establish Strategic Research Centres in prioritised areas of research                                                                                                                                       | Establishment of successful Strategic Research Centres                                                                                                             | No strategic research centres (2012/13) | Establishment of three Strategic Research Centres | Three Strategic Research Centres established, PEM, CERIS and CRISP           |        |
| Increase in the number of registered level 9 and level 10 research students by 12% per annum                                                                                                                | Number of research students                                                                                                                                        | 72                                      | 80                                                | 74 registered research students 2014/2015 <sup>5</sup>                       |        |
| Increase in the number of staff engaging in research as defined by those, supervising level 9 and level 10 students and/or making competitive funding applications and/or making peer reviewed publications | Number of staff supervising registered research students at level 9 and 10 and/or making competitive funding applications and/or making peer reviewed publications | 40                                      | 46                                                | Objective to be reviewed following revision of definition with CUA partners. |        |

<sup>4</sup> As per draft accounts for 2013/2014

<sup>5</sup> As per November 2014 HEA return. The March 2015 return will show a higher number of 76 and subsequently there have been further registrations.

## 5. Engagement

| Institute Objective                                                                        | Performance Indicator                                                                        | Baseline                   | Interim target, end 2014 | Progress                                                                                                      | Status |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Confirm two new agreements annually to provide company specific accredited training</b> | New agreements to provide accredited company specific training with a minimum of 16 students | One new agreement per year | Two new agreements       | 2 signed, GSK and Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASTNG)                                   |        |
| <b>Increase Innovation Vouchers</b>                                                        | Increased Innovation Vouchers                                                                | 20 per annum               | 25 per annum             | 34 innovation vouchers                                                                                        |        |
| <b>Enhance engagement with stakeholders across the region and beyond</b>                   | Host five major events                                                                       | Three major events         | Four major events        | 4 Events<br>-Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann<br>-Sligo Live<br>- Coder Dojo Conference<br>- National Coaching Forum |        |

## 6. Internationalisation

| Institute Objective                               | Performance Indicator                 | Baseline | Interim target, end 2014 | Progress                                              | Status |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Increased recruitment of international students   | Number of international students.     | 140      | 180                      | 215 Full time and 119 part-time students <sup>6</sup> |        |
| Increase the number of outward student placements | Annual increase in outward placements | 35       | 45                       | 42 outward placements including Erasmus               |        |

<sup>6</sup> This figure is based on the November 2014 return. The March 2015 shows a different number of 171 full time and 186 part time international students.



## 7. Institutional consolidation

| Institute Objective                                                                      | Performance Indicator      | Baseline                                                                                                                                         | Interim target, end 2014                                                                                                                          | Progress                                                                                         | Status |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>To pursue a trajectory that achieves re-designation as a Technological University</b> | A Plan to Meet TU Criteria | Signing of CUA MOU in July 2012.<br>Agreed implementation plan in December 2012.<br>Submission of three collaborative SIDF proposals to the HEA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit formal Expression of Interest in designation as a Technological University (June 2014)</li> </ul> | Submitted 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015                                                             | Green  |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review achievement of the objectives of the CUA Implementation Plan</li> </ul>                           |                                                                                                  | Green  |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme mapping across the cluster</li> </ul>                                                          | Programme map complete for Fulltime UG programmes across the cluster                             | Green  |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for shared services and common processes with CUA and cluster partners</li> </ul> | Will progress when confirmation is received to proceed to Stage 2 of the Re-designation process. | Yellow |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot on-line QA student surveys across the CUA</li> </ul>                                               |                                                                                                  | Green  |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common library research repository</li> </ul>                                                            | <a href="http://cual.openrepository.com/cual">http://cual.openrepository.com/cual</a>            | Green  |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint CUA student union mental health initiative</li> </ul>                                              | 'Fit in Body, Fit in Mind' project carried out jointly by 3 student unions                       | Green  |
|                                                                                          |                            |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                  |        |