



HEA Forward- Look Forum

From Regional Clusters to Knowledge Hubs: Unlocking the Potential

9.00am–5.30pm, Wednesday
26th November 2014

Davenport Hotel, Merrion
Street Lower, Dublin 2.

The ultimate vision for regional clusters is that they will function to create dynamic and innovative 'regions of knowledge' capable of increasing regional capacity, capability and global competitiveness in order to contribute significantly to social, cultural and economic development.

Higher Education Authority (2013).

The HEA Forward-Look Forum series provides opportunities for the Irish higher education community to come together and engage in forward-looking and disruptive thinking about the future of the sector that is fully cognisant of the global context within which Irish higher education operates.

The second Forum, 'From Regional Clusters to Knowledge Hubs: Unlocking the Potential', will support strategic planning for regional clusters in Irish higher education. The *National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030* identifies building regional clusters of higher education institutions as a key mechanism for enhancing the coherence, quality and efficiency of the sector, and the Forum will provide an opportunity for collective thinking about how to maximise the contribution of clusters to social, cultural, and economic development. With keynote addresses from Professor John Goddard, OBE (Newcastle University) and Professor Susan Christopherson (Cornell University), the Forum will bring together the leadership of Irish higher education, the public sector, enterprise and the 'third' sector to share knowledge and experience of fostering collaboration between higher education and regional stakeholders. It will situate the emerging Irish regional clusters within an international context, providing an opportunity for free-ranging discussion amongst all participants about their strategic development.

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Gandon Suite North, Davenport Hotel

Programme

9.00 Registration and Breakfast

9.45 Opening Remarks: **John Hennessy** (Chairman, Higher Education Authority)

10.00 UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL CLUSTERS AS BOUNDARY-SPANNERS BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION AND REGIONAL/LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Chair: **Seán Ó Fóghlú** (Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills)

Keynote address: **Professor John Goddard, OBE** (Emeritus Professor of Regional Development Studies, Newcastle University)

Respondent: **Professor Rob Kitchin** (National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, Maynooth University)

11.30 Break

12.00 GENERATING IMPACT AND BENEFIT THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH ENTERPRISE AND CIVIL SOCIETY: EXPLORING EXPERIENCES IN IRELAND AND INTERNATIONALLY

Chair: **Tony Donohoe** (Head of Education, Social and Innovation Policy, IBEC)

Dr. Maria Hinfelaar, Mid-west consortium (President, Limerick Institute of Technology)

Professor Philip Nolan, Dublin / Leinster cluster (President, Maynooth University)

Dr. Annemieke Galema, Northern Netherlands Provinces Alliance (Director, Research and Valorisation, University of Groningen).

Óscar López Lorente, (Executive Director, Campus Iberus)

1.30 Lunch (Lanyon Restaurant)

2.45 RETHINKING REGIONAL CLUSTERS AND INNOVATION

Chair: **Tom Boland** (Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority)

Keynote address: **Professor Susan Christopherson** (Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University)

Discussants: **Joe Crockett** (Former Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Council)

Professor Linda Hogan (Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Trinity College Dublin)

Niall O'Donnellan (Division Manager, Investment Services, Enterprise Ireland)

Gina Quin (Chief Executive, Dublin Chamber of Commerce)

4.15 Reception

