

HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

HIGHER EDUCATION
AUTHORITY
Annual Report 2010



Mission



To foster the development of a higher education sector which is accessible to all potential students – which is recognised internationally for the high quality of teaching, learning and research – and which has the capacity to address the changing needs and challenges in our society.

Contents

Overview	4
Funding	6
Access	9
Research and Innovation	11
Policy Development	13
HEA Governance	14
Appendix 1	20

2010

A year of
challenge and
achievement for
higher Education

OVERVIEW

2010 – A YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

2010 was characterised in the higher education system by major challenges, arising in particular from the economic crisis, but also significant success as the sector made its contribution to economic recovery and future prosperity. With significant reductions in spending and in staff numbers, there was still a continued growth in student numbers. The number of full-time students in HEA designated institutions rose from 147,000 in 2008/9 to over 157,000 in 2009/10. Part-time student numbers now total over 31,000 with an additional 9,000 learners on FETAC and apprenticeship programmes in the Institute of Technology sector. Apart from the short term benefit of providing many people, who might otherwise be unemployed with a meaningful activity, this level of participation means that a major contribution is being made to the process of upskilling and re-skilling the workforce.

The Employment Control Framework applying to the higher education sector called for a very demanding reduction in staffing for the sector of 6%. As required this was achieved by December 2010 and represents the largest sectoral reduction in staff numbers paid from public funds. A continuing concern of the HEA and the institutions has been the impact that such staff and budget reductions could have on the quality of the student experience and the quality of graduates. It is a tribute to the work of the institutions that no generalised concerns have emerged in this regard, but there is common agreement that this provides no grounds for complacency.

2010 saw significant achievements from the perspective of the development of the sector and the putting in place of a comprehensive policy framework. Most significantly, in this context, was the completion of their work by the National Higher Education Strategy Group, leading to the publication of their report in January 2011. This report is the culmination of

an extensive process of consultation and research and was the first time such an exercise has been carried out in Ireland in respect of higher education and research. The exercise was conducted by the Department of Education and Skills in partnership with the HEA. Considerable HEA resources were devoted to a project which we saw as crucial in providing direction to the HEA and to the sector.

Sound policy depends crucially on sound advice and data. A major piece of work carried out by the HEA, and again a first in many key respects, was the publication in October of detailed statistics and information on retention and progression. This substantial study will make an important contribution to developing programmes aimed at ensuring that greater numbers of students complete their higher education. Over 85% of Irish students progress from first to second year – a very creditable performance overall by international standards. However, the study revealed pockets of significant underperformance which now need to be addressed with targeted action.

Contributing to building awareness of the importance of the humanities and social sciences to public policy and to the economy was also an important achievement of the HEA in 2010 with the publication of a significant discussion paper in September – *Playing to our Strengths – the role of the arts, humanities and social sciences and implications for public policy*.

Notwithstanding the difficult economic circumstances the Government continued to commit resources to research and innovation and in July the Taoiseach launched the fifth cycle of the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII). This investment will build on the successes of the four previous cycles which have been managed by the HEA on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills. Responsibility at Departmental level for the programme has been transferred to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Innovation, with which the HEA developed during 2010 an excellent working relationship.

A number of members completed their terms of office during 2010. These include Mr. Michael Kelly who served as chairman since March 2005, Professor Tom Boylan, Dr. Tommy Cooke, Mr. Michael Cotter, Mr. Martin Cronin, Ms. Doreen Delahunty, Mr. Louis Dockery, Ms. Sheila Drum, Mr. Peter Mannion and Professor Sarah Moore. The HEA wishes to acknowledge the leadership provided by Mr. Kelly and the ordinary members during their term of office.

HEA PUBLICATIONS, 2010

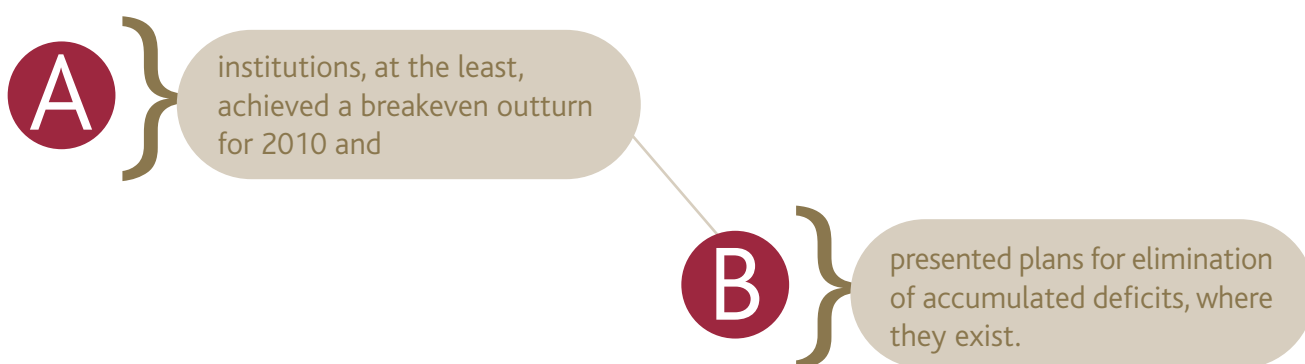
The HEA sees the provision of reliable data and advice on and to the sector as a key role. The following publications were issued in 2010. All of them can be found on the HEA website, www.heai.ie.

- Key facts and figures 09/10
- A study of progression in Irish Higher Education
- PLAYING TO OUR STRENGTHS: The Role of The Arts, Humanities And Social Sciences And Implications for Public Policy
- External Audit of HEA Equal Access Survey
- What do Graduates Do? The class of 2008
- HEA Flexible Learning Paper
- Hidden Disadvantage? A Study on the Low Participation in Higher Education by the Non-Manual Group
- Study on the costs of participation in Higher Education
- In the succeeding sections of this report some further detail is provided on a range of significant developments for the HEA and the higher Education sector in 2010.

FUNDING

One of the prime responsibilities of the HEA is the allocation of public funding to higher education institutions. The most significant issue in recurrent funding in 2010 related to the reduction in core allocations. All institutions were informed of their 2010 recurrent allocation in February 2010 and were requested to submit budgets based on these allocations. The HEA Executive met 26 institutions individually to discuss their budgetary situation based on this original allocation.

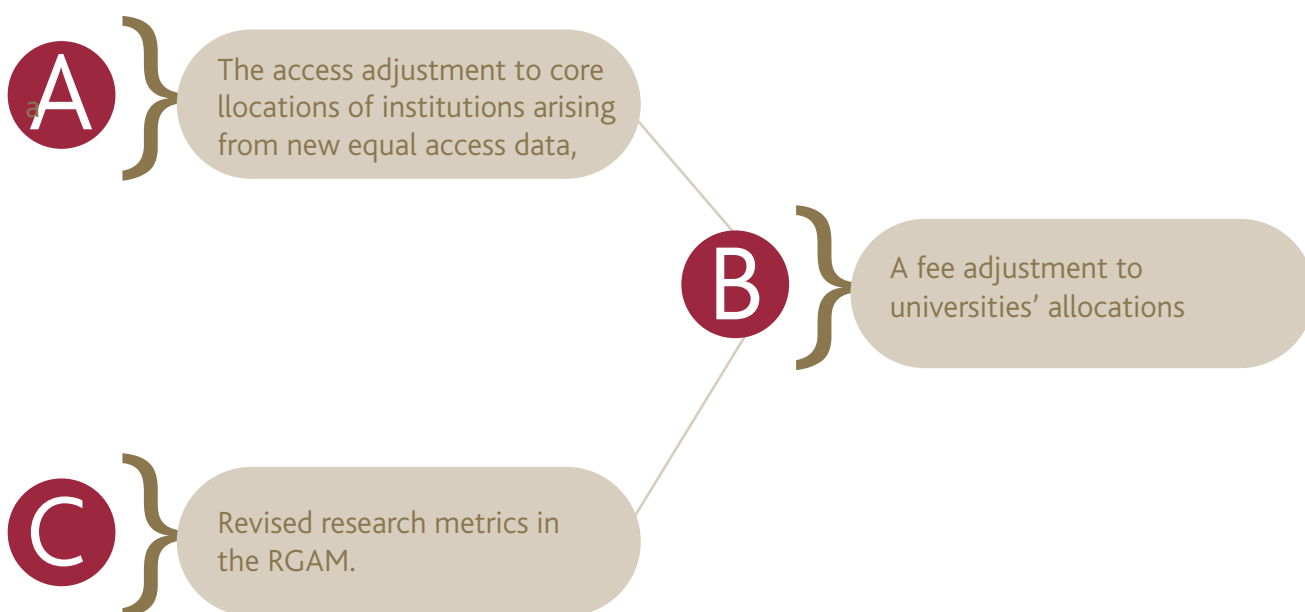
Notwithstanding the difficult recurrent funding position, the HEA Executive required that -



The monitoring of the financial position of the institutions remained a major priority during the year.

The Employment Control Framework, which is Government policy to reduce staff numbers in the sector, continued to be implemented in 2010. Implementation of the Framework is overseen by a Monitoring Committee, chaired by the HEA. The Committee met on a number of occasions to consider specific issues arising in relation to the operation of the Framework. The HEA Executive continued to collect quarterly returns and monitor the reduction in numbers. Applications for specific posts from institutions were considered on a regular basis throughout 2010 in accordance with the terms of the Framework. The HEA sector achieved the targets set out in the Framework.

Development of the Recurrent Grant Allocation Model (RGAM) continued in 2010. Of particular note was -



2010 also saw the continuation of progress on the introduction of a new funding model for the institutes of technology including analysis of unit costs, allocation to subject price groups and modelling grant allocations based on price-group weighted numbers. The HEA also approved the allocation of a further €10m to be allocated on the basis of new funding principles.

Some other notable achievements for 2010 include

- the presentation to the HEA of the Review of Internal Resource Allocation Models in HEA institutions,
- the HEA Review of the Student Charge,
- a Report on the Universities' Capital position, and
- a preliminary document on a proposed Financial Memorandum.

Given the pressing need to achieve economies in budgets, the HEA continued in 2010 to place emphasis on shared services/procurement within the higher education sector. As a follow on to workshops held in 2009, a further workshop was held on 22nd September 2010 in Farmleigh House. This provided an opportunity to share what has been learned on best practice over the course of 2009/10, get an update on successful initiatives, and explore the possibility of expansion of existing initiatives to other sites and other participants in future as well as identifying next steps. This area will continue to be prioritised in 2011.

As part of on-going monitoring of Medical Education during 2010 the HEA Executive continued to engage with the National Committee on Medical Education, the Inter-Departmental Policy Steering Group on Medical Education while also co-ordinating the Undergraduate Committee. A Working Group was established to develop an equitable funding model of funding in relation to clinical placement.

Promotion of Computing Careers.

There is a broad consensus on the importance of ICT to economic development and 2010 saw a continuation of concerns from government and employers about the uptake of ICT programmes in higher education. Among the supports provided to the sector, the HEA provided support for Computing Summer camps in 12 Higher Education Institutions. In total more than 400 secondary students attended. It is intended to develop and expand this programme further.

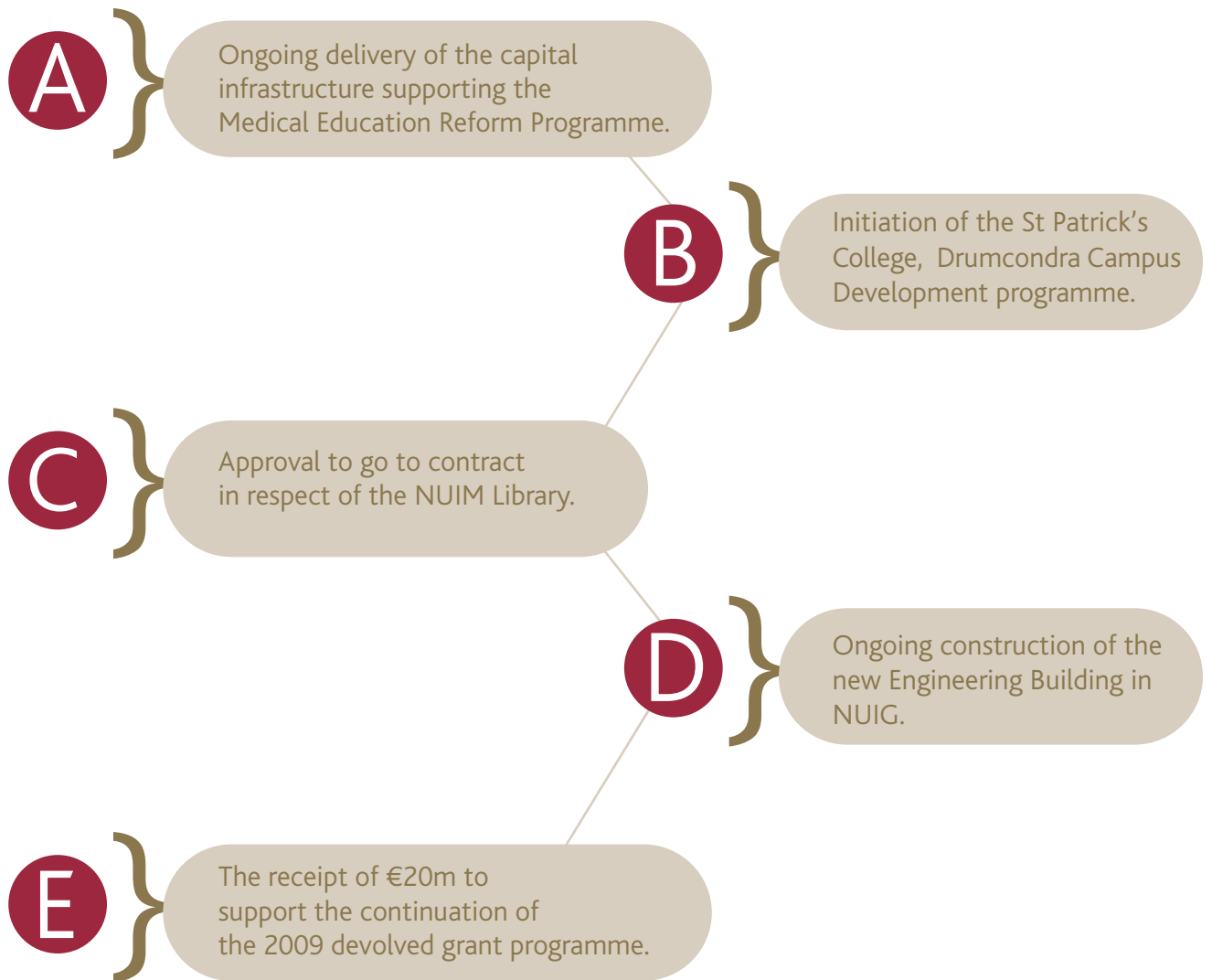
E-InfraNet Project.

Last year the European Commission funded e-InfraNet, a project coordinated by the HEA. Successful workshops were held in , Leuven and . The deliverables from these workshops are available on the e-InfraNet web-site

<http://e-infranet.eu/>.

Capital funding

Supporting the capital development of the publicly funded higher education institutions is another significant element in the HEA's funding role. Highlights of the higher education capital programme in 2010 included:



ACCESS

The National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education operates within the HEA. It is tasked with supporting the higher education institutions in improving participation among underrepresented groups in our universities, institutes and colleges.

There were a number of milestones in 2010.

Mid-term Review Conducted on National Access Plan 2008-2013

Work was progressed in 2010 on a mid-term review of the National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2008-2013. The review assesses achievements from 2008-2010 and progress on the national targets set for 2010. The Mid-Term Review was published in early 2011.

Progress Reports on Access and Lifelong Learning

In May 2010 all higher education institutions funded by the HEA were requested to provide an update on their progress on access and lifelong learning made since 2006. Completed reports were returned in July 2010 and each report, along with institutional access plans will be used in further dialogue with each institution on their progress and plans for the future in 2011.

Labour Market Activation/Springboard Funding

In 2010 the HEA continued to provide advice and support on labour market activation initiatives to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Innovation and the Department of Education and Skills. The HEA was one of six agencies on the panel to assess tender applications by education providers for Labour Market Activation Funding in 2010. This followed an open call for proposals on education and training initiatives for unemployed persons from NFQ Levels 1-8. The outcome of this process was announced in June. 6,600 education and training places were to be funded in twenty-six providers, the majority of these places were at Levels 1 to 5; however 400 places were funded in higher education, mainly

in the Institute of Technology sector. Following an assessment by the National Access Office of labour market development to-date along with proposals for the future, a new, €20 million, multi-annual fund to provide higher education opportunities for unemployed people, was announced as part of the budgetary measures for 2011. This 'Springboard' fund will build on the programmes run in 2009 and 2010 and is being managed by the HEA on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills.

New Policy for Access Courses

A Taskforce of the HEA, with some non-HEA members, continued work that commenced in 2009 on the issue of access courses. The outcome of this process was the development of a policy statement on access courses and modules to prepare target groups of learners for entry to higher education. This policy statement was approved by the board of the Higher Education Authority in October 2010 and is now under further consideration by the Department of Education and Skills.

Development of Studentfinance.ie

An online student grant application facility for eleven grant-awarding agencies went live on www.studentfinance.ie in September 2010. A new information section on the changes to grant eligibility for holders of the Back to Education Allowance from 2010-11 was also added to studentfinance.ie in 2010.

Research and Evaluation on Equity of Access to Higher Education

In January 2010, the HEA published two studies conducted by the ESRI - *'Study on the Costs of Participation in Higher Education and Hidden Disadvantage?'* and *'Study on the Low Participation in Higher Education by the Non-manual Group'*.

During April-June 2010 an external audit of Equal Access data was conducted to assess its robustness as a means of assessing diversity of participation in higher education and allocating funding to support access initiatives. The audit was published in July 2010. It has concluded that the data are robust, and appropriate for use in allocation of access funding within recurrent grant allocation models.

The HEA participated in an OECD research project entitled *Pathways for Students with Disabilities to Tertiary Education and Employment*. The aim of the project is to identify high quality transition programmes with regard to the effectiveness of support given to people with disabilities on transition to post-secondary education, during tertiary education and through to employment. The final report on the position in Ireland was submitted to the OECD in 2010.

Revised Funding Model for Students with Disabilities and Student Assistance Fund

A revised model of allocation for the Fund for Students with Disabilities was introduced in 2010; guidelines for institutions for the 2010-11 period were issued to all institutions. The model is providing greater clarity to institutions on funding amounts and enabling earlier allocation of supports and accommodations to students. As

at the end of 2010, approximately 5,600 students with disabilities have been approved for support for 2010-11. In 2009 - 10 a total of 4,963 students were provided with technological, academic and personal supports. The gross allocation in 2009-10 was €12.2m. The total allocation available for 2010-11 is €13.6m.

In 2010 a revised model of allocation was also introduced for the Student Assistance Fund. The new model draws on the Equal Access Data, along with student numbers, to make allocations to participating institutions. An allocation of €5 million was made to institutions for 2010-11.

First Graduates from Professional Development Award on Access Policy and Practice

The CEO of the HEA presented awards in the HEA in May 2010 to the twenty participants, who were the first graduates of a NFQ Level 9 module in *Higher Education Access: Equality in Policy and Practice*. The module was developed by the Equality Studies Centre in UCD in collaboration with the AMA Access Officers network and supported by the National Access Office. The module has continued with participation broadened to include people working on supporting higher education access at second level and in the community.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Managing funding and developing policy relating to research and innovation agenda are core activities for the Higher Education Authority. 2010 was a year of important developments.

PRTL Cycle 5

The Taoiseach, Brian Cowen TD, announced the awarding of research funding under PRTL Cycle 5 in July. The investment plan for research and innovation will create jobs and new enterprises, driving Ireland's economic recovery. Construction work under the PRTL Cycle 5 investment will provide more than 64,000sq/m of research space in new and refurbished buildings on the higher education campuses and create some 2,000 jobs in the sector. The research projects will create 379 direct jobs and a significant number of research studentships. Launching Cycle 5 with the Taoiseach, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe TD, said the five-year plan - the largest investment in research in the history of the State - would help to create 'smart' jobs and make Ireland Europe's innovation hub.

PRTL Cycle 4 Mid-Term Review

A Mid-Term Review of PRTL Cycle 4 was completed in November. An analysis of the findings of the review suggests that projects funded under Cycle 4 are on track to achieve their original outputs and objectives.

PRTL Economic Impact Assessment

The HEA embarked on the PRTL Impact assessment with PA Consulting Ltd. The assessment will encompass an examination of the growth of the PRTL Centres/initiatives, funded under Cycles 1 to 3, from their commencement. The report will be completed early in 2011.

Framework Programme 7 - Research Infrastructures

Since the launch of FP7 by the European Commission in early 2007, 102 Irish researchers have been involved in applications to the FP7 Research Infrastructures Programme; 44 such applicants have been successful in securing funding for 36 projects to date.

The total grant requested from the European Commission for participation in these projects amounts to almost €11.3 million (1.1% of total budget available). This compares with 21 successful projects having secured € 3.8 million under the same programme in FP6 (2002 – 2006) and thus represents significantly greater involvement in Framework Programme 7.

It is worth noting how the higher education institutions remain the primary beneficiary in FP7 as a whole, securing 62% of all funding available.

Encouraging Communication of Research Outputs

The HEA continued to host the Making an Impact Event which took place in the Helix Theatre, DCU in April. The HEA in partnership with the Irish Independent invited research students in all disciplines to make a short submission on the difference that their research work will make to a particular aspect of Irish life, to the country as a whole or internationally. Over 2,000 submissions were received and from this six researchers participated in the event, with awards of €2,500 given to Aidan Quilligan winning the judges award with his submission "Optimisation of Concrete Wind Turbine Towers" and Roisin O'Shea winning the student audience vote with her submission "Family Law in Ireland".

Large Items of Research Equipment (LIRE) Survey 2010

The task of creating an inventory of large items of research equipment, with a value in excess of €100,000, held by the higher education sector, has been initiated. The survey also included questions on access policies to equipment.

Review of completed surveys received is underway and work is also progressing with respect to the development of an appropriate database format for the data.

Review of the Provision of High Performance Computing in Ireland

The review was completed on schedule in late November 2010 and the recommendations of the panel were finalised by year end.

It is expected that progress on implementation and the recommendations of the panel will be made in consultation with key stakeholders throughout 2011.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The HEA is responsible for the development of policy in relation to higher education and research and advises the Government on these matters as well as providing information and statistics to a wide range of audiences, including the general public.

Statistics are compiled on student numbers regularly and results are posted on the HEA website.



85%

**of Students Progress
from First Year to
Second Year.**

In October, the HEA published a study on retention in college that found that 85% of students progress from first year to second year and that the Irish higher education system compares favourably with other countries in terms of student progression and course completion. The report, *"A Study of Progression in Higher Education"* analysed rates of progression of undergraduate higher education students between the academic years 2007/08 and 2008/09. It fills a gap in the evidence-base for higher education which dates back to sectoral studies undertaken in the 1990s. While the current study focuses on progression in a one-year reference period, the results suggest that completion rates have held constant and are likely to have improved through a period of sustained expansion in Irish higher education. This reflects well on the quality of the Irish higher education system.

HEA GOVERNANCE

Members of HEA

Members of the HEA are appointed by the Government on the nomination of the Minister for Education & Science generally for a period of 5 years, with the exception of the President of USI who holds membership for the duration of his/her office as President of USI.

HEA Board Membership 2010

Professor Tom Boylan (to 5/12/10)

Dr. Cepta Brougham

Dr. Mary Canning (Deputy Chairperson from September 2010)

Dr. Tommy Cooke (to 5/12/10)

Ms Grace Corcoran

Mr. Michael Cotter (to 5/12/10)

Mr. Martin Cronin (to 5/12/10)

Professor Mary Daly(Deputy Chairperson to June 2010)

Mr. Noel Davern

Ms. Doreen Delahunty (to 5/12/10)

Mr. Louis Dockery (to 5/12/10)

Ms Sheila Drum(to 5/12/10)

Mr. Michael Kelly, Chairman (to 30/09/10)

Ms Kathleen Lough

Mr. Ray McCarthy

Mr. Peter Mannion (to 30/06/10)

Professor Sarah Moore (to 5/12/10)

Mr. Gary Redmond (from 1/7/10)

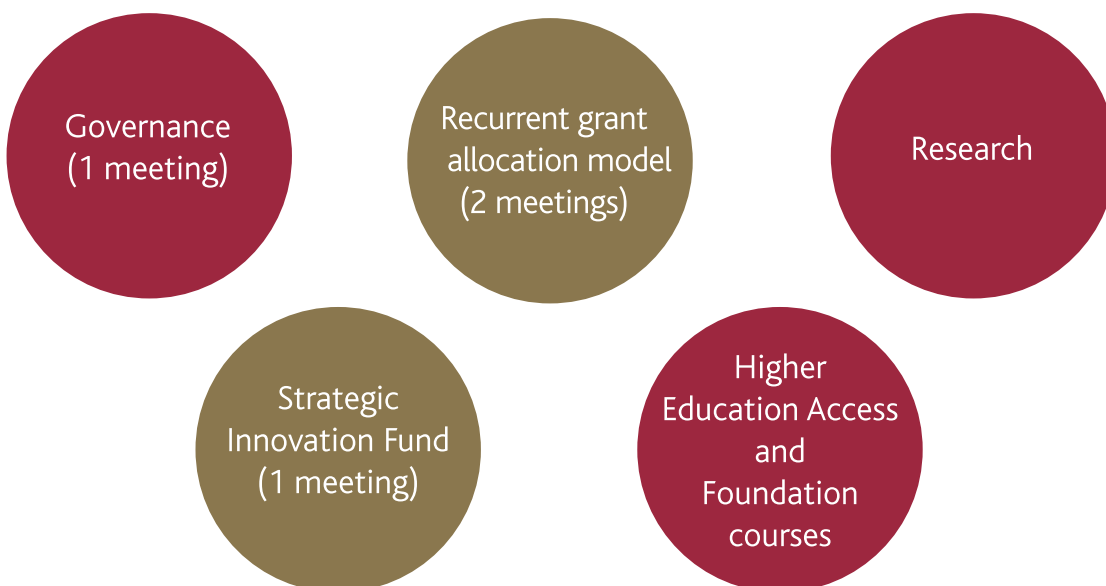
Professor Frances Ruane

Dr. Jim Ruane

Outlined in appendix 1 are details of Authority and standing committee meetings attended. Members are paid a fee approved by the Minister for Finance. Travel and subsistence payments are in accordance with rates approved by the Minister for Finance. Details are outlined in appendix two.

Meetings of the HEA

Meetings of the Higher Education Authority are normally held every second month. There were 6 meetings of the Authority in 2010. The HEA undertakes work through three standing committees and task forces which it sets up from time to time. During 2010 meetings of the following taskforces took place:



New Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of state Bodies 2009

A task force of the Authority met in February 2010 to consider the HEA's compliance with the revised code of practice. A number of changes were agreed including changes to the member's code of conduct and the HEA procurement Policy.

HEA COMMITTEES

Audit Committees

The Audit Committee's primary function is to assist the Authority fulfil its oversight responsibilities. It does this by reviewing the financial information provided in the HEA audited accounts; employing established systems of internal financial controls and risk management; and the internal audit function.

During 2010 the Committee met on four occasions and considered the following issues:

- HEA 2009 Annual Accounts
- Report on Risk Management
- System of internal financial control
- HEA policy on gifts and hospitality
- HEA procurement policy and plan
- Internal audit report on governance for IRCHSS and IRCSET
- IT disaster recovery plan
- HEA Banking arrangements

Members of the HEA Audit Committees

- Ms. Doreen Delahunty to 5 December 2010
- Mr. Louis Dockery to 5 December 2010
- Mr. Martin Cronin to 5 December 2010
- Dr. Jim Ruane, committee chairman

Finance Committee

The HEA Finance Committee met on four occasions in 2010. In addition an incorporate meeting took place in December. The main role of the Committee is to review and recommend to the Authority, the proposed recurrent grant allocations to the Universities, Institutes of Technology and other bodies funded by the Authority, along with funding allocations under a number of additional programmes.

Members of the HEA Finance committee:

- Dr Mary Canning, Deputy chairperson (from 1 October 2010)
- Mr. Michael Kelly (Chairman) to 30 September 2010
- Professor Tom Boylan to 5 December 2010
- Mr. Martin Cronin to 5 December 2010
- Mr. Louis Dockery to 5 December 2010
- Ms. Sheila Drum to 5 December 2010
- Mr. Ray McCarthy
- Mr. Peter Mannion to 30 June 2010
- Mr. Gary Redmond from 1 July 2010
- Professor Frances Ruane

Public Service Agreement 2010-2014

The HEA has adopted an action plan under the above agreement. The agreement outlines actions under the following headings:

- Better human resource management
- Better business processes
- Delivering for the citizen

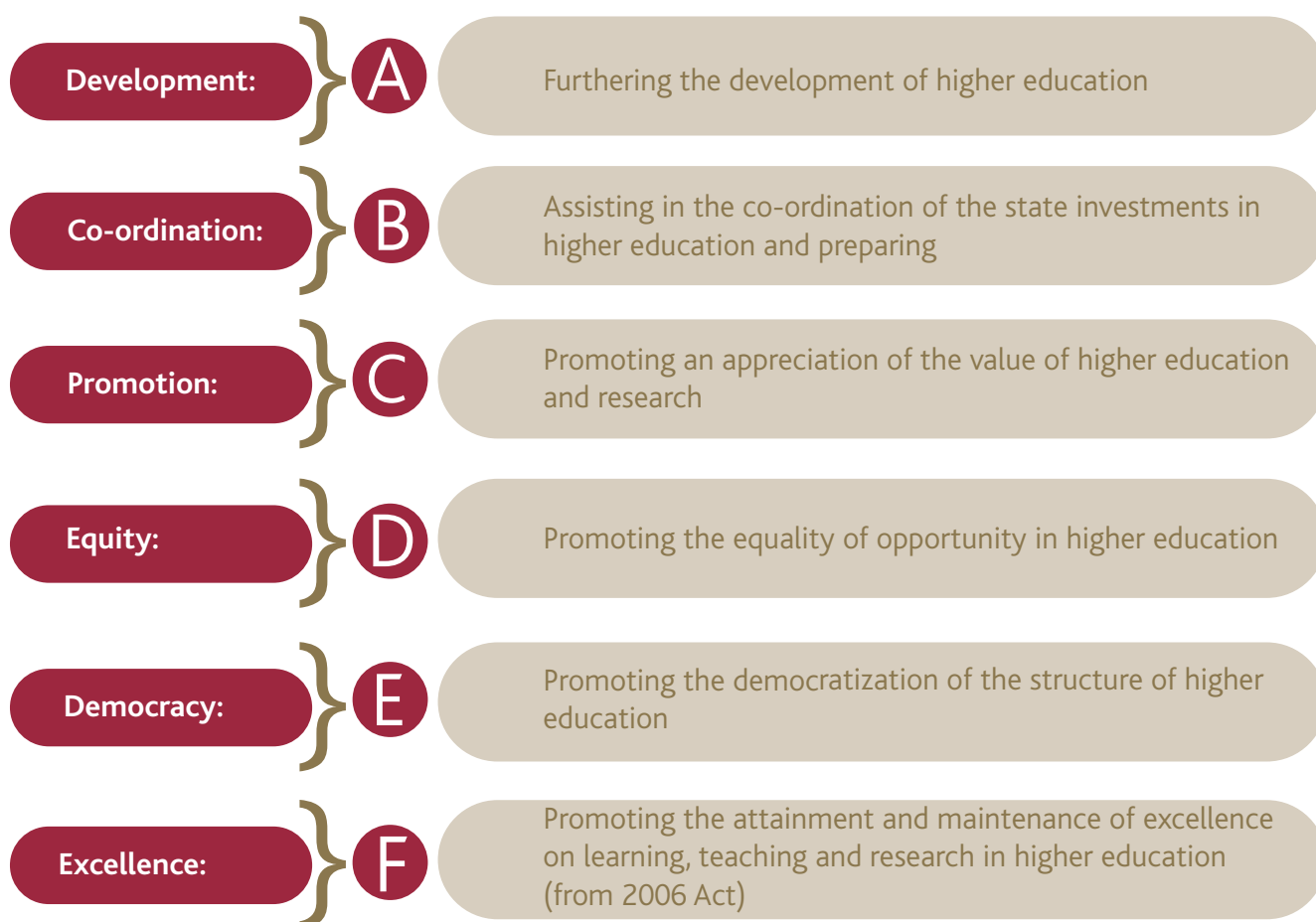
A copy of the HEA's action plan is available on the HEA's website.
www.heai.ie/en/node/1446

Functions and Legislation

The general functions of the HEA derive from the following legislation:

1971 Higher Education Authority Act,
1997 Universities Act
2006 Institute of Technology Act

These functions include:



Further functions from the 1971 Act include:

- Advising the Minister on the need for the establishment of new institutions.
- Maintain a continuous review of the demand and need for higher education.
- Conduct and publish studies on challenges affecting higher education and research
- Assess amount of state financial provision, both current and capital, which recommends for higher education and research.
- Allocate among Universities, Institutes of Technology and the designated institutions the grants voted by the Oireachtas.

Under the **1997 Universities Act**, and the subsequent **Institutes of Technology Act 2006** the Higher Education Authority's remit broadened and it now carries out an additional number of functions in respect of the higher education sector.

- Areas covered include review of:
- Strategic development plans
- Quality Assurance procedures
- Equality and access policies & implementation
- Frameworks for: Salary Departures; Borrowing; payments to staff by Institutional Corporations; Acquisition of Land.

Other relevant Legislation

There are a number of Government Acts which have particular relevance to the HEA in the management of its business

Freedom of Information Act

- Since January 2001, the HEA is covered by the provisions of the Freedom of information (FOI) Act, 1997. The Act asserts the right of members of the public to obtain access to official information to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individuals. This Act established there new statutory rights:
- A legal right for each person to access information held by public bodies:

- A legal right for each person to have official information relating to him/herself amended where it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading;
- A legal right to obtain decisions affecting oneself.

To date, the HEA has received 79 requests (October 2001-December 2010).

The FOI Act allows public access to records held by the HEA, which are not routinely available through other sources. Access to information under the Act is subject to certain exemptions and involves specific procedures and time limits.

Copies of the HEA Manuals-Section 15 (Structure and Functions of the Authority) and Section 16 (outlines the rules, regulations and precedents used by the HEA in carrying out its functions) as required under the act, are available on the HEA website:
<http://www.heai.ie/en/foi>

The HEA received 11 requests under the Act during 2010, four of these were granted, one was partially granted, five were withdrawn (one of these being handled outside FOI) and one case remain pending.

Official Languages Act, 2003

The HEA is designated under the Official Languages Act, 2003. The primary objective of the act is to ensure better availability and a higher standard of public services through Irish. The Official Languages Act seeks to give legislative effect, insofar as the delivery of public services is concerned, to Article 8 of the Constitution as follows:

- The Irish language as the national language is the first official language
- The English language is recognized as a second official language
- Provision may, however, be made by law for the exclusive use of either of the said languages for one or more official purposes, either throughout the State or any part thereof

In accordance with Part 3, (section 9-13) of the Act, the HEA prepared a scheme specifying which services it proposes to provide through the following channels:

- Exclusively through the medium of the Irish language
- Exclusively through the medium of the English language, and
- Through the medium of both the Irish and English languages.

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

The re-use of Public Sector information regulations 2005 sets out a harmonized framework within which public sector data from across the EU can be accessed. The Directive is intended to stimulate economic activity, innovation and competition and to assist the evolution of an information and knowledge-based, economy and society

The Higher Education Authority complies with the regulations on the re-use of Public Sector information regulations 2005 and actively encourages the re-use of the information that we produce. The regulations are available at www.psi.gov.ie

Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and Standards in Public Office Act, 2001

In accordance with the provisions of the above Acts, members of the Authority are obliged to provide any statements of interest each year to the Standards in Public office Commission. Senior members of the Executive also provide statements of interest to the Chief Executive.

Employment Equality Acts, 1998 and 2004

The HEA is committed to a policy of equal opportunities. The HEA has agreed with its partnership Committee a number of policies including an equal opportunities policy and dignity at work policy. The Authority also has in place a number of schemes to enhance work-life balance opportunities including a flexi time scheme and a formal policy on part-time working agreed in 2008. The HEA had one placement under the AHEAD willing, able and mentoring program during 2010.

Safety, Health and Welfare Act, 1989

The HEA has prepared a safety statement in accordance with the Act. This was reviewed in 2007.

In 2007 the HEA introduced an Employee Assistance programme for its staff and pensioners.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997

The HEA complies with the provision of the above Act and has put in place procedures to ensure all invoices are paid promptly.

Quality Customer Service Plan

Following consultation with its stakeholders the Authority adopted a Quality Customers Service Plan in 2005. A review of this plan was carried out in 2009.

Environment Friendly Initiatives

The HEA operates a recycling scheme. The Authority took further measures to cut back on the use of paper. In 2009, the IT unit reviewed ways of improving the energy efficiency of its PCs.

Appendix One

HEA Membership and Meetings Attended during 2010

	Meetings of Authority attended	Meetings of Finance committee attended	Meetings of Audit committee attended	Task Force Meetings attended (11 meetings)
Professor Tom Boylan to 5/12/10	3 out of 6	2 out of 4		1 out of 5
Dr. Cepta Brougham	5 out of 6			2 out of 4
Dr. Mary Canning	6 out of 6	1 out of 1		6 out of 9
Dr. Tommy Cooke to 5/12/10	6 out of 6			7 out of 8
Ms Grace Corcoran	6 out of 6			4 out of 9
Mr. Michael Cotter to 5/12/10	5 out of 6			0
Mr. Martin Cronin to 5/12/10	5 out of 6	3 out of 4	4 out of 4	2 out of 3
Professor Mary Daly	6 out of 6			9 out of 9
Mr. Noel Davern	3 out of 6			0
Ms Doreen Delahunty to 5/12/10	6 out of 6		4 out of 4	0
Mr. Louis Dockery to 5/12 5/12/10	3 out of 6	4 out of 4	4 out of 4	1 out of 1
Ms Sheila Drum to 5/12/10	4 out of 6	2 out of 4		1 out of 1
Mr. Michael Kelly, Chairman to 30/9/10	5 out of 5	3 out of 3		7 out of 7
Ms Kathleen Lough	6 out of 6			6 out of 7
Mr. Ray McCarthy	5 out of 6	3 out of 4		5 out of 6
Mr. Peter Mannion to 30/06/10	1 out of 3	0 out of 3		0
Professor Sarah Moore to 5/12/10	6 out of 6			2 out of 3
Mr. Gary Redmond From 1/7/10	3 out of 3	0 out of 1		1 out of 2
Professor Frances Ruane	4 out of 6	3 out of 4		5 out of 5
Dr. Jim Ruane	5 out of 6		4 out of 4	

HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

AN TÚDARÁS UM
ARDOIDEACHAS
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2010



Misean



Cothú a dhéanamh ar fhorbairt earnála ardoideachais atá inrochtain do gach aon mhac léinn féideartha – a aithnítear go hidirnáisiúnta ar ardcháilíocht múinteoireachta, foghlama agus taighde – agus ag a bhfuil an acmhainn le haghaidh a thabhairt ar riachtanais athraitheacha agus ar dhúshláin in ár sochaí.

Contents

Forbhreathnú	4
Cistíocht	6
Rochtain	9
Taighde agus Nuálaíocht	11
Forbairt Polasaí	13
Rialachas Úao	14
Coistí an Úao	20

2010

A year of
challenge and
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higher Education



FORBHREATHNÚ

2010 – bLIAIN dHÚSHLÁNACH AGUS GHNÓTHACHTANA DON ARD-OIDEACHAS

D'fhág mórdhúshláin a rian ar an gcóras ardoideachais in 2010, a d'eascair go príomha as an ngéarchéim eacnamaíochta, ach bhain rath suntasach leis an mbliain chomh maith agus rinne an earnáil a cion don athshlánú eacnamaíochta agus don rathúlacht amach anseo. Ainneoin laghduithe suntasacha ar chaiteachas agus ar líon na foirne, lean an fás ar líon na mac léinn. D'ardaigh líon na mac léinn lánaimseartha in institiúidí sainithe Ard-Oideachais ó 147,000 in 2008/9 go breis is 157,000 in 2009/10. Tá breis is 31,000 mac léinn páirt-aimseartha anois ann agus 9,000 foghlaiméoir breise ar chlár FETAC agus printíseachta in earnáil na hInstitiúide Teicneolaíochta. Lasmuigh den leas gearrthéarmach de ghníomhaíocht bhríoch a sholáthar do mhórán daoine a bheadh dífhostaithe ina héagmais, ciallaíonn an leibhéal seo rannpháirtíochta go bhfuil mórchion tairbhe á dhéanamh do phróiseas uas-oiliúint agus athoiliúint an fhórsa saothair. D'éiligh an Creatrialacháin Fostaíochta a bhaineann le hearnáil an ardoideachais laghdú fiordhian de 6% ar líon na foirne san earnáil. Mar a éilíodh, baineadh seo amach faoi Nollaig 2010 agus is ionann é agus an laghdú earnála is mó ar líon fostaithe ar phá ón gciste poiblí. Cúis leanúnach imní don ÚAO agus do na hinstitiúidí ná an tionchar a bheadh ag laghduithe foirne agus buiséid dá leithéid ar chaighdeán na taithí ag na mic léinn agus ar chaighdeán na gcéimithe. Is moladh ar obair na n-institiúidí é nár éirigh aon cheisteanna coitianta maidir leis seo, ach táthar ar aon aigne nach aon ábhar sástachta an méid sin. In 2010 rinneadh gnóthachtana suntasacha maidir le forbairt na hearnála agus maidir le creatpholasaí cuimsitheach a chruthú. Go fíorshuntasach, sa chomhthéacs seo, bhí críochnú a gcuid oibre ag an nGrúpa Náisiúnta Straitéiseach um Ard-Oideachas, agus foilsíú a dtuarascála uirthi in Eanáir 2011. Tá an

tuarascáil seo ina bharrchríoch ar phróiseas fairsing comhairliúcháin agus taighde agus dob é seo an chéad uair a rinneadh a leithéid in Éirinn maidir le hardoideachas agus taighde. Rinne an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna an cleachtadh seo i gcomhpháirt leis an ÚAO. Caitheadh mórán d'acmhainn an ÚAO ar thionscadal a measadh dúinn a bheith riachtanach le treoir a thabhairt don ÚAO agus don earnáil.

Braitheann polasaí stuama ar chomhairle stuama agus ar shonraí iontaofa. Píosa eile oibre a rinne an ÚAO, agus arís ina thosaíocht i mórán dá príomhghnéithe, ab ea foilsiú i nDeireadh Fómhair ar staidreamh mioninisteach agus ar fhaisnéis maidir le coinneáil agus dul chun cinn. Cion tairbhe tábhachtach a bheidh sa staidéar substaintiúil seo ar fhorbairt chlár dírithe ar dheimhin a dhéanamh de go gcríochnóidh líon níos mó mac léinn a gcuid ardoideachais. Téann breis is 85% de mhic léinn na hÉireann ar aghaidh ón chéad go dtí an dara bliain - rud is ionann agus feidhmíocht inmholta trí chéile de réir na gcaighdeán idirnáisiúnta. Ar a shon sin, léirigh an staidéar pócaí tearcfheidhmíochta suntasacha gur gá aghaidh a thabhairt anois orthu le gníomhaíocht spriocdhírithé.

Bhí cuidiú le tógáil feasachta ar thábhacht na ndaonnachtaí agus na heolaíochtaí sóisialta don pholasaí poiblí ina ghnóthachtain mór le rá ag an ÚAO in 2010 nuair a foilsíodh plépháipéar suntasach i Meán Fómhair – *Playing to our Strengths – ról na n-ealaíon, na ndaonnachtaí agus na n-eolaíochtaí sóisialta agus impleachtaí do pholasaí poiblí.*

Ainneoin na dtoscaí deacra eacnamaíochta lean an Rialtas d'acmhainní a thiomnadh do thaighde agus do nuálaíocht agus in Iúil sheol an Taoiseach an cúigiú thimthriall den Chlár do Thaighde in Institiúidí Tríú Leibhéal (CTITL). Tógfaidh an infheistíocht seo ar rath na gceithre thimthriall roimhe seo ar a ndearna an ÚAO bainistíocht thar ceann na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna. Aistríodh freagracht ar leibhéal Roinne as an gclár go dtí an Roinn Fiontar Tráchtála agus Nuálaíochta, agus

d'fhorbair an ÚAO dea-chaidreamh oibre leis an Roinn sin i rith 2010.

Chríochnaigh an áirithe sin ball a dtéarmaí oifige i rith 2010. Orthu sin bhí Mr. Michael Kelly a bhí ina chathaoirleach ó Mhárta 2005, An tOllamh Tom Boylan, An Dr. Tommy Cooke, Mr. Michael Cotter, Mr. Martin Cronin, Ms. Doreen Delahunty, Mr. Louis Dockery, Ms. Sheila Drum, Mr. Peter Mannion agus an tOllamh Sarah Moore. Is mian leis an ÚAO an chinnireacht a sholáthair Mr. Kelly agus na gnáthbhaill le linn a dtéarma oifige a admháil.

Foileseacháin ÚAO, 2010

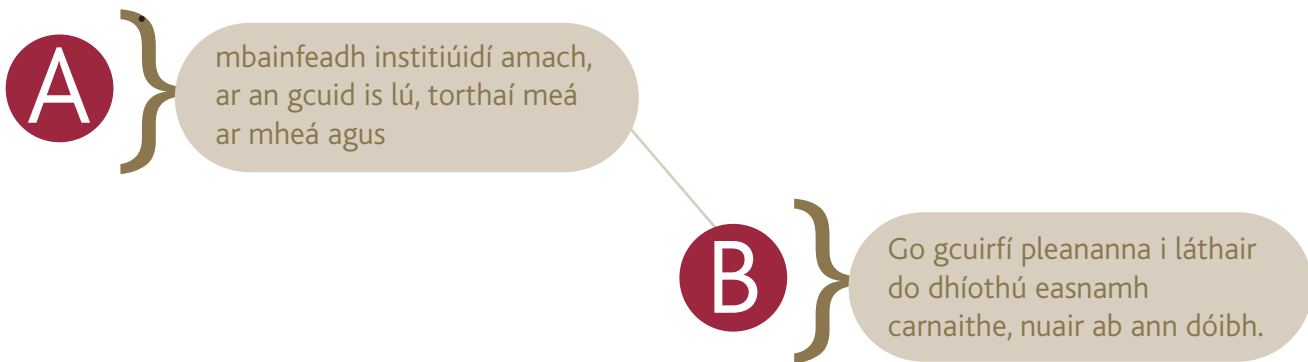
Meastar don ÚAO soláthar ar chomhairle agus ar shonraí iontaofa ar agus don earnáil mar phríomhról. D'eisíodh na foilseacháin seo a leanas in 2010. Is féidir teacht orthu uile ar shuíomh gréasáin an ÚAO, www.hea.ie.

- Bunfhíricí agus Figiúir 09/10
- Staidéar ar dhul chun cinn in Ard-Oideachas in Éirinn
- PLAYING TO OUR STRENGTHS: Ról na nEalaíon, na nDaonnachtaí agus na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta agus Impleachtaí don Pholasaí Poiblí
- Iniúchadh Seachtrach ar Shuirbhéireacht Chomhrochtana an ÚAO
- Cad a dhéanann Céimithe? Rang 2008
- Páipéar na Foghlama Solúbtha ÚAO
- Míbhuntáiste faoi Cheilt? Staidéar ar Rannpháirtíocht Íseal an Ghrúpa Neamh-Láimhe san Ard-Oideachas
- Staidéar ar chostais rannpháirtíochta san Ard-Oideachas
- Sna rannóga ina dhiaidh seo den tuarascáil seo soláthraítear a thuilleadh mionsonraithe ar raon d'fhorbairtí suntasacha don ÚAO agus d'earnáil an ardoideachais in 2010.

CISTÍOCHT

Ar cheann de na príomhchúraim ar an ÚAO tá leithdháileadh cistíochta poiblí ar institiúidí ardoideachais. Bhain an cheist ba shuntasá maidir le cistíocht atréimhseach in 2010 leis an laghdú ar bhun-leithdháiltí. Cuireadh na hinstitiúidí ar fad ar an eolas maidir lena leithdháiltí atréimhseacha do 2010 i bhFeabhra 2010 agus iarradh orthu buiséid bunaithe ar na leithdháiltí seo a chur isteach. Chas Feidhmeannacht an ÚAO le 26 institiúid le plé a dhéanamh ar a stádas buiséid bunaithe ar an leithdháileadh bunaidh seo.

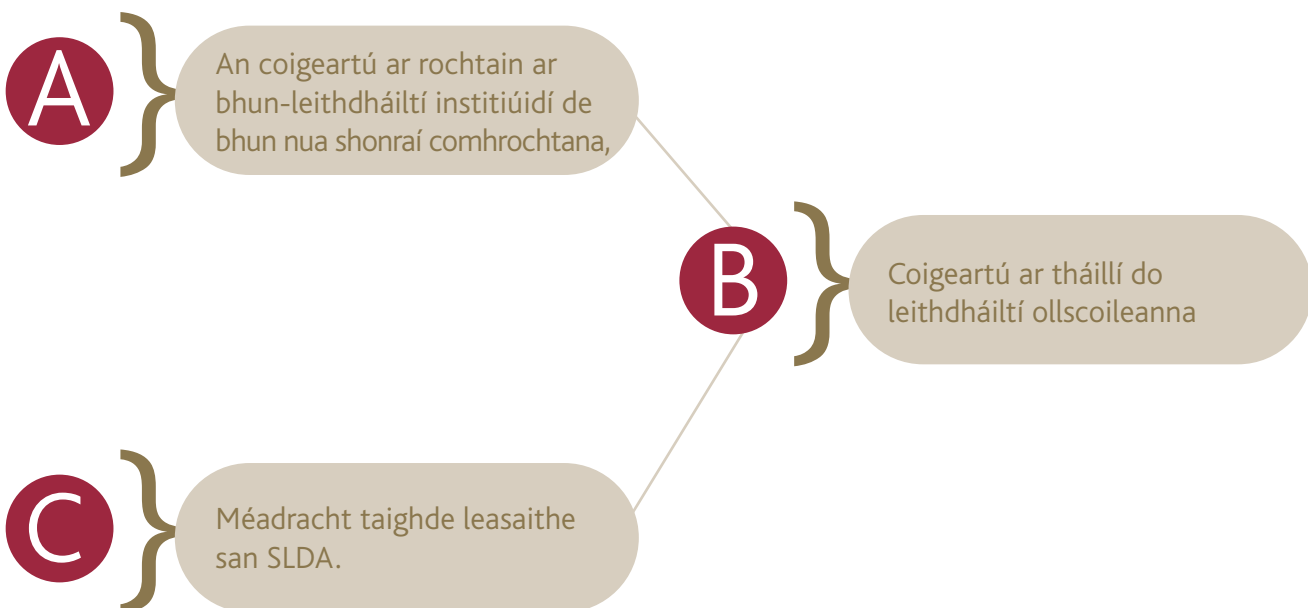
Ainneoin deacrachtaí na cistíochta atréimhsí, d'éiligh an ÚAO go -



Mórtosaíocht ab ea monatóireacht ar stádas airgeadais na n-institiúidí i gcaitheamh na bliana.

Leanadh d'fheidhmiú an Chreatrialacháin Fostaíochta, atá ina pholasaí Rialtais le líon na foirne san earnáil a laghdú, in 2010. Déanann Coiste Monatóireachta, faoi chathaoirleacht an ÚAO, maoirseacht ar fheidhmiú an Chreatrialacháin. Tháinig an Coiste le chéile roinnt uaire le saincheisteanna a d'eascair as feidhmiú an Chreata a phlé. Lean Feidhmeannacht an ÚAO ag bailiú tuairiscí ráithiúla agus ar mhonatóireacht ar an laghdú ar an líon. Rinneadh plé ar iarratais ar shainphostanna ó institiúidí ar bhonn rialta i rith 2010 ag teacht le téarmaí an Chreata. Bhain earnáil an ÚAO amach na spriocanna a leagadh amach sa Chreat.

Leanadh d'fhorbairt na Samhla um Leithdháileadh Deontais Atréimhsigh (SLDA) in 2010. Bhí tábhacht ar leith le -



In 2010 chomh maith leanadh den dul chun cinn ar thabhairt isteach samhla nua cistíochta d'institiúidí teicneolaíochta ar a n-áirítear anailís ar chostais aonad, leithdháileadh do ghrúpaí praghas ábhair agus leithdháiltí deontas samhaltacha bunaithe ar uimhreacha ualaithe de réir praghas-ghrúpa. Thug an ÚAO faomhadh chomh maith do €10m breise le leithdháileadh ar bhonn prionsabal nua cistíochta.

Ar na gnóthachtana suntasach eile do 2010 bhí

- láithriú don ÚAO ar an Athbhreithniú ar Shamhla Leithdháilte Acmhainní Inmheánacha in institiúidí ÚAO,
- Athbhreithniú an ÚAO ar Mhuirear na Mac Léinn,
- Tuarascáil ar stádas Caipitil na nOllscoileanna, agus
- réamhdhoiciméad ar Mheamram Airgeadais atá beartaithe.

I bhfianaise an ghéarghá coigilt a dhéanamh ar bhuiséid, lean an ÚAO in 2010 de bhéim a chur ar sheirbhísí/sholáthar i bpáirt laistigh d'earnáil an ardoideachais. Ar lorg ceardlanna a reáchtáladh in 2009, reáchtáladh ceardlann eile ar an 22ú Meán Fómhair 2010 i dTeach Farmleigh. Sholáthair seo deis lenar foghlaimíodh ar an gcleachtas is fearr i rith 2009/10 a roinnt, nuashonrú a fháil ar thionscnaimh rathmhara, taiscéaladh a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht forleathadh a dhéanamh ar thionscnaimh reatha go láithreáin eile agus go rannpháirtithe eile amach anseo chomh maith leis na chéad chéimeanna eile a aithint. Leanfar de thosaíocht a thabhairt don réimse seo in 2011.

Mar chuid den mhonatóireacht leanúnach ar Oideachas Liachta i rith 2010 lean feidhmeannacht an ÚAO ag plé leis an gCoiste Náisiúnta ar Liachta Leighis, an Grúpa Stiúrtha Idir-Rannach Polasaí ar Oideachas Liachta agus le comhordú Choiste na bhFochéime. Bunaíodh Grúpa Oibre le forbairt a dhéanamh ar shamhail chothromasach cistíochta maidir le suiteáil chliniciúil.

Cur chun cinn Gairmréanna Ríomhaireachta

Tá comhdhearcadh coitianta ann maidir le tábhacht TFC d'fhorbairt eacnamaíochta agus léiríodh athuair imní an rialtais agus na bhfostóirí faoin éileamh atá ar chlár TFC san ardoideachas. Ar an tacaíocht a sholáthraítear don earnáil, sholáthair an ÚAO tacaíocht do Champaí Samhraidh Ríomhaireachta in 12 Institiúid Ard-Oideachais. D'fhreastal breis is 400 mac léinn meánscoile ar fad. Tá sé i gceist forbairt agus leathnú breise a dhéanamh ar an gclár seo.

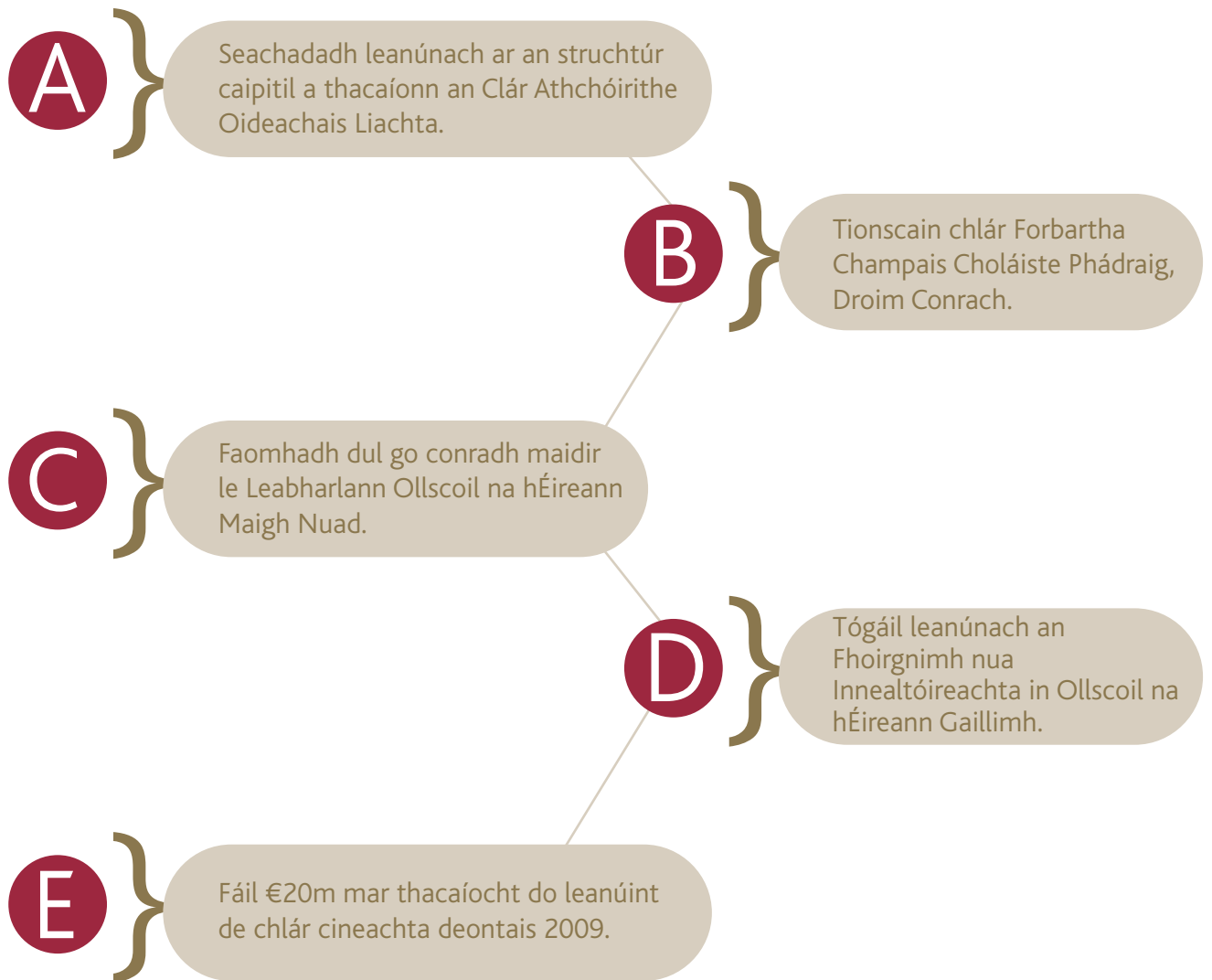
Tionscadal E-InfraNet.

Anuraidh rinne Coimisiún na hEorpa cistiú ar e-InfraNet, tionscadal ar a ndearna an ÚAO comhordú. Reáchtáladh ceardlanna rathmhara i mBaile Átha Cliath, sa Loháin agus Heilsincí. Tá na torthaí ineachadtha ó na ceardlanna seo ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin e-InfraNet ag

<http://e-infranet.eu/>.

Cistíocht Caipitil

Eilimint eile suntasach i ról cistíochta an ÚAO is ea tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhorbairt caipitil na n-institiúidí ardoideachais. Ar bhuaicphointí chlár caipitil an ardoideachais in 2010 bhí:



ROCHTAIN

Feidhmíonn an Oifig Náisiúnta um Chothromas Rochtana ar Ard-Oideachas laistigh den ÚAO. Tá cúram curtha air tacaíocht a thabhairt do na hinstiúidí ardoideachais maidir le feabhas a chur ar rannpháirtíocht i measc grúpaí le tearcionadaíocht in ár n-ollscoileanna, ár n-institiúidí agus ár gcoláistí. Baineadh amach garspriocanna áirithe in 2010.

Athbhreithniú Meántearma Déanta ar an bPlean Rochtana Náisiúnta 2008-2013

Cuireadh an obair chun cinn in 2010 ar athbhreithniú meántearma ar an bPlean Náisiúnta um Rochtain ar Ard-Oideachas 2008-2013. Déanann an t-athbhreithniú measúnúchán ar ghnóthachtana ó 2008-2010 agus ar dhul chun cinn ar na spriocanna náisiúnta a ceapadh do 2010. Foilsíodh an tAthbhreithniú Meántearma go luath in 2010.

Tuarascálacha ar Dhul chun cinn ar Rochtain agus ar Fhoghlaim ar feadh an tSaoil

I mBealtaine 2010 iarradh ar na hinstiúidí uile ardoideachais a chistíonn an ÚAO nuashonrú a sholáthar ar a ndul chun cinn ar rochtain agus ar fhoghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil ó 2006 i leith. Cuireadh na tuarascálacha comhlánaithe ar ais in Iúil 2010 agus úsáidfear gach aon tuarascáil ar leith, in éineacht le pleananna rochtana institiúideacha ina thuilleadh comhphlé le gach aon institiúid ar leith ar a ndul chun cinn agus ar a gcuid pleananna don todhchaí in 2011.

Gníomhú ar Mhargadh an tSaothair/Cistíocht Lingchláir

In 2010 lean an ÚAO ar chomhairle agus tacaíocht a thabhairt maidir le tionscnaimh ghníomhaíochta mhargadh an tsaothair don Roinn Fiontar Tráchtála agus Nuálaíochta agus don Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna. Bhí an ÚAO ar cheann de shé ghníomhaireacht ar an bpainéal le measúnú a dhéanamh ar iarratais tairisceana ag soláthróirí oideachais ar Chistíocht um Gníomhú ar Mhargadh an

tSaothair in 2010. Tharla seo ar lorg gairme oscailte ar mholtaí ar thionscnaimh oideachais agus oiliúna do dhaoine dífhostaithe ó Leibhéal 1-8 NFQ. Fógraíodh toradh an phróisis seo sa Mheitheamh. Cistíodh 6,600 áit oideachais agus oiliúna i shé sholáthróir is fiche, a bhformhór ar Leibhéal 1 go 5; Ar a shon sin, cistíodh 400 áit san ardoideachas, go príomha in earnáil na hInstitiúide Teicneolaíochta. Ar lorg measúnaithe ag an Oifig Náisiúnta Rochtana ar fhorbairt mhargadh an tsaothair go dáta chomh maith le moltaí don am a bhí le teacht, fógraíodh ciste nua €20 milliún, ilbhliantúil le deiseanna ardoideachais a sholáthar do dhaoine dífhostaithe, mar chuid de na beartais bhuiséid do 2011. Tógfaidh an ciste 'Lingchláir' seo ar na cláir a réachtáladh in 2009 agus 2010 agus tá bainistíocht á dhéanamh air ag an ÚAO thar ceann na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna

Polasaí Nua um Chúrsaí Rochtana

Lean tascfhórsa nua den ÚAO, le baill áirithe neamh-ÚAO, ar obair a thosaigh in 2009 ar cheist rochtana ar chúrsaí. De thoradh ar an bpróiseas seo forbraíodh ráiteas polasaí ar chúrsaí rochtana agus mhodúil le spriocgrúpaí foghlaimoirí a ullmhú d'iontráil san ardoideachas. Thug bord an Údaráis um Ard-Oideachas faomhadh don ráiteas seo i nDeireadh Fómhair 2010 agus tá sé á mheas anois ag an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna.

Forbairt Studentfinance.ie

Rinneadh beochan ar áis iarratais ar-líne do dheontais do mhic léinn d'aon ghníomhaireacht déag dámhachtana deontas ar www.studentfinance.ie i Meán Fómhair 2010. Cuireadh alt nua faisnéise ar na hathruithe ar cháilitheacht dóibh sin leis an Líuntas um Fhilleadh ar Oideachas ó 2010-11 chomh maith ar studentfinance.ie in 2010.

Taighde agus Luacháil ar Chothromas Rochtana ar Ard-Oideachas

In Eanáir 2010 d'fhoilsigh an ÚAO dhá staidéar a rinne an Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta - '*Study on the Costs of Participation in Higher Education and Hidden Disadvantage?*' agus '*Study on the Low Participation in Higher Education by the Non-manual Group*'.

I rith Aibreán-Meitheamh 2010 rinneadh iniúchadh seachtrach ar shonraí um Chomhrochtain le measúnú a dhéanamh ar a stóinseacht mar bhealach le measúnú a dhéanamh ar éagsúlacht rannpháirtíochta san ardoideachas agus leithdháileadh cistíochta i dtacaíocht le tionscnaimh rochtana. Foilsíodh an t-iniúchadh in Iúil 2010. Tháinig sé den tátal go bhfuil na sonraí stóinseach, agus oiriúnach d'úsáid i leithdháileadh cistíochta rochtana laistigh de na samhla um leithdháileadh deontais atréimhsigh.

Bhí an ÚAO rannpháirteach i dtionscadal ECFE dar teideal *Pathways for Students with Disabilities to Tertiary Education and Employment*. Is aidhm don tionscadal cláir ardchaighdeáin eatramhacha a aithint maidir le héifeachtacht na tacaíochta a thugtar do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas ar aistriú dóibh go hoideachas iar-mheánoideachais, le linn oideachais threasaigh agus tríd go fostaíocht. Cuireadh an tuarascáil dheiridh ar an staid in Éirinn faoi bhráid an ECFE in 2010.

Samhail Leasaithe Cistíochta do Mhic Léinn faoi Mhíchumas agus Ciste Cabhrach Mac Léinn

Tugadh isteach samhail leasaithe don Chiste do Mhic Léinn faoi Mhíchumas in 2010; d'eisíodh treoirlínte d'institiúidí don tréimhse 2010-11

do na hinstiúidí uile. Tá níos mó soiléire á soláthar d'institiúidí ag an tsamhail, ar mhéideanna cistíochta agus ar chumasú leithdháilte tacaíochtaí agus garaíochtaí níos tuisce do mhic léinn. Ag deireadh 2010, bhí thart ar 5,600 mac léinn faoi mhíchumas faofa do thacaíocht do 2010-11. In 2009-10 soláthraíodh tacaíochtaí teicneolaíochta, acadúla agus pearsanta do 4,963 mac léinn. €12.2m an t-oll-leithdháileadh in 2009-10. €13.6m an leithdháileadh iomlán atá ar fáil do 2010-11.

In 2010 chomh maith tugadh isteach samhail leasaithe do Chiste Cabhrach na Mac Léinn. Tarraingíonn an tsamhail nua ar Shonraí um Chomhrochtain, in éineacht le líon na mac léinn, le leithdháiltí a dhéanamh d'institiúidí rannpháirteacha. Leithdháileadh €5 milliún d'institiúidí do 2010-11.

Na Chéad Chéimithe ó Dhámhachtain Forbartha Gairmiúil ar Pholasaí agus Chleachtas Rochtana

Bhronn POF an ÚAO dámhachtainí san ÚAO i mBealtaine 2010 don bhfiche rannpháirtí, ar iad na chéad chéimithe iad ar mhodúl Leibhéal 9 NFQ i *Rochtain ar Ard-Oideachas: Comhionannas i bPolasaí agus i gCleachtas*. An tlonad um Staidéir Chomhionannais i gColáiste na hOllscoile Baile Átha Cliath, i gcomhair le líonra Oifigeach Rochtana AMA agus le tacaíocht ón Oifig Rochtana Náisiúnta a d'fhorbair an modúl. Lean an modúl ar aghaidh le rannpháirtíocht níos leithne a chuimsíonn daoine atá ag obair ar thacaíocht a thabhairt do rochtain ar ardoideachas ar an dara leibhéal agus sa phobal.

TAIGHDE AGUS NUÁLAÍOCHT

Tá bainistíocht cistíochta agus forbairt polasaí maidir le clár taighde agus nuálaíochta ina mbunghníomhaíochtaí don Údarás um Ard-Oideachas. Bliain forbartha mór le rá ab ea 2010.

Timthriall 5 PRTLÍ

D'fhógair an Taoiseach, Brian Cowen TD, dámhachtain cistíochta taighde faoi Timthriall 5 PRTLÍ i mí an Iúil. Cruthóidh an plean infheistíochta do thaighde agus nuálaíocht postanna agus fiontair nua, rud a thiomáinfidh athshlánú eacnamaíochta na hÉireann. Soláthróidh an obair thógála faoi infheistíocht Timthriall 5 PRTLÍ breis is 64,000m/cr de spás taighde i bhfoirgnimh nua agus athchóirithe ar na campais ardoideachais agus cruthóidh 2,000 éigin post san earnáil. Cruthóidh na tionscadail taighde 379 post go díreach agus líon suntasach de staidéarachtaí taighde. Ag seoladh Timthriall 5 dó leis an Taoiseach, dúirt an tAire Fiontar, Tráchtála agus Nuálaíochta, Mr. Batt O'Keefe TD go gcabhródh an plean cúig bliana – an infheistíocht is mó riamh i dtaighde i stair an Stáit- le postanna 'cliste' a chruthú agus le hÉirinn a bheith ina mol nuálaíochta don Eoraip.

Athbhreithniú Meántearma ar Timthriall 4 PRTLÍ

Críochnaíodh Athbhreithniú Meántearma ar Timthriall 4 PRTLÍ i Mí na Samhna. Meastar ó anailís ar thorthaí an athbhreithnithe go bhfuil tionscadail a cistíodh faoi Timthriall 4 ar sprioc lena dtorthaí agus a spriocanna bunaidh a bhaint amach.

Measúnú Tionchair Eacnamaíochta PRTLÍ

Chuaigh an ÚAO i mbun measúnaithe tionchair PRTLÍ le PS Consulting Ltd. Cuimseoidh an measúnúchán scrúdú ar fhás na n-ionad/dtionscnamh PRTLÍ, cistithe faoi Timthrialla 1 go 3, óna dtús. Críochnófar an tuarascáil go luath in 2011.

Creatchlár 7 – Infreastruchtúir Taighde

Ó sheol Coimisiún na hEorpa CF7 go luath in 2007, bhí 102 taighdeoir Éireannach rannpháirteach in iarratais ar Chlár Infreastruchtúr CF7; d'éirigh le 44 iarratasóir dá leithéid sin cistíocht a fháil do 36 tionscadal go dtí seo.

Tá iarratas ar dheontas ó Choimisiún na hEorpa do rannpháirtíocht sna tionscadail seo ag €11.3 milliún, geall leis (1.1% den mbuiséad ar fad atá ar fáil). Tá seo i bhfrithshuíomh le 21 tionscadal ar éirigh leo agus a fuair 3.8 faoin gclár céanna in FP6 (2002 – 2006) agus ciallaíonn sin rannpháirtíocht shuntasach níos mó i gCreatchlár 7.

Is fiú a thabhairt faoi deara gurb iad na hinstiúidí ardoideachais an príomhthairbhí sa CF7 trí chéile, ag fáil 62% den chistíocht uile dá bhfuil ar fáil.

Spregadh ar Aschuir Taighde a chur in Iúl

Lean an ÚAO ar óstáil teagmhais Making an Impact a reáchtáladh in Amharclann Helix, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath san Aibreán. Thug an ÚAO i gcomhpháirt leis an Irish Independent cuireadh do mhic léinn taighde sna disciplíní uile aighneacht ghearr a chur isteach ar an dífríocht a dhéanfaidh a gcuid taighde ar ghné ar leith de shaol na hÉireann, don tír trí chéile nó go hidirnáisiúnta. Fuarthas breis is 2,000 aighneacht agus uaidh seo ghlac seisear taighdeoir páirt sa teagmhas, inar bronnadh €2,500 ar Aidan Quilligan a bhuaigh dámhachtain na moltóirí lena aighneacht "Optamúchán Thúr Tuirbíní Gaoithe Coincréite" agus Roisin O'Shea a bhuaigh vóta na mac léinn sa lucht éisteachta lena haighneacht "Dlí Teaghlaigh in Éirinn".

Míreanna Móra de Threalamh Taighde (MMTT) –Suirbhéireacht 2010

Tá tionscain déanta ar fhárdal a chruthú de mhíreanna móra de threalamh taighde, dar luach breis is €100,000, i seilbh na hearnála ardoideachais. Chuimsigh an tsuirbhéireacht ceisteanna ar pholasaithe rochtana ar threalamh.

Tá athbhreithniú ar shuirbhéireachtaí atá críochnaithe ar siúl agus tá obair ar siúl chomh maith maidir le forbairt ar fhormáid oiriúnach bunachar sonraí do na sonraí.

Athbhreithniú ar Sholáthar Ríomhaireachta Ardfheidhmíochta in Éireann

Críochnaíodh an t-athbhreithniú ar sceideal dhéanach i Mí na Samhna agus críochnaíodh moltaí an phainéil faoi dheireadh na bliana. Meastar go ndéanfar dul chun cinn ar fheidhmiúchán agus ar mholtaí an phainéil i gcomhairle leis na príomhpháirtithe leasmhara i rith 2011.

FORBAIRT POLASAÍ

Tá an ÚAO freagrach as forbairt polasaí maidir le hardoideachas agus taighde agus cuireann comhairle ar an Rialtas ar na ceisteanna sin chomh maith le faisnéis agus staidreamh a sholáthar do raon fairsing éisteoirí, an pobal trí chéile san áireamh.

Tiomsaítear figiúir ar líon na mac léinn go rialta agus cuirtear na torthaí ar shuíomh gréasáin an ÚAO.



I nDeireadh Fómhair, d'fhoilsigh an ÚAO staidéar ar choinneáil ar choláiste a fuair amach go dtéann 85% de na mic léinn ar aghaidh ón chéad go dtí an dara bliain agus go bhfuil córas ardoideachais na hÉireann ionchurtha le tíortha eile maidir le dul ar aghaidh agus críochnú cúrsa i dtéarmaí mac léinn. Rinne an tuarascáil "*Staidéar ar dhul ar aghaidh san Ard-Oideachas*" anailís ar rátaí dul chun cinn mac léinn fochéime ardoideachais idir na blianta acadúla 2007/08 agus 2008/09. Líonann seo bearna sa bhonn fianaise don ardoideachas a ghabhann siar go staidéir earnálacha a rinneadh sna 1990aidí. Cé go ndíríonn an staidéar ar dhul chun cinn i dtréimhse tagartha bliana, tuigtear ó na torthaí gur fhan na rátaí críochnaithe buan agus gur dócha gur tháinig feabhas orthu trí thréimhse leanúnach leathnaithe in ardoideachas in Éirinn. Is dea-chomhartha é seo ar chailíocht an chórais ardoideachais in Éirinn.

Baill ÚAO

Ceapann an Rialtas baill an ÚAO ar ainmniúchán an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta de ghnáth go ceann tréimhse 5 bliana, ach amháin d'Uachtarán Aontas na Mac Léinn a bhíonn ina b(h)all le linn dó/di a bheith in oifig mar Uachtarán ar Aontas na Mac Léinn. Baill ÚAO do 2010:

Ballraíocht Bhord ÚAO 2010

An tOllamh Tom Boylan (go 5/12/10)

An Dr. Cepta Brougham

An Dr. Mary Canning (Leaschathaoirleach ó Mheán Fhómhair 2010)

An Dr. Tommy Cooke (go 5/12/10)

Ms Grace Corcoran

Mr. Michael Cotter (go 5/12/10)

Mr. Martin Cronin (go 5/12/10)

An tOllamh Mary Daly (Leaschathaoirleach go Meitheamh 2010)

Mr. Noel Davern

Ms. Doreen Delahunty (go 5/12/10)

Mr. Louis Dockery (go 5/12/10)

Ms Sheila Drum (go 5/12/10)

Mr. Michael Kelly, Cathaoirleach (go 30/09/10)

Ms Kathleen Lough

Mr. Ray McCarthy

Mr. Peter Mannion (go 30/06/10)

Professor Sarah Moore (go 5/12/10)

Mr. Gary Redmond (ó 1/7/10)

An tOllamh Frances Ruane

An Dr. Jim Ruane

Tá rianú déanta in aguisín 1 ar na cruinnithe den Údarás agus den choiste seasta a freastalaíodh. Íoctar táille atá faofa ag an Aire Airgeadais leis na baill. Tá íocaíochtaí taistil agus cothabhála ag teacht leis na rátaí atá faofa ag an Aire Airgeadais. Tá na sonraí rianaithe in aguisín a dó.

Cruinnithe den ÚAO

Is gnách cruinnithe den Údarás um Ard-Oideachas a réachtáil gach dara mí. Réachtáladh sé chruinniú den Údarás in 2010. Gabhann an ÚAO i mbun oibre trí thrí choiste seasta agus tascfhórsaí a bhunaíonn sé ó am go chéile. Réachtáladh cruinnithe de na tascfhórsaí seo a leanas i rith 2010:



Cód Cleachtais Leasaithe Nua do Rialachas Chomhlachtaí Stáit 2009

Tháinig tascfhórsa le chéile i bhFeabhra 2010 le géilliúntas an ÚAO don chód cleachtais leasaithe a phlé. Thángthas chun réitigh ar an áirithe sin athruithe ina measc athruithe ar chód cleachtais na mball agus Pholasaí soláthair an ÚAO.

COISTÍ AN úao

Coistí Iniúchóireachta

Is é is príomhchúram an Choiste Iniúchóireachta ná cabhrú leis an Údarás lena fhreagrachtaí maoirseachta a chomhlánú. Déanann sé seo trí athbhreithniú ar an fhaisnéis airgeadais a sholáthraítear i gcuntais iniúchta an ÚAO; úsáid a bhaint as córais seanbhunaithe inmheánacha rialála airgeadais agus bainistíochta riosca; agus feidhm an iniúchta inmheánaigh. I rith 2010 tháinig ana Coiste le chéile ceithre huairé agus phléigh na ceisteanna seo a leanas:

- Cuntais bhliantúla an ÚAO
- Tuarascáil ar Bhainistíocht Riosca
- Córas rialála inmheánach airgeadais
- Polasaí ÚAO ar bhronntanais agus fhéile
- Polasaí agus plean soláthair ÚAO
- Tuarascáil an Iniúchta Inmheánaigh ar rialachas do IRCHSS agus IRCSET
- Plean Aisghabhála Tubaiste TF
- Socruithe Baincéireachta ÚAO

Baill de Choistí Iniúchóireachta an ÚAO

- Ms. Doreen Delahunty go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Mr. Louis Dockery go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Mr. Martin Cronin go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Dr. Jim Ruane, cathaoirleach an choiste

Coiste Airgeadais

Tháinig Coiste Airgeadais an ÚAO le chéile ceithre huairé in 2010. Lena chois sin, reáchtáladh cruinniú ionchorpraithe i Mí na Nollag. Is é is príomhról don Choiste ná athbhreithniú agus moladh a thabhairt don Údarás ar na leithdháiltí atréimhseacha atá beartaithe do na hOllscoileanna, d'Institiúidí Teicneolaíochta agus do chomhlachtaí eile a chistíonn an tÚdarás, chomh maith le leithdháiltí cistíochta faoin áirithe sin clár breise.

Baill Choiste Airgeadais an ÚAO

- An Dr. Mary Canning Leaschathaoirleach (ó 1 Deireadh Fómhair 2010)
- Mr. Michael Kelly (Cathaoirleach) go 30 Meán Fómhair 2010
- An tOllamh Tom Boylan go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Mr. Martin Cronin go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Mr. Louis Dockery go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Ms. Sheila Drum go 5 Nollaig 2010
- Mr. Ray McCarthy
- Mr. Peter Mannion go 30 Meitheamh 2010
- Mr. Gary Redmond ó 1 Iúil 2010
- An tOllamh Frances Ruane

Comhaontú na Seirbhíse Poiblí 2010-2014

Tá plean gníomhaíochta glactha ag an ÚAO faoin gcomhaontú thuas luaite. Rianaíonn an comhaontú gníomhaíochtaí faoi na ceanteidil seo a leanas:

- Bainistíocht níos fearr ar acmhainn dhaonna
- Próisis níos fearr gnó
- Seachadadh don saoránach

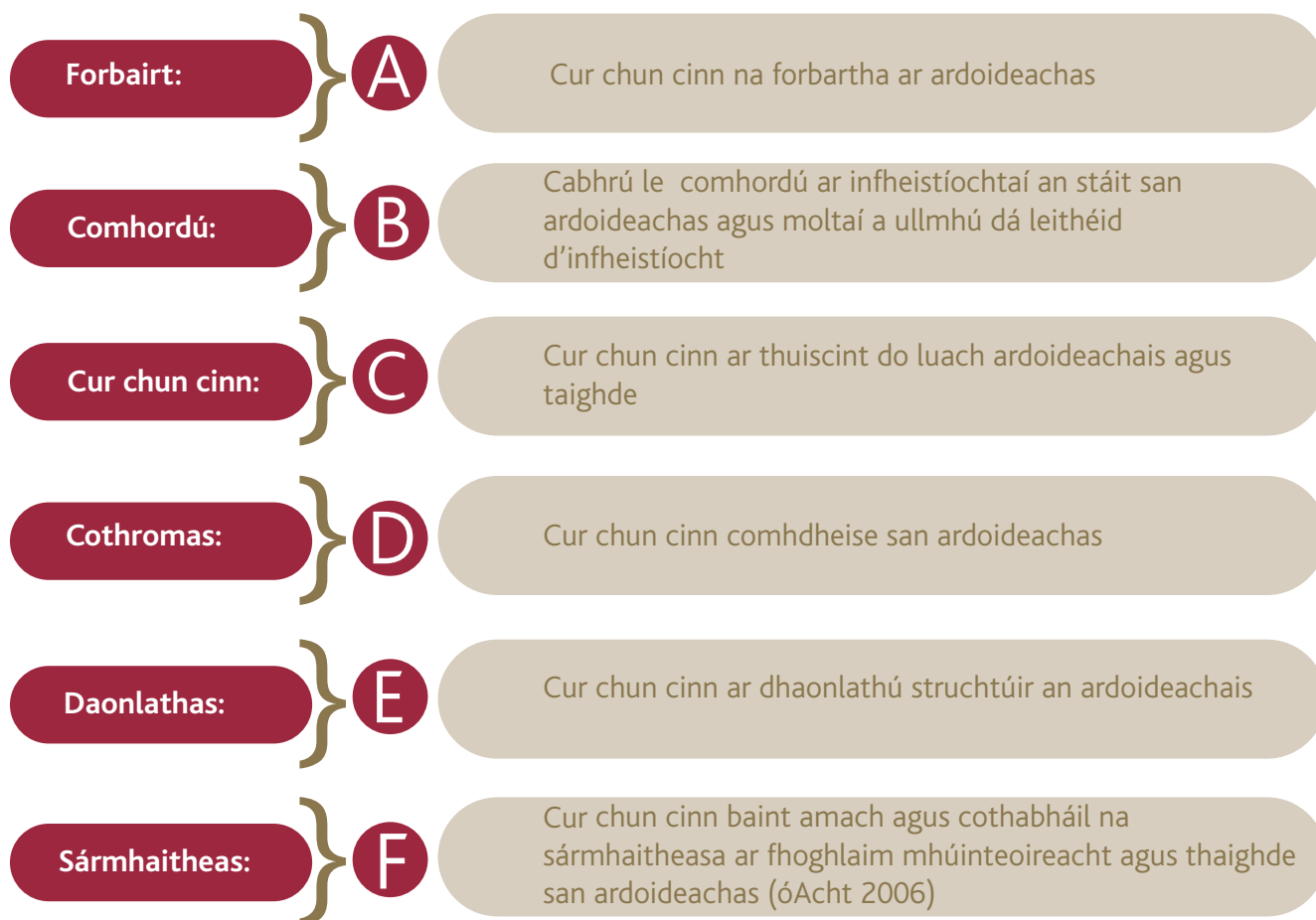
Tá cóip de plean gníomhaíochta an ÚAO ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an ÚAO.
www.hea.ie/en/node/1446

Feidhmeanna agus Reachtaíocht

Díorthaítear feidhmeanna ginearálta an ÚAO ón reachtaíocht seo a leanas:

Acht An Údaráis Um Ardoideachas 1971,
Acht na nOllscoileanna 1997
Acht na hInstitiúide Teicneolaíochta 2006

Cuimsíonn na feidhmeanna seo:



Cuimsíonn feidhmeanna eile ó Acht 1971:

- Comhairle a chur ar an Aire ar an ngá atá le hinstiúidí nua a bhunú.
- Athbhreithniú leanúnach ar an éileamh agus ar an ngá atá le hardoideachas.
- Staidéir a réachtáil agus a fhoilsiú ar dhúshláin ag a mbíonn éifeacht ar ardoideachas agus ar thaighde
- Measúnú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar airgeadais an stáit, reatha agus caipitil araon, a mholtar d'ardoideachas agus do thaighde.
- Na deontais a vótáil an tOireachtas a leithdháileadh i measc na nOllscoileanna, na hInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta agus na n-institiúidí sainithe.

Faoi Acht na nOllscoileanna 1997, agus Acht na nInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta 2006 ina dhiaidh sin leath cúram an Údaráis um Ard-Oideachas agus tá líon breise feidhmeanna anois aige maidir leis an earnáil ardoideachais. Ar na réimsí atá clúdaithe tá:

- Pleananna straitéiseacha forbartha
- Próisis dearbhaithe cáilíochta
- Polasaithe agus feidhmiúchán comhionannais agus rochtana
- Creata do: Imeachtaí Tuarastail; Iasachtaíocht; Íocaíochtaí Corparáidí Institiúideacha le foirne; Sealbhú Talún.

Reachtaíocht eile Ábhartha

Is ann do líon áirithe Achtanna Rialtas ag a bhfuil ábharthacht ar leith don ÚAO i mbainistíocht a ghnó

Acht um Shaoráil Faisnéise

- Ó Eanáir 2001, tá an ÚAO faoi réir ag forálacha an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise (SF), 1997. Dearbhaíonn an tAcht ceart bhall den phobal ar rochtain ar fhaisnéis oifigiúil oiread agus is féidir, ag teacht le leas an phobail agus le ceart príobháideachta an duine aonair. Bunaíonn an Acht trí cheart nua reachtúla:
- Ceart dlíthiúil do gach duine ar leith rochtain ar fhaisnéis i seilbh chomhlachtaí poiblí:

- Ceart dlíthiúil do gach duine ar leith go gceartófaí faisnéis oifigiúil a bhaineann leis/léi féin a leasú nuair atá sí neamhiomlán, mícheart nó míthreorach;
- Ceart dlíthiúil le cinntí a bhaineann leis an duine féin a fháil.

Go dtí seo, tá 79 iarratas faighte ag an ÚAO (Deireadh Fómhair 2001- Nollaig 2010).

Ceadaíonn an tAcht SF rochtain phoiblí ar thaifid atá i seilbh an ÚAO, nach bhfuil ar fáil mar ghnás trí fhoinsí eile. Tá rochtain ar fhaisnéis faoin Acht faoi réir ag díolúintí áirithe agus cuimsíonn sé sainphróisis agus teorainneacha ama.

Tá cóipeanna de Lámhleabhair ÚAO – Alt 15 (Struchtúr agus Feidhmeanna an Údaráis) agus Alt 16 (rianú ar na rialacháin agus na fasaigh a úsáideann an ÚAO i gcomhlíonadh a fheidhmeanna) mar a éilítear faoin acht, ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an ÚAO:

<http://www.hea.ie/en/foi>

Fuair an ÚAO 11 iarratas faoin Acht i rith 2010, géilleadh ceithre cinn díobh seo, géilleadh cuid de cheann, tarraingíodh siar cúig cinn (ceann díobh seo á láimhseáil lasmuigh den SF) agus tá cás amháin ar feitheamh.

Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003

Tá an ÚAO sainithe faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003. Is bunspríoc ag an acht é deimhin a dhéanamh de rochtain níos fearr agus caighdeán níos airde seirbhísí poiblí trí Ghaeilge. Déanann Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla iarracht ar éifeacht reachtúil a thabhairt, chomh fada agus a bhaineann le seachadadh seirbhísí, d'Airteagal 8 den mBunreacht mar a leanas:

- Ós í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisiúnta is í an phríomhtheanga oifigiúil í
- Glactar leis an Sacs-Bhéarla mar theanga oifigiúil eile
- Ach féadfar socrú a dhéanamh le dlí d'fhonn ceachtar den dá theanga sin a bheith ina haonteanga le haghaidh aon ghnó nó gnóthaí oifigiúla ar fud an Stáit ar fad nó in aon chuid de

Ag teacht le Cuid 3, (alt 9-13 den Acht, d'ullmhaigh an ÚAO scéim ag sonrú cé na seirbhísí atá i gceist aige a sholáthar trí na bealaí seo a leanas:

- Trí mheán na Gaeilge amháin
- Trí mheán an Sacs-Bhéarla amháin, agus
- Trí mheán na Gaeilge agus an Sacs-Bhéarla araon.

Athúsáid Faisnéise na hEarnála Poiblí

Leagann rialacháin athúsáide faisnéise na hEarnála Poiblí 2005 amach creat comhchuibhithe lenar féidir rochtain a dhéanamh ar shonraí na hearnála poiblí ar fud an AE. Tá an Treoir ceaptha le gníomhaíocht eacnamaíochta, nuálaíocht agus iomaíochas a spreagadh agus le cabhrú le héabhlóidiú eacnamaíochta agus sochaí faisnéis agus eolasbhunaithe.

Géilleann An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas do na rialacháin ar athúsáid faisnéise na hEarnála Poiblí 2005 agus spreagann sé go gníomhach athúsáid na faisnéise a tháirgimid. Tá na rialacháin ar fáil ag www.psi.gov.ie

Acht un Eitic in Oifigí Poiblí, 1995 agus Acht um Chaighdeán in Oifigí, 2001

Ag teacht le forálacha na nAchtanna thuas, tá ar bhaill an Údaráis ráitis ar leasa ar bith don Choimisiún um Chaighdeán in Oifigí Poiblí. Soláthraíonn baill sinsearacha den bhFeidhmeannacht ráitis ar leasa don Phríomhfheidhmeannach.

Achtanna um Chomhdheiseanna Fostaíochta, 1998 agus 2004

Tá an ÚAO tiomanta do pholasaí comhdheiseanna. Tá líon áirithe polasaí comhaontaithe lena Choiste comhpháirtíochta, a chuimsíonn polasaí comhdheiseanna agus polasaí dínite ag an obair. Tá líon áirithe scéimeanna bunaithe ag an Údarás chomh maith le feabhas a chur ar dheiseanna

cothromaíochta oibre is saol ar a n-áirítear scéim fleisc-ama agus polasaí foirmeálta ar oibriú páirtaimseartha a aontaíodh in 2008. Bhí socrúchán amháin ag an ÚAO faoi chlár monatóireachta AHEAD, toilteanach agus inniúil i rith 2010.

Acht um Shábháilteacht, Sláinte agus Leas ag an Obair, 1989

Tá ráiteas sábháilteachta ullmhaithe ag an ÚAO ag teacht leis an Acht. Rinneadh athbhreithniú air seo in 2007.

In 2007 thug an ÚAO isteach Clár Cúnaimh i gComhair Fostaithe dá fhoireann agus dá bpinsinéirí.

Acht um Íoc Pras Cuntas, 1997

Géilleann an ÚAO d'fhorálacha an Achta thuas agus tá socruithe curtha ar fáil aige le deimhin a dhéanamh de go n-íoctar na sonraisc uile go pras.

Plean maidir le Seirbhís Ardchaighdeán do Chustaiméirí

Ar lorg comhairliúcháin lena pháirtithe leasmhara ghlac an ÚAO le Plean maidir le Seirbhís Ardchaighdeán do Chustaiméirí in 2005. Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an bplean seo in 2009.

Tionscnaimh Cairdiúla don Chomhshaol

Feidhmíonn an ÚAO scéim athchúrsála. Ghlac an tÚdarás a thuilleadh beartas le laghdú ar úsáid páipéir. In 2009, rinne an t-aonad TF athbhreithniú ar bhealaí le feabhas a chur ar éifeacht fuinnimh a chuid ríomhairí pearsanta.

Aguisín a hAon

Ballraíocht ÚAO agus na Cruinnithe a Freastalaíodh i rith 2010

	Cruinnithe an Údaráis a freastalaíodh	Cruinnithe den Choiste Airgeadais a freastalaíodh	Cruinnithe den Choiste Íníúcháireachta a freastalaíodh	Cruinnithe den Tascfhórsa a freastalaíodh (11 chruinniú)
An tOllamh Tom Boylan go 5/12/10	3 as 6	2 as 4		1 as 5
An Dr. Cepta Brougham	5 as 6			2 as 4
An Dr. Mary Canning	6 as 6	1 as 1		6 as 9
An Dr. Tommy Cooke go 5/12/10	6 as 6			7 as 8
Ms Grace Corcoran	6 as 6			4 as 9
Mr. Michael Cotter go 5/12/10	5 as 6			0
Mr. Martin Cronin go 5/12/10	5 as 6	3 as 4	4 as 4	2 as 3
An tOllamh Mary Daly	6 as 6			9 as 9
Mr. Noel Davern	3 as 6			0
Ms Doreen Delahunty go 5/12/10	6 as 6		4 as 4	0
Mr. Louis Dockery go 5/12 5/12/10	3 as 6	4 as 4	4 as 4	1 as 1
Ms Sheila Drum go 5/12/10	4 as 6	2 as 4		1 as 1
Mr. Michael Kelly, Cathaoirleach go 30/9/10	5 as 5	3 as 3		7 as 7
Ms Kathleen Lough	6 as 6			6 as 7
Mr. Ray McCarthy	5 as 6	3 as 4		5 as 6
Mr. Peter Mannion go 30/06/10	1 as 3	0 as 3		0
An tOllamh Sarah Moore go 5/12/10	6 as 6			2 as 3
Mr. Gary Redmond ó 1/7/10	3 as 3	0 as 1		1 as 2
An tOllamh Frances Ruane	4 as 6	3 as 4		5 as 5
An Dr. Jim Ruane	5 as 6		4 as 4	