

Minutes of the second Meeting of the CSG Growth and Productivity Sub-Group

30th April 2019



Present

Ronnie Downes (Chair, DPER), Ed Hearne (DPER), Fionn Jenkinson (DPER), Christina Mohan (DPER), Kevin Daly (DBEI), Alan Power (DBEI), Phil O’Flaherty (DES), Stephen Lynam (OGP), Kathryn Meghan (RIAI), Áine Myler (SCSI), Diarmuid Mollin (Engineers Ireland), Liam Berney (ICTU), Sean Downey (CIF), Jeanette Mair (CIF), Garry O’Sullivan (NSAI), Sarah Ingle (ACEI).

1. Minutes of meeting held on 27th February 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

In terms of one of the action points arising from the last meeting, CIF confirmed that the Steering Committee to review a mapping exercise of Irish Construction Research has been established and is scheduled to meet on 9th May. CIF will provide an update at the next sub-group meeting.

2. Update on productivity research/EGFSN work (IPPO/DBEI)

In relation to the research on Innovation and Growth in the Construction Industry, DPER have issued a request for tenders on the eTenders website. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 1st May 2019. DPER intend to meet with successful bidder the week after next and plan to have finalised report by the end of October.

DBEI provided an update on the ongoing work in relation to the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) and the study on Construction Sector Skills Needs. DBEI explained that strand one and strand two are currently being progressed and that strand three is likely to take place following the completion of strand one and two and will be discussed at a future meeting. DBEI are currently trying to boost engagement and indicated that clear progress is being made in certain areas.

Action Points

- IPPO to keep CSG updated on progress of the productivity research.
- DBEI to update the CSG on EGFSN study at a future meeting.

3. Industry coordination and promotion of construction sector careers (All)

The need for a coordinated approach in relation to the promotion of construction sector careers, as well as the need to change perceptions on the viability of such careers was widely discussed. In supporting and encouraging increased participation in construction sector careers, the industry leaders agreed that greater industry sector engagement with the education system is required. Furthermore, it was suggested that effective links with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment needs to be established in order to address some of the existing barriers.

In summing up, a brief discussion ensued on what a skills campaign might look like and the potential for utilising Project Ireland 2040 to promote and communicate a complemented message for skills.

DPER plan to liaise with group on specific initiatives in order to develop continuum of narrative and to surface any issues in terms of constraints and mitigating factors.

Action Points

- IPPO to examine opportunity to incorporate narrative on construction careers into Project Ireland communications strategy.
- Industry to continue working on their sub-sectoral coordination of promoting careers in the constructions sector.

4. Construction Centre of Excellence (All)

DPER discussed the short concept note on the Centre of Excellence and noted that they have received responses from industry members. Industry members discussed their paper relating to the proposed structure for the new Centre of Excellence and explained that leadership and coordination must be core to its formation.

A discussion followed on the initial steps that need to be taken, including the possibility of convening a board and deciding on which line department will take patronage. Discussion also arose in relation to the issue of competitiveness and the need for smaller industry players to be accommodated.

It was proposed that the centre could act as an extension of the National BIM Council and play a role in supporting the initiative, which in turn would help answer the leadership piece and help to coordinate approaches. DBEI indicated that they thought that the new structure could look beyond BIM. Based on the incremental structure proposed, DBEI therefore suggested that it would be a good idea to leave scope for modifications in the Terms of Reference.

All agreed that the funding model needs to be further teased out and reflected on.

Action Points

- IPPO to draft up further paper on outstanding issues discussed.

5. AOB

There were no issues raised under AOB.