

# Springboard+ 2025 Provider Briefing

13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Springboard+ 2025
  - What's new
  - Process
- Data retention & audits

# Springboard+ Objectives

- Provide upskilling and reskilling courses to develop the talent base in Ireland and in key growth sectors of the economy.
- Support those who are unemployed, formerly self-employed, and those who have been out of the workforce for some time (Returners) to return to sustainable employment. To this end, in developing proposals, providers are expected to have regard to the most recent data and trends on the profile of people experiencing unemployment.
- Provide opportunities for workforce development to enhance the skill levels of those already in employment and reskill those whose current occupation may be at risk from technological and other developments.
- Increase the national rate of engagement in lifelong learning.
- Enhance collaboration between enterprise and higher education to design and deliver relevant higher education courses that support job creation and expansion in line with government policy.

# Springboard+ 2025

- Budget of 34.4m – extremely competitive process
- Multi-annual funding
- Skills needs
- Eligible cohorts remain the same
- Micro-credential courses
- No 2 year ICT courses
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Renewable Offshore Wind Energy - €1m
- Programmes to start 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> October

# Springboard+ 2025

- Validation
- Limit on number of proposals providers can submit
  - 30 individual provider, 60 TU
- Proposals must be ranked in order of priority
- Confirmation Regional Skills Fora Manager viewed the draft submission form HEA designated providers
- President/CEO or Vice President Sign off

# Springboard+ Courses

- Minimum of 20 credits on NFQ
- Level 6-9 NFQ
- Eligible ISCED areas
- Areas of skill need nationally and regionally
- Industry engagement in development of proposal
- Time commitment reflected in the number of credits

# Micro-credential Courses

- 5-20 credits on NFQ
- NFQ Level 6-9
- Time commitment reflected in number of credits
- Aimed at people who need to upskill in short timeframe
- Relevant to industry
- Immediately applicable for those working or looking to change career
- 'Stackability' potential over time

# Micro-credential Courses

Proposals welcome in the following areas

- AI: applicability of AI in industry/enterprise setting
- Digitalisation
- Construction/sustainable built environment
- Twin Transitions
- Renewable Offshore Wind Energy

# Evaluation Process

1. The HEA executive will assign all proposals to a panel of independent evaluators.
2. The evaluators will conduct individual remote assessments on applications assigned to them in accordance with the published eligibility criteria. Proposals will be assigned a numeric score.
3. The evaluators will convene to consider the final list of scored proposals based on evaluation criteria. This final agreed list will be given to the HEA Executive.
4. The HEA will establish a panel consisting of HEA Executive members and representative(s) from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Skills. This panel will consider which proposals from the final agreed list (as outlined in step 3 above) to fund in 2025.
5. The final list of courses and associated places recommended for funding will be subject to Ministerial approval in accordance with the governance procedures. The Minister's decision is final. The Ministerial approved outcome will be reported to the HEA Board.

# Process

Wizehive application process

Frequently Asked Questions

- questions submitted by COB on Tuesday
- circulated on Wednesday

Closing date: 1pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Outcome: mid-late April

# Data Retention and Audits

- Part of ESF programme so critical we meet requirements – potential loss of funding
- All successful applicants must prove eligibility at point of course commencement
- Retaining eligibility documentation on the AMS in case of an audit
- Toolboxes issues on eligibility requirements – refer to these
- Training available from HEA – ensure attendance and make colleagues aware of toolboxes
- Site visits and audits will be ongoing through 2025 and beyond on existing and new programmes
- Penalties for non-compliance