



National Skills Council



Regional Skills  
Partnerships for Skills



An Roinn Breiseoidéachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science

# Regional Skills Fora

## Statement of Activity - 2020

### Business Support

Is your company or team impacted by **COVID-19**?

Contact your Regional Skills Forum for help with:

- FREE & Discounted Online Training
- Resolving Skills Issues
- Information on Government Supports

www.regionalskills.ie

Regional Skills Partnerships for Skills

Follow us on

The Regional Skills Fora provided a national repository hub on [www.regionalskills.ie](http://www.regionalskills.ie) to assist businesses with a comprehensive listing of the Government Supports available. This resource was promoted online throughout our [Regional\\_Skills](#) Twitter account and all media channels, with Managers assisting Businesses to relevant support agencies.

### Apprenticeship Action

As part of the consultation process towards the Apprenticeship Action Plan to 2025, Regional Skills conducted a SME Apprenticeship Consultation survey with enterprise. Over 150+ responses were received from over 10 sectors, providing key insightful and informative data towards the development of the plan.

### Skills Planning



National Skills Council

The National Skills Council provides a mechanism to mediate demands across the full range of needs identified through the research and analysis conducted under its direction. The members of the council are drawn from senior levels in the public and private sector.

The Regional Skills Fora garners their activity and sector focus from regional forum members and inline with the overarching priorities and principles from the National Skills Council (NSC).

In 2020, the NSC identified the digital skills divide amongst our economy and society as a key priority, outlining that there is significant overlap between those presently impacted by Covid-19 and those with low levels of digital skills. The NSC highlighted the need to meet these requirements to drive the development of the green economy and seek to accelerate the broad and wide-scale development of digital skills in all sectors of the economy.

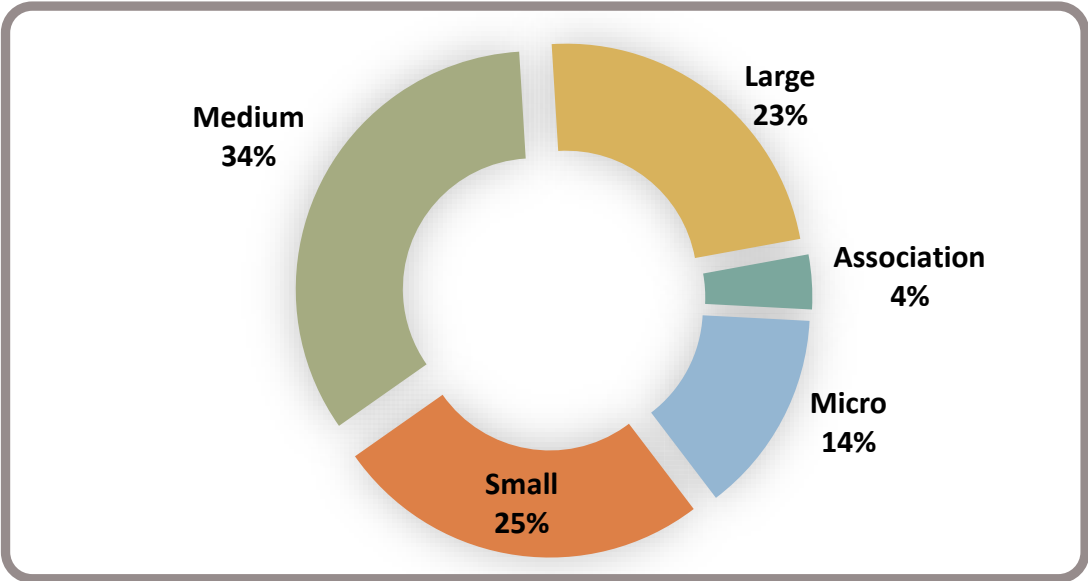
RSF in conjunction with forum members have created EXPLORE and DigiECO inline with these themes and will continue to focus on these areas for 2021.

All NSC priorities and principle recommendations are kept at the forefront in the workings of the RSF across the regions, enterprises and further and higher education system, which will mitigate the fallout from the pandemic and provide a positive response to ongoing and future challenges to our economy and our society.

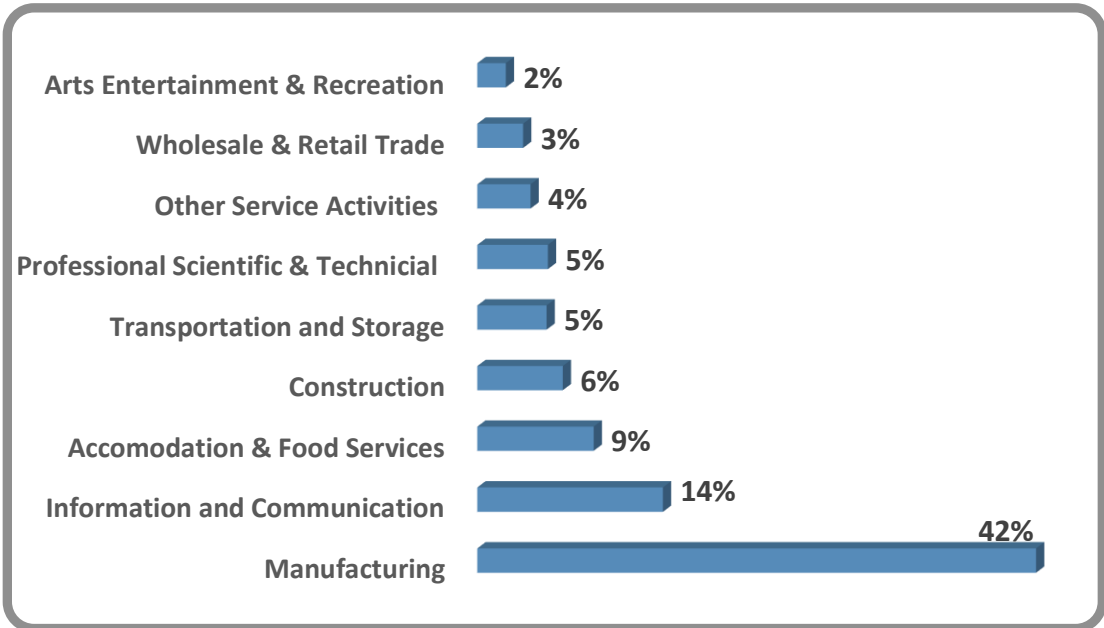


## Profile of Enterprise Engagements

<p><b>9 Regions</b>  <b>1078 Enterprise Engagements</b>  <b>40% New Contacts</b></p>
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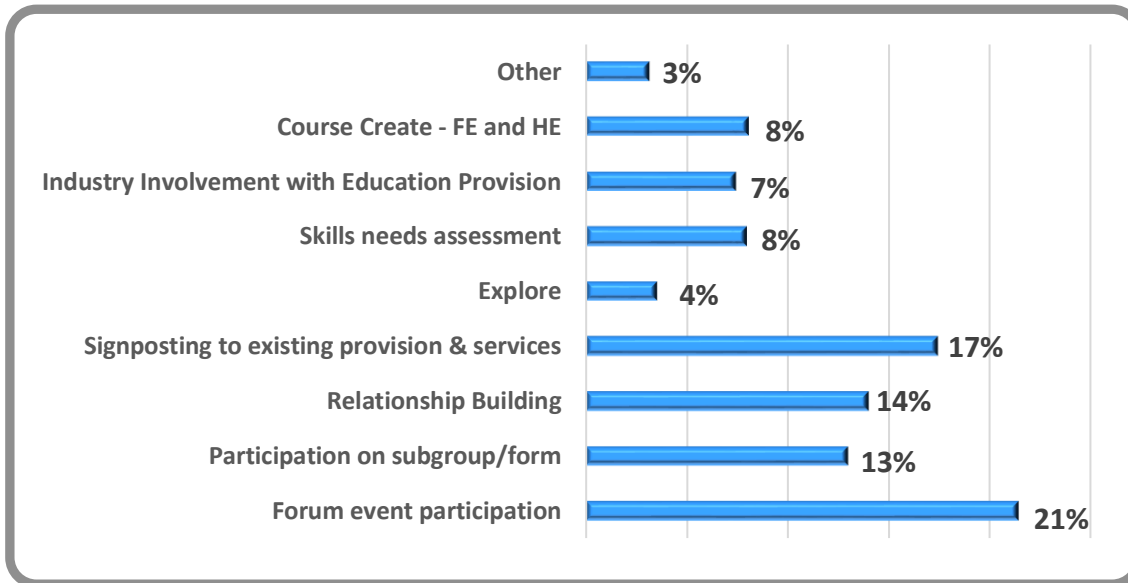
## Sector Breakdown



\* <1% not represented on graph



## Engagement Activity



\* <1% not represented on graph

## Pilot Program - DigiEco

Transitioning to a **Green Economy** requires a workforce with the **right skills** and **capabilities** to undertake new job tasks. The importance of sustainable development and the accelerated shift to low carbon economy will impact across all industry sectors and occupations.



RSF developed DigiECO a short programme with an objective to instill cultural and behavioural change within organisations. DigiECO develops the digital capacity of employees and increases their awareness on environmental practices that contribute towards a greener On completion participants have the necessary digital skills and knowledge to undertake a Green audit, implement appropriate changes to work practices and review progress. This training is 100% funded by Government under the National Training Fund.

DigiECO will contribute towards achieving the five key pillars of the Government’s ‘Future Jobs Ireland’ Strategy namely ‘a sustainable, resilient and future orientated economy’ by 2025.

The programme which targeted manufacturing SME’s based in North Tipperary was piloted in Quarter four over a six-week period involving three off site days and two virtual meetings. A total of six companies participated with a collective employment of approximately 600 staff.

In collaboration with Limerick Institute of Technology and Limerick and Clare Education & Training Board the training programme focused on three thematic areas namely Energy, Resource Management and Emissions.

Learners received an overview of the Green Economy, a pathway to 2050 and the digital tools to undertake a Green audit and map initiative’s underway or planned to enable progress monitoring. In addition, Enterprise Ireland and the Regional Skills manager presented upskilling pathways in terms of Government funding supports for training and or capital investment.

On the final day each company presented on actions underway and also a three to six-month plan of achievable actions in terms of reducing carbon footprint while also focusing on longer term sustainable projects.