

Bridge the Gap between Education and Entrepreneurship



By Samir Kumar Dhar

In current economical bleak time people are looking for the alternative way to recover their financial situation or probable further futuristic plan.

Where is truly believed that, human energy is the most important capital in any country. Specially, in Ireland skill manpower is a vital issue to face the current economical climate. So, in this context, "SkillNets" and "Enterprise Evolution Programme (EEP)" both projects are now in Ireland extremely viable.

SkillNets (Social Media Skillnets) network's all the training programmes are doing mainly- for Jobseekers purpose to have secured work, progressed into further education or training and became self employed since completing SkillNets training. Currently employed and unemployed both categories people can enrol these programmes, especially who has already Irish level 7 degree.

About funding issues, SkillNets networks are co-funded by SkillNets and member companies. Basically, over 60 networks of private sector companies which are nationwide are trying to develop 3 (three) categories of areas, like: Companies, Employees and Job-seekers. Their training networks programme is funded from the National Training Fund (NTF) through the Department of Education and Skills.

Under the Training Networks Programme (TNP) 2010/2011, SkillNets is providing up to 50% of the cost of all eligible network activities. FÁS, Enterprise Ireland including county Enterprise

Board are in Skillnets network. They are saying that, since 1999, they has facilitated over 50,000 Irish enterprises, 300 networks improvement and quality training over 240,000 employees to gear up their skill to upskill.

According to the 'Department of Social Protection' job-seekers categories are designated by 3 (three) categories. Category 1 says 'On the Live Register', Category 2 says 'Other Payment Recipients' and Category 3 says 'No Social Welfare Payments'.

On the hand, after successful finished rotation 1 last year, now EEP is heading Rotation 2 and 3. Rotation 2 application's closing date is 12th September 2011 and course will be finish in May 2012. Applicant has

to submit their application via bluebrick.ie/springboard system. Their programmes eligible criteria are for the job-seekers those are on live register last 3 months. Motivational factors are also important, €5,000 winning chance for start-up a business which is funded by Bord Na MÓNA. €20m funding is from 'Labour Market Activation Fund'.

Earliest time 40 applicants got chance for the eight-month intensive course which is equivalent of 60 credits for the enterprise diploma at Level-8 degree on the National Qualifications Framework. Right now, EEP extended 100 applicants, 60 of them from IT Tallaght and 40 of them from Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT). Innovo Training and Development is the main organiser of EEP, those are currently partnership with IT Tallaght and Dún Laoghaire (IADT).

Most importantly, Innovo and IT Tallaght both recently survey is showing that 63% of Irish graduates are thinking of leaving the country to look for work abroad especially choice variable way in 30.3% Canada, 28.6% in Australia and 13.4% in New Zealand. Even more, recently the Economic and Social Research Institute predicted that emigration will hit record levels over the next two years.

Innovo's director Declan Byrne said, "The challenge is to foster an environment of entrepreneurship and stimulate job creation in order to retain our highly skilled graduates and to position the country for future economic growth."

Pat O'Donnell from IT Tallaght talked about EEP and said, "There is a definite appetite for entrepreneurship in this country."

We are well acknowledged about the "Dragon's Den" and "The Apprentice" reality programmes. Right now SkillNets and EEP both Institutes are providing more intensive particle trainings where anyone can feel Bridge the Gap between Education and Entrepreneurship.

Totally innovative entrepreneurial spirit they are trying to develop in applicants. Green enterprise and digital revolution are the important fields to work and think for.

On 27th May 2011 General Manager of Intel Ireland Eamonn Sinnott said, "The digital revolution allows people to contribute to the maximum of their capabilities."

SkillNets is offering good number of training facilities from their networks. On the hand EEP is offering their cutting edge 6 modules effective practical training facilities. Both training provider are widely supported by Irish established entrepreneurs and media coverage.

Shortly can be say utterly "Brain Drain" and "Brain Storming" projects.

However, both Skillnets and EEP's main offices are Dublin based, Skillnets is in Furze Road, Sandycove, Dublin 18 and EEP in Tallaght, Dublin West.

