Irish higher education contributing to job creation and economic recovery

The Springboard initiative

Mary-Liz Trant, National Springboard Co-ordinator
EU Presidency Conference 28 May 2013
Springboard’s mission

Ireland: currently 14% unemployment

Diverse profile of job seekers

Reskilling for new careers a key intervention
Target participants

Unemployed people with a previous history of employment
Including those with no higher education qualifications
Expert Group on Future Skills Needs

All Springboard courses in areas where there are skills needs
Identified current and future skills needs in Ireland.
Call for Proposals

Certificate, degree, post-graduate level courses

Industry involvement = 50% of available marks

Expert panel recommends courses to be funded
Courses part-time, free

12 months maximum

Online system

35+ public and private colleges

To date:
10,000 places

State funding €40m
Challenge: Providing adequate guidance for prospective participants

Dedicated Freephone helpline put in place – handled 4,250+ calls in 2012

New links built with national social protection services
Comprehensive evaluation framework

- Online data
- Live register data
- Surveys and feedback
Some outcomes to-date

40% of graduates back in employment +6months

Top employment area = ICT

Participant satisfaction=89%

Graduation rate = 63%

Guidance provision still a challenge

Recognition of Prior Learning
Thank you

Questions, comments?

www.springboardcourses.ie

springboard@hea.ie