

Case study (Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board)

What is KCETB doing?

The process of validating former SOLAS programme into the KCETB is currently on-going. As it stands, numerous amounts of major awards at Levels 3, 4 and 5 have been validated. By doing this, each ETB is inheriting the assessment instrument specifications that accompany this validation. This raises a possible opportunity to strengthen the integration between the further education and training programmes that are on-going throughout KCETB.

There is a very structured Quality Assurance system that maps assessment delivery, internal verification, external authentication, assessment documentation etc. A pilot approach is currently being carried out with regards to introducing some of these processes, in particular, the (AIS pack) structure into some of the further education centres.

What data? What evidence?

The data came from gather opinions/ thoughts from interest centres and tutors as to the positive and negative aspects of this integration. It was found that a number of tutors were extremely interested in piloting this system with a specific focus being placed on how this structured presentation of assessment material would aid new tutors in getting to a level of comfort and confidence in their role.

Questions raised

A number of briefing sessions have been held with representatives from our further education centres within KCETB. These briefing sessions outlined the structure of the assessment packs, how they are best delivered and presented for external authentication and the processes involved as these were the questions that were initially raised in meetings held prior.

Factors explored / to be explored

One major factor is identifying how the structure and modular content can be integrated and suited for part-time provision, night classes etc. Also, a body of work will have to be carried nationally/ETB level in updated assessment content or integration tutor content into assessment packs to ensure that the most up-to-date information is being used.

What are the challenges, gaps, obstacles?

There are many challenges that will present themselves in this project going forward such as changes in the structure of delivery for tutors, marking sheets, marking rubric systems etc. However, the initial idea is to pilot the modules being carried out in specific centres in specific modules to try and figure out if the structure of the assessments is worthwhile. The updating of the assessment content is a separate that is also currently being looked at nationally by ETBI.

How has work/thinking on governance assisted work on Quality Assurance?

The overall aim is to create a balanced medium between the assessment structures that AIS packs present to tutors/learners and also, allowing the tutors delivering in further education to continue with their own autonomy and input. If this were to be successful, it would present strengthened governance and one overall system in relation to assessment delivery, documentation and standardization within KCETB.

Recommendations / Outcomes/ Next Steps / Additional Comments

The next step in the process is to complete the information sessions being carried out in the identified further ed centres, to record the modular content needed and develop a monitoring system over the course of the pilot module in order to determine the overall success of the system. Once one module has been piloted, the tutors will be given the opportunity for feedback, this information will be correlated and a decision as to continuation and expansion of this process across further centres will be discussed.

In addition to this, KCETB are currently undergoing the approval process to become a recognised City and Guilds centre. This added option for certification will also benefit some vocational areas and provide specific qualifications for those in a niche area.