



# Building Competitiveness Through Skills

Skillnet Ireland is inviting applications from enterprise groups and industry bodies to establish new Skillnet Business Networks.

Up to **€1 million of investment** is available to develop and deliver upskilling programmes in **digitalisation, climate action, innovation and leadership** to support Irish businesses.

# Setting up a Skillnet Business Network

**Skillnet Ireland wants to hear from groups of industry bodies, industry federations or membership based professional bodies that are interested in setting up new Skillnet Business Networks.**

Networks funded by Skillnet Ireland allow businesses, connected by industry sector or region, to drive innovation and achieve economies of scale in the provision of efficient and flexible upskilling for their staff.

## Why apply to set up a Skillnet Business Network?

### SUPPORT

your business and other businesses in your sector or region to grow and stay competitive

### BENEFIT

from a wide range of relevant and cost-effective subsidised talent development and upskilling opportunities, delivered by expert trainers.

### CONTRIBUTE

to the development and growth of skills and job sustainability in your sector or region

Skillnet Ireland champions an enterprise-led approach to workforce development, ensuring that skills solutions are driven by the needs of business.

Operating under a joint investment model, Skillnet Business Networks are funded through the National Training Fund (NTF) alongside direct contributions from participating businesses.

All applications must demonstrate a strong enterprise focus, deliver impactful and relevant learning outcomes, and offer clear value for money to both public and private stakeholders.

**We are now seeking applications to develop new Skillnet Business Networks that address one or more of the following priority areas within your sector or region:**

- Digitalisation and Technology
- Innovation
- Leadership and SME Productivity
- Sustainability and the Green Economy

## Leading the way in enterprise-led skills development

Skillnet Ireland partners with over 57 industry bodies across a broad range of sectors to support our 69 Skillnet Business Networks. Working together, we prepare Irish businesses for the future of work and drive excellence in learning and development to build world class talent.

Some of our industry partners include:



Skillnet Ireland works with industry partners across all sectors and regions. Examples of Skillnet Business Networks include:

- Aviation Skillnet
- Chartered Accountants Ireland Skillnet
- Construction Professionals Skillnet
- County Tipperary Chamber Skillnet
- Cultural & Creative Industries Skillnet
- Design Skillnet
- First Polymer Training Skillnet
- Green Tech Skillnet
- Macra Agricultural Skillnet
- Restaurant and Hospitality Skillnet
- Retail Ireland Skillnet
- Space Industry Skillnet
- Taste4Success Skillnet
- Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet

# Who is eligible to set up a Skillnet Business Network?

## APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be an **industry federation, industry body or other private sector enterprise group based in the Republic of Ireland**. Enterprises within the network can be of any size, including sole traders. (Public/voluntary sector entities are ineligible)
- Present a **strong business case** to Skillnet Ireland **on the challenges** (and opportunities) **within the relevant sector/region** and both the current and future skills required to address such needs.
- Outline how the proposal is **aligned to national policy** for the relevant sector or region.

## How is a Skillnet Business Network structured?

- Subject to a successful application, Skillnet Ireland contracts with the organisation that manages the activities of the learning network. That entity receives the funds from Skillnet Ireland on behalf of the network group. Typically, these organisations include industry or sectoral representative bodies, Chambers of Commerce, employee representative groups and clusters of private businesses with similar training needs.
- Each learning network is called a Skillnet e.g. ISME Skillnet.
- Each Skillnet Network is **led by a voluntary Steering Group of industry representatives** that focus on setting the strategic direction of the learning network. This group **meets on a regular basis and makes decisions for the Network** on behalf of the wider group of businesses.
- Each Skillnet Network **appoints a Network Manager** who manages the delivery of the Network training and development plan on a day-to-day basis.
- Sectoral or regional networks are comprised of network businesses of any size.
- Trainees include both employees of businesses and those seeking employment that meet our eligibility criteria.

## How can I learn more?

If your industry federation/body or private sector enterprise group is interested in establishing a new learning network, please contact us via:

**T** +353 (0)1 207 9630  
**E** [funding@skillnetireland.ie](mailto:funding@skillnetireland.ie)

[www.skillnetireland.ie/funding](http://www.skillnetireland.ie/funding)