



# **The Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Irish Higher Education: What has been achieved 2013-2017**

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# National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030

- The centrality of Teaching and Learning to the mission of Irish higher education
- Tangible parity of esteem between teaching and research as core higher education functions
- Greater innovation in the design of higher education
- Greater flexibility in provision
- Integration of teaching and research
- Continuing professional development through collegiate networks



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE NATIONAL FORUM WAS MADE AT THE END  
OF 2012

INNOVATION AND ENHANCEMENT IN A  
RADICALLY CHANGED ECONOMIC CONTEXT




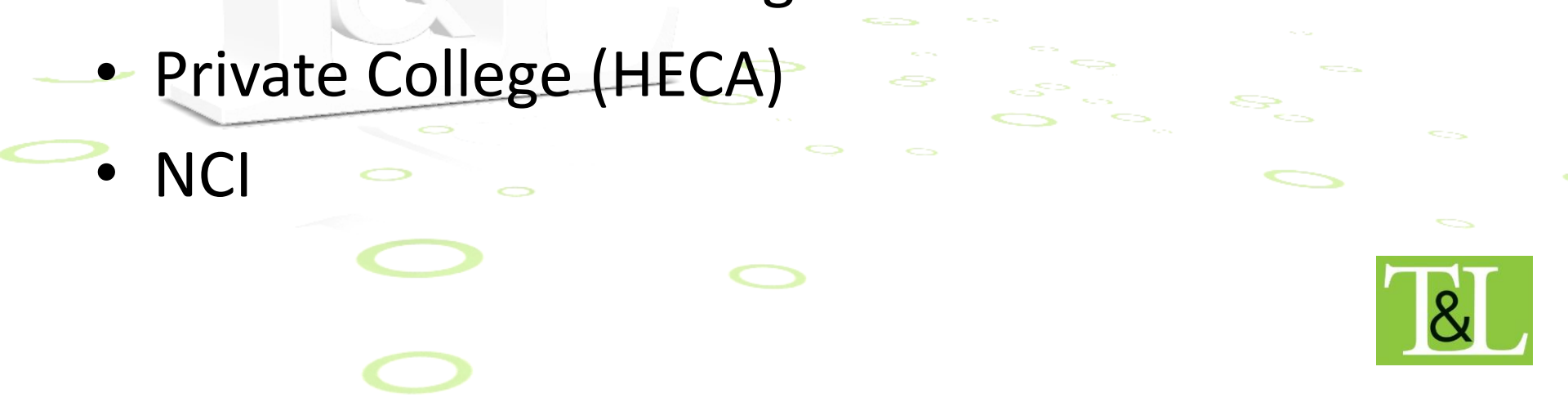
# Consultation Prior to Setup of Forum revealed:

- Strong commitment to collective endeavour and to an enhancement entity that would belong to the whole HE sector
- Importance of academic leadership
- 'Bringing excellent practice together' 'one stop shop' 'synergies' 'sharing of evidence and practice' 'fostering innovation while avoiding duplication'
- Importance of professional development for teaching and learning
- The scholarship of teaching and learning
- Changing landscape, including digital opportunities and challenges
- Evidence that collaboration was becoming instinctive

# Purpose of the National Forum

- Promoting innovative, fresh thinking
- From exemplars to National frameworks
- From discrete projects to comprehensive change
- Transcending both collaboration and competition to raise national standards
- Establishing Ireland as a place where Higher Education Teaching and Learning is known to be excellent and held up as an international role model.

# The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning

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- Universities
  - Institutes of Technologies
  - Private College (HECA)
  - NCI
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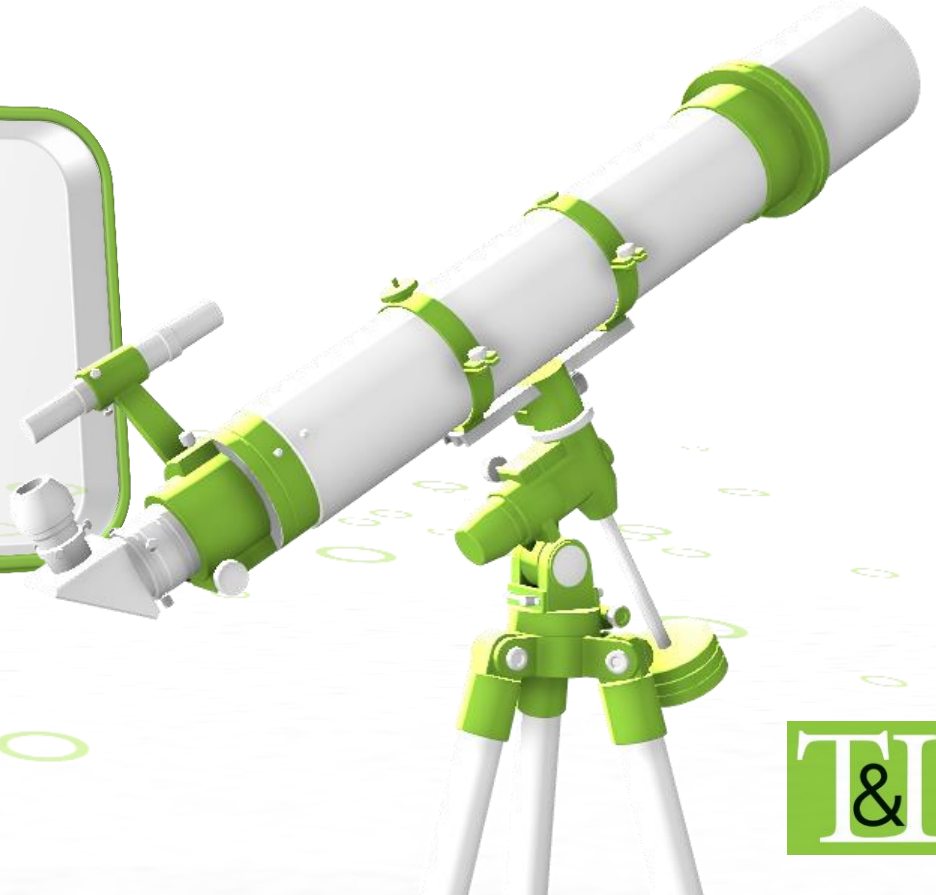


# The Enhancement Theme Process

Strategic convergence

Focusing and scoping activities

Mobilising sectoral energy

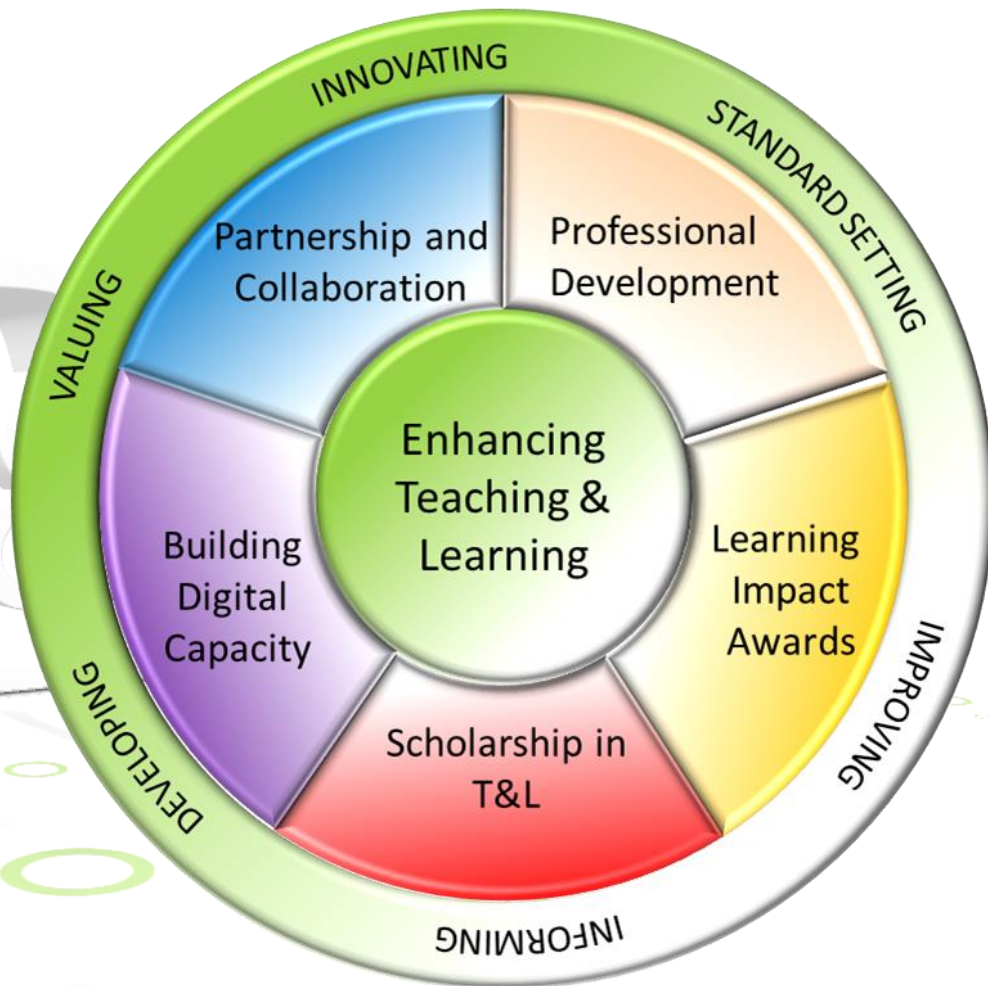


# Governance principles

- National Forum is officially an advisory body to the Higher Education Authority, also promoting and championing excellence in teaching and learning across the sector
- Aims always to include and be relevant to all higher education institutions
- Academically led but non partisan and informed both by contextual considerations and international good practice
- Governance arrangements designed to ensure observation of principles of objectivity, fairness and excellence.







# Phase 1 of the National Forum is complete

## – some important ‘firsts’

- The first collaboratively designed National Professional Development Framework for Ireland, flexible, adaptable, relevant.
- First digital skills framework
- The first PDF pilot across many disciplines and specialities that has put that framework to the test
- The first multi dimensional national award system
- The establishment of an innovation funding system
- Ireland’s first enhancement themes
- Tangible digital developments
- ‘Digital badges’ that allow for the flexible, certified development of targeted teaching skills
- Scholarship data base
- Specialist digital resources to transform teaching
- Established network for communication, consultation and dissemination
- Mobilised and engaged students around teaching and learning enhancement



# Current interim phase and move to stage

## 2

- Independent review's endorsement and recommendation for continuity
- Managing the interim phase and key governance issues to be considered no
- For phase 2:
  - Sharpening and focusing the Forum's mission and strategy
  - New features of governan, engagement and executive structure
  - comprehensive and budgeted communications strategy
  - Timely strengthening of engagement with senior leadership across the sector



Website: [www.teachingandlearning.ie](http://www.teachingandlearning.ie)

