

the future of  
**WORK**  
IN DUBLIN

**RIA** Nov  
27rd

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Organised by Paddy Walley Associates  
on behalf of Dublin Employment Pact  
[www.dublinpact.ie](http://www.dublinpact.ie)

# Why the conference?

Ireland faces major changes in relation to work and employment, with the growth in unemployment, the destruction of many jobs, the obsolescence of skills. These changes are primarily due to the current recession but are also being formed by fundamental structural changes underway in the economy with the emergence of the globalised knowledge and green based economy. These changes in the world of work have profound implications for everyone. Unemployment is devastating individuals and communities, spreading poverty and fear. While unemployment is affecting all sectors of the labour market, jobs in construction, retail services and labour intensive manufacturing are experiencing the greatest decline. Despite the media focus on the loss of high qualified jobs, the reality is that unemployment is affecting predominantly the mid to low skilled. However, into the future the shift to the knowledge economy will effect everyone as jobs are redefined and new skills are needed.

The depth and intensity of the recession globally, and particularly in Ireland, is such that even the most optimistic projections are not forecasting a return in the near future to the levels of economic and employment growth needed even to maintain present levels of employment, absorb those presently unemployed, provide sufficient numbers of jobs for new job seekers and prevent further growth in unemployment or emigration. The growth of long term structural unemployment is now a major issue which must be faced. A further issue which must be of great concern is that beyond the recession many of the jobs which the new knowledge based growth is projected to produce will be jobs which require skills which many of those now in work or unemployed do not have.

In recognition of the importance of these developments, Dublin Employment Pact is organising a Conference on Employment and Unemployment - The Future of Work in Dublin, in the Royal Irish on November 27th, 2009. To ensure the very highest quality of analysis the PACT has arranged a panel of distinguished presenters. Participation in the Conference is by invitation.

In imagining solutions to these multi-faceted problems, a leap of imaginative policy making will be required of the order that produced the New Deal of the 1930s in the U.S. or the Lemass programmes of the late 1950s in Ireland.

New economic policy initiatives are needed in a wide range of areas:

- > To maintain and create jobs into the future
- > To provide work opportunities for those now becoming unemployed
- > To prepare people both unemployed and in work for the coming more knowledge intensive jobs that a recovery in economic growth, and the new products and technologies of that growth, are forecast to bring.

## Themes & Objectives

- >> The future of employment/unemployment - Analysis of future scenarios
- >> Immediate initiatives to prevent the growth of long term unemployment
- >> How to maintain jobs, drawing on local and international experiences
- >> The new jobs of the future and the policy changes needed to produce them
- >> Steps towards creating an inclusive Smart Economy
- >> The vital importance of skills training and education for those in work and those unemployed

# Presenters

**Conor Lenihan** is Minister of State with special responsibility for Science, Technology, Innovation, Natural Resources and the Knowledge Society at the Departments of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Education and Science, and Communications, Energy and Natural Resource. He was formerly Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for Overseas Development and Human Rights.

**Danny Mc Coy** is Director General at the Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC), where he was previously Director of Policy. Prior to joining IBEC he was a Senior Research Officer at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and an economist in the Central Bank of Ireland. He has held lecturing posts at Dublin City University, University College London, University of Oxford and Trinity College Dublin. He was a research associate at the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) in London. He has been a visiting lecturer at the IMD Business School in Switzerland and Harvard University in the US.

**Jim O'Leary** is a Senior Fellow of the Department of Economics, Finance and Accounting at NUI-Maynooth. He is also a columnist with the Irish Times. He was Chief Economist with Davy Stockbrokers. He worked with the secretariat of the National Economic and Social Council and served as a member of the Public Service Benchmarking Body. He has also served as a non-executive director of Aer Lingus, the National Statistics Board, Gresham Hotels plc, AIB Group and Bank Zachodni WBK (Poland).

**John Sweeney** is a Senior Social Policy Analyst with the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) where he has been closely involved in the production of seven major reports including The Developmental Welfare State. He has published and lectured extensively in Ireland and overseas, and conducted research for NGOs and business organisations.

**Tony Tyrrell** Tony Tyrrell works with WRC Social & Economic Consultants. Since joining the company in 2002 Tony has been involved in a wide range of assignments that includes: the evaluation of the Skills for Life and Employment Support Programmes (FÁS), research into Illness Benefit (D/ETE) and into the Recruitment of Non-Irish Nationals (Public Appointments Service) as well as the production of a Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities (NDA) and a series of Equality Studies (Equality Authority).



# Timetable

The Conference will be a morning event in the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin on Friday, November 27th 2009.

- 08.45 Registration
- 09.00 Welcome  
Philip O'Connor, Director Dublin Employment Pact
- 09.15 Opening of the Conference  
Conor Lenihan T.D., Minister for Science and Technology Innovation.
- 09.30 Overview: Employment/Unemployment  
Professor Jim O'Leary, Economics Department, NUI Maynooth
- 10.00 The Challenge of Creating and Maintaining Jobs  
Mr. Danny McCoy, Director General, IBEC
- 10.30 Tea / Coffee
- 10.45 Creating an Inclusive Smart Economy?  
Dr. John Sweeney, Policy Analyst NESCC
- 11.15 Towards an Employment & Skills Strategy for Dublin  
Tony Tyrrell, Researcher, WRC consultants
- 11.45 Panel Discussion
- 12.30 Close

## An initiative of



Dublin Employment Pact (DEP) is a non-profit company funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan. It was established in 1998 under an EU-supported initiative to tackle employment and development issues in the Dublin region.

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