

Educational Research Centre

Summary of Strategic Plan 2019-2021

**Educational
Research Centre**
Foras Taighde ar Oideachas

Summary of the Educational Research Centre's (ERC's) Strategic Plan

Strategic vision

Excellence in conducting and supporting educational research, evaluation and assessment.

Mission

- 1.** To conduct and disseminate commissioned and independently-initiated national and international research, assessment and evaluation studies that are timely, accessible and relevant, on all aspects of education, and at all levels of the education system
- 2.** To develop high quality assessments and provide strong assessment support services to schools and centres of education
- 3.** To collaborate with national and international bodies to share learning and to develop capacity and expertise in all of the aforementioned areas.

Values

- 1.** We place a high value on the quality, relevance, accessibility and impact of our work
- 2.** We value the public trust and confidence placed in us and are committed to living up to that trust
- 3.** We value and respect learners, parents, educators and stakeholders, as well as each other
- 4.** We value investment in staff expertise, support and wellbeing
- 5.** We view teamwork, relationships and working collaboratively as essential
- 6.** We are committed to public service values¹.

¹ As described, for example, in the [Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies](#).

Guiding principles

1. Quality, relevance and impact
2. Balance between sustainability and development
3. Alignment with national priorities, informed by national and international developments
4. Collaborative spirit in leadership and teamwork
5. Inclusiveness and respect.

Phases of the strategy



Goals and outcomes 2019-2021

Our goals stem from three high-level objectives:

1. Stabilise and enhance our staffing base and physical environment
2. Achieve a sustainable and strategic approach to test development, analysis and both commissioned and independently-initiated research
3. Continue to build and enhance strong and transparent governance structures.

Goals

- 1.** Building on an independent review of our staffing and organisational structure, to stabilise and enhance our staffing base
- 2.** To attain a sustainable overarching structure for planning the programme of work
- 3.** To build further capacity and expertise among staff
- 4.** To achieve a better balance between commissioned and independently-generated research
- 5.** To establish a strategy for analytic and methodological activities
- 6.** Working with DES and other partners, to establish a strategy for the development and revision of ERC's tests and assessments
- 7.** To identify and make improvements to our outputs (reports, website, tests and their supporting materials)
- 8.** Working with DES and DCU, to establish a long-term service-level agreement between ERC and DCU
- 9.** To begin to make necessary improvements to ERC's physical and IT infrastructure
- 10.** To strengthen our governance structures.

Outcomes

- 1.** An improved level of staffing with high levels of wellbeing, engagement and efficiency
- 2.** A well-planned, structured programme of work that delivers on targets to a consistently high quality
- 3.** A staff that works collaboratively to continually improve levels of expertise
- 4.** A growing body of independently-generated research and analysis that builds on evolving methodologies and conceptual advances which in turn feed into improvements to commissioned research
- 5.** A clearly defined set of priorities to guide coherent progress and development in analysis and other methodological aspects of our work
- 6.** A regularly updated suite of high-quality and relevant assessments that reflects best international practice and serves the needs of the system, as well as those of schools, teachers, parents and learners
- 7.** Excellent, accessible reports and other outputs (e.g. tests and their supporting materials) that are meaningful and impactful
- 8.** A service-level agreement with DCU that provides structure and stability to payroll, pension, library and other essential services
- 9.** A centre that is significantly improved in its physical and digital technology infrastructural environments to enable staff to deliver excellent work in an efficient manner
- 10.** An organisation that demonstrates full compliance with the 2016 Code of Practice and adheres to the requirements of its parent organisation, the Department of Education and Skills (DES).

Further information

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