



Widening Participation in the Construction Industry

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An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
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Jason Walsh
Graduate of the Construction Skills Course 2024



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Watz up Alex its david fitsimons I want to thank you and all the staff up in the docks am working in Amazon and this job is finishing in 3 weeks and I have been given first choice to go to England and do steel fitting but I know I would never have been able without all your help you all put me in the mind set anything is possible

08:55

What's up damo paddy here just a quick txt to say thanks for all the help in the course and will you let your team know I said thanks for everything I started work this morning thanks a lot to the whole team.

13:30



Hi Alec how's things I'm abit late but I hope you had a lovely Christmas and a very happy new year just wanted to show how I'm getting on in the job I'm starting 2023 with my own work van! Thanks for everything.

17:05

I will see you Monday morning early Alec thanks so much I was in the doctors gave me pain killers told me to rest over the weekend I'll be okay by Monday so that's what I'm gonna do but I really appreciate you bringing me back and getting me lunch and the leap card that all really really touched me yous don't get enough credit for the things yous do on a daily but I'll give yous all the credit because it's well deserved keep going the ways you go because it's great 🙌🥹💙

13:43

It was good seeing you pal 100 % And good to be bk at the place that changed my life from who I was then to who I've become now cause if it wasn't for opportunities like what yous give to people on the course down there,,to tell you the truth I would either be still in a tent or worse case dead paul and I mean that 100 🙏 so to you,dave,Paul and Alec thank you for excepting me on the course and thank you all for changing my life and become the father and son I should have been all along 🍀💙🧡100👍👍👍

06:59

Hey are you keeping pal it's Karl Bowes I just wanted to let you no I'm working as a boom operator and I'm on 17 euro an hour and that's all down to you and the team 100 I owe you big time and if Thirs ever anything I can do you only have to say 100

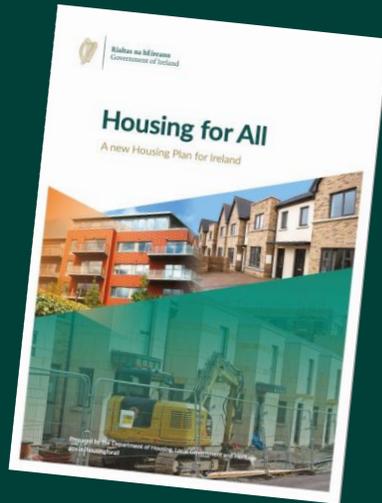
20:53





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In 2022 the project linked with SOLAS and Mount Lucas resulting in:



- Over 3000 people trained
- All were unemployed
- From over 60 different countries
- Almost 2000 graduates have started in employment



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Our trainees come from:

<i>Sherrif St.</i>	<i>Gaza</i>
<i>Finglas</i>	<i>Cabra</i>
<i>Carlow</i>	<i>Pearse St.</i>
<i>Thomas St.</i>	<i>Wheatfield</i>
<i>North Inner City</i>	<i>Ballymun</i>
<i>Mountjoy</i>	<i>Blanchardstown</i>
<i>Afghanistan</i>	<i>Shelton Abbey</i>
<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Swaziland</i>
<i>Limerick</i>	<i>Ringsend</i>
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Drimnagh</i>
<i>Tallaght</i>	<i>Algeria</i>
<i>Congo</i>	<i>Bray</i>
<i>Offaly</i>	<i>Poland</i>
<i>Swords</i>	<i>Galway</i>
<i>China</i>	<i>Kildare</i>



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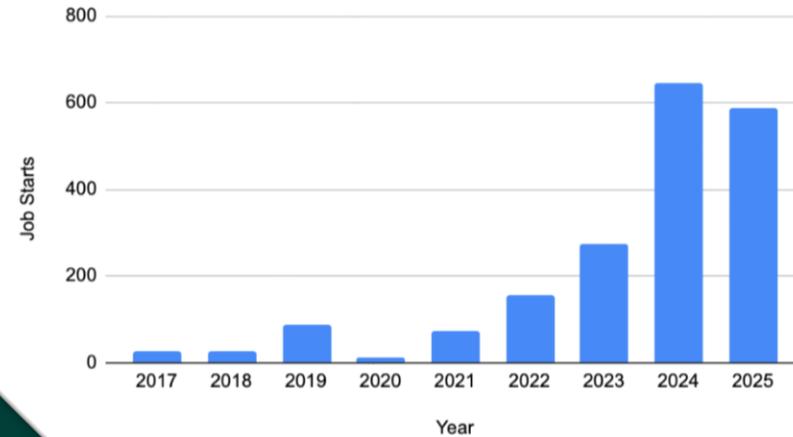
Our trainees are:

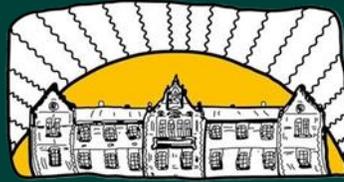
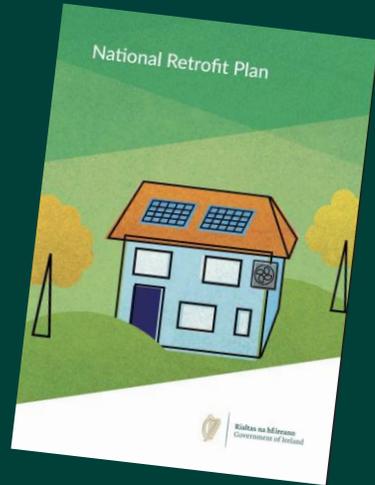
- Job Seekers
- Former Prisoners
- Current Inmates
- In Recovery
- LTU and VLTU
- Returners

Our trainees live:

- In homeless shelters
- In existing social housing
- In Tents
- In Prison
- On couches
- In Private Housing
- With parent

Total graduates who started in employment 2017 to 2025 = 1861





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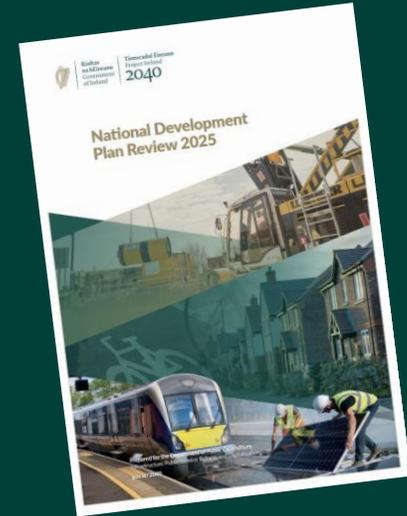
In 2026 we offer three main courses:

- Level 3 Construction Skills
- Level 4 Retrofit Assistant
- Level 4 MMC GO (Pilot)
- Inmates Program (Pilot)

and

We provide a full wrap round service:

- Homeless Support
- All workwear
- Adult Guidance
- Drug support workers
- Adult Education links and services
- Job Placement Services
- Employer links



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Expanding the workforce

- Our site in Dublin Port currently delivers training courses to 1000 trainees per year and is booked out normally 2 weeks in advance of course starts.
- In 2026 we have the capacity to deliver 1200 course places.
- Our base Construction Course lasts just 15 days.
- All other courses are just 10 days.



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Thank you for your time.



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