

# Teaching Entrepreneurship at Dundalk Institute of Technology

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# Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) - some facts

- 3,800 students (full time)
- Entrepreneurship Research (CER)



# Teaching Entrepreneurship at DkIT

- Entrepreneurship has been taught as a module in some form since the 1980's
- Originally started out as Innovation Studies and Enterprise
- Content, structure and delivery of modules have developed over the years
- Differentiation among levels and disciplines

# Entrepreneurship across disciplines at DKIT

- Entrepreneurship taught across four schools/faculties; Business and Humanities; Informatics and Creative Media; Nursing and Health Studies; Engineering
- Also taught across levels 6, 7, 8 & 9 of the NQAI framework
- In different schools, content is adapted to suit both the discipline and level e.g. Engineering 4<sup>th</sup> years take Business Innovation

# School of Business and Humanities

- Starting at level 6 students now take Creativity and Innovation
- Creativity and Innovation replaced the traditional Entrepreneurship module
- One module (5 ECTS) taught over one semester
- Taught in interactive workshop-style sessions and has no formal terminal exam

# School of Business and Humanities

- Introduces the student to idea generation and problem solving
- 100% assessed using by business plan
- Emphasis on practical application
- Business principles taught as needed (as plans progress, topic covered)
- Use of reflective journal to aid learning

# Results so far

- Increased participation in class
- Active as opposed to passive learning
- Lots of ideas being generated
- Students appear to be 'enjoying' the process
- Academic attainment prior to entering college appears less relevant

# Entrepreneurship at different levels

- Students can progress to level 7 where they will encounter 'Entrepreneurship', a module with more theoretical/academic content
- Students also study the 'business project' where they research the potential of setting up business in the region
- Many final year students in other disciplines/faculties take 'Enterprise Development' – assessed also by business plan

# Vision for the future

- Entrepreneurship taught in every school in each year of study
- Students mentored or assisted to start businesses while at college
- Strengthened links between classroom teachers and local entrepreneurs
- Placements with emerging businesses during their studies

**Thank you for your attention**

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Questions?