An Introduction to Ireland's National Forum

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National Forum Chair

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Government of Ireland

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AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

T&L NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Who we are

The national body responsible for leading and advising on the enhancement of teaching and learning in Irish higher education

Our vision

A valued and informed teaching and learning culture in Irish higher education

We are inclusive, non-partisan and consultative…

- All those who learn (undergraduate, postgraduate, mature, part-time, etc.)

- All those who teach (researchers who teach, librarians who teach, etc.)

- All institution types (universities, technological HEIs, private colleges)

- Working with the sector, for the sector

Background

- Irish Government was funding collaborative teaching and learning projects through the Strategic Innovation Fund

- National Digital Learning Repository – 2005-12

- National Government consultation in 2012

- National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education established by Minister for Education and Skills in 2012

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4 Strategic Priorities

The Professional Development of All Those Who Teach

Teaching and Learning in a Digital World

Teaching and Learning Enhancement Within and Across Disciplines

Student Success

How the National Forum works…

- Fostering **collaboration** and **innovation**

- Developing **shared understandings**

- Providing **structure and coherence**

- **Building evidence** to inform policy and practice

- Promoting and modelling meaningful **student partnership**

- Leveraging **research/teaching** linkages

- Working **openly** and keeping **an international mind set**

- Being **responsive** to evolving contexts

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…fostering collaboration and innovation

Funded Projects and Initiatives

— 155 projects/initiatives funded to date

— collaboration within and across institutions

— involvement of students is key

National Seminar Series

— 500+ seminars since 2014

— focused conversations on assessment, transitions, professional development, digital, student success, enhancement within/across disciplines

…developing shared understandings of key topics

Assessment
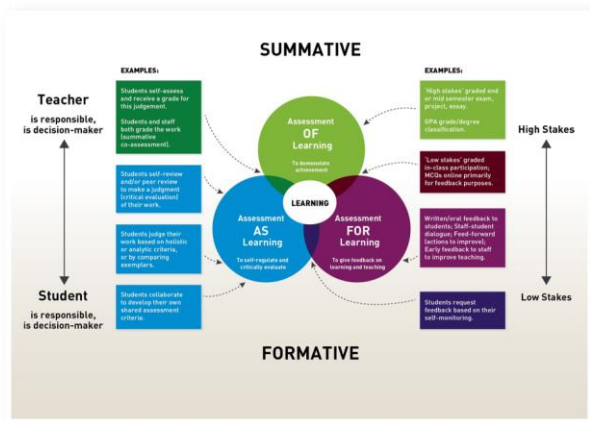
Enabling Policies

In order for a policy to be deemed **implementable** it needs to:

- clearly define the HEI's commitment to the policy area
- have an implementation plan
- be accompanied by policy instruments such as procedures, and clearly defined areas of responsibility

In order for a policy to be deemed **situated in practice** it needs to:

- be based on consultation
- have been tested at operational level
- facilitate innovation
- be routinely monitored and reviewed for effectiveness

In order for a policy to be deemed **reflective of the HEI's priorities** it needs to:

- be guided by the HEI's vision
- be in line with the HEI's strategic objectives
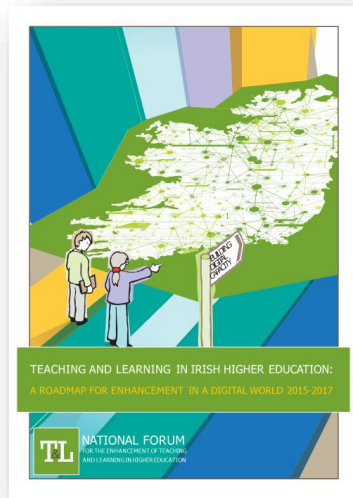- allow the HEI to meet its legal obligations

Student Success

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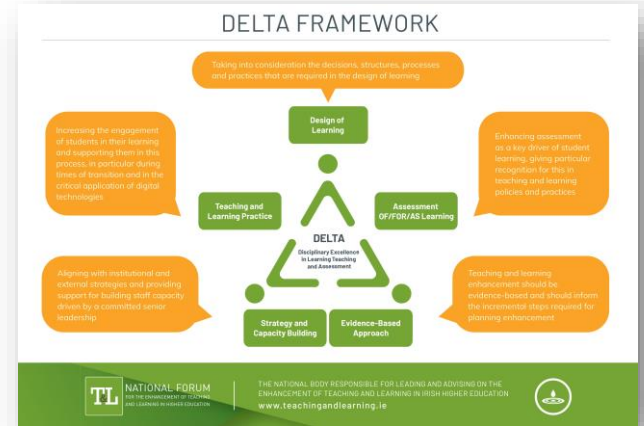FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

…providing structure and coherence around enhancement
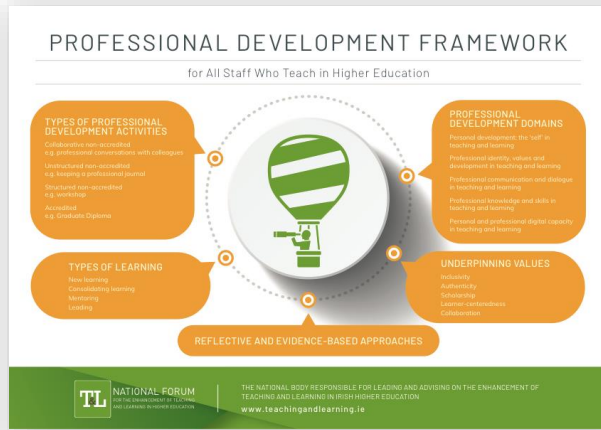
Framework for
Professional
Development

Framework for
Digital Enhancement

Framework for
Disciplinary
Enhancement

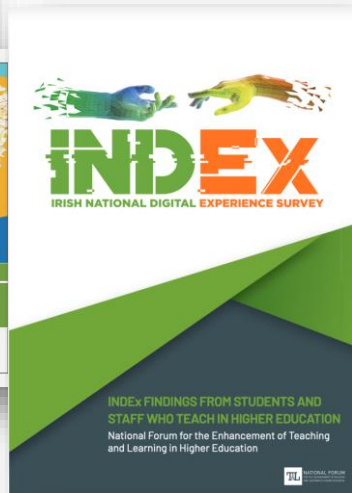# ...building evidence to inform policy and practice

Evidence for Professional Development

Evidence for Student Success

Evidence for Digital Enhancement

…promoting and modelling meaningful student partnership

- Student Associate Assembly

- National Forum Board representation

- Student Associate Interns

- Serving on review and interview panels

- Key members of funded project teams

- Student-led awards

- Advisory groups and consultations

...leveraging research/teaching linkages

Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships

…always being nimble and responsive to evolving contexts

…maintaining an international mindset

- International Board members
- International review panels
- International collaborations, e.g. DigCompEdu, EUA's EFFECT project
- Sharing with and learning from internationall colleagues
- Input to international policy documents and discussions
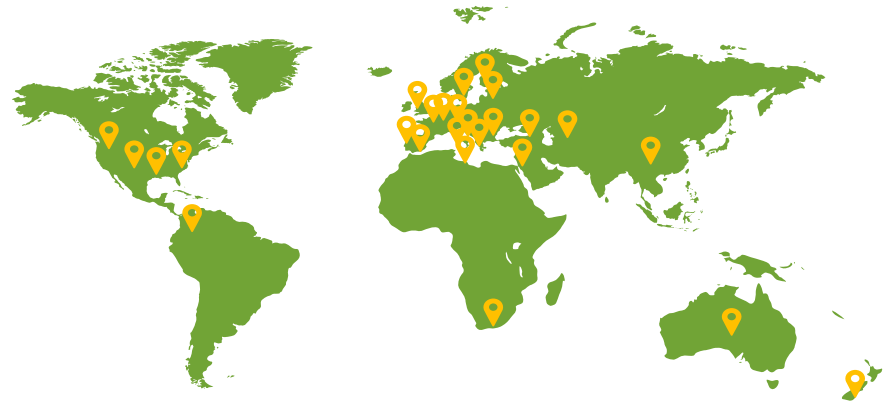
...keeping people at the centre of all we do

- We believe in our people. We believe that the potential to enhance teaching and learning already exists within the higher education sector and our role is to respect, nurture and support it.

- For us, achieving cultural change is about 1000 people moving forward one step rather than a few people moving forward a 1000 steps.

Thank you

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