

**Updated Corporate Planning – action lines and timetables
June 2004 – December 2006**

	Continuing	2003	2004	2005	2006
Theme 1 – National framework of qualifications					
<i>1.1 Further framework development</i>					
Further decision on number of initial major award-types for FETAC				summer	
Descriptor for higher doctorate award-type			spring		
Descriptors for minor, special purpose and supplemental award-types			spring		
Publish draft policies, criteria and procedures for the inclusion of professional awards in the framework			Autumn		
Policy approach for the inclusion of professional awards in the framework				summer	
Publish draft policies, criteria and procedures for the inclusion of international awards in the framework			autumn		
Policy approach for the inclusion of international awards in the framework				summer	
Policy approach on the inclusion of existing awards made by the Department of Education and Science and the State Examinations Commission, other than the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate in the framework					summer
Policy approach on the approval of arrangements entered into by the institutes of technology				summer	
<i>1.2 Implementation of framework</i>					
Encouraging awarding bodies to work together	continuing				
Working with FETAC	continuing				

Working with HETAC	continuing				
Working with the universities	continuing				
Working with the DIT	continuing				
Working with the State Examinations Commission, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the Department of Education and Science	continuing				
Policy approach for inclusion of university awards up to and including level 6			winter		
Facilitating linkages between the awarding bodies in the common usage of fields of learning, e.g., in standard setting, progression	continuing				
enabling the linking/referencing of the national framework to national and international sectoral frameworks	continuing				
Research national and international practice in award classifications				spring	
Consider the appropriateness of developing a national policy approach on the titles of named awards			summer		
Policy approach on overall framework directory			summer		
Implement Framework Directory				summer	
<i>1.3 Advocacy and Promotion</i>					
Advocating cultural change	continuing				
Communications approach – ensure with stakeholders that shared communications responsibilities are being met	continuing				
Launch of implementation arrangements for the Framework			summer		
Review and development of website	continuing				
Annual framework conference	annual				

1.4 Placement of existing and previous awards					
All major existing and previously awards placed			Winter		
Small existing and previously awards placed					Winter
1.5 Facilitating exchange of best practice nationally in relation to quality assurance					
Support Irish Higher education quality assurance network	continuing				
Consultation with HEA on its university quality assurance review role	continuing				
1.6 Framework review					
Level 6 review					spring
Policy approach to initial review of the framework and its implementation					autumn
Theme 2 – Access, Transfer & Progression for Learners					
2.1 Facilitating implementation of policies for access, transfer & progression					
Co-ordinating cultural change & active collaboration	continuing				
Plans for the implementation of a national approach to credit			summer		
Co-ordinating role in facilitating the web of transfer and progression arrangements and routes across and between the various elements of the system at a macro level	continuing				
Pro-active facilitating role with providers and awarding bodies outside the remit of the Councils in relation to entry arrangements	continuing				
Co-ordinating role in ensuring that the objective of transparent, fair and consistent entry arrangements, in	continuing				

compliance with equality legislation, is achieved for all programmes leading to awards in the national framework of qualifications					
Support for a wider information-base for learners in relation to qualifications	continuing				
2.2 Further policy development & implementation					
Work with National Access Office in developing its National Strategy, including Complete discussions with the National Access Office/Higher Education Authority on possible consortium of relevant partner organisations to address the issue of entry to higher education and training by adult learners			autumn		
Host seminar for higher education and training providers			winter		
Development of the existing procedures for providers	continuing				
Consider further ways to assist providers in the implementation of the procedures	continuing				
Development and dissemination of policy approaches to validation/recognition of non-formal and informal learning and to the recognition of prior learning.	continuing				
Determine the policy approach for a review of the implementation of procedures in relation to access, transfer and progression by the Universities					autumn
Theme 3 – Supporting the awards Councils					
3.1 Funding Role					
Aim to ensure that the Councils are fully and appropriately funded to enable them to perform their functions	Continuing				
Explore with the Department of Education and			Summer		

Science and with the two Councils its responsibilities in relation to the work of the Councils under the framework for accountability			winter		
Advice the Department of Education and Science in relation to the level and nature of fees to be charged by the Councils		winter			
3.2 Planning and Review Role					
Further develop procedures for Councils				spring	
Approve first plan of HETAC for the performance of its functions			spring		
Approve second plan of HETAC for the performance of its functions				winter	
Approve second plan of FETAC for the performance of its functions			winter		
Policy approach determined in relation to an initial review of the Councils' work					autumn
Review of Authority's interim validation appeals procedures			winter		
Implement Authority's role in delegation process	continuing				
Determine policy approach to Authority's role in relation to appeals against the withdrawal of delegated authority			spring		
Theme 4 – Supporting the Dublin Institute of Technology					
4.1 Quality Assurance					
Agreement with the Institute to revised quality assurance procedures			spring		
Policy approach agreed to the way in which the Institute is to inform the Authority of findings			spring		

Policy approach to the review of the effectiveness of the quality assurance procedures of the Institute			spring		
4.2 Access, Transfer and Progression					
Determine reporting arrangements of the Institute on the implementation of access, transfer and progression procedures			spring		
Theme 5 – International Policy Engagement					
5.1 Europe					
Make an effective and proactive input on behalf of the State into developing international approaches	continuing				
Host a conference during the Irish presidency of the European Union on the common themes in European policy development in higher education and in vocational education and training			spring		
5.2 Wider International Work					
Undertake international research in relation to national frameworks of qualifications and related issues with a view to informing Irish developments	continuing				
Theme 6 – International recognition of awards					
6.1 Ireland and the United Kingdom					
Referencing of the Irish framework to frameworks in place in the United Kingdom			winter		
6.2 Recognition Co-ordination					
Develop of a policy approach to recognition co-ordination			summer		
Implementation of policy approach	continuing				
Host ENIC-NARIC Conference June 2005				summer	
Co-ordinate Europass Implementation				spring	
Develop international recognition agreements	Continuing				

Theme 7 – Corporate Affairs					
7.1 Corporate Governance					
Continue to review its implementation of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies	Continuing				
Provide value for money by ensuring that its services are provided in an economic, efficient and effective way	continuing				
7.2 Managing Financial Resources					
Appropriate management of its financial resources	continuing				
7.3 Human Resources Management					
Determination of human resource policies and procedures in line with best practice and consistent with the legislative requirements of all employers, including equality requirements		winter			
Develop and expand the provision of training and development options for all staff to meet identified needs	continuing				
Set up a performance appraisal system consistent with best practice and the needs of a Performance Management Development System			spring		
7.4 Knowledge/Communications Management					
Development of internal data sharing systems and databases for the management of communications	continuing				
7.5 Quality Management Systems					
Develop a Customer Service Charter			spring		
Develop internal quality management approach and plans for self-evaluation				spring	
7.6 Decentralisation					
Relocation of the Authority to Edenderry	continuing				

