A Network of Regional Skills Fora was established in 2016 as part of the Government’s National Skills Strategy to assist employers and the education and training system to work together to meet the emerging skills needs of their regions. More structured engagement on the skills agenda and the work of the Fora will contribute to better outcomes for learners and support enterprise development.

The Regional Skills Fora will provide:

- A contact point in each region to help employers connect with the range of services and supports available across the education and training system
- More robust labour market information and analysis of employer needs to inform programme development
- Greater collaboration and utilisation of resources across the education and training system and enhancement of progression routes for learners
- A structure for employers to become more involved in promoting employment roles and opportunities for career progression in their sectors
- Collaborative solutions to skills needs and responses.

There are nine Regional Skills Fora across the country:
Each Forum has a similar structure comprising of an Education and Training Provider Group (ETPG) as well as agencies and employer representatives:

The Education and Training providers in the Mid-East Regional Skills Forum include Maynooth University, Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board (KWETB), Louth Meath Education Training Board (LMETB), Skillnets, the Institute of Technology Carlow and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The Regional Skills Forum Manager for the Mid-East is Siobhan Keogh.

In line with the objectives outlined in the National Skills Strategy as well as the Action Plan for Education and the Action Plan for Jobs, the Mid-East Forum facilitates ongoing collaboration between employers and education and training providers in the region in order to provide targeted skills development initiatives relevant to the needs of learners, society and the economy. See more at www.regionalskills.ie or contact Siobhan at siobhankeogh@regionalskills.ie