



Kerry Skillnet still on target

KERRY based development network Gaeltachtaí na Mumhan Skillnet is on target to meet and even exceed its main objectives in 2009, new figures released by the group confirm.

A mid-project independent evaluation report on project has shown that the network has a membership of 190 companies after only its first year of operation, exceeded the two year target.

While the majority of these companies have already engaged in at least one of the 65 training programmes undertaken in 2008.

The evaluation highlights the commitment of the Gaeltachtaí na Mumhan Skillnet to the project which aims to provide basic skill training to employees across a broad cross section of companies in the five Gaeltacht areas in Munster.

This training, a key focus of the network, has a high level of certification, with more than half of programmes being offered certified in the region of FETAC level 1-5.

"A total of 788 participants benefited from the training and development courses conducted in 2008," said Network manager Dónal Mac an tSithigh.

"While the maintenance of existing employment is obviously a key goal in the current environment, the focus of the training in the year ahead will, as always, be member driven," he added.

The Gaeltachtaí na Mumhan Skillnet network has already begun meeting with members to discuss how best they can meet the challenges presented on the economic front and how they might help indigenous industry meet their ongoing training and development requirements.

Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne (CFCD), the Gaeltacht-based development cooperative based in Ballyferrierty are the promoters Skillnets.

It was established in 2008 to ensure the growth of existing businesses and to foster the development of new enterprise within the Munster Gaeltacht.