



What is the Finuas Networks Programme?

The Finuas Networks Programme (Finuas) is a new programme, jointly funded by the government and companies within the sector, for professional skills training within international financial services. Finuas is envisaged to run for up to 5 years with an initial €2.5m investment from the National Training Fund established for 2009. Managed by Skillnets Ltd on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the programme aims to support the sector in maintaining Ireland's position as a top international financial services centre through investment in the specialist skills and expertise of its workforce.

How does Finuas work?

Finuas will facilitate international financial services companies in determining their training priorities and planning how such training will be delivered. This approach ensures that training and learning activities are optimally tailored to industry needs by its practitioners. Funding is available for the design and delivery of new or revised training solutions to address gaps in current and future provision.

Any group of enterprises or any enterprise-led association can apply to form a Finuas network. Each network forms a steering group to provide direction, manage network finances, facilitate the identification of training needs and organise training. Only businesses that are directly involved in or provide professional services to, the international financial services sector are eligible for funding. All training developed and delivered under the programme must be targeted at those in employment within the sector only.

How can I apply?

Applications open on February 18th and must be submitted by 5pm April 24th. All applications received will be evaluated for funding by Skillnets on an equal basis against agreed assessment criteria. This is a competitive process and the highest quality proposals will be selected for funding. General information and supporting documentation regarding applications is available on the Finuas website at www.finuas.ie or through Skillnets Ltd at (01) 2079630.

Who are Skillnets and how are they involved?

Skillnets Ltd was established in 1999 by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to support private sector skills training and upskilling programmes. Since their inception they have developed and supported over 200 enterprise led networks, engaging with over 30,000 companies and helped 120,000 employees to meet their training needs. Skillnets shall manage the Finuas Networks Programme on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. For further information please see www.skillnets.ie

Finuas is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and managed by Skillnets Ltd.

FINUAS NETWORKS PROGRAMME KEY POINTS

- New enterprise-led training programme for the **international financial services (IFS) Sector**. Envisaged to run for 5 years, €2.5m fund for 2009 managed by Skillnets Ltd.
- Finuas aims to address current skills gaps and support the sector in developing an expanded pool of labour with new capacity in high-value skills and specialist skills in :-
 - Banking and capital markets
 - Investment management
 - Insurance
- Companies that provide professional services to the sector are also eligible such as legal, tax, accounting and business & IT consultancy.
- Participating companies must operate in the IFS sector and be wholly private sector businesses or commercial operations. Companies can be large, medium or small in scale.
- Trainees must be in paid employment within the sector.
- Co-funding agreement between enterprise and State on a 50% grant/ 50% match funding basis.
- The overall aim of Finuas is to help sustain and increase market growth, maximise exports, enhance employment opportunities thereby enabling a significant contribution to national economic success.

APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINES

- Applications and supporting documentation available online at www.Finuas.ie
- Individual Finuas advisor available to advise applicants on eligibility and formal process
- Application workshop will be held on 11 March 2009 to facilitate interested companies and potential networks. To book a place email info@finuas.ie.
- Public information launch event 18th February 2009 when applications open. A further briefing session is scheduled for February 24th, to book a place email info@finuas.ie.
- Application deadline 5pm 24th April 2009

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- Decisions issued on Finuas proposals, May 2009
- Contracting and Payment Approval, May 2009
- Networks commence from 1st June 2009