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Abstract

The aim of this research project was to conduct a case study designed to examine ICT skills shortage and the skills gap in Ireland, through the Training Networks Programme. The Training Networks Programme (TNP) is one of the main programmes that supports training across a wide range of industry sectors and geographical regions. It is managed by Skillnets and funded from the National Training Fund (NTF) through the Department of Education and Skills (DES). An in-depth review of the literature available was conducted, focusing on the skills shortage and skills gap in the ICT sector in Ireland but also in Europe and further afield. Primary research was conducted by using qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative interviews together with an observation were carried out with Network Managers who manage training networks in the ICT sector. An online questionnaire was also carried out with companies who are members of those networks. The findings were analysed to develop emerging themes to assess whether an ICT skills shortage and skills gap exists in Ireland. In conclusion, this research has shown that the ICT skills shortage and skills gap exists in Ireland.

Keywords: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Information Technology (IT), Skills Shortage, Skills Gap, Female Under Representation, ICT sector, Technology Sector, Training Networks Programme (TNP)