

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Taste 4 Success Skillnet and Cork Institute of Technology Launch new Certificate in Brewing & Distilling Operations**

*12<sup>th</sup> January 2017:* A new QQI Level 7 Certificate in Brewing & Distilling Operations accredited training programme for companies in the brewing and distilling sector, specifically designed for the Irish market has been launched by Taste 4 Success Skillnet, in partnership with Cork Institute of Technology (CIT), the Irish Branch of the Institute of Brewing and Distilling, and senior engineers and technologists from local industry.

This type of programme is very timely for the industry as it is one of Ireland's fastest growing industry sectors, exporting over 94% of its output. The brewing and distilling sector is one of Ireland's oldest industries but there is now a new and exciting resurgence in demand for fine crafted beer and whiskey. According to *Food Wise 2025* (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine), by 2025 it is expected that the brewing and distilling sector will create 23,000 more jobs, increase its exports by 85% to €19 billion and increase its value addition to the economy by 70% to over €13 billion.

Mr Michael Creed, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine launched this new enterprise-led programme. Speaking at the launch, Minister Creed said, "I am delighted to be here today celebrating this joint CIT, Skillnets and industry initiative, which is a valuable addition to the brewing and distilling industry in Ireland. This development of this course shows how effective collaboration and partnership between academia and industry can address a skills gap that could arise from the rapid, but very welcome, expansion in the production of premium alcoholic beverages. This course will play an important part in the training and up-skilling of staff in the agri-food sector, which is essential to the continued success and growth in this industry."

The Certificate is accredited by CIT, and will provide candidates with the scientific and engineering background to work in craft and traditional breweries and distilleries. The modules on the programme are closely aligned with the Institute of Brewing and Distilling (IBD) syllabi for the internationally-recognised Diploma in Brewing and Diploma in Distilling examinations. It will be delivered over a period of 13 weeks, one evening per week to suit industry needs. Commencing on 31 January 2017, this new support programme for the sector will combine lectures with industry-relevant laboratory practicals and site visits to experience the brewing, distilling and malting processes.

CIT President, Dr Brendan J. Murphy said, "CIT are delighted to be in a position to offer this programme in Brewing & Distilling Operations that meets the needs of our industry partners and those seeking employment in the brewing and distilling industries."

Taste 4 Success Skillnet has been delivering General Certificates in Brewing and Distilling since 2010 to employees and job-seekers, and graduates from the Taste 4 Success Skillnet programmes have gone on to establish 12 new craft breweries in Ireland and more are in the pipeline, creating jobs and contributing to the growth of the industry.

Speaking at the launch of the new Certificate Programme, Michael Slevin, HR Director, Rosderra Irish Meats, and Promoter of Taste 4 Success Skillnet said, “Our members are committed to continued up-skilling and training of our people. We continue to face many challenges in the sector and in the fortunes of our country and people. Skills and competency development are critical to enable businesses to respond quickly and effectively to the continual challenges and changes that our current and new markets require. People involved in working in the food and drink manufacturing and processing sectors share many similar skills requirements; they need to be able to demonstrate a number of technical and behavioural skills and it is through the work of the Taste 4 Success Skillnet, that we have been able to collaborate and maximize the combined value of expertise across the sectors, to ensure that we support our members, both large and small, indigenous and multinational, to train ourselves, our employees and continue to be drivers in creating employment and business for Ireland Inc.”

The Taste 4 Success Skillnet is funded under the Training Networks Programme, an initiative of Skillnets, funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Education and Skills.

## **Ends**

### **For further information, please contact:**

Bridie Corrigan Matthews  
Taste 4 Success Skillnet Network Manager  
Phone: 043 6687289  
Email: [info@taste4success.ie](mailto:info@taste4success.ie)

### **Additional information about the Certificate in Brewing & Distilling Operations:**

The Certificate in Brewing & Distilling Operations has been designed to lead into the international IBD exams, so that candidates can sit both the CIT Examinations, and the international IBD Diploma examinations. Candidates who complete all five modules will be awarded a CIT Certificate in Brewing & Distilling Operations. Candidates may choose to take any number of modules on a stand-alone basis and will receive individual certification for each module completed. All modules are at Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Candidates may join the programme at the beginning of any semester and take modules in any order. Candidates are expected to have at least a Level 6 (NQF) qualification in Science or Engineering. Applications from candidates who have passed the IBD General Certificate in Brewing or the IBD General Certificate in Distilling and/or who have relevant industrial experience will be considered on an individual basis.

### **About Taste 4 Success Skillnet:**

The Taste 4 Success Skillnet is an enterprise-led learning network in existence since 2000. It funds training and up-skilling for companies and job-seekers across the food, seafood, and beverage sectors. It currently has 210 active member companies ranging from large multinationals, to indigenous large, medium and small companies. 90% of its members are small micro organizations, and artisan and craft

producers. The Taste 4 Success Skillnet has won National Training Awards in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 for training both employees and job-seekers.

Taste 4 Success Skillnet has been funding and sourcing training for the brewing and distilling sectors for many years. Subject matter training experts come from the UK and Scotland to deliver training to member companies and job-seekers.

The Taste 4 Success Skillnet is funded by member companies and the Training Networks Programme, an initiative of Skillnets, funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Education and Skills.

### **About Skillnets:**

Established in 1999, Skillnets supports and works with private enterprise in Ireland and their employees to address their current and future skills needs. Skillnets provides high-quality training and development through 63 learning networks in a range of regions and sectors. Skillnets is actively supported and guided by national employer and employee bodies such as Ibec, Small Firms Association (SFA), Construction Industry Federation (CIF), Chambers Ireland and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). Skillnets receives funding from the National Training Fund (NTF) through the Department of Education and Skills (DES). The organisation model, with its deep roots in enterprise, has enabled Skillnets to make a substantial and enduring contribution to the national skills agenda and to the competitiveness of Irish enterprise.

For further information: [www.skillnets.ie](http://www.skillnets.ie)