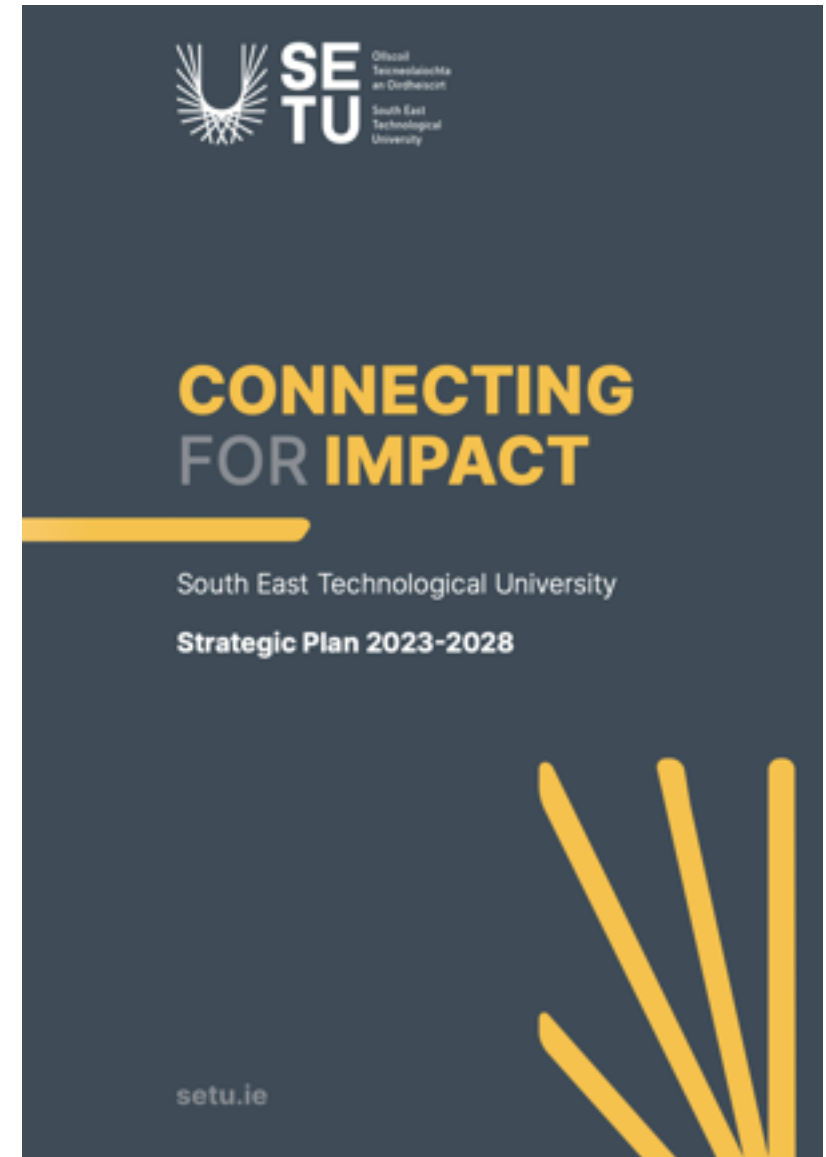# Championing Collaboration and Expanding Educational Opportunities

David Denieffe
VP Student Experience, SETU

setu.ie
INSPIRING FUTURES

Building Bridges and Bolstering the Region

Action		How will we measure progress of our Plan?
4.7	Enhance and further formalise strategic engagement **structures with our partner ETBs** to facilitate collaboration on, inter alia,	• Engagement structure with ETBs in place • SETU-ETB collaboration metrics • Data on FE to HE progression
4.7.1	FE to HE progression routes	
4.7.2	Novel retention schemes	
4.7.3	Shared programmes in alignment with regional skills requirements	

SETU
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Oirdheiscirt
South East Technological University

CONNECTING FOR IMPACT

South East Technological University

Strategic Plan 2023-2028

setu.ie

Backdrop

The Further Education and Training Act (2013)
SOLAS

First national FET Strategy 2014-2019 (target 10% FET to HE)

Future FET - Transforming Learning Strategy 2020-2024 - *"People will move seamlessly between FET and HE with clear transition criteria in large numbers"*

DFHERIS Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 - improve transition to further and higher education for school leavers

2023 - Progressing a more Unified Tertiary System - A more unified further and higher education and research system

Entering HE via FET vs after LC

Retention

Specialised skills

Academic Writing Skills
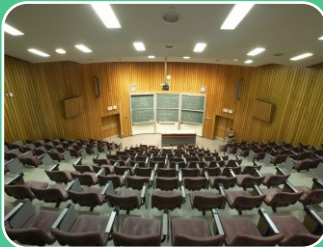
Life Experience / Maturity

Personal Responsibility

Barriers to HE progression

Structural

- Transport, accommodation, food, loss of earnings
- Caring responsibilities
- Financial capacity, IT capacity

Institutional

- Fees
- CAO points
- Class sizes, lecturer accessibility

Social

- Fear, apprehension, 'not fitting in'
- Supports?
- Is it worth it?

Harness momentum & levels of willingness

Enable, develop & nurture the relationship with all partners, regions & representatives

Enabling structures

Surface all good work & developments

Positive & Proactive

Tertiary Programme Coordinators/Leads

Share challenges & achievements

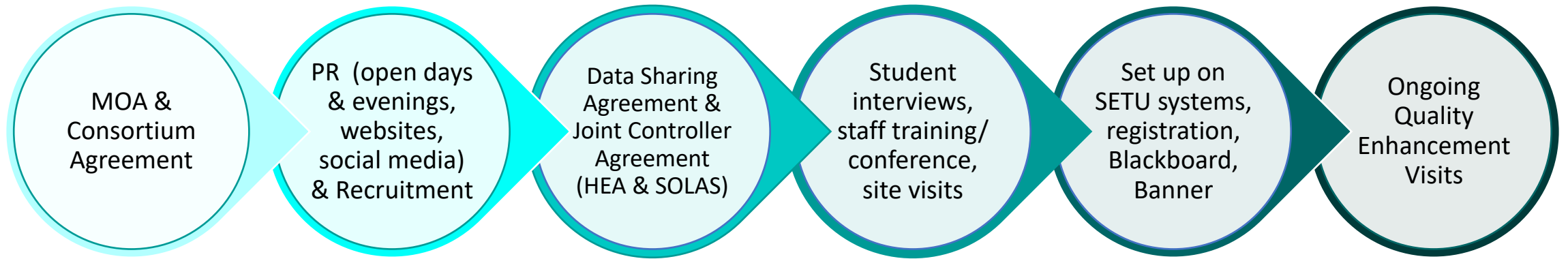# Guiding principles underpinning a Tertiary Education Model in the technological higher education sector

Council of THEA Registrars, May 2024

1) continue to be supportive of a coherent system that provides accessible diverse learning and development opportunities for the widest range of learners;

2) actively work with ETBs to extend the existing progression pathways and support the joint delivery of novel Higher Education programmes

3) process new tertiary education programme pathways developed jointly with ETBs in accordance with traditional/existing entry processes through the CAO and that these processes are managed by the HEIs with collaboration from ETBs as may be required;

4) Tertiary Education Programmes are not to be treated outside of the existing institutional academic processes.

5) maintain the integrity of the quality assurance processes developed as Designated Awarding Bodies and the statutory authority and responsibility of Academic Councils for programme approval and to agree and approve any policies related to TEPs. NTO policies and procedures do not replace or remove the autonomy (and right and responsibility) of each institution to manage it's own affairs as a DAB.

6) provide QE oversight and ensure that new tertiary education programmes are developed and delivered within the terms of the NFQ; in that regard all awards made by higher education institutions, including exit/embedded awards, will be at levels 6-10 on the NFQ.

7) be responsible for all participating students who are registered and recognised as HE students from the commencement of their studies regardless of by whom and where the programme is delivered

   a. to ensure that all participating students have the same rights and access to the services of the HE institution during the duration of their studies

   b. to protect students by ensuring that they work under the same HE academic quality assurance processes as all other students from registration through examination processes and the making of final awards.

8) ensure that existing learning pathways provided by HEIs are not undermined by any new joint HE-FET programmes;

9) ensure that there is equity of funding for all students registered on programmes in the HE system and that there is no undermining of tertiary programmes status, standing, or funding model.

10) agree formal partnership arrangements (MoAs) with ETBs who are directly involved in joint programmes for the delivery and management of new TEPs;

LOETB & SETU Tertiary Degree Programmes 2023

Years 1 & 2 Portlaoise Institute	Years 3 & 4 SETU's Carlow campus
Honours Degree in Business (Level 6)	Honours degree in Business (Levels 7 & 8)
Honours Degree in Software Development (L 6)	Honours Degree in Software Development (L 7 & 8)

Process…

MOA & Consortium Agreement

PR (open days & evenings, websites, social media) & Recruitment

Data Sharing Agreement & Joint Controller Agreement (HEA & SOLAS)

Student interviews, staff training/ conference, site visits

Set up on SETU systems, registration, Blackboard, Banner

Ongoing Quality Enhancement Visits

Additional Supports — Ensuring learners with additional needs have access to same level of supports

Learner Experience — Ensuring learners have access to same level of resources, e.g., classrooms, equipment, sports, library, clubs & socs

Academic Standard — Collaboration between teachers and lecturers, programme coordinators, programme boards, assessment

SETU Tertiary Degree Programmes 2024-25

KCETB

- B.Bus. Tourism & Hospitality Services – Carlow Institute of FET to SETU's WD campus (1&2)
- BSc. In Applied Health Care – Carlow Institute of FET to SETU's WD campus (1&2)
- BSc. Hons in IT Management– Kilkenny College of FET to SETUs CW campus (1&3)
- BSc. Hons in Public Health & Health Promotion – Kilkenny College of FET to SETU's WD campus (1&3)

LOETB

- BSc. in IT Management – Portlaoise Institute to SETU's CW campus (1&3)
- BSc. In Software Development – Portlaoise Institute to SETU's CW campus (1&3)
- Bachelor of Business (hons) – Portlaoise Institute to SETU's CW campus (1&3)

WWETB

- Bachelor of Business – Dungarvan College of FE to SETU's WD campus (1&2)

Quotes from tertiary students

— *"I did first and second year (in university before) so I was really caught, and I thought I'd never get back...so this was like... yeah!"*

— *Because I come from another country and I have a degree from my country. So, like for me I was applying to CAO and I was like Jesus they're gonna prove that my grades aren't going to match. But this programme was way more straightforward. I went there. I spoke. Things were like so smooth."*

— *The location is so much more accessible for me. I've children and then I don't have a full license. So, I have to go on the bus. I couldn't do this. If I had to go to Carlow."*

Thank you!

setu.ie
INSPIRING FUTURES

SETU
Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Oirdheiscirt

South East
Technological
University