



**Irish Association of Community
Training Organisations
Company Limited by Guarantee**

Suite 1B, Bluebell Business Centre
Old Naas Road, Dublin 12
Ph: 01 - 450 4249
Fax: 01 - 450 4278
Email: iacto@iacto.ie
Website: www.iacto.ie

Dear Chairperson,

It's that time of year again when we gather to take stock at the IACTO AGM. This year it is being held in the Mullingar Park Hotel on the 14th April @11am. You have already received formal notification from the office about this date.

In response to member feedback, we have a new format for the Seminar element following the AGM which I hope you will find both informative and stimulating. We will also have inputs from three guest speakers. Mary Lyons, Director from the National Programme Innovation/CPD & Workforce Development division of SOLAS, Gerry Griffin as the National Co-Ordinator of YOUTHREACH and Mike Connor as the Chairperson of NACTM.

I invite as many Chairpersons and Board members as possible to join us and participate in shaping policy for the coming year. Even one person from each CTC Board will ensure a rich exchange of practice and help shape the IACTO priorities.

An important aspect of good Corporate Governance is the regular turnover of Board Members. I respectfully ask our members to consider volunteering for the Board of IACTO. It involves up to ten meetings per annum and a commitment to being available to keep CTC Boards in their local region informed of ongoing developments. The latter 'keeping in touch' strategy is something we, as a Board, recently introduced to further support CTC Directors and we look forward to some feedback at the AGM on how you are finding it and how it might be improved.

We will be updating you on such matters as the ongoing SOLAS/ERSI national review of YOUTHREACH and CTCs, the work of the DES Liaison Committee, progress to date on the three CTC innovative developments currently being piloted across a number of CTCs and an update on the ongoing institutional changes in the FET Sector.

On another note I would like to take this opportunity to request CTC Chairpersons to encourage as many Board members as possible to attend the upcoming Regional briefing sessions (see attached) which will cover such important items as GDPR, Child Safeguarding, etc. We have divided those briefings into three sections (across one day) so Directors can opt in to attend all three or just one or two sessions. An email reminder to book your place will follow in week commencing 9th April, when the office returns from Easter break. We do appreciate that CTC Board members are very busy hence we try to strike a balance between the need to keep Board members well informed whilst acknowledging the demands of CTC Board membership.

Finally, I would like to pay a special tribute to the dedication and commitment of the current IACTO Board whose involvement and ongoing engagement has ensured that the work of our esteemed and hardworking staff of Estelle Webb and Siubhan Rumling, is grounded in the real needs of CTCs. Estelle and Siubhan deserve a very sincere thank you for a very successful and productive 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Guss

Guss O'Connell, Chairperson, IACTO