



## An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

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### Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection launches National Employment Week 2015

The Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D. this morning (Monday, 2 March 2015) officially launched National Employment Week at a business function held in the Bank of Ireland, College Green. The event was organised by Sigmar Recruitment in collaboration with the Employment Leadership Group which was attended by over 40 business leaders.

Setting the national employment agenda, National Employment Week is showcasing world class insights on talent related topics through a series of conferences to help shape cutting edge talent strategies and in turn increase employment.

During her address, the Tánaiste spoke of the Government's priority to continue to rebuild a sound economy that will focus on the constructions, retail, tourism and financial services sectors: **"Our role over the next year is to continue to build on this work. This will be done by establishing and continuing to strengthen the relationships between the public and private sector – to share the knowledge and expertise that will continue to make Ireland and the companies in it a great place to work and live."**

The Tánaiste spoke of the value of the Employment and Youth Activation Charter which was launched last year. **"I am particularly pleased to say that, since we launched this initiative in September 2014, over 70 companies have signed up to the Charter including Pay Pal, Glanbia, Sigmar, CIPD, Xilinx, Dublin Bus and family firms such as McCloskeys in the North East. These companies represent multinationals to small and medium sized enterprises that are the lifeblood of their local community. They are committed to sharing the benefit of their expertise in assisting jobseekers create their personal brand by standing out when applying for jobs through the all-important CV and at interview, or indeed by supporting jobseekers through engagement in programmes such as JobBridge and Skillnets Positive to Work initiatives."**

The Tánaiste urged all employers and businesses nationwide to mark National Employment Week this year by taking part in First Steps, a new internship programme specifically for young jobseekers to offer them the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and training. The target is to provide up to 2,000 work experience placements of six or nine months for jobseekers (aged between 18 and 25 years) this year. The European Commission is providing co-funding for some elements of the Youth Guarantee plan through the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund.

The Tánaiste also acknowledged an initiative of the employers in the FMCG sector. **"Today, they are opening their doors to some 1,200 young people, offering them an opportunity to connect with employers in the industry to learn about CVs, interview techniques and find out about building a career in the industry from leading companies."** Musgrave Group intends to engage

with 360 young people throughout their network, as well as Nestle Ireland, SHS Sales and Marketing, BWG, Pulse Logistics and many others.

The Tánaiste concluded: **“What we are asking of you today and this week, is to consider our jobseekers, learn about what they can offer by engaging with the Department of Social Protection, and consider the value they can bring to your organisation. And the Department is there to guide and support you throughout this engagement. Together we can continue to build on the success we have already achieved.”**

ENDS

