



Rehab

Workability International Conference 2010:

Social Enterprises leading Recovery in local and global markets

Dublin

27th to 30th September 2010

Dear Members and Colleagues,

The **Workability International Annual Conference 2010, in conjunction with Rehab**, will take place from 27th to 30th September in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin, Ireland.

We hope that Workability International members from throughout the world: America, Oceania, Asia and Europe will attend.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

The world economy is in flux. Across the continents, markets are changing rapidly and all organisations must adapt quickly to ensure their sustainability in a new world.

What lessons have we learned from the past? What can we expect the future to look like? And how can we be to the forefront of shaping that future for our organisations and to the benefit of enhanced employment opportunities for people with disabilities? To answer these questions, providers of employment services for people with disabilities will look at the changes that have occurred over the last number of decades, the barriers that have emerged in the past and the challenges and opportunities which exist as we look to a more prosperous future.

This conference is a significant opportunity for the members of Workability International to take stock of the current position and to explore ways that we can be involved in setting a strong course for a sustainable future.

Throughout the conference the diverse experiences and needs of members of Workability International members from across the continents will be drawn on to ensure that the vast wealth of learning and experience of our membership can be utilised. The conference will seek to address a wide variety of issues, catering to the diverse interests of members, and recognising the diverse needs of all people with disabilities.

2. INITIAL INFORMATION

The following information has been compiled to help members hoping to travel with their early planning. A full programme and registration form will be sent to all delegates by the end of May 2010. Further details will be available at www.workability-international.com.

The conference will take place in:

The Burlington Hotel, Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4, Ireland
Tel: + 353 (1) 6185600 Web site: www.burlingtonhotel.ie

from **Monday, 27th September to Thursday 30th September.**

On Monday, 27th the Conference will begin at 7pm with a welcome reception. The Conference proceedings will be officially opened on the morning of Tuesday, 28th September.

Initial Interest: If you would like to indicate your interest in attending the Conference, please complete the attached **Initial Interest form** and email it to workabilityconference2010@rehab.ie.

Information about Dublin: Dublin is a vibrant modern city with a rich heritage. To find out more about what to see and do in Dublin visit: www.visitdublin.com

Accommodation: A rate of €90 for a single room and €100 for a double room has been agreed with the Burlington Hotel. These rates are only available for bookings made for the period between 25th and 30th September if booked before the 10th September 2010. You can make your reservation by completing the attached **Accommodation form** and sending it direct to the hotel at reservations@burlingtonhotel.ie. Any queries regarding accommodation at the Burlington Hotel can be directed to:

Ms Agustina Nobile, Reservations Supervisor,
The Burlington Hotel
Tel: +353 1 664 3114 Fax: + 353 1 618 5693
E-mail: anobile@burlingtonhotel.ie Web site: www.burlingtonhotel.ie

Nearby hotels include The Mespil Hotel (www.mespilhotel.com) and Grand Canal Hotel (www.DublinGrandCanalHotel.com) which are approx. 15 minute walk to the Burlington Hotel. The Morehampton Townhouse (www.morehamptontownhouse.com) is approx. 10 minute walk.

Visa requirements: this website will give you information on Ireland's new visa system and lists countries requiring a visa for Ireland.
<http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8605>

If you have any queries regarding the Conference, or any other matters, please contact:

Alain Rialland General Secretary - Workability International email address: workability-international@orange.fr website: www.workability-international.com Tel. & Fax No: +33 5 49 29 54 38	Ann O'Beirne Conference Coordinator Rehab Group, Roslyn Park Sandymount, Dublin 4. Tel: 353-1-2057 265 Fax: 353-1-2057 373 workabilityconference2010@rehab.ie
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3. CALL FOR PAPERS

This conference will have two distinct but complementary parts.

The **first part** will give delegates the opportunity to identify the barriers which have, to date, impacted on the potential of the social enterprise sector, including those which have impacted on the employment of people with disabilities. It will also identify those elements which have worked effectively, and what can be built on to advance this.

The **second part** will identify a new course where new thinking, new markets and innovation will drive change in the sector to ensure that social enterprises can be to the forefront of national and global economic recovery. The aim will be to identify a course which will ensure that Workability International members are at the vanguard of ensuring that people with disabilities are enabled to take advantage of economic upturn.

Abstract themes

Workability International and Rehab are calling for the submission of abstracts of papers about initiatives in line with the two key themes of the conference.

Theme 1 Disability and Work: learning the lessons of the past
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- What are the key barriers which impact on the employment of people with disabilities?
- Why have these been difficult to overcome? What are the solutions?
- Examining the legislative and policy changes that have been implemented to improve the employment of people with disabilities. What has worked and why? What has not worked and why?
- What are the key challenges for social enterprise and for providers of disability employment services?
- What has impacted on the growth of this sector over the last decades?
- What are the major successes that we can build on and learn from?

Theme 2 Setting a course for a sustainable future
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- How can the social enterprise sector ensure that it is to the forefront as national and global economies improve?
- What can be done to overcome the challenges which have existed in increasing employment rates among people with disabilities?
- Where will the jobs be over the next ten years? For example; Green energy, technology, care services, local markets, etc. What direction should we be facing?
- What new developments and opportunities are already occurring that we should now get ready to utilise?
- What new innovations could be replicated or shared among members of Workability International?

Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts, up to 300 words in length, must be submitted by **Friday, 23rd April 2010** to:

Ann O'Beirne
Rehab Group, Roslyn Park
Sandymount, Dublin 4.
Tel: 353-1-2057 265 Fax: 353-1-2057 373
workabilityconference2010@rehab.ie.

Abstracts should be submitted by email. They must be in MS-Word or Word-readable format. They will be assessed for suitability for inclusion by a peer review panel. It is anticipated that presentations will generally be between 30 and 45 minutes in length. Please include name, organisation, contact details and a brief presenter profile of no more than 150 words.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rehab is a leading non-governmental organisation which works towards a world where every person has the opportunity to achieve their potential. We work in local communities to provide high-quality services and opportunities to people who need them. Every year, more than 50,000 people and their families benefit from the supports provided by Rehab in over 200 locations.

Over 3,600 Rehab staff provide health and social care, training and education, and rehabilitation, employment and commercial services in Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands and Poland. This year alone, in Ireland, Rehab will train 5,000 people, many of whom require additional supports, and set them on the path to further education, training and employment. Close to 500 people will be placed in jobs in 2010, and we will continue to support 200 people who use our services in part-time employment, while directly employing a further 200 people with disabilities in our commercial division.

WORKABILITY INTERNATIONAL is the world's largest body representing providers of work and employment services to people with disabilities. It is the focus and voice for providers of disability employment services throughout the world who offer:

- direct employment and work for people with disabilities in service and manufacturing processes; and
- employment services to people with disabilities to access, obtain and sustain work and employment in labour markets in conjunction with employers.

More than 3.5 million people with disabilities are engaged in work programmes—accessing employment and work—delivered by its 135 member organisations in some 42 countries.