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Business & Economic Engagement

Below is an outline of the programmes and services that Business & Economic Engagement offer.

Programme/Service	What is it?	What's it for?	Who's it for?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 60 hours of bespoke support for innovation and skills enhancement worth up to £6,000. Support provided is fully funded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or modified product, service or process development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small & micro Businesses (<50 staff) actively trading All industries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £5,000 to buy 62 hours of technical expertise from SRC to support innovation activity and bring new knowledge to help businesses innovate, develop and grow. Fully funded but VAT is payable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or improved products, processes or services. Access to scientific research. Access to information & expertise on new materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs. Social Enterprises. Third Sector organisations. All industries except transport & agriculture.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 30 hours funded by the Skills Fund aligning with Minister's Economic Vision of increasing productivity. Support is fully funded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving productivity in the workplace for manufacturing and non manufacturing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-Tech, life & health Science Adv Manufacturing FinTech Software Screen Industries Low Carbon Health & Social Care Hospitality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company-college-graduate partnership improving business competitiveness and productivity through access to academic knowledge and expertise. A full-time employee for 1-3 yrs. Weekly assistance from an SRC staff member Up to 60% costs covered; company must cover remaining 40% (£20k/year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and existing products, services, systems. improving logistics. Streamlining manufacturing processes. Business and marketing strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK-based Businesses All industries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-border explore (5 Days) and plan (18 Days) partnerships with academic institution on Innovation projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or improved product development New or improved service development New or improved business processes 	Manufacturing or tradeable services company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-249 employees 2 years trading history Capacity for innovation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-border company-college-graduate partnership worth up to €67,900. Full-time graduate employee for 12-18months. Weekly mentoring assistance from SRC academic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or improved product development New or improved service development New or improved business processes 	Manufacturing or tradeable services company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-249 employees 2 years trading history Capacity for innovation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A network of universities and colleges in Northern Ireland set up to support businesses. Move along the innovation escalator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages links between academia and industry, particularly SMEs. Stimulates innovation to better Northern Ireland's economy. 	Membership network of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI universities - QUB and UU Colleges NI – SRC, SERC, NWRRC, NRC, Belfast Met, SWC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accredited, non-regulatory training, levels 2 and above. 90% Funded by DfE and 10% Employer contribution. 	Industry-specific training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and Management; BIM; Welding; Customer Service; Digital Marketing; Health and social care; and much more! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs < 250 staff Priority and emerging sectors Social Enterprise and Self Employed can avail (no Voluntary or Charity Organisations)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accredited and non-accredited training. Delivered on-site or on campus. Tailored to client needs. 	Industry-specific training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership & management; Customer service; Digital Skills; Health & Safety; Health & Social Care; Plus many more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRC partners, benefiting from reduced rates Open to all organisations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-employment accredited training Company and college work together to develop bespoke training academy. DfE covers 100% of costs. 	Fill vacancies in a company experiencing rapid growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welding, Skills Shortage, Data Analytics, Financial Contact Centre, Plus many more..... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies of all sizes All industries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Job from Day one, working a minimum of 21hrs per week with an NI Based employer. Apprenticeships at Level 2 and Level 3. Duration 1- 4 years depending on starting level and sector. Complete Essential Skills within Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist businesses recruit new talent. To assist employers to upskill existing staff moving into a new job role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI based employer, registered with HMRC. Apprenticeships available in a wide range of sectors as part of All Age Apprenticeships.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers can grow their own talent. Apprentices are part of the business from day one. Apprentice achieves Foundation Degree / Bachelor's Degree or Professional Qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill higher level skills gap. Attract higher calibre of staff. Increase productivity. Develop existing staff. Enable succession planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies of all sizes All industries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of free accredited courses to help upskill and reskill individuals to meet the needs of the economy. 	Upskilling and reskilling individuals in a range of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Manufacturing, Childcare, Computing, Engineering, Digital Marketing, Leadership & Management, Green Technologies and many more! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals must be 18 on or before the course start date Individuals must have a right to work & undertake training in the UK at the point of application and for the duration of the course. Proof of this will be required to progress application. If required, applicants must be available to register in person at a SRC campus.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular, scheduled courses throughout the year Regulatory training and staff development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Specific Training Leadership and Management Digital Marketing Manual Handling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SME's and sole traders All Industries

Below is an outline of the external engagement programmes and services that we offer

Programme/Service	What is it?	What's it for?	Who's it for?
Digital support Services(DS3)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded cross-border programme supporting the digital development of rural SMEs, micro businesses, community and voluntary groups, and individuals. DS3 Work Package 1 is delivered by SRC under the PEACEPLUS Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building confidence and capability in digital skills. Improving online visibility, e-commerce, and use of digital tools. Provide 1-to-1 mentoring and practical digital workshops. Encouraging cross-border collaboration and shared learning between rural communities and businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must be based in a rural town or village with a population under 18,000 within one of the following council areas: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid Ulster, Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo SMEs & Micro Businesses Community & Voluntary Groups Individuals
Green Accelerator Skills Programme (GRASP)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded cross-border programme supporting Green Skills development in the Construction Sector across the ICBAN region. Led by SWC with partners SRC, NWRC, MSLETB, CMETB, DETB, ATU L & FC. GRASP is a project support by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver practical training in Green Skills (retrofit, NZEB, PassivHaus, solar, digital construction). Run Green Skills Academies: Women into Construction & Labour Activation. Promote apprenticeships, carbon literacy, and schools outreach. Encourage cross-border collaboration and sustainable construction practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FET institutions in ICBAN. Construction employers and trainees. Individuals seeking Green Skills training. Participants in 9 counties: Armagh, Cavan, Derry-Londonderry, Donegal, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Monaghan, Tyrone, Sligo.
SECBA  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded cross-border collaboration between higher education, further education, and industry, supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by SEUPB, designed to align education with industry needs. This course falls under the South East Cross Border alliance (SECBA). A project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address regional skills gaps in Business & Sport, Biopharmaceuticals, and ICT. Align educational provision with employer demand. Support workforce development and strengthen the regional skills pipeline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals across NI and bordering ROI counties seeking funded courses to start, reskill, or progress. Employers across NI and bordering ROI counties looking to upskill staff and build a future-ready workforce.
Step up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free programme funded by the Department for the Economy which aims to offer support for people to re-engage with skills and education in order to access employment Offers three flexible pathways (below), designed to meet various employment and training needs Help provided with mentoring, childcare and travel costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-engage with education and skills. Build confidence and career readiness. Gain qualifications and explore employment options. One to one mentorship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals aged 16+ Eligible to work in NI and resident in the UK for 3+ years or have indefinite leave to remain
Step up Pathway 1 College Connect+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a personal learning plan Gain Level 1 vocational qualification Improve Essential Skills (Communication & Numeracy) Receive mentorship and career guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build foundational skills Prepare for further education or employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals aged 16-24 who are currently not in education, employment or training but seeking entry-level qualifications
Step up Pathway 2 Disability Action Route to Education and Employment (DARE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support through mentorship, job coaching and action planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to anyone who has a disability, is neurodivergent, or may have barriers to learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those with disability, is neurodivergent, or may have barriers to learning Participants should be aged 16 years or over and be unemployed or economically inactive
Step up Pathway 3 Women Returners Access Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for women returning to education or employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help women re-enter the workforce or education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women aged 16+ seeking to upskill or reskill
Employ Me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a funded employability programme led by Southern Regional College with community partners. It provides holistic, wraparound support combining training, qualifications, and personal development. The programme targets people most distant from the labour market across the ABC and NMD council areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce job-related barriers for economically inactive people aged 16+. To help participants gain skills, qualifications, confidence, and sustained employment or self-employment. To support long-term employment outcomes through personalised mentoring and practical support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economically inactive individuals aged 16+ Priority groups including people with disabilities, over 50s, women returners, carers, & single parents. Individuals facing complex barriers to work, including health, confidence, skills, or caring responsibilities.
TOPS (Craigavon & Newry) & STEPS (Armagh) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded accredited vocational training for residents, with PPE, travel support and mentoring available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to industry-recognised qualifications Improved employability and job-readiness Linking residents to local employer needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents living in designated Neighbourhood Renewal Areas Households within set income thresholds
Oceans Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded residential offshore, maritime and energy-sector training, including transport, accommodation, meals and mentoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accredited training for offshore wind, maritime and energy roles Improved access to niche employment sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents living in designated Neighbourhood Renewal Areas Households within set income thresholds
Grow Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully funded horticulture-focused accredited training, with PPE and transport provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accredited horticultural and pesticide application training Improved employability in outdoor and environmental sectors Support for community growing spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents living in designated Neighbourhood Renewal Areas Households within set income thresholds

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