

New £1.12million European digital construction project

ARISE Project to drive skills development

Belfast Metropolitan College recently unveiled ARISE, its new £1.12 million European digital construction project which is designed to change the face of delivery and recognition of sustainable energy skills in the construction sector. ARISE's mission is to support the twin transition of the construction sector and to contribute to the European Recovery and Resilience Plans 2021-2027.



Louise Warde Hunter, Principal and Chief Executive of Belfast Met.

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awakening | relevant | innovative | scalable | equitable

ARISE will revolutionise the learning process by monetising skills development and learning exchange with a digital system based on skills recognition rather than accreditation. The training and transaction system developed by the project will reward learners as they achieve competence at a certain level with the crypto currency for skills exchange – CERTcoin – the innovative currency of skills and learning of the construction sector embracing today's digital transformation benefits.

This reward, based on skills and time credits, will be stored in an Individual Learning Account and can be used as digital points accumulation, for example in a skills barometer or for exchanging it into valid certificates. It will be an easier-accessible, less time-consuming and still competitive way to up-skill the industry, as well as the market demand side such as public administration, clients and owners.

The nine partners in the project consortium are: Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Ireland; Technological University Dublin, Ireland; Institute for Research in Environment, Civil Engineering and Energy, North Macedonia; ISSO, Netherlands; Conseil des Architectes D Europe, Brussels; IBIMI Institute for BIM, Italy; Building Changes, BV,

Netherlands; Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, Denmark; and Instituto Superior Technico, Portugal.

At the introduction event Belfast Met Innovation Manager and ARISE Programme Manager, Paul McCormack, outlined the challenges and objectives for the 30-month programme. Louise Warde Hunter, Principal and Chief Executive of Belfast Met also addressed the audience, saying: "Today's ARISE launch reinforces Belfast Met's commitment to engage in international partnerships and applied R&D, working in innovative ways with industry to meet the emerging skills needs of the economy at home and abroad."

Among the other speakers was Ms Jennifer Boyer, Vice President of Sustainability, TU Dublin, which is one of the European partners on the project which has Belfast Met as the lead partner. Ms Boyer said: "The ARISE project creates a positive impact by addressing real world challenges in the construction sector through the upskilling of individuals to reach their infinite potential. ARISE leverages learning post-Covid by offering bite-size educational units through a digital mobile curriculum to enable learning opportunities that are both accessible and sustainable in our daily lives." ■



Martin Lennon, Director, O'Hare McGovern (OHMG), said: "The early involvement of OHMG with BIMcert was the platform that escalated our BIM journey, ensuring we remained at the forefront of digital innovation. We are delighted to once again join with BMET, and their international partners, at the start of their ARISE project journey. The result of this partnership will ensure that OHMG has a skilled workforce with the knowledge, experience and competencies to deliver the desired energy and carbon reduction targets on every project we take on."