



Órla Gilroy, Project Manager, Skillnet MMC Accelerate

Skillnet MMC Accelerate

Marking 2025 – A year of progress

AS THE YEAR draws to a close, we look back on the Skillnet MMC Accelerate Initiative with Project Manager Órla Gilroy, exploring everything from platform performance and engagement statistics to industry appetite for future-proofing construction in Ireland.

A PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATION AND CHANGE

Developed by Skillnet Ireland, the national talent development agency of the Government of Ireland, in partnership with CitA (the Construction IT Alliance), the Initiative was designed to fast-track the adoption of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) by connecting industry, education and government through a single, open-access platform (www.skillnetmmccelerate.ie).

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Seven months after its national launch, www.skillnetmmccelerate.ie has made its mark as one of Ireland’s most dynamic central platforms in Modern Methods of Construction. The platform provides indicative Career Pathways, signposts to national MMC-related Education and Upskilling courses, Industry Insights, Research, Support and the Booking Portal for Business Support Events across the country.

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She credits both her internal team, Skillnet Ireland and the Initiative’s external partners for creating momentum. “It’s been a genuine collective effort,” she adds.

“We’ve had a very positive response from industry,” Órla begins. “Everyone we’ve worked with has been generous with their time and has gone above and beyond what we could have anticipated. We’ve seen that through their willingness to participate and share knowledge. Many business leaders and their teams have given up their time for us, whether hosting onsite regional Business Support Events across the country, filming and interviews for the platform or learning and development input. They’ve also introduced us to new contacts, who have been equally supportive collaborators, and for that we are very grateful.”

A STRONG START

Since launching in May, metrics from the online platform back up what Órla says. It has attracted over 6,000 user sessions, features content from more than 58 Irish organisations and has recorded visits from 45+ countries — a reach that reflects the MMC appetite the Initiative sets out to ignite.

The platform’s audience is predominantly desktop-based (62%), with 37% accessing via mobile devices.

Engagement is evenly balanced, at 52% male and 48% female, with the most visited sections being Education and Upskilling, Career Pathways and Skillnet MMC Accelerate’s Business Support Events.

What’s important is that the key pages, Education and Upskilling, Career Pathways and Events, are the most visited. We can see that users are engaging actively, which is very encouraging. It shows we’re heading in the right direction with industry.

Across its other channels, the Initiative has generated more than 500,000 LinkedIn impressions, gained over 400 newsletter subscribers and achieved 1,200 combined video views on Vimeo and YouTube. On the ground, the Initiative has hosted nine Business Support Events to date in 2024-2025, with one more planned before year-end, attracting over 700 participants from 200+ companies to date.



Skillnet MMC Accelerates Cygnum event in Coolcower, Macroom, Co. Cork, 25 September 2025

INSIGHTS AND EMERGING TRENDS

Talking about emerging patterns in user demographics and geography, Órla notes, “There’s been interesting international traffic from across Europe and countries such as Australia and Canada. That tells us there’s global interest in Ireland’s MMC ecosystem.” Gender diversity is another encouraging sign. “There has been a very strong response from lesser-represented genders,” she says.

For Irish companies, this is important data, a useful marker. There could be talent abroad thinking of moving home, or companies wishing to expand their talent pool through diversity and remote collaboration. “Having one, central portal to signpost to Education and Upskilling to support this is invaluable.”

“It’s also encouraging to see people from existing careers or those transitioning into construction engaging with MMC. At our events and other conferences we have attended, we’re meeting people from traditional construction backgrounds who are interested in moving into MMC because they see the quality of life it can offer. Feedback confirms having MMC-related courses signposted to national Qualifax and Fetch courses in one place is a very useful and practical, time-efficient tool. That’s a very positive message for the industry across Ireland.”

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS ACROSS IRELAND

Beyond the digital platform, the Skillnet MMC Accelerate team has been highly visible

across Ireland. This year, the programme participated in over 20 construction conferences and exhibitions, alongside its own dedicated Business Support Events, each bringing together industry, educators, policymakers and those working across the MMC ecosystem.

The onsite MMC manufacturing-floor demonstrations provide critical networking opportunities at the Business Support Events and have attracted more than 700 attendees from over 200 companies since 2024. Female participation reached 14%, reflecting steady progress in diversity engagement in person. “We’ve been very active right across the sector, working proactively with partners, engaging with industry and supporting them closely. That’s where the real value of the Initiative lies in connecting people and ideas on the ground,” said Órla.

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Skillnet MMC Accelerates Thermohouse event in Coolcaslagh, Co. Kerry, 3 September 2025

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Images:
Remagin event, Co. Tipperary,
15 October 2025



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PARTNERSHIP AT THE CORE

Partnership has been integral from the start of the programme, Órla says. “An advisory committee comprising key industry stakeholders has also guided direction. Skillnet Ireland, MMC Ireland, Construct Innovate, the CIF’s Smart Offsite Association and LOETB Mount Lucas have been instrumental and open with their support. It ensures we have a cross-section of industry’s voice that gives us direct access into what’s happening on the ground. Their fingers are really on the pulse.”

Asked about the platform’s biggest impact, Órla points to the spirit of openness it has encouraged. “What’s impressive is the willingness across the sector to collaborate. Companies want each other to succeed, and that’s key because the industry will move forward together. There’s a very strong sense of collaboration and innovation, and that’s extremely positive. The site signposts to over 200 national MMC-related training courses, while information and support related to Grants and Funding can be found from 14 organisations. Information and the links to The NSAI MMC Toolkit and the Standardised Housing Design to Reduce Costs and Optimise Housing Delivery can also be found.

“These collaborative partnerships have been invaluable to the Skillnet MMC Accelerate Initiative. Our partners have been fundamental to making this work,” said Órla.

For prospective entrants to MMC construction, she offers some insight, “From the outside looking in, if you’re considering a career in MMC, it’s a great option. It’s a sector full of innovation and optimism. Everyone is working together to make this work for Irish infrastructure,” she added.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Skillnet MMC Accelerate’s focus for next year is to strengthen the platform’s mission and user experience while continuing to deepen industry engagement.

“We want to capture more voices of industry, from education to professional bodies, and continue to work closely with the MMC network; we are developing the platform to enhance this and how people use it,” said Órla.

The partnerships and collaboration, she believes, will remain key to expanding opportunities. “We want to continue to enhance the

opportunity for companies to showcase their work in MMC. It’s a great platform for businesses and individuals to use. We would encourage those with MMC-related news, upcoming or past projects, Education and Upskilling journeys in MMC to get in touch. The platform is completely complimentary. We’re a platform for industry to showcase what they’re doing and how. It’s about being solution-focused.”

“We’re keen for feedback from the point of view of current, future job roles and related upskilling needs, what people are seeing on the ground. We can see industry and education are working together to resolve challenges and future-proof the workforce,” she added.

Órla adds that feedback from both companies and education providers is shaping future updates and will ensure the Initiative continues to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Ongoing enhancements will align this Initiative with Skillnet Ireland’s broader aim to build a future-ready workforce and Cita’s commitment to digital and sustainable transformation. Together, they will continue to support MMC’s integration into mainstream construction.

“Within MMC there are positive opportunities for businesses, for staff, for those outside the industry wanting to transfer into MMC and for young people starting out. Skillnet MMC Accelerate is a solution-focused, collaborative and innovative Initiative for MMC,” Órla concludes.

Visit www.skillnetmmcaccelerate.ie for more information and details about upcoming events. ■

