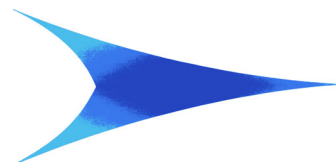


The Southern Cross Group

Promoting Mobility in the Global Community



Briefing on the Irish Government's Efforts to Attract Workers Back to Ireland

There are two main government-sponsored initiatives aimed at attracting workers from abroad, in particular people of Irish origin that emigrated to seek work abroad in the days before the 'Celtic Tiger' phenomenon.

Opportunity Ireland is managed by the National Software Directorate, and is an initiative of Enterprise Ireland, which in turn was established on 23 July 1998 and comes under the responsibility of Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Opportunity Ireland's purpose is to attract skilled labour to fill vacancies in Ireland's IT industry. It is aimed at Irish people working abroad in the software and electronics sectors. Its website offers a single point of contact for graduates overseas to access job vacancies in home-grown software and electronics companies, with job offers updated every two weeks.

Jobs Ireland was set up in April 2000 and is run by FAS, Ireland's Training and Employment Authority. Its website offers a database of job opportunities in all sectors, opportunities for employers to access CVs. The service is free of charge and also gives information on the Irish tax system, visa requirements, relocation assistance, education, etc. Jobs Ireland also organises roadshows around the world to promote job opportunities in Ireland. 15 such roadshows are scheduled for 2001, in Europe, North America and Australasia, including:

- Sydney (12-13 May 2001)
- Melbourne (19-20 May 2001)
- Auckland (26-27 May 2001)

All dates are to be confirmed. The full list of dates are available at <http://www.jobsireland.com/roadshow.html>.

The initiative was launched with the aim of enticing Irish emigrants back to Ireland, but it has been so successful that around 52% of those that have participated have been non-Irish. A recent roadshow in South Africa attracted 20,000 visitors. The contact within FAS is Mr. Greg Craig, tel. +353 1 6070506.

Links:

Jobs Ireland: <http://www.jobsireland.com>

Opportunity Ireland: <http://www.opportunity-ireland.com>