

TEF 2012

Trinity Economic Forum

Media Pack

www.trinityeconomicforum.ie

3rd-4th February 2012
Trinity College Dublin

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Background

The inaugural Trinity Economic Forum (TEF) will take place on 3rd-4th February 2012, bringing together over 150 students from the major academic institutions on the island of Ireland. The concept for the Forum was developed by a group of undergraduate economics students who were frustrated by the backward-looking nature of Irish economic discourse. The economic crisis has irrevocably changed Ireland's economic path, but much of the discussion still takes the Celtic Tiger mindset as a starting point. The delegates and speakers attending TEF will be encouraged to take a positive, future-focused approach to the topics discussed in the addresses, panels and workshops.

The Forum is supported by Trinity College's Provost and Economics Department, and is sponsored by PwC. It will take place over two days in Trinity's Science Gallery and the new Long Room Hub building - where delegates and speakers will discuss topics from the Future of News (Mark Little, 10:20 Saturday) to the Future of Innovation (Dr Piero Formica, 20:25 Friday).

Schedule

Friday 3rd February

16.30-17.30 - Registration

17.30-18.15 - "An Irish Economic Overview" with Dan O'Brien – Economics Editor, The Irish Times

18.20-19.45 – Panel Discussion: "De-leveraging Ireland" moderated by John Bowman – Historian and RTE presenter

19.50-20.20 - Networking Break

20.25-21.10 - "The Direction of Innovation" by Dr Piero Formica

21.15-23.00 - Entertainment

Saturday 4th February

09.00-09.25 - Networking Break

09.30-10.15 - "Attracting Foreign Direct Investment"

10.20-10.40 - "The Future of News" with Mark Little, Founder of Storyful and Former RTE Broadcaster

10.45-11.05 "Global Financial Markets"

11.10-11.30 "The Finance of Sport"

11.35-11.55 - "The Economics of Climate Change" with Eamon Ryan

12.00-12.55 - Lunch provided by KC Peaches

13.00-14.25 - Workshop Breakout

14.30-15.15 - "The Art of Presentation" with Andrew Keogh – International Keynote Speaker

15.20-15.55 - Networking Break

16.00-17.30 – Panel Discussion: "The Intertwining Nature of Democracy & Technocracy"

17.35-18.20 - Keynote: "Ireland's Future Role in the EU – An International Perspective"

Trinity to host star students, speakers for economics forum

Trinity will host over 150 students from universities around the country this February at the Trinity Economic Forum. The weekend is Ireland's first fully student-organised economics forum, and will see some of Ireland's top business, economic and political leaders come to share their experience in the Science Gallery and Long Room Hub.

According to TEF co-founder, Sean Gill, "TEF will offer much needed engagement & discourse on a national level and promote student participation in shaping Ireland's future. It will also be a great networking event for students looking for jobs." Gill started the project earlier this year with BESS students Patrick Lynch and Gary Finnerty.

"The conversation about Ireland's economic future is dominated by three different viewpoints – the economists who look for the theoretically correct answer, the business person who looks at the practical side of things, and politicians, who as far as we can see, just want to get re-elected. Sadly there doesn't seem to be an awful lot of productive conversation between these viewpoints." The Junior Sophister Economics and Maths student says "We hope that TEF can bridge the ideas gap between the bright sparks who will be contributing to the Irish policy debate in the future."

The format of the forum will echo that of the Global Irish Economic Forum held this September in Dublin Castle, and attendees will take part in workshops as well as attending keynote speeches and panel discussions featuring Ireland's top economists and business and political leaders.

The two-day agenda features a wide range of different topics, including the future of

TEF's goals

To promote critical thinking and open discourse on a national level.

To share the knowledge, insight and expertise of professionals with students.

To encourage students to take a proactive approach to tackling the current and potential issues facing the Irish economy.

news, reforming the financial markets, deleveraging Ireland, and the European crisis.

“We didn’t want to get too bogged down in the past when coming up with topics for the panels, workshops and so on – we’re more interested in proactive solutions and original ideas. That’s why we divided the themes of the two days up – Friday will be a day for taking stock; looking at where we are now and the immediate threat facing us, while on Saturday we’ll take the longer view and try find Ireland, and the world’s best path back to economic strength”

The forum will attract students from the economics, business and politics faculties of all of Ireland’s universities. “Realistically, some of the people who will be sitting around the table in fifteen years’ time determining the future of this country are in college right now. We’re hoping that this event will help promote a more open and honest debate among Irish students about important policy issues, so that these conversations might be a little bit more effective in the future.”

The idea for the forum has been developing since the start of the academic year and a committee of nine business and economics students is responsible for its organisation, promotion and funding. “We have a really fantastic group with a lot of experience in their respective fields, so we’re just putting the work in now and hoping that the event will be a success”

Roberta Donovan – Trinity Bull November Edition 2011

For all media queries please contact Tom Lowe at tom@trinityeconomicforum.com or 0868432001

Photos of the event will be released on Saturday 4th February. To receive photos email photos@trinityeconomicforum.com