

# IAFA-IAASA Conference

## INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND ASSURANCE INTO ACCOUNTING EDUCATION



**1 November 2024, 9.30-16:00**  
**Maynooth University**

**Exploring challenges and opportunities facing accounting education in the context of sustainability reporting and assurance**

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and its implications for accounting education

Future competencies for sustainability reporting and assurance

Enhancing accounting education: strategies for student competency development

# Integrating Sustainability Reporting and Assurance into Accounting Education

**Date:** 1 November 2024

**Timing:** 09:30 - 16:00

**Location:** Maynooth University, Iontas Building

TIME	DESCRIPTION
09:00-9:30	Registration
09:30-9:45	<b>Welcome Address</b> Message from Minister Dara Calleary Dr. Michael Hayden, IAFA and Eileen Townsend, IAASA
09:45-10:30	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>Embedding sustainability into accounting education</b> Professor Ian Thomson, Dundee University
10:30-11:00	<b>The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) in Irish law</b> Orla O'Brien, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
11:00-11:15	TEA BREAK
11:15-11:45	<b>Implications of sustainability reporting and assurance for accounting education - the regulatory perspective</b> Kevin Prendergast, IAASA CEO
11:45-12:35	<b>Panel: What competencies will accountants need to effectively perform sustainability reporting and assurance?</b> Elerina Conneely (Kerry Group), Glenn Gillard (Deloitte), Derarca Dennis (EY), Dr. Judith Wylie (UU), Kevin Prendergast (IAASA) Moderator: Eileen Townsend, IAASA
12:35-13:00	<b>Accounting Education Innovations</b> Patricia O'Neill (Head of Member Innovation, Chartered Accountants Ireland), Prof. Susan Smith (AccountingStreams)
13:00-14:00	LUNCH Virtual Demonstrations
14:00-14:45	<b>The Global Perspective: What IFAC is doing in this space</b> Joan Curry, IFAC Board Member
14:45-15:45	<b>Panel: What are the implications of sustainability reporting and assurance for accounting education? What changes are necessary in accounting education to develop the future competencies required?</b> Ian Browne (CAI), Jacky Bateman (ACCA), Dr. Louise Gorman (TCD), Professor Ian Thomson (Dundee University), David Potts (AIA) Moderator: Professor Joan Ballantine, Ulster University
15:45-15:55	<b>Announcement of winners of research bursary</b>
15:55-16:00	CLOSING REMARKS

# Speaker Biographies

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## Professor Ian Thomson, Dundee University

Ian is Professor of Accounting and Sustainability at University of Dundee, having previously held chairs at Birmingham Business School, University of Strathclyde and Heriot-Watt University. He is also Director of the Centre for Responsible Business and convenor of the Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research.

Ian has been researching topics relating to responsibility, sustainability and accountability for over 30 years. His current projects include carbon accountability, operationalising the SDG for business, and responsible business outcome measurement.



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## Kevin Prendergast, IAASA CEO

Kevin is Chief Executive at IAASA, Vice Chair of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators, and Member of the Consultative Group at Committee of European Audit Oversight Bodies. Kevin is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland. As well as holding a Bachelors Degree and a Masters in Accounting from University College Dublin, he also holds an MSc in Executive Leadership from the University of Ulster.



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## Joan Curry, IFAC Board Member

Joan is a board member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and is Vice President of Chartered Accountants Ireland as well as a member of the Chartered Accountants Public Sector Committee and the Ethics and Governance Committee. Joan is Finance Officer in the Department of Transport.



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## Orla O'Brien, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Orla is part of the Company Law, Audit and Accounting Policy, and Legislation Unit at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Her responsibilities include developing audit and accounting-related legislation, with her most recent work focusing on the transposition of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.





# Panellist Biographies

## What competencies will accountants need to effectively perform sustainability reporting and assurance?

### **Elerina Conneely - Group Head of Sustainability Reporting, Kerry Group**

Elerina Conneely is responsible for sustainability reporting and performance, including compliance with CSRD and evolving regulatory requirements. Elerina also plays a key leadership role in helping Kerry to achieve its sustainability ambitions, as set out in the Group's sustainability strategy. Elerina has held several key leadership positions across the company, including as Group Financial Controller (2017 – 2020). Elerina is a fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Galway.



### **Derarca Dennis - Partner, EY Ireland**

Derarca is a partner in EY Ireland responsible for Climate Change and Sustainability Services. Derarca has over 25 years of professional experience and leads a team of sustainability specialists who advise companies on sustainability strategy, sustainability reporting and assurance. Derarca is a graduate of University College Dublin holding a degree in Psychology and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland.



### **Glenn Gillard - Partner, Deloitte Ireland**

Glenn is Deloitte Sustainability Market Lead responsible for bringing multidisciplinary sustainability services to market. Glenn is an incoming Director on Chapter Zero Ireland and sits on the Advisory Board of the DCU Centre for Climate and Society. He is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland, an elected member of the council of Chartered Accountants Ireland and chairs the Education Board of CAI.



### **Dr. Judith Wylie - Senior Lecturer, Ulster University**

Judith is a Chartered Accountant and senior lecturer in the Department of Accounting Finance and Economics at Ulster University. Judith lectures on governance, risk and ethics. Sustainability/ESG is a key research area for Judith having completed a PhD on CSR communication strategies in Irish listed companies. Judith is also a member of the Ulster University Business School Sustainability team and a member of the Chartered Accountants Ireland sustainability working group.



# Panellist Biographies

**What are the implications of sustainability reporting and assurance for accounting education? What changes are necessary in accounting education to develop the future competencies required?**

## **Ian Browne - Director of Education at Chartered Accountants Ireland**

Ian joined CAI as Head of Assessment and Syllabus in 2015. Prior to joining the Institute, Ian was Academic Course Leader in a leading Dublin based Professional Accounting and Business College. He also lectured at UCD Smurfit and Trinity College. Prior to this he had senior financial and accounting roles in a range of commercial entities.



## **Jacky Bateman - Head of ACCA Qualifications**

Jacky leads the policy, production and development of the ACCA qualification, including the exams, the experience and the ethics, leading to the award of ACCA membership. Jacky and her team work with external stakeholders to provide learning opportunities and educational recognition to ACCA students and members. Jacky holds an MSc in Accounting and Finance and qualified as an ACCA member whilst working in industry. Jacky has over twenty-five years' experience working within accounting education and assessment, including roles at BPP Professional Education and at the University of Liverpool.



## **Dr. Louise Gorman - Assistant Professor, Trinity Business School**

Louise lectures and researches in the areas of accounting, finance, corporate governance and ESG. Louise regularly contributes to publications and events in the areas of corporate governance and ESG at national and international level in the academic and professional communities



## **David Potts - Director of Policy & Regulation, AIA**

David is responsible for maintaining the professional body's international recognition and regulatory strategies. David works with regulatory bodies across the world to ensure AIA members meet the appropriate standards of competence and professionalism. David is a Professional Member of the International Compliance Association.



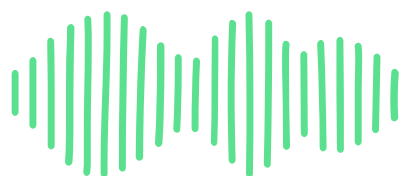
# Accounting Education Innovations

## Metaverse School of Innovation



**Patricia O'Neill, Head of Member Innovation, Chartered Accountants Ireland**

The Metaverse School of Innovation harnesses the power of Virtual Reality (VR) for upskilling in the accounting and financial services sector. The two programmes cover topics of huge relevance to accountants: Digitalisation of the Workplace and Professional Scepticism for Audit, and were developed in conjunction with Skillnet Ireland and Sia Partners.



## Accounting Streams



**Susan Smith, Professor of Accounting, UCL School of Management, London**

Accounting Streams aims to transform the accounting curriculum by integrating sustainability and ethical considerations into the core curriculum. The project's first resource, the 'Principles of Accounting' textbook, offers a contemporary view of accounting as a technical, social and moral practice. The free open access textbook equips learners with critical thinking skills and prepares them for the evolving demands of the profession, focusing on sustainability, ethics and accountability.

Join AccountingStreams  
Mailing List



# How to get to Maynooth University



**Click Here for  
Iontas Building**

## CONFERENCE LOCATION

The conference will take place in the **Iontas Building** on the North Campus of Maynooth University. See the campus map attached for each building location: The Iontas Building is No. 48.

A campus map is available [here](#).

## PARKING

As the conference is taking place during study week, parking is free, and you can park in any of the carparks. Car parks are denoted by a **blue P** on the campus map. It is important to also note that improperly parked vehicles may be clamped.

## BY RAIL

The North Campus is a 15-minute walk from Maynooth train station.

Maynooth lies on the Western Commuter Line serving four Dublin city centre stations (Pearse Station, Tara Street Station, Connolly Station and Docklands) as well as thirteen other suburban stations (Drumcondra, Broombridge, Pelletstown, Ashtown, Navan Road Parkway, Castleknock, Coolmine, Clonsilla, Hansfield, Dunboyne, M3 Parkway, LeixlipConfey and LeixlipLouisa Bridge).

This railway line also goes to Sligo.

Please see the following link for train times:  
[Ireland rail travel information - Iarnród Éireann - Irish Rail](#)

## BY BUS

See the [BUS EIREANN WEBSITE](#) for further details.

## BY ROAD

Take the M4 to junction 7 (signposted Maynooth /Straffan/Naas). Follow the signs to Maynooth, then North Campus.

## BY TAXI

Taxis from Dublin will usually cost approximately 45 - 65 euro. The journey takes between 40 and 60 minutes depending on traffic.