

SOLAS (Formerly FÁS) Case Study



Classroom Attendance

SOLAS (formerly called FÁS) is Ireland's Further Education and Training Authority, providing highly valued training programmes, aimed at employers, employees and unemployed people. In order to modernise the method of managing attendance of Trainees at courses, some time ago FÁS, as the body was then called, decided to implement FlexTime's Web oriented Classroom Attendance system.

The system is now being used by 4,500 Trainees per quarter on courses managed by Instructors at **SOLAS**. In a significant new move, the system was extended to *also* cater for all Trainees on **SOLAS** courses that are being run by external Training companies.



Objectives

- To manage the attendance of up to 20,000 trainees annually
- Leader in market
- To reduce admin costs

Why FlexTime

- 30 years of Public Service experience
- Leader in market
- Excellent references

Results

- Increased employer/trainee confidence that training programmes can aim at workplace engagement
- Improves employer's view of trainee's readiness to enter workplace
- Speedier payroll processes



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SOLUTION

Because of the reasonably short nature of the courses, there is a huge turnover of Trainees using the system. Over 20,000 Trainees use the system annually making this one of the largest Time and Attendance projects in Europe. For example:

- Up to 500 trainees in session, on any one day in each of the 18 centres.
- Courses have varying lengths but usually up to 3 months.

The Class Room Attendance system runs over the **SOLAS** network. Trainees are required to swipe in each morning (or if they forget their card use the PIN pad) at convenient Time Terminals connected back to a single server over the SOLAS intranet.

Instructors and Administrative staff have direct access over the intranet to time and absence records of students and to instantly see who is in/out, irrespective of their physical location in the network.

Ask us for more details at +353 1 2609680



RESULTS

SOLAS continuously improves the management of Government Training Schemes. Equally, the employee and employer need to have confidence that the Training process can aim at workplace engagement.

One way to satisfy this aim is to have a good method of dealing with attendance issues. Thus a major focus is on avoiding anything which can result in:

- a) Effecting the level of the Trainee's potential
- b) An impact on the employer's view of Trainee and their readiness to enter their workplace

The **Class Room Attendance** system provides a fair and impartial method of confirming what Trainee attendance levels are. This is while also ensuring that payments are capable of being calculated efficiently and on time.

Instructors can check on Trainee attendance at local PCs. The calculated data at the end of each week provides the hours on which the trainees are paid, making this one of the largest payroll oriented time recording solutions in Europe. Once approved by the supervisor an electronic file is transferred to **SAP** payroll system at **SOLAS**.