

Providing optimum support and nurturing high standards for fitness professionals in Ireland

Press Release - 24th September 2011

Fitness Professionals Ireland (FPI) is a new not-for-profit, independent public register which recognises the qualifications and expertise of fitness professionals in Ireland. FPI has been developed in the context of achieving a single, national, independent register for Ireland with official approval and integration with the European Register of Exercise Professionals (EREPS). FPI fully meets the independence and professional standards criteria required by the European Health and Fitness Association (EHFA) which oversees EREPS. FPI aims to provide the highest possible standard of services and benefits to all its members.

Fitness professionals who are members of FPI are acknowledged for their qualifications, skills, and professionalism. Membership of FPI means that a fitness professional has met the prescribed minimum standards of good practice including the adoption of the FPI Code of Ethical Practice. FPI members are committed to raising standards through a process of lifelong learning. FPI website www.fitnessprofessionalsireland.ie will go live on 1st November 2011.

The official launch of FPI took place in the Radisson Hotel, Limerick on Sat 24th September 2011. Sean Kelly MEP, launched the new organisation in the company of fitness training providers and professionals who were in attendance.

Speaking at the launch Sean Kelly, MEP, stated: "I fully support the initiative and work in the development of Fitness Professionals Ireland (FPI). I am confident that this development will succeed in achieving a single, national, independent and financially viable register of exercise professionals for Ireland with formal integration to the European Register of Exercise Professionals (EREPS)".

Cliff Collins, Director, EREPS stated: "The development of FPI has been undertaken thoroughly and comprehensively to provide a unified register for Ireland. FPI is founded on the agreed European standards for exercise professionals. It is planned to be fully integrated with EREPS and with it comes the benefits of international recognition with its members listed on the main website directory. Ireland has shown a lead in many areas of European development in the area of qualifications and the launch of FPI is a further positive move in this direction".

Maura O'Sullivan Ryan, Managing Director, National Council for Exercise & Fitness said:

"The NCEF has a proven track record in operating the NCEF National Register and has now invested significant resources to ensure that FPI becomes a fully independent, viable, and widely supported professional register over the next 2- 4 years. "She continued: "By joining FPI, the fitness professional, will have access to significant benefits and services. Membership of FPI will provide greater transferability of qualifications and promote greater mobility and work opportunities for qualified Fitness Professionals both in Ireland and abroad. FPI will be managed by a new board of trustees through a separate independent company. I extend an open invitation to all fitness professionals and to all stakeholders in the fitness/leisure industry in Ireland; employer groups, training providers and other registers to come on board in order to influence and be part of this great new departure."

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For further information contact 061-202823

Notes to the Editor

Fitness Professionals Ireland (FPI)

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European Register of Exercise Professionals (EREPS)

EREPS is an independent process for the registration of all instructors, trainers and teachers working across Europe in the exercise and fitness industry. It is a pan-European system, based on independent national registers, culminating in a central European database www.ereps.eu/

European Health Fitness Association (EHFA)

EHFA is a not-for-profit organisation representing both the public and private fitness sector in Brussels with the European Union and other international organisations. EHFA is the standards setting body of the health and fitness sector and promotes best practice in instruction and training, with the ultimate objective to raise the quality of service and the customers exercise experience and results www.ehfa.eu/- EHFA is the body that oversees EREPS.