



**An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta**
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

Linking National and Regional Economic Policy and Action

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Association of Irish Regions Annual Training Seminar
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Policies

White Paper on Enterprise

- Ireland's industrial policy for the medium- to long-term
- Builds on Ireland's economic strengths
 - open economy
 - strong trade and foreign direct investment
 - vibrant innovation hub
 - resilient labour market
- Motivated by multiple factors



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Government of Ireland

White Paper on Enterprise 2022 - 2030



White Paper on Enterprise

1 Integrating Decarbonisation and Net Zero Commitments

35%
Emissions Reduction from Industry by 2030

2 Placing Digital Transformation at the Heart of Enterprise Policy

90%
Of SMEs at Basic Digital Intensity by 2030

3 Advancing Ireland's FDI and Trade Value Proposition

At least half of all FDI investments between 2021 and 2024 to be located outside of Dublin

4 Strengthening the Irish-Owned Exporting Sector

50%
Increase in the number of large Irish exporting companies by 2030

5 Enabling Locally Trading Sectors to Thrive

1%
Average annual increase in multifactor productivity growth in domestic sectors of the economy by 2025

6 Stepping Up Enterprise Innovation

Gross (public and private) Expenditure on R&D to **2.5%** of GNI* by 2030

7 Building On Strengths and Opportunities

5 National cluster organisations funded under a new National Clustering Programme by 2025

Powering Prosperity



Core Pillars

- Offshore Wind Supply Chains
- Research, Development and Innovation
- Future Demand and End Uses for Renewable Energy
- Balanced Regional Economic Development Opportunities

Regional Objectives

- Transform Ireland's regional capability, delivering opportunities throughout Ireland through balanced regional economic growth
- In collaboration with other Departments, develop major industrial hubs around key deployment and Operation and Maintenance ports



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Powering Prosperity
Ireland's Offshore Wind
Industrial Strategy



Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation



- The Strategy aims to
 - Support development of new innovation strategies and policies
 - Increase business R&D intensity across all regions
 - Address gaps in existing regional innovation infrastructures
- Delivered by Ireland's ERDF programmes including KT Boost, Innovators' Initiative and Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme
- National Implementation Group oversees delivery
- Ireland's three regions awarded Regional Innovation Valley status





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Agencies

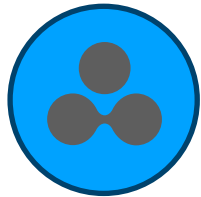
IDA Ireland



2024 Investments



234 total
(69 new name)



137 (59%)
won for regions



13,500
new jobs

2024 Regional Employment Growth



Dublin
137,082
0.07%



South-East
15,580
2.3%



South-West
51,968
-0.2%



Mid-East
20,470
-3.3%



West
31,334
0.15%



Border
10,389
2.2%



Mid-West
27,698
3.1%



Midlands
8,045
-0.45%

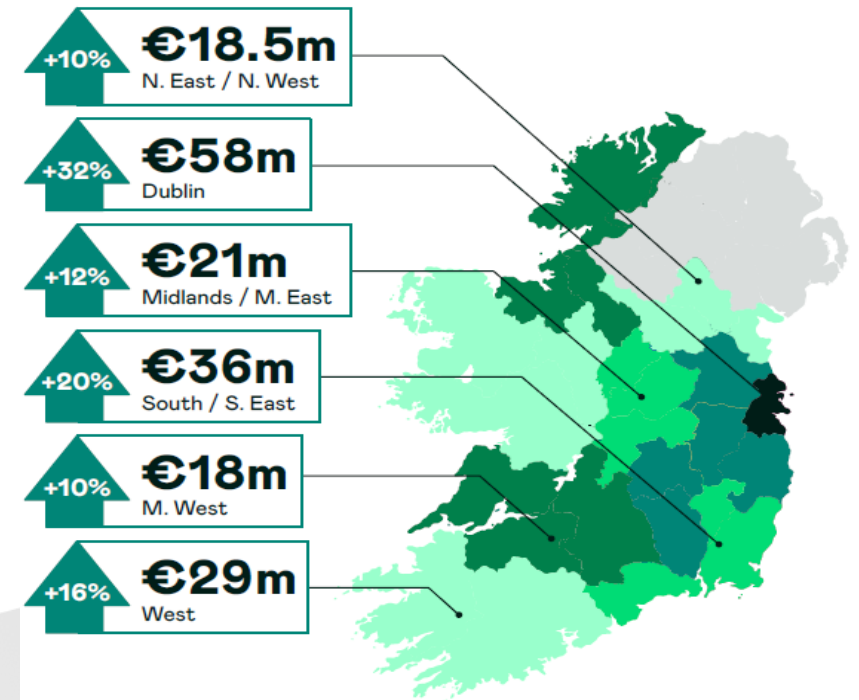
Enterprise Ireland



2024 Performance

- EI supported over 200 start-up companies, with approximately **60% based outside Dublin**
- **64% of new jobs** created by EI clients were regionally based, with all nine regions recording jobs growth
- Companies supported by EI now employ 234,454 people, an increase of 3% on 2023 with **2/3 of total jobs** outside Dublin

Breakdown of Funding to Client Companies per Region



Local Enterprise Offices

- Established in 2014
- Embedded within the 31 Local Authorities
- Carry out enterprise development functions for Enterprise Ireland

2024 Performance

- LEOs helped to create over 7,100 new jobs
- 7% employment increase on 2023
- 81% of jobs created outside of Dublin
- 11th year of consecutive jobs growth for LEOs



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Local Enterprise Offices Policy Statement 2024-2030

The first stop shop for businesses
in Ireland



Prepared by the Department of
Enterprise, Trade and Employment
gov.ie



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Regional Enterprise Plans

Regional Enterprise Plans



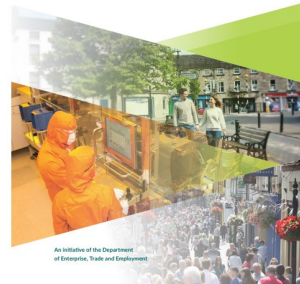
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
TO 2024
NORTH-EAST



An Initiative of the Department
of Enterprise, Trade and Employment



REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
TO 2024
MID-WEST



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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
TO 2024
WEST



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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
TO 2024
SOUTH-EAST



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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
TO 2024
DUBLIN



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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN
TO 2024
MIDLANDS



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Regional Enterprise Plans



Regional Delivery

- Chairperson
- Steering Committee
- Programme Manager
- Working Groups

National Oversight

- National Oversight Group
- Ministerial leads
- Reporting



Partners

- Local Authorities
- Regional Assemblies
- EI, IDA Ireland, LEOs
- Higher Education Institutions
- Regional Skills Fora
- WDC, ÚnaG, etc.
- Business representative bodies
- Private industry

Regional Enterprise Plans



Midlands

- The Midlands ICT Cluster brings enterprise together with government and academia for a collaborative approach to development of the region's ICT sector



North-East

- Skillnet Ireland's 'Innovation Exchange' partnered with The Mill enterprise hub in Drogheda to provide a dedicated resource to support and link SMEs and larger corporates in the North-East



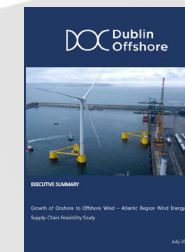
West

- BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry is a central engine for development of agri-food in the region



North-West, West, Mid-West, South-East, South-West

- Cooperation on Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy



Regional Enterprise Development Funding

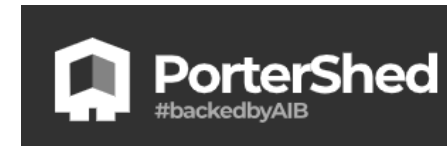


Enterprise Ireland Schemes

- Regional Enterprise Development Fund
- Border Enterprise Development Fund

Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme

- Co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund
- Up to €145 million available
- Four streams
 - *Local enterprise infrastructure*
 - *Clusters and consortia*
 - *Innovation services for SMEs*
 - *Priming and feasibility*





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The Future

Future of the Regional Enterprise Plans



Extension

- Current plans extended for one year to end 2025

Review

- Independent review to conclude in early Q2 2025

Regional Enterprise Policy Statement

- Map out the regional enterprise policy landscape
- Establish a strategic agenda
- Ensure better alignment

New Regional Enterprise Plans

- Consultation exercise in Q3-Q4 2025 to develop next iteration of the plans
- New plans to be launched in Q1 2026

Programme for Government: Securing Ireland's Future



Growing Our Economy

- Publish and resource **new Regional Enterprise Plans** and ensure detailed consultation with local authorities, regional assemblies, enterprise agencies, higher education bodies, industry and others.
- Publish an **Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity** within 12 months...
- Publish **Enterprise 2035** as a long-term ambition for enterprise growth and job creation over the coming decade...
- Ensure that there is a targeted approach to supporting and developing key economic sectors, including a **new strategy on semiconductors**...
- Develop a new **National Life Sciences Strategy** to ensure that this important sector remains competitive...

Future Collaboration & Alignment



Linkages

- National Planning Framework
- National economic policies and strategies
- Our Rural Future – OECD review
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- Regional Enterprise Plans
- Metropolitan Area Spatial Plans
- Local Economic and Community Plans

Issues

- Impact assessment
 - *What is balanced regional development?*
 - *How are we measuring success?*
- What do we mean by regional?
 - *Dublin and “the regions”*
 - *Rural and urban*
- Embedding collaboration at regional level – which regions?
- Funding for regional activity



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