

Enterprise Newsletter

November 2021

Print friendly version

Contents

Brexit Impact Loan Scheme

Changes to the Employment Permits System in Ireland

Public Consultation: EU Proposal for a Foreign Subsidies Regulation

NSAI Webinar: Hydrogen Research and Standards

Central Statistics Office - Pulse Survey: Our Lives Online

Knowledge Transfer Ireland launches the Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey 2020

Brexit Impact Loan Scheme

The Brexit Impact Loan Scheme makes available up to €330m in lending to eligible Brexit-impacted SMEs and small mid-caps. This scheme is a successor to the Brexit Loan Scheme, with the important distinctions that loans are now for up to six years (rather than three) and primary producers (farmers and fishers) may now apply for lending under the scheme. Finance provided under the scheme is competitively priced and offered at favourable terms.

Loan features under the scheme:

- Range from €25,000 to €1.5m
- Are available for terms of up to six years
- Are available without security where the loan amount is less than €500,000
- Typically feature a lower interest rate than other comparable lending in the market

For full information on the Brexit Impact Loan Scheme, please visit the following link: [Brexit Impact Loan Scheme](#)

Changes to the Employment Permits System in Ireland

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, has announced comprehensive changes to the employment permits system in Ireland for workers from outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).

The changes address skills and labour shortages in Construction, Logistics, Hospitality and the Agri-food sectors.

The main changes include:

- Most construction sector jobs now eligible for a General Employment Permit
- Quota to be removed for HGV driver work permits
- 350 General Employment Permits for hospitality managers
- Social Workers to be eligible for Critical Skills Employment Permit
- Dispensing Opticians to be eligible for General Employment Permit
- New General Employment Permit quotas for 1,000 Horticulture Operatives, 500 Meat Deboners, 1,500 Meat Processing

- operatives and 100 Dairy Farm Assistants; with a strategic review of labour attraction and retention in the sector to follow
- New General Employment Permit quota of 100 for Work Riders

[Changes to the Employment Permits System in Ireland](#)

Public Consultation: EU Proposal for a Foreign Subsidies Regulation

The Competition and Consumer Policy Unit in the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment has opened a public consultation on an EU proposal for a Regulation on Foreign Subsidies Distorting the Internal Market. The proposed Regulation would give the Commission additional powers to ensure a level playing field between European companies and foreign-backed companies.

The proposed rules would allow for the countering of subsidies, which are granted by non-EU governments to companies operating in the EU, that distort the EU Single Market. Existing EU State Aid rules dealing with public support granted by EU Member State governments do not apply to public support given by non-EU governments; the proposed rules aim to fill this perceived regulatory gap.

This consultation consists of a paper outlining the contents of the proposal and a number of questions to assist the Department in both considering the proposal and participating in the negotiations in Brussels.

Closing date: Thursday, 2 December 2021

[Public Consultation on EU Proposal for a Foreign Subsidies Regulation](#)

NSAI Webinar: Hydrogen Research and Standards

Tuesday, 30 November 2021 at 12.00pm

The [National Standards Authority of Ireland](#) (NSAI) and Gas Networks Ireland invite you to a webinar on Hydrogen Research and Standards - Making the connection between hydrogen research and standards.

The NSAI aims to increase Ireland's pool of knowledge relating to hydrogen standardisation, drawing on the widest possible panel of experts including Irish academia, think tanks and research bodies. Collaborating with NSAI's counterparts across Europe, these experts will then work to create a new and improved suite of hydrogen standards.

This new venture aligns with the Government's commitment to invest into the research and development of hydrogen energy, and ultimately, it will facilitate informed decision making around standards for the use of this new fuel.

Speakers include:

- **Alice Hanly**, GTSC Technical Secretary, NSAI
- **Paul Killeen**, Standards Development, NSAI
- **Ali Ekhtiar**, UCD
- **Niamh Conroy**, Hydrogen Standardisation Expert, NSAI

[Webinar registration](#)

Central Statistics Office - Pulse Survey: Our Lives Online

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has launched its latest Pulse Survey.

The theme of the survey is "Our Lives Online" where CSO will pose questions relating to the experience of aspects of day-to-day life online such as in the areas of working, shopping, socialising and education.

To begin the survey or to find out more information, please click on the link below.

[CSO Survey – Our Lives Online](#)

Knowledge Transfer Ireland launches the Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey 2020

[Knowledge Transfer Ireland](#) (KTI), has announced the results of their Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey (AKTS) 2020. The AKTS is an annual scorecard for Ireland's knowledge transfer community and assesses the status of collaboration between industry and publicly funded research in Ireland.

Some of the findings include:

- Irish knowledge transfer community brought 247 new innovative products and services to market
- Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey highlights strong performance of sector in 2020
- 3,681 new engagements with public research - up 39% on previous year
- Three quarters of R&D agreements are with Irish SMEs
- Record number of spin-out company acquisitions (9) with a combined value of €7.9m

[The 2020 Annual Knowledge Transfer Survey \(.pdf\)](#)