

ACTION PLAN FOR JOBS 2013



Third Progress Report

Action Plan for Jobs 2013 – Third Progress Report

Table of Contents

Commentary	3
Disruptive Reforms	15
Pathways to Work	25
Access to Finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	26
Building Competitive Advantage	29
Driving Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Companies	47
Assisting Indigenous Business to Grow	50
Developing and Deepening the Impact of Foreign Direct Investment	54
Supporting Employment at the Community and Local Level	56
Sectoral Opportunities	59

Commentary

This is the third report of 2013 from the Monitoring Committee established by Government to monitor and drive implementation of the measures contained in the *Action Plan for Jobs 2013*. It outlines progress made on measures due for completion in the third quarter of 2013. The Monitoring Committee comprises representatives of the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Forfás, and the Office of the Tánaiste.

The Government published the second in its multi-annual *Action Plan for Jobs* series in February this year. This Plan, which contains 333 actions to be implemented in 2013 by all Government Departments and 46 agencies, will build on the progress made in 2012 and continue to improve supports for job-creating businesses and remove the barriers to employment-creation across the economy. These actions are additional to the 249 actions already implemented under *Action Plan for Jobs 2012*, and reported on by the Monitoring Committee in its previous four quarterly reports (see www.djei.ie). In a departure from the 2012 plan, *Action Plan for Jobs 2013* contains seven headline ‘Disruptive Reform’ measures – these are high-impact measures with highly ambitious deadlines, implemented in partnership with senior industry partners and selected because of their potential to have a significant effect on job-creation.

Actions due in Quarter 3

In the third quarter of 2013, Departments and agencies were to deliver 122 measures under the Action Plan. Some 20 of the measures due in Quarter 3 2013 have not been delivered on schedule, giving a completion rate of 84%. In delivering 102 third quarter measures under the Plan, the Government has, for example:

- As part of Disruptive Reform 1 – Big Data
 - The new Taskforce has received proposals from a number of consortia that have expressed interest in undertaking pilot projects in Big Data and data analytics that demonstrate direct economic impact and/or that support the delivery of public services. (Action 3)
- As part of Disruptive Reform 2 – ICT Skills
 - Designed, tested and rolled out a unified employment permits application e-form, which will ultimately make it easier for clients to complete, resulting in greater accuracy and better data quality. (Action 21)

- As part of Disruptive Reform 3 – Integrated Licences
 - Progressed the building of the Integrated Licensing Application System, as part of the eGovernment Strategy. (Action 34)
- As part of Disruptive Reform 4 – Trading Online
 - Designed the detailed operational arrangements for the Business On-Line voucher scheme to be applied to the pilot phase of the initiative. (Action 38)
- As part of Disruptive Reform 5 – JobsPlus
 - Developed promotional campaigns to support take-up of the new initiative amongst employers. (Action 42)
- As part of Disruptive Reform 7 – National Health Innovation Hub
 - Analysed feedback from enterprise and health system interests and identified initial areas of focus for the Hub. (Action 49)

And more broadly, in Quarter 3 the Government has for example:

- Met with banks to ensure that the pillar banks are complying with their obligations to sanction an aggregate €8bn to SMEs in 2013, and confirmed that banks are on schedule to meet 2013 targets. (Actions 59, 60)
- Launched the national Late Payments Information Campaign to highlight the issue of late payments amongst public authorities, businesses and other interested parties. (Action 75)
- Appointed a Central Technology Transfer Office director to ensure that the research from Ireland's third level institutions is fully utilised, leading to further job creation and advancements in Irish industry's innovative capability. (Action 81)
- Established a project team within the Marine Institute to lead the development of an Integrated Marine Research and Innovation Plan (2014-20). (Action 114)
- Started a national broadband mapping exercise which will determine where State intervention is required. (Action 151)
- Begun the roll-out of the National Metering Programme, with almost 400 new jobs established to date in rolling out the metering programme and the associated call centre. (Action 154)
- Commenced the introduction of biometric checks and rollout of the pilot common visa programme between Ireland and the UK for tourists and business visitors. (Action 164)
- Reviewed and enhanced the effectiveness of the visa scheme to attract investors. (Action 218)

- Commenced the liberal multi-entry visa regime for regular business and tourist visitors from India. (Action 219)
- Begun roll-out of the After-School Child Care Scheme which provides after school childcare places targeted at primary school children whose parents have taken up employment opportunities. (Action 235)
- Invested more than €35m in 13 projects under the Beef and Sheep Meat Capital Investment Fund to support capital investments, that seek to better utilise the overall industry capacity through increased scale in primary processing, increased added value in further processing and improved efficiencies to allow Irish companies compete internationally. (Action 266)
- Established a new Construction Sector Consultation and Coordination Group as a forum for engagement with the industry to help improve the sector. (Action 292)
- Progressed the work of the Inter Departmental Group on Retail including meetings with, and submissions from, the main bodies representing the retail sector and other stakeholders, including practitioners, business representative bodies, workers representatives and the INOU. (Action 309)

However, as stated above, 20 of the measures outlined in the Plan have not been delivered on schedule:

1. *Achieve reduction of 33% in processing time for employment permits applications – Action 23.* Progress has been made to reduce the waiting time for processing employment permit applications. The average waiting time for an employment permit application that arrived in the Section in January 2013 was 36 days. This had fallen to 26 days by September 2013, representing an average wait time reduction of 27% since the start of 2013.
2. *Establish an Energy Efficiency Fund to support innovative energy efficiency in the public and commercial sectors – Action 44.* The call for expressions of interest in the establishment of the Fund was published in August. The expressions of interest received are in the process of being reviewed and evaluated which should allow for the establishment of the Fund in Q4.
- 3 **and** 4. *Set targets for Irish participation in EU Horizon 2020, successor to FP7, commencing Jan 2014; Develop strategy to maximise benefits for the enterprise sector and jobs in Ireland – Action 89.* Development of the Horizon 2020 Strategy and setting of target for Irish participation are underway and now expected to be completed by early December. Commencement of target setting was contingent on appointment of new National Support Structure, which was delayed due to agreement on Horizon 2020

proposals and budget allocation not being finalised for some time after political agreement was reached in June.

- 5. and 6.** *Agree and sign Ministerial Order for Codes of Practice relating to Sunday Working and the standardisation of benefits (i.e. overtime) with the goal of enhancing labour market competitiveness* – Action 116. Work on the preparation of the Codes of Practice by the Labour Relations Commission was delayed pending publication by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation of the Labour Court Review of remaining Joint Labour Committees. Implications of the Supreme Court judgment in the McGowan case also had to be considered. The Labour Court Report was published on October 1st 2013 and the process of consultation with stakeholders on the codes of practice will recommence shortly.
- 7.** *Enact and implement the Valuations Bill in order to accelerate the revaluation of properties for commercial rates purposes* – Action 120. Progress on this measure has been delayed as Parliamentary Draftsman resources were allocated to other priority legislation and were not available in the second quarter to progress this Bill. Complex issues arising in the rollout of the Revaluation Programme also have to be taken into account. While the purpose of the Bill is to accelerate the Revaluation Programme, the delay in enactment has not prevented significant progress on revaluations by the Valuation Office.
- 8.** *Publish legislation to provide, inter alia, for the merger of the National Consumer Agency and the Competition Authority to take advantage of the complementarities and interdependence between consumer and competition policies* – Action 127. In spite of the substantial progress made, it was not possible to publish the Bill in Quarter 3. However, it is anticipated that the Bill will be published in Quarter 4.
- 9. and 10.** *Complete passage through the Houses of the Oireachtas and signing of Regulations in support of the Employment Permit Bill 2013* – Action 145. The Bill has been drafted and circulated for Ministerial Observations. Work is continuing on a number of additional provisions to be included in the Bill. It is intended that the Bill will go to Government in December.
- 11.** *Licence Phase 1 development and rollout of an IT-based road management and utility licensing system to standardise approach for utilities, including Irish Water, to improve efficiency* – Action 157. The initial pilot phase identified a number of technical and other issues that require to be addressed and which are likely to impact on the timescale for delivery of this action. Since becoming aware of these issues, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has met with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) (managing the development of the system). An approach has been agreed to facilitate the rollout in the coming weeks of the full existing national standardised system to some Local Authorities (preferably with an urban/rural spread) commensurate with the necessary availability of broadband to support access to the centralised IT licensing system. Amendments/updates can be issued subsequently to

refine/amend the system as time progresses and the system is deployed on a wider basis. The Department is engaging with the LGMA at the highest levels to ensure adherence with the agreed deliverables.

- 12.** *Provide assistance with the passage of the Workplace Relations Bill through the legislative process to give effect to the new structures – Action 167.* The Bill was approved for priority drafting by Cabinet in July, 2012 and was included on the 'A' list for the Government's Autumn Legislative Programme 2013. The Department continued to engage with the Attorney General's Office to progress the drafting of the Bill during Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 2013. However, the target timescale of having the Bill published and enacted by the end of Quarter 3 2013 was not achievable. The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is committed to the publication and enactment of the legislation at an early date with a view to having the proposed new Workplace Relations structures in place from 2014.
- 13. 14 and 15.** *Launch the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) website, establish all LEOs on an administrative basis, and enact legislation allowing for the dissolution of the County Enterprise Boards (CEBs) and the formal establishment of the LEOs – Action 173.* The website project Steering Group has met on a regular basis and implementation planning is well underway. A tender for the design and development of the new national LEO website to replace the 35 separate County and City Enterprise Board (CEB) websites has been awarded and the estimated date for completion of the design and build is mid-December.

The Implementation Working Group (IWG), chaired by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation continues to direct and oversee the establishment of the new national infrastructure. Work is ongoing at local level between CEOs of CEBs and Local Authority County Managers on practical administrative arrangements regarding locations, accommodation and structures for the LEOs. A number of 'advance LEOs' have been identified with a view to establishing these offices informally ahead of the legal transfer of functions.

Finally, the County Enterprise Boards (Dissolution) Bill, 2013 was approved by the Government and published in July, 2013. In spite of significant progress on this commitment, it has not been possible to meet the Quarter 3 target for enactment. The Bill has completed its passage through the Seanad and the Department is awaiting the allocation of a date for its introduction to the Dáil. It is anticipated that the legislation will be enacted by year end.

- 16.** *Roll out Competitive Regional Feasibility funds to the South West – Action 180.* There will not be a specific call for the South West (Cork and Kerry) this year. However Kerry, which is in the South West region, was eligible to apply for the Mid West call earlier this year. Discussions are advanced in relation to having a call specifically for County Cork before the end of 2013. Throughout 2013, a number of Regional Competitive Feasibility Funds have been launched.

17. *Agree modifications and plan of action to enhance existing programmes including management development programmes and Excellence Through People, to deliver to the needs of foreign owned firms – Action 244.* This action is inherently linked to Action 189 which relates to the development of sectoral strategies in the first instance. While strategies have been developed, they require formal sign-off at Board level by both Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland which will take place in Quarter 4 of 2013. The leadership and management capabilities will then be determined at which time the above action can be undertaken without delay.
18. *Complete first round of recruitment (5 posts) in the Marine Institute in the areas of fisheries management, environment & food safety, oceanography, mapping and modelling – Action 258.* Work continues to fill five externally-funded research contract posts. An offer of appointment has been made for the specialist post Bayesian Statistician and the recruitment process is being initiated for 3 other posts (1 administrative post and 2 specialist posts for remote sensing and data collection framework research vessel operations). There has been a delay in filling the final post (research vessel operations) which is commercially funded.
19. *Launch a sustainability and quality scheme and commence farm audits now that audit infrastructure and training is completed. Build scheme into Origin Green communications programme – Action 263.* Pilot audits and training have been undertaken, but the more extensive consultations, requested by industry itself (44 audits rather than the 2 pilot envisaged), have delayed the launch. Work on these audits has now been completed and the final decision from the Irish National Accreditation Board on accreditation is expected following their board meeting of 3rd December. Accreditation is an integral element of the Origin Green process and the programme will be announced in Quarter 4 2013, with launch and roll-out in Q1 2014.
20. *Bring a memorandum to Government on a proposal for domestic financing mechanism (PAYS) to stimulate Energy Efficiency projects in the domestic consumer market – Action 279.* The final Better Energy Financing Board meeting took place on October 15th with papers in the final stages of drafting ahead of formal submission to the Minister. Following appropriate considerations, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources will bring forward a Memorandum for Government for decision.

Update on actions delayed from Quarters 1 and 2

Three of the measures outlined in the Plan for completion by the end of Quarter 1 remained outstanding at the end of Quarter 2, and one is still outstanding as of end Quarter 3:

1. *Complete the licensing process to enable development of the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS) at Belmullet – Action 103.* A Natura Impact Statement is required due to the decision of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to propose the

designation of the ‘West Connacht Coast’ site as a Special Area of Conservation in respect of the Bottlenose Dolphin. As yet the applicant (SEAI) has failed to submit the required Natura Impact Statement, meaning the consent process cannot proceed.

The other two previously delayed Quarter 1 measures have now both been completed.

1. The Copyright Review Committee has completed the evaluation and analysis of the submissions received on their consultation paper and the final report has been prepared for Government. (Action 90)
2. The general scheme of a Bill to integrate the foreshore consent process under the Foreshores Act 1933 with the existing on-land planning system has been approved by Government and published on the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government’s website. (Action 104)

In addition, as reported at the end of the second quarter, twenty of the measures outlined in the Plan for completion by the end of Quarter 2 were not delivered on schedule. While twelve of these have since been delivered (see below), eight measures due by the end of June 2013 are still outstanding at the end of Quarter 2. These are:

1. *Complete and publish the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP) – Action 102.* Following a recent Government Decision on key policy supports for offshore renewable energy, the OREDPP is being finalised for publication early in Quarter 4.
2. *Publish the draft employment permits legislation to provide for more flexibility and targeted instruments in support of the economy’s evolving skills needs – Action 145.* The Bill has been drafted and circulated for Ministerial Observations. Work is continuing on a number of additional provisions to be included in the Bill. It is intended that the Bill will go to Government in December.
3. *Implement expansion of the call-centre to improve the employment permits system and the supporting policies and procedures – Action 147.* Planning is at an advanced stage. The Workplace Relations Customer Service (WRCS) will be taking calls in relation to employment permit queries. Training requirements and the necessary changes to the Employment Permits Management System to provide WRCS with access to information on employment permits have been identified. A new online system for lodging of workplace relations complaints (i.e. the Rights Commissioner, Equality Tribunal and the NERA Inspection complaints) to the WRCS was launched on September 30th.

Once this system has been fully established, it will free up capacity in the WRCS call centre for the handling of Employment Permits queries. It is intended that employment permit queries will be handled by the WRCS call centre during Quarter 4.

4. *Enact legislation to (i) put NewERA on a statutory footing, (ii) create a strategic investment fund (absorbing NPRF assets) with an Ireland-focused investment mandate, (iii) streamline governance processes in the NTMA. This will facilitate a redeployment of*

NPRF resources to areas of strategic importance – Action 150. The Heads of Bill were approved by Government in April and are currently with the Office of the Attorney General for drafting. It is Government's intention that the proposals contained in the Bill will be effected later this year.

5. *Examine bus market to open PSO routes post 2014* – Action 162. The National Transport Authority (NTA) is currently considering how best publicly subvented PSO bus services will be provided in the future. The direct award contracts for the provision of PSO bus market services held by Dublin Bus and Bus Éireann expire late next year. The NTA is now undertaking a statutory public consultation on these proposals which have been prepared in accordance with Section 52 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008, and written submissions or observations were due on October 11th 2013. The NTA expect to announce its decision on how it intends to proceed before the end of the year.
6. *Continue to engage with the Attorney General's Office and to provide any assistance required to progress the drafting of the legislation with a view to having the Workplace Relations Bill published* – Action 167. The Bill was approved for priority drafting by Cabinet in July 2012 and was included on the 'A' list for the Government's Autumn Legislative Programme 2013. The Department continued to engage with the Attorney General's Office to progress the drafting of the Bill during Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 2013. However, the target timescale of having the Bill published and enacted by the end of Quarter 3 2013 was not achievable. The Minister is committed to the publication and enactment of the legislation at an early date with a view to having the proposed new Workplace Relations structures in place from 2014.
7. *Identify relevant programmes, including management development programmes and Excellence Through People, and assess eligibility criteria in the context of extending the programmes to a broader cohort of firms* – Action 244. The Excellence Through People programme is currently available to both indigenous and foreign owned firms. The National Standards Authority of Ireland completed its review of the Excellence Through People scheme earlier in the year and is planning an information morning in Quarter 4 2013. The aim of the session is to update the knowledge of existing users and inform others of the benefits of Excellence Through People as a credible means of work enhancement and staff engagement in the current economic and employment climate. Invitations will be sent to companies on the IDA Ireland list at the beginning of Quarter 4.
8. *Complete the processing of the Bord Iascaigh Mhara licence application in respect of Galway Bay* – Action 259. Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) has submitted an application for an aquaculture licence for the cultivation of finfish near Inis Oirr in Galway Bay. In accordance with the provisions of the 1997 Fisheries (Amendment) Act, this application and its accompanying Environmental Impact Statement is currently being considered in conjunction with scientific and technical advisors. In addition, a number of legal issues

are currently under detailed examination by the Department and the Office of the Attorney General. It is likely that the earliest timeline for completion will be Quarter 4.

The remaining twelve actions delayed in Quarter 2 have now been completed.

- 1.** The viability of a trusted partner system for Employment Permits (Action 28) has been agreed and it has been decided to establish the system on a trial basis. It was necessary to obtain legal advice prior to the setting up of the trial system. Planning has commenced on the implementation of the necessary changes. The tasks to be completed for the trusted partner registration system include the identification of categories of employers most suitable for registration and the application process for such employers. There are also system changes required and resource requirements. These changes will be implemented during Quarter 4.
- 2.** Under Action 30, the first of the staff exchanges between the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) took place in September. During Quarter 4, further staff exchanges are planned. Approximately ten staff from the Employment Permits Section will take part in the exchange with a view to improving their understanding of DJE processes so that coherence between the employment permit regime and the immigration/visa regime is further enhanced.
- 3.** As part of Action 84, the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act 2013 was enacted in October 2013. The Act extends the remit of the Foundation to enable SFI to (i) fund applied research, and take the outcome of SFI-funded research closer to market; (ii) broaden its programme offerings to cover the 14 research priority areas; (iii) provide funding on an all-Island basis for the first time, subject to excellence and strategic criteria being met; and (iv) enter (subject to Ministerial consent) collaborative arrangements with international partners. The Act also provides a legislative basis for SFI to provide funding to promote the study of, education in and awareness of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- 4.** The new National Support Structure (National Contact Points and National Delegates) have now been appointed under Action 89 and in line with the new structure of Horizon 2020.
- 5.** The purpose of the Competitive Start Fund is to accelerate the growth of start-up companies that have the capability to succeed in global markets. Enterprise Ireland's Quarter 2 deliverable under Action 180 was to roll out a Competitive Feasibility Fund in the Mid-West region. This was achieved in Quarter 3. Applicants were invited to apply as of September 16th and the process closed in early October.
- 6.** Under Action 234 and in line with the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Group, all Department of Social Protection local offices have been reminded of the guidelines for jobseekers seeking to partake in voluntary work, to increase staff awareness of the option. The relevant circular was issued to staff in July.

7. Action 237, delayed in Quarter 2, related to the Friendly Societies and Industrial Provident Societies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which was published in July. It is anticipated that the Bill will move to Second Stage in Quarter 4.
8. and 9. There are two measures delayed under Action 238 in the last quarter which have subsequently been completed. The Forfás report - *Social Enterprise in Ireland: Sectoral Opportunities and Policy Issues* - was published by Forfás in July, following its noting by Government. The report contains over 20 recommendations on fostering the development of the sector in Ireland. The report is available on Forfás' website, www.forfas.ie. In noting the Forfás report at Government, the Taoiseach asked the Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock, TD, to personally coordinate the development of the Social Enterprise sector in Ireland on a cross-Departmental basis.
10. Under Action 224, ten Local Authority Areas are currently in the process of establishing 'Frontrunner' Socio-Economic Committees. These areas include: Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Cork County Council, Limerick City and County Councils, Galway County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Leitrim County Council and Offaly County Council. Preparatory work is well underway in all of these areas and it is anticipated that most Frontrunner SECs have their first meeting early in Quarter 4.
11. *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to finalise farm standard for the dairy sector and submit to Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB)* – Action 263. The draft standard has been developed with industry and other stakeholders. Following 2 pilot audits, the TAC developed the standard and presented it to the boards of the co-ops. The dairy industry requested that individual trials be carried out for each co-operative area - 44 in all. These have now been completed and submitted to INAB for accreditation.
12. As called for under Action 316, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has commissioned research and is currently promoting best practice and providing training seminars in upgrading traditionally built buildings to ensure that they are not damaged by inappropriate works. The training element is linked to advanced craft skills development in the built heritage conservation sector with the potential for employment and career development opportunities in the energy efficiency sector. In 2013, the Department is co-funding specific research which will contribute to more skilled expertise in this area. The Department is considering further actions in this area in 2014.

Early impacts of actions taken in 2013

The Action Plan for Jobs is a rolling plan and, above all, a plan that will be judged on its results and impacts. In this context, some early stage impacts are being seen linked to the

implementation of measures in the Plan aimed at enhancing the operating environment for firms. For example:

- An additional 1,150 ICT graduates with awards at honours degree level 8+ will be available in 2013 from the Springboard/ICT graduate conversion programmes and a further 500 ICT graduates with awards at levels 6 and 7. (Actions 13-17)
- More than 760 new places were made available under the second phase of the ICT graduate skills conversion programmes launched in February 2013. Almost 630 of these places have now been filled. In addition, over 6,000 higher education places for unemployed and previously self employed people have been rolled out under the third phase of Springboard, including over 2,000 places on Springboard ICT courses. More than 5,000 of the new Springboard places had been filled by the start of October 2013. (Action 15)
- Over 4,000 teachers in 230 primary schools registered for Continual Professional Development (CPD) training in the Discover Primary Science and Maths (DPSM) national programme for 2013/14. This represents a considerable increase in demand from primary schools compared to previous years and is considerably higher than the planned 1,000 places. DPSM is the national programme to foster interest in science, technology, engineering and maths among children in primary schools. Science Foundation Ireland has run Train the Trainer sessions for 17 trainers, and now plans to run additional sessions to meet the significant demand for CPD training places from schools. (Action 96)
- Over 600 people have engaged with the *ManagementWorks* training and development programmes to help SMEs to improve their performance through seeking to build their managerial capability. 52% of participants had not been involved in previous management training programmes. Already 25 companies have reported that participation had led to 27 full-time and 26 part-time jobs being created. A further 180 full-time and 100 part-time jobs had been retained. (Action 130)
- Close to 400 new jobs have been established to date in rolling out the water metering programme and the associated call centre. The roll-out will lead to considerable new employment opportunities from 2013 totalling 2,000 jobs when fully operational. (Action 155)
- Ireland was promoted by the enterprise development agencies as a location for overseas entrepreneurs and emerging businesses at Tech Crunch, San Francisco. Tech Crunch Disrupt is an annual technology conference that combines thought-leader discussions with new product and company launches. EI/IDA hosted the speaker's dinner on the second day of the event, which was attended by 110 high profile people within the tech industry. (Action 183)
- Of the 10 Female Competitive Start Fund (CSF) applicants that received early stage seed funding in February 2012, a large number of those companies are projected to

significantly build their businesses in 2014 and to seek additional HPSU (High Potential Start-up) funding to grow and scale their businesses. Of the 20 Feasibility Grants awarded in 2012 to female entrepreneurs, 8 have had significant growth and have successfully competed and been awarded CSF funding in 2013. (Action 184)

- 83 new jobs have been created under the Succeed in Ireland initiative by four companies that are establishing new operations in Cork and Dublin; Sound & Sea Technologies creating 55 new jobs in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork; IA (Improv Asylum) Innovation creating 12 jobs in Dublin; Strategic Marketing Innovations (SMI) creating 10 jobs; and the Bayne Law Group creating 6 jobs in Cork City. (Action 201)
- The largest annual gathering of internationalising Irish companies was held in September as part of the International Markets Week. This is an annual event that allows companies to meet the Enterprise Ireland overseas representatives to discuss how each company can be assisted to develop and increase their business in overseas markets. Over 2,200 meetings took place at the event with 647 companies participating. (Action 203)
- The Youth Day Event took place in May and marked the start of European Youth Week in Ireland. This marked a celebration of quality in Irish youth projects and in international youth work. Some 300 people attended including young people, volunteers, youth workers etc. (Action 234)
- Some 19 significant investments in the food and drink sector have been achieved in the first half of 2013, of which three are foreign direct investments. Between them, these companies have committed to creating 580 new jobs. (Action 252)
- Data for the first eight months of the year show the number of visitors to Ireland up by 6.5%. Within this, the number of visits from Great Britain was up by 3.7%, mainland Europe was up by 4.8%, North America was up by 16.5%, while for other long haul markets there was a 11.3% increase. Data for Quarter 1 2013 shows total expenditure by overseas visitors in Ireland (excluding fares) was €541 million, an increase of 12% on the same period in 2012. Tourism Ireland continues to focus on key markets with a new suite of 30 websites (www.ireland.com) in 11 languages being rolled out during 2013. (Action 303)

Overall, the 2013 Plan, the second instalment in an ambitious multi-year process, aims to create the environment where the number of people at work will increase by 100,000 by 2016, and reach 2 million people by 2020. While unemployment remains high, there are signs of progress in the labour market. The latest data shows that there was an annual increase in employment of 1.8% or 33,800 in the year to the second quarter of 2013. Total employment now stands at 1,866,100 (seasonally adjusted), or 18,300 more people at work than when the Action Plan for Jobs process began in Quarter 1 2012.

Disruptive Reforms

Disruptive Reform 1: Build on our existing enterprise strengths to make Ireland a leading country in Europe on “Big Data”

Action 2: Undertake an assessment of existing and planned initiatives across Government and the private sector that can contribute to Ireland’s reputation as a leader in the areas of data analytics and Big Data.

Q3 Measure: Working with the Joint Industry-Government Big Data Taskforce, Forfás/DJEI will collate information on significant initiatives in the area of data analytics and Big Data (Forfás, DJEI)

Update: Complete

The Industry-Government Taskforce on Big Data was established in July 2013. Prior to the establishment of the Taskforce, a working party met with a range of stakeholders from industry, academia and Government Departments and agencies involved in the areas of Big Data and data analytics. Through these engagements, a number of existing initiatives and activities in the area of Big Data/data analytics were identified. A Forfás document bringing together this information was presented to the Taskforce and is now being used as a resource within the Taskforce, which is currently charged with identifying a number of additional pilot projects and other steps that can be taken to further enhance Ireland’s strength in this area.

The Forfás document presented to the Taskforce categorises existing initiatives under three broad headings:

- Publicly funded R&D centres supporting Big Data and data analytics;
- Provision of higher education courses directly supporting Big Data and data analytics;
- Examples of other projects and initiatives involving the public and private sector in Big Data and data analytics.

Action 3: In the context of assessment in Action 2, identify and commence at least 2 new pilot initiatives whereby data analytics will be employed to address specific challenges delivering economic impact and/or improved public services.

Q3 Measure: Based on Forfás/DJEI analysis the Taskforce will identify pilot projects which should be progressed (Taskforce)

Update: Complete

The Taskforce has received proposals from a number of consortia that have expressed interest in undertaking pilot projects in Big Data and data analytics that demonstrate direct economic impact and/or that support the delivery of public services.

The Taskforce has identified two specific initiatives to take forward:

- The first initiative relates to the application of Big Data in an agricultural setting – the projects within this initiative will explore the commercial impact of Big Data solutions aimed at optimising farming production;
- The second initiative relates to the use of data analytics to support policy-making in respect of labour market activation in Ireland.

Enterprise Ireland also launched a call for expressions of interest in Big Data/Data Analytics projects under the Innovation Partnership Programme and, arising from this, a number of other pilot projects should be identified by end of Q4 2013.

The Taskforce will use learnings from these pilot initiatives to inform its future work. Additional pilot projects may also be launched under the aegis of the Taskforce before the end of 2013.

Q3 Measure: DJEI/Forfás to bring proposal to Government on two proposed pilot initiatives to seek necessary commitment and resources (DJEI, Forfás)

Update: Complete

A Government decision has not been required to date as the projects identified will be supported from existing funding lines. As these pilots (and/or other pilots identified by the Taskforce) develop, proposals may be brought to Government if required.

Action 6: Through the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation we will further develop a critical mass of research activity and scale in the area of “Data Analytics, Management, Security and Privacy” in line with Government’s priority areas for R&D.

Q3 Measure: Launch hosting call for Technology centre (EI, IDA)

Update: Complete

The hosting call, inviting interested parties to tender for the Technology Centre, has taken place and proposals are currently being reviewed. Recommendations will be submitted to

Enterprise Ireland's Board in Q4. Data Analytics is about the conversion of large amounts of raw data into valuable information through the use of statistical techniques and advanced software. The initial research phase of the Technology Centre in Data Analytics called CeADAR, the Centre for Applied Data Analytics Research, an Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland initiative, will aim to make Ireland a world leader in this area.

Data Analytics is a key target sector identified as a Disruptive Reform in the Government's Action Plan for Jobs 2013, growing at 40% per annum worldwide and offering major potential to Ireland due to established advantages in this area. Establishing an industry-led Data Analytics Technology Centre to work on developing viable business tools in this emerging area is one of the major actions aimed at realising this potential.

Action 10: NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland) to identify appropriate mechanisms whereby Ireland can help to lead standards development activities linked to areas of data analytics/Big Data prioritised by the enterprise sector in Ireland; mobilise enterprise involvement in the appropriate working groups.

Q3 Measure: Seek to join and actively participate in ISO IEC JTC1/WG5 on the technical management, scoping, and issue delineation of related ICT standardisation work (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The international standardisation organisations' (International Organisation for Standardisation - ISO and International Electrotechnical Commission - IEC) Joint Technical Committee 1 (JTC 1) is the international standards development environment where experts come together to develop worldwide information and communications technology standards for business and consumer applications.

The Chairman of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) ICT Standards Consultative Committee (from Microsoft) joined the newly formed Special Working Group, set up to deal with strategic elements of the complete JTC 1 work programme.

A number of preparatory meetings, in January and June, culminated in a 2-day meeting of the Special Working Group in August 2013 to progress the report on objectives, membership and operating procedures for the group. This report was sent for ratification at the plenary meeting in November 2013 which will be attended by the Chairman and Technical Secretary of the NSAI ICT Standards Consultative Committee.

Additionally, the NSAI Technical Secretary has been appointed to the Task Force on Big Data which held its first meeting on September 10th 2013.

Action 11: Undertake a detailed assessment of the demand for data analytics and related skills to build on existing estimates and to explore the precise qualifications required, map the skills needs against existing programmes and take action through existing mechanisms to address gaps between supply and demand.

Q3 Measure: Complete research and consultancy work (Forfás, EGFSN)

Update: Complete

Research work on data analytics skills categories, baseline employment, demand and supply in Ireland, encompassing information on course provision and analytics utilisation, has been completed. Consultation with companies and stakeholders is ongoing.

The final report with recommendations to address gaps between the supply and demand for data analytics and related skills will be completed in Q4 2013 in line with the commitments in the Action Plan for Jobs.

Disruptive Reform 2: Make Ireland the most attractive location in the world for ICT Skills availability ensuring continued success of the ICT sector

Improving domestic pipeline

Action 13: Continue delivery of all aspects of the current ICT Action Plan and development of new responses, actions and timelines in line with emerging needs.

Q3 Measure: Complete an evaluation of the first phase of the ICT graduate conversion programmes (DES, HEA)

Update: Complete

In order to fully assess the impact of the ICT up-skilling and conversion courses that have been introduced in response to industry demand, and to inform funding decisions for 2014, it was decided to complete a wider evaluation that also encompassed the ICT programmes provided under Springboard. A draft report on the evaluation has now been received.

Action 18: Promote ICT professionalism through use of the European e-Competence Framework at an EU and national level.

Q3 Measure: Raise awareness of the European e-Competence Framework in Ireland through industry events (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) has met with representatives of the Irish Computer Society and the Health Informatics Society of Ireland to raise awareness about the work of CEN, the European standardisation body, which has established a new project committee (CEN/PC 428) for “Professions for Information and Communications Technology” within the European e-Competence Framework.

A wider programme of awareness raising events will be developed with the industry during Q4.

Action 20: Undertake a study into “Addressing the demand for high-level ICT skills across all sectors of the economy in Ireland.” The primary objective will be to forecast the demand for high-level ICT skills over the period 2013-2018. A related secondary objective is to identify and advise on any additional tailored measure(s) to retain and attract high-level ICT talent to Ireland.

Q3 Measure: Produce final report with recommendations made on any additional measures required to enhance the domestic supply of high-level ICT talent and to retain and attract ICT talent (Forfás, EGFSN)

Update: Complete

This report has been completed. It forecasts the demand to 2018 for computing skills, electronic and electrical engineering skills at NFQ Levels 8, 9 and 10 and makes recommendations on measures required to enhance the domestic supply of high-level ICT talent and to retain and attract ICT talent.

Attracting necessary skills from abroad

Action 21: Introduce a unified employment permits application e-form, which will ultimately make it easier for clients to complete, resulting in greater accuracy and better data quality.

Q3 Measure: Develop and test e-form (DJEI)

Update: Complete

Design of the e-form was completed in Quarter 2. Rigorous testing has been carried out during Q3 on the e-form to ensure that it is functioning and fit for purpose.

Q3 Measure: Roll out e-form (DJEI)

Update: Complete

A first iteration of the e-form is now on the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation website. Further improvements will be made during Q4.

www.djei.ie/publications/labour/2013/employmentpermitseformv1.pdf

Action 23: Update the application criteria for employment permits to reduce processing time by 33%

Q3 Measure: Achieve reduction of 33% in processing time for applications (DJEI)

Update: Delayed

Progress has been made to reduce the waiting time for processing employment permit applications. The average waiting time for an employment permit application that arrived in the Section in January 2013 was 36 days. This had fallen to 26 days by September 2013, representing an average wait time reduction of 27% since the start of 2013.

A significant factor that influenced the non-achievement of the 33% target was the delay in the transfer of the call centre to the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) (see Action 147 below). Further reductions will be achieved once the call centre is transferred to the WRC.

Action 28: Consider the development of a ‘trusted partner’ registration which will provide for the pre-registration of prospective employers which will speed up the processing of applications (by removing the need for duplicated provision of employers’ credentials with each permit application), reduce the ongoing administrative burden on employers and provide greater assurance and clarity to employers in terms of the Employment Permits applications process.

Q3 Measure: Implement changes as necessary (DJEI)

Update: Complete

Implementation of the necessary changes to the Employment Permits processes to facilitate a ‘trusted partner’ registration system commenced in Quarter 3 and will continue during Quarter 4, as envisaged in the Action Plan for Jobs.

The initial task to be completed in Quarter 3 was to identify the categories of employers most suitable for registration in the pilot phase and to identify what declarations would be required from such employers. This has now been done. Full details will be made available when all of the necessary procedural arrangements have been finalised for the ‘trusted partner’ system.

Disruptive Reform 3: Reduce the Administrative Burden on Business through the Introduction of an Integrated Licensing System

Action 34: Progress the building of the Integrated Licensing Application System, as part of the eGovernment Strategy.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (Steering Group Members, Forfás, DJEI, CCMA/Local Authorities, relevant Licensing Authorities)

Update: Complete

Following the progress on the Integrated Licensing Application project outlined in previous progress reports, the Request for Tender (RfT) for an outsourced provision of an Integrated Licensing Application Service is being finalised and will be submitted to Chief States Solicitors Office (CSSO) for final sign off. Subject to approval and final sign-off by the CSSO it is planned that the RfT will be issued in November 2013. An evaluation panel is being established to work through the appraisal process.

Disruptive Reform 4: Increase the number of businesses trading online

Action 38: Design the detailed operational arrangements for the Business On-Line voucher scheme to be applied to the pilot phase of the initiative.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (DCENR, DJEI, EI, Forfás)

Update: Complete

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) has engaged in a consultation and engagement process with public and private sector stakeholders. A steering group has been established to drive delivery of the initiative with the involvement of relevant Government Departments, agencies and high level industry representatives.

Trade on-line vouchers up to a value of €2,500 (to be matched by own investment) will be made available to businesses through the scheme on a competitive basis. The scheme will be supported by a campaign focusing on peer-to-peer activation.

Action 39: Agree an approach, including plans for a promotional campaign, for pilot projects that will maximise the outcomes and learnings from this initial trial phase. Identify suitable projects at regional and/or sectoral level with a target of engaging companies for inclusion in the trial phase of the initiative in 2013.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (DCENR, DJEI, Forfás, industry representatives, regional/sectoral stakeholders)

Update: Complete

The voucher will apply at the point of investment and can be issued to develop an e-commerce infrastructure or an entry onto an existing trading platform. It is envisaged that vouchers could be used for activities ranging from development or upgrade of an e-commerce website, to developing an app, to training/skills development specifically to establish and manage an on-line trading activity. It can also be applied to businesses who will use on-line approaches to the cost side of their business, such as e-banking.

The scheme will be supported by a campaign focusing on peer-to-peer activation which will involve industry. The core of the campaign will be the promotion of the trade on-line voucher and will use a series of 'Winning With Web' case studies in an on and off-line campaign that will include regional outreach.

Action 40: Commence the first phase of the pilot(s) and monitor progress with a view to a significant scaling up of the initiative in 2014.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (DCENR, DJEI, industry representatives)

Update: Complete

The first trial of the trade on-line voucher scheme has commenced as planned. It is based in Dublin, and is administered by the Dublin City Enterprise Board (DCEB). The call for submissions has been advertised by the DCEB to its customer base. The deadline for completed submissions is November 15th 2013. 50 vouchers will be distributed to successful applicants; 25 in Q4 2013 and 25 in Q1 2014.

Disruptive Reform 5: Make it attractive for businesses to hire additional employees from the Live Register through the JobsPlus Initiative

Action 42: Develop promotional campaigns to support take-up of the new initiative amongst employers.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (DSP, DJEI, Business Representative Organisations)

Update: Complete

Awareness campaigns for the JobsPlus initiative began the week before its launch and have continued to target employers and potential employees. JobsPlus information is available in the Department of Social Protection's local offices and arrangements have been made for enterprise agencies to market the initiative to their client companies. The JobsPlus initiative has also been promoted by a range of business representative organisations including the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and IBEC.

Early take up of the initiative has been successful with over 1,000 employers and over 1,700 jobseekers applications deemed eligible. Nearly 500 job matches have been made between employers and eligible jobseekers.

Disruptive Reform 6: Transform Ireland into one of the most energy efficient economies in Europe by 2020

Action 44: Establish an Energy Efficiency Fund to support innovative energy efficiency in the public and commercial sectors.

Q3 Measure: Fund established (NewERA, DCENR)

Update: Delayed

The call for expressions of interest in the establishment of the Fund was published in August. The expressions of interest received under the call are in the process of being reviewed and evaluated, which should allow for the establishment of the Fund in Q4.

Disruptive Reform 7: Establish a world renowned National Health Innovation Hub

Action 49: Engage with relevant stakeholders in order to identify the critical areas of enterprise interest and health system needs in the context of the National Health Innovation Hub (NHIH)

Q3 Measure: Analyse feedback from enterprise and health system interests and identify initial areas of focus for NHIH (DJEI, D/Health, National Project Team)

Update: Complete

Engagement with the enterprise sector has taken place through discussions with a number of Enterprise Ireland client companies. Additional meetings have also taken place with client companies currently working with the demonstrator site throughout Q3. Specific IDA Ireland clients have been introduced to the National Healthcare Innovation Hub (NHIH) to explore potential for collaboration.

In support of the National Research Prioritisation Action Plans, Enterprise Ireland will be conducting a client engagement exercise in Q4 to assess the research and innovation needs of indigenous enterprise. The outputs of this process will also be relevant to the next phase of development of the NHIH. The Demonstrator site has also committed to running an additional call for proposals and this will yield additional information on industry requirements for the NHIH. The National Project team have been kept informed of progress on an ongoing basis.

The NHIH is a joint initiative of the Department of Health and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation which will serve to connect Irish based companies to the innovative capacity of the national healthcare system. The Hub will enable companies and healthcare professionals to work in a collaborative environment to develop novel technologies, products and services for the global healthcare market.

Pathways to Work

Action 52: The Government will continue to roll out the Pathways to Work initiative including the integrated Intreo service during 2013 and will publish quarterly targets by which to measure progress. The targets for 2013 will be published by the end of Q1 2013 and will be reported on quarterly thereafter, starting with the publication of Q1 performance in Q2 2013.

Q3 Measure: Reporting on targets (DSP)

Update: Complete

The report on the Quarter 2 targets was published in Quarter 3 and is available at www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/PTWQ2PerformanceReport.pdf.

Access to Finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Information and Skills

Action 59: Monitor the lending targets for the two pillar banks to €4 billion in 2013.

Q3 Measure: CRO Quarterly Reports (Credit Review Office)

Update: Complete

The latest Credit Review Office Quarterly report was published on September 26th. Banks are on schedule to meet 2013 targets.

Q3 Measure: Meet with pillar banks (D/Finance, Credit Review Office)

Update: Complete

The purpose of this measure is to ensure that the pillar banks are complying with their obligations to sanction an aggregate €8bn to SMEs in 2013.

The Department of Finance met with Bank of Ireland and AIB on September 5th.

Action 60: Detailed data from the pillar banks will be collated and examined, ensuring a more informed understanding of the SME bank lending environment

Q3 Measure: Report on monthly returns from the pillar banks (Credit Review Office, D/Finance)

Update: Complete

The pillar banks have submitted their monthly and quarterly lending returns to date, which have been analysed and reported by the Department of Finance and the Credit Review Office to ensure that the banks are on course to achieve their targets.

Action 62: Examine the practical steps that can be taken in the short and medium term by the State to improve the financial literacy of our micro and small enterprises.

Q3/Q4 Measure: Implement recommendations from review (State Bodies Group)

Update: Complete

An initial paper outlining the extensive range of existing supports in relation to the area of financial literacy and listing a set of proposed actions has been compiled by the Department of Education and Skills. The State Bodies Group is currently finalising the design of the scheme on foot of these recommendations. These actions will be implemented where appropriate in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

Access to Funding Measures

Action 69: Investigate the potential for alternative funding mechanisms including peer to peer lending, supply chain finance and crowdfunding.

Q3 Measure: Explore potential for new and alternative approaches for financing SMEs including new products and make recommendations for consideration by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation / Minister for Finance (State Bodies Group)

Update: Complete

The Department of Finance and the National Pensions Reserve Fund (NPRF) continue to engage with a number of providers in the trade finance/supply chain finance sector with a view to increasing working capital for SMEs.

The SME State Bodies Group hosted a policy day on November 11th where a number of alternative finance providers presented to the Group. The area of potential for new and alternative approaches for financing SMEs continues to be examined by the SME State Bodies Group and will be progressed further in APJ 2014.

Action 73: Develop proposals to incentivise dynamic companies who choose to continue to grow and build scale using the IPO route to raise development finance as an alternative to a trade sale exit.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (D/Finance, DJEI, Forfás, EI)

Update: Complete

A working group comprising of the Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland, Forfás and the Department of Finance was established and has met to develop proposals to incentivise dynamic companies to choose to continue to grow and

build scale using the initial public offering (IPO) route to raise development finance as an alternative to a trade sale exit as per the Action Plan for Jobs 2013. D/JEI also met with the Irish Stock Exchange in this context. A paper outlining draft recommendations from this group was submitted to the State Bodies Group for consideration. The Group will now explore and assess actions and options to foster the IPOs route as an alternative to trade sale exits by year end.

Action 74: Establish a group to review the availability of appropriate finance for international trade.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (DJEI, EI, D/Finance)

Update: Complete

A group comprising the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Finance has been established. This group has been reviewing the availability of appropriate finance for international trade and has been exploring options for additional measures, including with the European Investment Bank, to ensure there is access to working capital to avail of increased export opportunities.

Action 75: Transpose EU Late Payments Directive into Irish legislation.

Q3 Measure: Launch national Late Payments information campaign (DJEI)

Update: Complete

The Minister for Small Business, John Perry, T.D., announced details of a national Late Payments Information Campaign on October 1st. The aim of the information campaign is to highlight the issue of late payments amongst public authorities, businesses and other interested parties. It will provide businesses with information on the recent EU late Payment Directive and measures taken at both national and EU level, to combat this issue.

The Information campaign will consist of a series of seminars in various locations throughout the country. Confirmation of these venues, dates and times will be announced shortly.

Building Competitive Advantage

Research and Innovation to Drive Job Creation

Action 81: Establish a new Central Technology Transfer Office, based in Enterprise Ireland

Q3 Measure: Appoint CTTO Director (EI, with DJEI in conjunction with stakeholders including IUA)

Update: Complete

Dr. Alison Campbell was appointed as Central Technology Transfer Office Director and she commenced her new position in Enterprise Ireland on Monday September 9th. The appointment of Dr. Campbell will help to ensure that the research from Ireland's third level institutions is fully utilised, leading to further job creation and advancements in Irish industry's innovative capability.

The Central Technology Transfer Office will play a key role in the Irish innovation system by providing an interface between companies and the wealth of technology, skills and 'know how' available in the higher education system.

One of the many functions of the new office will be the provision of a central hub that will enable companies to explore, through a web interface, the research resources available to them throughout Ireland.

Action 85: Through SFI, provide support to at least five new Research Centres of major scale. This will involve Government investment of over €150 million and will leverage an industry contribution in excess of 30%. This will bring the total new centres investment to in excess of €200 million.

Q3 Measure: Once awards have been formally agreed with the relevant HEIs, launch individual centres (SFI)

Update: Complete

On February 25th 2013, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) announced the funding of seven new Research Centres with a Government commitment of funds of €200 million over six years. This funding is augmented with an additional €100 million in cash and in-kind contributions from over 150 industry partners.

The Letters of Offer for these Centres were issued in May and June, with start dates for the Centres of June 1st or July 1st.

Q3 Measure: Ensure Intellectual Property agreements are put in place with company partners and cost-share commitments are being met (SFI)

Update: Complete

The host universities of the Centres are currently putting Intellectual Property (IP) agreements in place with their respective industry partners. Once these agreements are signed, they will be submitted to SFI. SFI is monitoring the signing and submission of the IP agreements on an ongoing basis. All IP agreements to be signed will be in compliance with the national IP policies, as documented in the “Putting Public Research to Work for Ireland” document.

With respect to cost-share, each proposal contained letters of support from the industry partners of the Research Centres, clearly stating their contribution to the centre, in terms of cash and in-kind contributions. Starting in 2014, each Centre will report on an annual basis (typically in February of each year) the actual cost-share contributions that it received for the previous year, as well as the committed cost-share contributions for the year ahead. SFI will monitor these cost-share contributions to ensure that a Centre’s obligation of reaching a minimum of 10% cash and 30% overall cost-share (cash and in-kind) is maintained.

Action 87: Through Technology Ireland (TI), ensure enhanced coordination in the sustainability of existing, and planning of future, Research Centres and Technology Centres between SFI, EI, IDA and the HEA and, where appropriate, consider the merging of new or existing centres to form sustainable centres of scale, excellence and relevance to enterprise.

Q3 Measure: Undertake pilot project in therapeutics priority area to maximise synergies between research centres and develop a consolidated branding and marketing message around Ireland’s research strengths in the therapeutics area (DJEI, through Technology Ireland)

Update: Complete

Following identification of the core research centres operating in the therapeutics priority area and supported across the three enterprise agencies a series of meetings were held over Q2/Q3 with the centres and their parent agencies (EI, SFI and IDA).

There was active engagement from these stakeholders and early agreement on using the internationally recognised “Innovation Ireland” logo as a basis for the brand mark. To ensure

consistent and coherent use of the brand mark and associated marketing messages, a draft communications strategy has been developed. Marketing messages are being finalised based on the various competencies of the research centres and, along with the communication strategy, this is expected to be finalised in November 2013.

Another relevant development is that two of the research centres involved in this pilot are currently working on a joint submission/proposal in the context of the SFI 'Spokes Centres' funding call. This joined-up or collaborative approach amongst research centres is the type of behaviour the branding exercise was aimed at encouraging, so even at this early stage in the pilot there are real impacts and results.

Action 88: NSAI will support the implementation of the action plans for the Government's priority areas so that publicly funded research projects are aligned to, and make competitive use of, relevant international standardisation activity and that the opportunity for Irish-based researchers to input into emerging standards is maximised.

Q3 Measure: Liaise with priority area research programme co-ordinators and establish a pilot standardisation interface with at least 2 programme groups (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The objective of this action is to ensure that the Government's priority areas of research make use of relevant international standardisation to support the competitiveness of the research projects.

The aim was to establish linkages with at least two of the 14 research priority area programme co-ordinators in Quarter 3.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland's (NSAI) liaison with research programme co-ordinators in Enterprise Ireland has exceeded this target and resulted in the identification of 23 NSAI action points in 7 of the Government's 14 Priority Research Action Plans, published in July 2013, for the areas of Future Networks and Communications, Data Analytics, Digital Platforms, Connected Health, Diagnostics, Medical Devices and Marine Renewable Energy. The initiatives identified are aimed at ensuring ongoing linkages between standards development practitioners and the research communities.

Action 89: Develop a strategy to maximise benefit for the enterprise sector, and jobs in Ireland, from participation in EU Horizon 2020 (successor to FP7, commencing Jan 2014). We will set targets for enterprise participation in the programme and we will adapt the support structure to assist researchers/enterprises gain maximum benefit from the programme.

Q3 Measure: Set targets for Irish participation (DJEI, in consultation with National Support Structure)

Q3 Measure: Develop strategy to maximise benefits for the enterprise sector and jobs in Ireland (DJEI, in consultation with National Support Structure)

Update: Delayed

Development of the Horizon 2020 Strategy and setting of targets for Irish participation are underway and now expected to be completed by early December. Commencement of target setting was contingent on appointment of new National Support Structure, which was delayed due to agreement on Horizon 2020 proposals and budget allocations not being finalised for some time after political agreement was reached in June.

Action 95: Assess the feasibility of introducing a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) type programme across Government to develop the concept of “Ireland as a Test-Bed.”

Q3 Measure: Consult with stakeholders to canvas views on what would be required to introduce an SBIR scheme in Ireland (DJEI, EI)

Q3 Measure: Identify the potential source of funding for such a scheme (DJEI, EI)

Update: Complete

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is the name given to programmes which support the development of pre-commercial innovative solutions which may meet the emerging needs of procuring authorities. It differs from normal public procurement in that it provides funding to innovative companies to develop products or services for potential wider application that may, in itself, lead to a competitive tendering process.

Following work in previous Quarters by Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on examining SBIR schemes in other countries, consideration has

been given to how such a scheme might operate in Ireland. Discussions have also taken place with the Chief Procurement Officer for the public service on the matter. A particular challenge is to identify a source of funding for a scheme, in the absence of a dedicated budget line in any Departmental Vote.

It is clear that there is a need to build up awareness of the SBIR model in public sector bodies, but it is also clear that an SBIR approach will not be suitable to all Departments and agencies.

The approach to be adopted, therefore, will be to work with a small number of agencies in the first instance, whose business functions might best lend themselves to seeking innovative solutions from companies to emerging or future needs. SBIR initiatives piloted under this approach would be funded from the existing budgets of the agencies in question. However, the potential for the provision of some form of central match funding for SBIR will continue to be explored.

Action 96: Train 500 teachers and 200 pre-service teachers under Discover Primary Science and Maths Programme.

Q3 Measure: Delivery of DES approved Summer Course to 60 teachers in Dublin and 2 regional venues (SFI)

Update: Complete

Discover Science & Engineering (DSE) operates the European Space Agency's Education Resource Office in Ireland – ESERO. The purpose of the ESERO is to use Space related themes and materials to awaken young people's interest in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) by leveraging existing DSE programmes, partners and networks and integrating ESA education material with the focus being on teacher Continual Professional Development (CPD), awareness and communications.

As part of this programme, DSE organised three Summer Schools for teachers in July 2013. Twenty places were offered in each of three locations – Dunsink Observatory in Dublin, Blackrock Castle Observatory in Cork and Birr Castle in Offaly. The format for the programme was a two day session on Discovery Primary Science & Maths space-related science and maths activities; two further days on the European Space Agency's ISS Kit and one day visiting a space related centre. An evaluation of the course is underway.

Q3 Measure: Recruit additional “Discover Primary Science and Maths” trainers and up-skill these and existing trainers (SFI)

Update: Complete

The Discover Primary Science & Maths (DPSM) programme provides Continual Professional Development (CPD) training for primary school teachers. This is delivered by external facilitators/trainers. The Train the Trainer session for DPSM trainers took place in early September and was attended by 17 trainers who were trained in delivery of the programme. The focus of the sessions was on ensuring a deeper understanding of the science behind DPSM activities, linkages to the Social Environmental and Scientific Education curriculum objectives and skills, and integration of maths. Due to the increased demand from primary school teachers for DPSM training additional facilitators/trainers are required. An additional session was held in early October and over 20 new facilitators/trainers registered to attend.

Action 105: Complete an inventory and gap analysis of existing test bed infrastructure to enable the development of a full national requirements specification and to enable the efficient early development and trialling of smart grid/ smart cities technology concepts by the research and industry community (SEAI)

Q3 Measure: Conduct a mapping and gap analysis of the existing research, infrastructure and activity with regard to the priority areas for smart grids and smart cities (SEAI)

Update: Complete

The portfolio of existing infrastructure, current research and companies (established in Q2) has been subsequently assessed against the main priorities for the development of smart grid and smart cities.

A comprehensive survey of companies and research agencies involved in the area of smart cities and smart grid has been completed as part of the mapping exercise and from this a number of areas requiring more focus have been identified.

Q3 Measure: Develop the principles, guidance and options for a coordinated network of research and demonstration test bed facilities that will enable the demonstration of Smart Grid and Smart Cities technologies, business models, products and services and other related activities in a live utility and/or exemplar community scale environment (SEAI)

Update: Complete

A series of one-on-one interviews have been conducted with the CEOs and directors of the leading industry and research organisations on how best to deal with the areas where priorities are not being adequately addressed, and how a directed programme of R&D and the requirements for a coordinated network of test bed facilities / living laboratories are to be developed.

Under the guidance of the steering group, this will lead to a detailed specification document in Quarter 4.

Action 106: Support Irish research institutes, HEIs and food businesses to work together to leverage increased non-Exchequer funding for the agri-food sector through EU and international research policy and funding vehicles such as ERA-NETs, Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), EU-Food KIC (Knowledge Innovation Communities) and European Innovation Partnership “Agricultural Productivity & Sustainability”.

Q3 Measure: Participate in Steering Group and Sherpa Group of EIP (Agricultural Productivity & Sustainability) bringing a new approach to research and innovation (DAFM, Teagasc)

Update: Complete

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as the Irish representative on the EU Standing Committee on Agricultural Research, participated in all meetings of the High Level Steering Board (HLSB) of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Agricultural Productivity & Sustainability. Teagasc participated in the HSLB Sherpa group which provides technical and administrative support to the overall project. These groups are charged with developing a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Agri EIP project.

On foot of their efforts, the SIP was adopted on July 11th 2013. Teagasc organised a conference in June on ‘Future Advisory Services and Delivering Innovative Systems’ which provided additional insights on how to progress this work.

Action 108: Launch a joint SFI/Teagasc research project call involving scientists from both the traditional agriculture and food disciplines and scientists from other scientific and engineering disciplines (e.g. ICT and data analytics, sensors etc).

Q3 Measure: Review pre-proposals received through the international peer review process and invite successful candidates to full proposal stage (SFI)

Update: Complete

Science Foundation Ireland and Teagasc have teamed up to launch a strategically important Research Funding Call for 'The Future Agri-Food.' This collaboration agreement 'the Future Agri-Food,' aims to strengthen and accelerate research and innovation in Ireland's agri-food sector which employs in the region of 150,000 people. SFI and Teagasc have agreed to jointly fund research grants between scientists from the agriculture and food disciplines and scientists from other scientific and engineering disciplines.

The joint initiative aims to bring a broad range of disciplines and technologies to bear on strengthening innovation in the agri-food sector and to offer opportunities to scientists in a wide range of disciplines, including genomics, robotics, material science, nanotechnology, immunology and ICT. The convergence of this broad range of disciplines will help underpin the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability targets set out in the Department of Agriculture's 'Food Harvest 2020' strategy. This agreement will prepare the Irish scientific community to compete, lead and win in relevant EU Horizon 2020 funding programmes and other relevant international funding.

Out of a total of 227 applications received under the Investigator Programme 2013, 18 were submitted under the co-funded Future Agri-food theme. Proposals were submitted in mid-September and prepared for international peer review. 77 proposals were invited to submit full proposals, including 5 under the Future Agri-food theme

Four Future Agri-food applications were received by the due date and these are being sent for external review. Following international review, a funding decision is anticipated in Q2 2014.

Action 112: Support industrial clients to develop a new ingredient process, building on their existing use of the Teagasc dairy dehydration pilot plant facility.

Q3 Measure: Implement new advances/techniques to control functionality of powdered ingredients (Teagasc)

Update: Complete

A new ingredient has been tested in different applications. In addition, confidential trials have been run with an industrial partner to develop a nutritional beverage for export in preparation for pilot plant trials in Q4.

Action 113: Provide research and policy support initiatives to support the implementation of the Government’s existing Marine Research and Innovation Plan *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland*.

Q3 Measures:

- Provide support for the work of the Harnessing our Ocean Wealth Enablers Task Force on Marine Spatial Planning (Marine Institute and DAFM)
- Provide support for the work of the Harnessing our Ocean Wealth Development Task Force - Integrated Enterprise Strategy (Marine Institute and DAFM)

Update: Complete

Activity is underway. Two studies were commissioned (i) an examination of National, International and EU Legal Instruments relevant to the Development of a Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework in Ireland; (ii) a review of MSP Best Practice of Relevance to Ireland.

Both reports were delivered in Q3 with the outputs contributing to deliberations of the Enablers Task Force (ETF). The ETF is on course to conclude recommendations to the Marine Coordination Group in Q4.

Action 114: Develop updated marine research and innovation plan for the period 2014-2020 “Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: Integrated Marine Research and Innovation Plan 2014-20”

Q3 Measure: Establish a project team within the Marine Institute to lead the development of an Integrated Marine Research and Innovation Plan (2014-20) (Marine Institute, in association with Marine Co-ordination Group)

Update: Complete

The project team for the new Strategic Marine Research Agenda has been established and an initial review of the national and European marine policy and research landscape has been conducted.

Improving Cost Competitiveness

Action 116: Finalise the Codes of Practice relating to Sunday Working and the standardisation of benefits (i.e. overtime) with the goal of enhancing labour market competitiveness.

Q3 Measure: Agree Codes of Practice (Labour Relations Commission and DJEI)

Update: Delayed

Q3 Measure: Sign Ministerial Order to give effect to Codes of Practice (DJEI)

Update: Delayed

Work on the preparation of the Codes of Practice by the Labour Relations Commission was delayed pending publication by the Minister of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation of the Labour Court Review of remaining Joint Labour Committees. Implications of the Supreme Court judgment in the McGowan case also had to be considered. The Labour Court report was published on October 1st 2013 and the process of consultation with stakeholders on the codes of practice will recommence shortly.

Action 119: Complete a review of the Rent Review Arbitration Code to consider the effectiveness of the code in resolving disputes over rent reviews, and the degree to which stakeholders are making use of the code.

Q3 Measure: Complete Review (D/Justice)

Update: Complete

A review indicated that there is insufficient activity in the sector at present to make a determination, and a poor rate of response to the consultation process does not facilitate a proper evaluation of the code's effectiveness at this time.

Action 120: Enact and implement the Valuations Bill in order to accelerate the revaluation of properties for commercial rates purposes.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (DPER)

Update: Delayed

Progress on this measure has been delayed as Parliamentary Draftsman resources were allocated to other priority legislation and were not available in the second quarter to progress this Bill. Complex issues arising in the rollout of the Revaluation Programme have also to be taken into account. While the purpose of the Bill is to accelerate the Revaluation Programme, the delay in enactment has not prevented significant progress on revaluations by the Valuation Office.

Action 127: Publish legislation to provide, inter alia, for the merger of the National Consumer Agency and the Competition Authority to take advantage of the complementarities and interdependence between consumer and competition policies.

Q3 Measure: Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to draft the Bill in consultation with DJEI (DJEI in conjunction with OPC)

Update: Complete

Extensive engagement has taken place between the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) on the drafting of the Consumer and Competition Bill over the last number of months and the Bill is being finalised for publication. The Bill will amalgamate the National Consumer Agency and the Competition Authority and give effect to other changes to competition and consumer law. It will also give effect to the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Media Mergers.

Q3 Measure: Publish the Bill (DJEI)

Update: Delayed

In spite of the substantial progress made, it was not possible to publish the Bill in Q3. However, it is anticipated that the Bill will be published in Q4.

Aligning Skills with Enterprise Needs

Aligning our education and training system with labour market needs is critical to the creation of job opportunities in Ireland

Action 130: Continue to implement the pilot ManagementWorks project providing a range of training and development programmes to help SMEs to improve their performance through seeking to build their managerial capability; evaluate pilot to ascertain strengths and weaknesses.

Q3 Measure: Commission independent evaluation of programme to assess impact and determine future direction (Skillnets)

Update: Complete

An independent evaluation of the ManagementWorks Pilot Programme was completed by Exodea Consulting and submitted to Department of Education and Skills in Q3. This evaluation demonstrated that the programme is delivering on its high level goals and is highly valued by its participants. Despite many participating firms being at an early stage in the development process, 25 of the 48 firms that have completed programmes have reported that participation had led to 27 full-time and 26 part-time jobs being created.

Action 131: Promote and support the adoption of structured up-skilling and development systems for existing staff within a Human Resource management system, in particular Excellence Through People (ETP).

Q3 Measure: Deliver a National Workshop on ‘Change Management’ with ETP as an integral tool for case study and practical applications, in conjunction with existing and prospective new ETP Client organisations. (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) delivered a National Workshop as part of the NSAI Conference and Workshop on Organisational Development & Growth in May. The event was organised in conjunction with Trigraph and was attended by 80 delegates from around the country. Presentations and case studies were provided by leading proponents of Excellence Through People. Facilitated workshops addressed areas of:

- Business Planning and Continuous Improvement;
- Effective Communications and People Engagement;
- Leadership and People Management;
- Planning of Learning and Development;
- Evaluation of Learning and Development;
- Human Resources.

Skills required for the manufacturing sector

Action 136: Assess the potential for increasing the supply of polymer technicians, including pooling resources for the associated equipment requirements.

Q3 Measure: Implement Action Plan items as agreed (Skillnets)

Update: Complete

As part of the range of programmes being run under Springboard, approximately 30 participants are undertaking a Certificate in Polymer Technology at NFQ Level 6. The programme runs from September 2013 to May 2014 and will be followed by a 6 month internship in a relevant company.

The programme will allow entrants to gain the necessary technical skills to help secure employment in the plastics manufacturing/ medical device industries as a technician/ apprentice technician in polymer processing.

There is a strong level of constructive dialogue and cooperation between the Institutes of Technology in Sligo and Athlone and the First Polymer Training Skillnet, each of which has high quality, but varying facilities and resources at its disposal. The ongoing dialogue between the three bodies has resulted in an increased co-ordinated approach from all concerned which is enabling the best use of all resources in each facility.

Action 142: Examine the potential for a cost effective national manufacturing supervisory development programme, preferably leading to the award of a substantial qualification.

Q3 Measure: Engage with public/private providers on effective solutions (Skillnets)

Update: Complete

The project team (including networks, businesses and Institutes of Technology) of those engaged in the manufacturing sector has finalised the programme outline for the proposed Level 6 major award. All required modules already exist on the National Framework of Qualifications. Engagement with Quality and Qualifications Ireland has commenced to package these component modules into one major award.

Revise employment permit schemes to provide for better support of the economy's evolving skills needs

Action 145: Enact employment permits legislation to provide for more flexibility and targeted instruments in support of the economy's evolving skills needs.

Q3 Measure: Complete Bill's passage through the Houses of the Oireachtas. (DJEI)

Q3 Measure: Ensure signing of Regulations in support of the Employment Permit Bill 2013 (DJEI)

Update: Delayed

The Bill has been drafted and circulated for Ministerial Observations. Work is continuing on a number of additional provisions to be included in the Bill. It is intended that the Bill will go to Government in December.

Action 146: Evaluate and reform the processes for the application and grant of employment permits.

Q3 Measure: Commence a business process review (BPR) for an employment permit online application process and payment system (DJEI)

Update: Complete

The business process review (BPR) has commenced by way of an examination of all the system requirements that will be necessitated by the passage of the new employment permits legislation (see Action 145). This examination is a core requirement of the BPR.

Action 148: Develop and strengthen coherence between the employment permit regime and visa regime.

Q3 Measure: Arrange temporary inter-organisational secondments to improve staff awareness between DJEI and DJE of the respective schemes (DJEI and DJE)

Update: Complete

The first staff exchange took place in September. During Q4, weekly staff exchanges are planned. Approximately 10 staff from Employment Permits Section will take part in the exchange, with a view to improving their understanding of DJE processes so that coherence

between the employment permit regime and the immigration/visa regime is further enhanced.

Infrastructure Investment to Underpin Employment Growth

Delivering competitively priced world class infrastructure and related services is critical to support enterprise development, competitiveness and job creation

Broadband

Action 151: Progress a national mapping exercise, which will determine where State intervention is required, progress a State Aids application in respect of that intervention, and commence work on the requisite procurement process to deliver the State intervention.

Q3 Measure: Commence mapping and the preparation of State Aids and procurement documentation for completion in 2014 (DCENR)

Update: Complete

Mapping is in progress and initial engagement with the European Commission on State Aids has commenced.

Water Services

Action 154: Prioritise reducing the leakage levels in urban centres to improve efficiencies and reduce the need for new capital investment.

Q3 Measure: Begin roll-out of National Metering Programme (DECLG)

Update: Complete

The roll-out of the National Metering Programme commenced in August 2013. Close to 400 new jobs have been established to date in rolling out the metering programme and the associated call centre. The roll-out of the domestic metering programme and the associated customer service infrastructure will lead to considerable new employment opportunities in 2013 onwards (some 2,000 jobs when fully operational).

Action 157: Prioritise the delivery of an IT based road management and utility licensing system to standardise approach for utilities, including Irish Water, to improve efficiency.

Q3 Measure: Licensing Phase 1 development and rollout (Local Authorities except South Dublin County Council & Dublin City Council) (DTTAS, LGMA, Local Authorities)

Update: Delayed

The initial pilot phase identified a number of technical and other issues that must be addressed and which are likely to impact on the timescale for delivery of this action. Since becoming aware of these issues, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has met with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) which is managing the development of the system. An approach has been agreed to facilitate the rollout in the coming weeks of the full existing national standardised system to some Local Authorities (preferably with an urban/rural spread) commensurate with the necessary availability of broadband to support access to the centralised IT licensing system.

Amendments/updates can be issued subsequently to refine/amend the system as time progresses and the system is deployed on a wider basis. The Department is engaging with the LGMA at the highest levels to ensure adherence with the agreed deliverables.

Transport

Action 164: Progress the introduction of a common visa waiver scheme between Ireland and the UK for tourists and business visitors.

Q3 Measure: Commence the introduction of biometric checks and rollout of pilot common visa programme (D/Justice)

Update: Complete

The overall plans for the introduction of the reciprocal visa waiver programme for short-term visa holders are on track for mid 2014. Work is ongoing with the UK Home Office regarding the technical and communications infrastructure to facilitate biometric checks as well as discussions on the format of a pilot project for later this year.

Reduce costs through sensible regulation

Action 167: Publish and enact legislation to complete the reform of the State's Workplace Relations Services. This will deliver modern, user-friendly, world-class workplace services by replacing the current complex system involving five separate bodies with a new more efficient and effective two-tier structure, resulting in better business regulation and employer/employee relations.

Q3 Measure: Provide assistance with the passage of the Workplace Relations Bill through the legislative process to give effect to the new structures (DJEI)

Update: Delayed

The Bill was approved for priority drafting by Cabinet in July 2012, and was included on the 'A' list for the Government's Autumn Legislative Programme 2013. The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation continued to engage with the Attorney General's Office to progress the drafting of the Bill during Q2 and Q 3 2013.

However, the target timescale of having the Bill published and enacted by the end of Q3 2013 was not achievable. The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is committed to the publication and enactment of the legislation at an early date with a view to having the proposed new Workplace Relations structures in place from 2014.

Action 169: Examine the case for allowing companies to avail of audit exemption when two of the three criteria (thresholds on the number of employees/balance sheet total/annual turnover) are met rather than requiring companies to meet all three criteria.

Q3 Measure: Consider outcome of consultation with CLRG/submissions received from general consultation/policy and legal implications (DJEI)

Update: Complete

The Company Law Review Group (CLRG) Report with recommendations was submitted to the Minister on September 19th. Submissions from the public consultation are being considered. Recommendations regarding the policy and legal implications of any proposed change in the criteria for audit exemption will be made to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Quarter 4 in accordance with the time frame envisaged in the Action Plan for Jobs, taking into account the outcomes of the public consultation and the CLRG Report.

Action 170: Progress the streamlining of certain administrative processes and other interactions with nursing home providers (as identified in the recommendations of the High Level Group on Business Regulation) without negatively impacting on the safety of residents.

Q3 Measure: Commencement of programme of guidance development / dissemination for providers (HIQA)

Update: Complete

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) has consulted with the providers of residential services for people with disabilities, both for profit and not-for-profit/public providers, to determine those areas where providers would wish to see guidance provided. These providers have identified a number of key areas where guidance is desired. Likewise, providers of residential services for older people have indicated various areas in which they would wish to see guidance developed.

Based on the feedback gathered to date, the HIQA has been working on drafting guidance across a number of areas which are relevant to all types of residential services. This work is well advanced and, once completed, will be issued to providers who provide residential services to both people with disabilities and to older people. HIQA intends that the guidance will be published on the HIQA website by 13 December 2013.

Driving Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Companies

Building on the focused actions put in place during 2012, we will continue to develop Ireland as the place to start a business

Action 173: Launch the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) that will provide support to micro-enterprises through Local Authorities and establish a Centre of Excellence for Micro-enterprise and Small Business within Enterprise Ireland that will be a key integrating resource for the LEO network.

Q3 Measure: Launch LEO website (DJEI, EI, CEBs, DECLG, Local Authorities)

Update: Delayed

The website project steering group has met on a regular basis and implementation planning is well underway. A tender for the design and development of the new national LEO website to replace the 35 separate County and City Enterprise Board (CEBs) websites has been awarded and the estimated date for completion of the design and build is mid-December.

Q3 Measure: Establish all LEOs on an administrative basis (DJEI, EI, Local Authorities)

Update: Delayed

The Implementation Working Group (IWG), chaired by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation continues to direct and oversee the establishment of the new national infrastructure. Work is ongoing at local level between CEOs of CEBs and Local Authority County Managers on practical administrative arrangements regarding locations, accommodation and structures for the LEOs.

A number of 'advance LEOs' have been identified with a view to establishing these offices informally ahead of the legal transfer of functions.

Q3 Measure: Enact legislation allowing for the dissolution of the CEBs and the formal establishment of LEOs. (DJEI)

Update: Delayed

The County Enterprise Boards (Dissolution) Bill, 2013 was approved by the Government and published in July, 2013. In spite of significant progress on this commitment, it has not been possible to meet the Q3 target for enactment. The Bill has completed its passage through the Seanad and the Department is awaiting the allocation of a date for its introduction to the Dáil. It is anticipated that the legislation will be enacted by year end.

Action 180: Expand the Competitive Feasibility Fund piloted in three regions during 2013.

Q3 Measure: Roll out Competitive Regional Feasibility funds to the South West (EI)

Update: Delayed

There will not be a specific call for the South West (Cork and Kerry) this year. However Kerry, which is in the South West region, was eligible to apply for the Mid West call earlier this year. Discussions are advanced in relation to having a call specifically for County Cork before the end of 2013. Throughout 2013, a number of Regional Competitive Feasibility Funds have been launched:

1. North East Competitive Feasibility Fund – February: 9 eligible applications received;
2. Competitive Feasibility Fund for the Aviation Sector – July: 43 eligible applications received;
3. Mid West Competitive Feasibility Fund – September: call closed in early October.

Action 183: EI and IDA will work together via a range of specific events and initiatives to attract Inward Start-Ups and Emerging Businesses to Ireland.

Q3 Measure: Promote Ireland as a location for overseas entrepreneurs and emerging businesses at *Tech Crunch*, San Francisco (EI, IDA)

Update: Complete

Tech Crunch Disrupt is an annual technology conference that combines thought-leader discussions with new product and company launches. The conference includes talks on technology-driven disruptions in many industries, as well as a competition for start-up companies to pitch their offering for the first time. The 2013 event took place from September 7th – 11th.

Enterprise Ireland staff from both Dublin and Silicon Valley worked jointly with IDA Ireland staff from Dublin and Silicon Valley at the 'Tech Crunch Disrupt' event in San Francisco to promote Ireland as a venue for foreign direct investment, for inward entrepreneurship and to source high tech products and services.

EI/IDA also hosted the speaker's dinner on the second day of the event, which was attended by 110 high profile people within the tech industry. The event was an ideal networking opportunity for both Enterprise Ireland client companies and IDA Ireland Business Development Executives.

Action 184: Implement a range of Female Entrepreneurship Initiatives during 2013 following on from the launch of a new programme in 2012.

Q3 Measure: Conduct further research into the support and development of female entrepreneurship in Ireland (EI)

Update: Complete

The Female Entrepreneurship Unit in Enterprise Ireland conducted extensive research to better understand the challenges impacting on female entrepreneurship within Ireland and internationally. The research was undertaken between March – June 2013 by Learning Partnership Ltd. and provided further insights on the specific needs of female entrepreneurs. The process involved coaches conducting in-depth one to one interviews which helped to identify the enablers and inhibitors related to setting up their own business. The study found that a lack of role models, low self confidence, lower levels of risk taking and access to appropriate networking opportunities continue to be the main challenges facing female entrepreneurs in 2013.

Whilst access to finance is an issue for all entrepreneurs, research shows that (1) females are less successful than men in raising finance, (2) there is an addressable capability deficit in the way female entrepreneurs start businesses, (3) women typically start their businesses with less funding and lower growth ambition. The dedicated female financial funds were very effective in stimulating a high level of awareness of these issues.

Internationally, there are a number of successful female-only business accelerator programmes and structured networking programmes that have been established to address a range of female entrepreneurship issues. These models warrant further investigation and, to that end, Enterprise Ireland will canvass for proposals from external bodies to partner on the provision of similar female-specific programmes on a pilot basis.

In Q4 2013 and throughout 2014 Enterprise Ireland will follow a twin track approach to female entrepreneurship, focusing on:

1. Creating awareness and launching two specific female financial funds and;

Tendering for the provision of female-specific programmes and supports focused on skills and capability building.

Assisting Indigenous Business to Grow

Enhancing Indigenous Performance

Supporting Irish companies to build scale, to grow and internationalise remains central to our plans for recovery, growth and jobs in 2013

Action 191: Progress the Pilot Industry-led Clustering Initiative launched in 2012 to ensure optimum implementation of their clustering projects.

Q3 Measure: Quarterly updates on progress against Phase 1 and Phase 2 clustering projects (EI)

Update: Complete

The Pilot Industry-led Clustering Initiative aims to support time-limited clustering projects that will achieve measurable benefits to members of the clustering groups by addressing the needs of participating companies, e.g. sectoral/sub-sectoral development initiatives, supply-chain optimisation, realising economies of scale, exploring market opportunities, capability development and convergence opportunities.

There are 2 phases to the Pilot. Phase 1 is a feasibility study to tease out the project and help the cluster members decide if it is worthwhile progressing to Phase 2, which is the implementation of the project.

There are 20 projects included in the Phase 1 pilot and 5 projects in Phase 2. Each Cluster must have a minimum of 5 businesses participating.

Phase 1 update - 10 Phase 1 clusters submitted a claim for funding by the final claim date in September. There will be follow-up with the 10 projects who did not claim, to understand why the feasibility study did not progress. As part of the pilot, Phase 1 clusters which successfully completed their feasibility will be invited to apply for Phase 2 funding by November 16th 2013.

Phase 2 – The 5 projects in Phase 2 are progressing at different speeds. The project themes include “Green Technologies,” “Regional Enterprise Development” and “Winning Business.” Enterprise Ireland is working closely with these Clusters and providing support where possible.

Action 193: Promote the greater utilisation of standards, emerging standards, and the standardisation process by companies through information events, a programme of standardisation initiatives for SMEs, and the greater use of the Your Standards, Your Say information portal.

Q3 Measure: Hold at least one standards/certification information event per quarter with a focus on SMEs (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) held a seminar/information event entitled “Quality in Ireland – Trust Quality in Lean Times” in early October. The event was organised in association with Quality Ireland, who represent quality managers and consultants, and IT Sligo, focusing on the importance of quality in the current economic climate and how standards can help ensure quality in vital industries such as healthcare and food. The conference covered a range of core quality areas and featured key note speakers.

Q3 Measure: Increase the information content on emerging standards available on www.nsai.ie (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland’s website, www.nsai.ie, now contains accessible information on the title and scope of all national standard projects under development and whether this work is linked to European and international development work. Information on new work items of the European and international standardisation organisations is also provided. The full work programmes of the European and international standardisation organisations can also be accessed through links on the website to the relevant pages on those organisations’ websites. See the following pages on the NSAI website for details of new projects under development and new areas of standardisation at international level respectively:

www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Standardization/Get-Involved-in-Standards-Development/New-Projects-under-Development.aspx

www.nsai.ie/Our-Services/Standardization/Get-Involved-in-Standards-Development/New-Fields-of-Standardization.aspx

Action 194: Complete the programme of evaluations of agency programmes to determine their appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness, and draw out lessons for tailoring interventions. The evaluations to be undertaken in 2013 will focus on capability-building and business development programmes operated by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland.

Q3 Measure: Undertake programme of evaluations in line with project plan and report to DJEI on progress and (draft) findings of those programmes completed to date and next steps (Forfás, in conjunction with EI and IDA)

Update: Complete

Forfás is undertaking the final strand of the evaluations of agency programmes focused on business development. This incorporates the following areas of intervention: employment and capital grants; productivity; internationalisation; leadership/management development and training; and environmental. A steering committee, chaired by Forfás, with representation from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and independent evaluations expertise (University of Limerick) meets regularly to consider progress and findings of individual programmes and they reach interim and final stages.

The progress report and draft findings of the below programme evaluations have been communicated to DJEI following the Steering Committee meetings on September 6th and October 24th:

- EI Company Expansion Supports (ex post 2005-2010)
- EI Job Expansion Fund (interim 2009-2012)
- IDA Capital and Employment Grants (ex post 2005-2010)
- EI Internationalisation Programmes (ex post 2005 – 2010)
- EI Going Global Fund (interim 2009 – 2012)

In terms of next steps, the next Steering Committee meeting in November will discuss the draft findings for EI Productivity Programmes. The process for the evaluation of training and management development programmes started in October.

Assisting Indigenous Businesses to Trade

Trading is central to the growth of indigenous firms and we will continue to help and support companies to navigate the challenges inherent in entering new markets

Action 203: Host the largest annual gathering of internationalising Irish companies as part of the International Markets Week.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (EI)

Update: Complete

International Markets Week (IMW) is an annual event that allows the clients of Enterprise Ireland to meet the organisation's overseas representatives to discuss how each company can be assisted to develop and increase their business in overseas markets.

The event was held from September 16th – 20th at the RDS.

Invitations were issued to over 3,500 clients and a total of 2,229 client meetings took place at IMW, with 647 companies participating.

This year also included opportunities for a dedicated engagement with Enterprise Ireland's Internet Marketing, Public Procurement and Client Management Development Teams. The main banks were also represented. This has enabled Enterprise Ireland to provide a holistic offering to the many areas of clients' needs.

Developing and Deepening the Impact of Foreign Direct Investment

Action 218: Review the operation of the new Immigrant Investor and Start Up Entrepreneur Programmes.

Q3 Measure: Review after the first full year of operation the effectiveness of the Schemes in attracting Investors and Entrepreneurs and make any necessary recommendations for amendment of the terms of the Programmes, including in the light of any developments in competing jurisdictions (INIS, D/Justice)

Update: Complete

The review of the Immigrant Investor Programme was completed and presented to Government in July. Following Government approval, a series of changes have now been made to the Programme. The review of the Start Up Entrepreneur Programme is currently underway.

Action 219: Extend the multi-entry visa regime for business travellers from India in 2013. The multi-entry visa allows for the granting of multi-entry visas of up to three years' duration.

Q3 Measure: Carry out impact assessment and develop recommendations for the extension of the programme (INIS, D/Justice)

Update: Complete

The liberal multi-entry visa regime for regular business and tourist visitors commenced in India on August 1st 2013.

Action 220: Encourage Irish-based multinational enterprises to avail of access to national and international standardisation committees that NSAI can facilitate, in order to establish a valuable local expertise and source of advance market and technology intelligence.

Q3 Measure: Encourage greater industry participation in standardisation expert groups, through sector-specific initiative with medical device sector (NSAI)

Update: Complete

Through training and on-site presentations, NSAI has encouraged the participation of experts to take part in standardisation activities directly, or through the on-line NSAI web portal Your Standards-Your Say.

NSAI's contact with three Irish based multinationals has been received very positively, with more than 50 individuals now signed up for electronic participation in the healthcare sector. In recognition of the benefits of linkages to standards development, one of the companies has appointed a full time Standards Officer and included standardisation development in their company strategy as well as providing funding for 25 staff to actively participate in standardisation work.

Supporting Employment at the Community and Local Level

Action 225: Review implementation of the local government sectoral strategy to promote employment and support local enterprise, “Supporting Economic Recovery and Jobs – Locally.”

Q3 Measure: Complete Review (DECLG)

Update: Complete

The review of the local government sectoral strategy has been completed and will feed into the development of a revised strategy.

Action 234: Facilitate the increased participation in volunteering opportunities by unemployed people. Such volunteering provides significant opportunities to provide and derive skills, experience and develop new competences which can assist people, including young people, in gaining a foothold in the labour market.

Q3 Measure: Maximise the potential of European Youth Week to enhance volunteer involvement in youth work organisations, services and youth activity groups (DCYA)

Update: Complete

The Youth Day Event (YDE) took place on May 25th 2013 and marked the start of European Youth Week in Ireland. This marked a celebration of quality in Irish youth projects and in international youth work. Some 300 people attended, including young people, volunteers, youth workers etc.

Voluntary Service International (Ireland) represented Irish youth projects at events staged in Brussels to mark the 25th anniversary of EU youth programmes.

A volunteer youth ambassador from Ireland attended the youth festival – ‘YO Fest’ in Brussels, highlighting the value of volunteering and encouraging other young people to become volunteers in youth organisations, services etc. at local, national and European levels.

Action 235: Provide over 6,000 after school child-care places targeted at primary school children whose parents have taken up employment opportunities.

Q3 Measure: First phase rollout of the scheme (DCYA, DSP, DES)

Update: Complete

The After-school Child Care Scheme is live in the 29 areas rolled out for Phases 1 and 2. The pilot scheme is being reviewed at the moment and discussions are ongoing within DSP as to the further national rollout of the scheme.

Action 236: Develop and publish a National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility, highlighting the role that enterprises can play in supporting employment and local communities.

Q3 Measure: Draft National Plan for wider consultation (DJEI, other relevant departments and agencies and business representatives)

Update: Complete

Following desk research and consultation with the business sector, a draft of the National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been prepared. The Draft sets out the context, principles, objectives and core pillars of the Plan and includes examples of best practice CSR activities in Ireland. The draft Plan has been circulated to relevant Government Departments for input, and initial consultations with other key stakeholders are underway.

Action 238: Publish the Forfás report on Social Enterprise and identify actions to be taken by way of follow-up on the report's findings.

Q3 Measure: Identify actions and relevant lead actors (Relevant Government Departments)

Update: Complete

The Forfás report - Social Enterprise in Ireland: Sectoral Opportunities and Policy Issues - was published on July 26th 2013. The report contains over 20 recommendations on fostering the development of the sector in Ireland, covering areas such as:

- policy development;
- capacity development;
- improved access to public procurement;

- measures to improve access to finance;
- leadership development;
- harnessing of community support;
- improved governance within social enterprises.

The report identifies the suggested lead actors for the implementation of each of the individual recommendations.

Q3 Measure (and ongoing): Follow up on actions (Relevant Government Departments)

Update: Complete

One of the key recommends in the report is the establishment of an inter-Departmental and inter-agency group to develop and champion the social enterprise sector. In this context, the Taoiseach has asked the Minister for Research and Innovation, Sean Sherlock, T.D., to personally coordinate the development of the Social Enterprise sector in Ireland on a cross-Departmental basis.

Minister Sherlock has established a Coordinating Committee for the Development of the Social Enterprise sector, which he will chair. This Committee includes representatives from the Departments of Environment, Community and Local Government, Social Protection, Agriculture, Food and Marine, Health, Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

The first meeting of the Committee was held in October. The key follow-on tasks for the Committee are to prioritise the recommendations of the Forfás report, identify implementing actors and set out timeframes for implementation.

Sectoral Opportunities

Manufacturing

Action 242: Examine the potential to develop and implement programmes for manufacturing capability aimed specifically at supporting capital investment by firms as part of a defined strategic business development initiative.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (EI/ IDA Cross Agency Body)

Update: Complete

The examination of the potential to develop and implement programmes for manufacturing capability aimed specifically at supporting capital investment by firms as part of a defined strategic business development initiative has been completed by Enterprise Ireland, working closely with IDA Ireland. The outcome of this exercise will be presented as a proposal to Enterprise Ireland's Executive Committee for its consideration on November 12th 2013.

Action 244: Review and enhance (if required) existing programmes, including management development programmes and Excellence Through People, to deliver to the needs of foreign-owned firms (as appropriate), taking into account sectoral strategies to be developed elsewhere in this Action Plan.

Q3 Measure: Agree necessary modifications that may be required and plan of action to target relevant firms (EI, IDA, NSAI)

Update: Delayed

This action is inherently linked to Action 189, which relates to the development of sectoral strategies in the first instance. While strategies have been developed, they require formal sign-off at Board level by both Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, which will take place in Q4 of 2013. The leadership and management capabilities will then be determined, at which time the above action can be undertaken without delay.

The Excellence Through People programme is currently available to both indigenous and foreign-owned firms. The National Standards Authority of Ireland, (NSAI), completed its review of the Excellence Through People scheme earlier in the year and is planning an information morning on November 18th. The aim of the session is to update the knowledge of existing users and inform others of the benefits of Excellence Through People as a credible means of work enhancement and staff engagement in the current economic and employment climate. Invitations will be sent to companies on the IDA Ireland list at the beginning of Q4.

Action 246: Engage with manufacturing firms to determine and define specific needs at a research programme level, particularly firms in sectors that would benefit from increased participation.

Q3 Measure: Determine and define specific needs at a research programme level, particularly for firms in sectors that would benefit from increased participation, drawing on existing capabilities/resources (IDA, EI, SFI)

Update: Complete

In August, the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT), IDA Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland organised a workshop of all tech directors of biotech facilities in Ireland to document their research needs. NIBRT also convened two meetings of international experts from the Bio-pharma industry (nominated by IDA Ireland) for a Scientific Advisory Board outlining the current and emerging research needs of industry.

Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland provided the results of a client survey on general industry requirements with regard to manufacturing R&D to a cross agency Prioritisation Action Group (PAG) on October 22nd. A more detailed list of very specific requirements from the Biopharma industry segment will be communicated to this group during November.

Action 247: Encourage more manufacturing companies to avail of the access to national and international standardisation committees that NSAI can facilitate, in order to establish a valuable source of advance market and technology intelligence to support their RD&I activities.

Q3 Measure: Sector specific initiative with Medical Device sector to encourage greater industry participation in standardisation expert groups (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) reorganised resources in its Galway office to service certification of the Medical Device cluster of companies in the west and north-west of the country and promote participation in standardisation work. In addition, mapping of standards development work of the European (CEN), and international standardisation organisations (ISO and IEC) to the NSAI national standardisation work forums (National Mirror Technical Committees) was completed and presentations were made to R&D/Innovation centres in Cork, Galway and Athlone to encourage innovators and start-up entrepreneurs to participate in standardisation activities directly or through the on-line NSAI web portal Your Standards-Your Say.

Action 248: Support manufacturing companies with precision measurement or demanding process measurement challenges through expertise from the National Metrology Laboratory.

Q3 Measure: Provide industry access to technical experts in assisting with measurement-related problems. Develop proficiency testing schemes in key measurement areas (NSAI)

Update: Complete

To date this year, the National Measurement Laboratory (NSAI) has provided more than 10 manufacturing (large) and service companies (SMEs) with technical assistance and expert advice from NSAI's scientific and technical staff on measurement traceability issues and complex precision engineering questions relating to measurement of electricity, length, temperature, humidity and acoustics.

In August 2013, the National Measurement Laboratory, NSAI, developed and launched a suite of 12 Proficiency Testing schemes across a wide range of measurement areas: mass, electricity, length, temperature, pressure, torque and volume. The schemes facilitate businesses to undertake technical benchmarking of their measurement capability, thereby underpinning their likelihood of obtaining and maintaining accreditation and expanding the range of business opportunities to provide traceable measurement services.

Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Action 253: Attract graduate talent into the sector through the Bord Bia Marketing Fellowship, which will employ 25 new graduates on over 100 business development projects in 2013.

Q3 Measure: Existing (2012/2013) cohort of twenty-five complete their course and 2013/2014 cohort commenced their course (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

Twenty-five Marketing Fellows completed their MSc in Marketing Practice in this quarter. This Masters course involves them operating on behalf of 76 Irish export companies in 14 markets, including for the first time India and Australia. Overall they undertook 100 commercial assignments with an estimated potential sales value of €34 million. The objective of retaining graduate talent in the food sector has been achieved as 21 of these are currently employed by the sector. The 2013/2014 cohort started their course at the beginning of Q3.

Action 258: Using externally-funded research contracts, fill up to 15 new research posts in the Marine Institute (in the areas of fisheries management, environment & food safety, oceanography, and mapping & modelling).

Q3 Measure: Complete first round of recruitment / 5 posts (Marine Institute)

Update: Delayed

Work continues to fill five externally-funded research contract posts. An offer of appointment has been made for the specialist post, Bayesian Statistician, and the recruitment process is being initiated for three other posts (1 administrative post and 2 specialist posts for remote sensing and data collection framework research vessel operations). There has been a delay in filling the final post (research vessel operations) which is commercially funded.

Action 261: Progress the SmartBay marine technology test and demonstration facilities in Galway Bay, by preparing for the installation of a fibre optic cable from An Spidéal to an underwater hub that links to the unique ¼-scale ocean energy test facility to develop research and commercial opportunities in the technology and energy sectors.

Q3 Measure: Finalise system design (Marine Institute)

Update: Complete

The Galway Bay Cable Project (GBCP) Stage ii Design Report was delivered on July 25th 2013 and Invitations to Tender for the integrated system were issued in Q3.

Action 263: Optimise dairy sector's export and investment potential through the introduction of a sustainability and quality programme for the dairy sector.

Q3 Measure: Launch scheme and commence farm audits now that audit infrastructure and training is completed. Build scheme into Origin Green communications programme (Bord Bia)

Update: Delayed

Pilot audits and training have been undertaken, but the more extensive consultations, requested by industry itself (44 audits rather than the 2 pilot envisaged), have delayed the launch. Work on these audits has been completed and the final decision from the Irish

National Accreditation Board (INAB) on accreditation is expected following their board meeting of December 3rd. Accreditation is an integral element of the Origin Green process and the programme will be announced in Q4 2013 with launch and roll-out in Q1 2014.

Action 264: Teagasc will work with the Irish Dairy Board to develop and launch a new cheese product.

Q3 Measure: Undertake consumer trials on samples generated (Irish Dairy Board)

Q3 Measure: Optimise product based on consumer appraisal (Teagasc, and commercial partner)

Q3 Measure: Manufacture cheese for commercial launch (Teagasc, and commercial partner)

Update: Complete

Since the establishment of the joint Irish Dairy Board-Teagasc initiative on new cheese development, 300 different cheese variants have been produced. Consumer trials have been undertaken on three of the varieties which have shown greatest commercial potential, and these are now scheduled for market launch. The first, produced in a new facility in the Middle East, will be launched in Q4 2013. A second cheese will be launched by an Irish company in Q4 2013, and a further new variety will be launched in 2014.

Action 265: Teagasc and industry partner to develop a new dairy ingredient/process.

Q3 Measure: Continue collaborative research projects with Dairy Processors/Infant formula manufacturers (Teagasc)

Update: Complete

Collaborative research actions are continuing and are on track for laboratory and pilot scale trials in Q4.

Action 266: Work with meat industry to progress 13 projects under the Beef-Sheep Meat Fund.

Q3 Measure: Complete and agree a projected drawdowns schedule of fund grant for 2013 - 2014 (EI, DAFM)

Update: Complete

Grant payments passed the €35 million mark in Q3 representing multi-annual investment of €94.24 million to date on the 13 projects. Time extensions are being facilitated to complete projects which are designed to reduce cost, enable change and add value in line with the Food Harvest 2020 strategy.

A drawdown schedule for 2013-2014 has been agreed, and progress is regularly reviewed by Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Action 268: Increase new product development (NPD) and sales volume from innovation initiatives such as BIM Seafood Centre, Teagasc Food Technology Centre and foresight4food.

Q3 Measure: NPD on boarfish and blue whiting realised (BIM)

Update : Complete

Since 2012, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) has been working with key companies to more effectively utilise the increasing volume of blue whiting landed from foreign vessels. This involved successfully adapting technology and equipment to process a range of fillet and minced products. In addition, product development work was undertaken at the Seafood Development Centre (SDC). As a result, one of the leading pelagic seafood companies has made a substantial capital investment in processing facilities for blue whiting and has achieved substantial sales growth. A second company is progressing an investment plan around canning facilities for blue whiting.

Boarfish is a new product and the work is less advanced than on Blue Whiting. The 2013 Irish quota for boarfish is 56,666 tonnes or 70% of the total EU total allowable catch. BIM and industry are working to fast track its possibilities for human consumption and aim to utilise 15,000 tonnes by 2015. New product development has been completed, see below, with the next stage being its commercial production.

Agreement has been achieved with a company to develop a new technology to produce frozen boarfish mince. This will be marketed for seafood protein and manufacturing products such as fish fingers, goujons and surimi. Trials to date indicate success and the

companies involved are looking at opportunities in the Chinese market. The goal is to have the technology running commercially by mid 2014.

Q3 Measure: Development of market-ready new product concept. (BIM)

Update: Complete

A new range of market-ready products derived from boarfish and blue whiting have been developed in the SDC. These products (burgers and breaded fish goujons), were developed by blending high value seafood by-products with lower value blue whiting and boarfish species. These competitively priced products are designed to sell into retail outlets and fast food restaurants and displace frozen imported products. Market exploration trials will follow.

Q3 Measure: Two individual and six syndicated foresight4food projects initiated; one Inspiration Expedition undertaken. (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

Five individual and six syndicated projects were initiated in the third quarter with the Inspiration Expedition to New York undertaken in Quarter 2.

Action 269: Work to achieve the target of 75% of food and drink exports being supplied by companies participating in the 'Origin Green' sustainability charter by the end of 2014.

Q3 Measure: Offer further workshops to all other registered companies; support companies in the development of their plans (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

193 companies are working at workshop/planning and development stage of the programme, with an estimated 63% of food and drink exports being supplied by these companies.

Action 270: Initiate a new application phase of the FoodWorks programme in 2013 to support a further cohort of new food entrepreneurs.

Q3 Measure: Stage 4 (Take Your First Steps) commences with c. 20 candidates and supports in place to validate projects (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

FoodWorks 2 is a structured year long programme to deal with the lack of high potential start-up (HPSU) entrepreneurs in the food and drink sector. It involves the selection and assessment of projects/products/entrepreneurs from a consumer, technical and commercial perspective to mentor and develop those projects which are most likely to succeed. The entry criteria this year included kitchen-ready samples, which were subject to technical and consumer research before being selected to proceed to the next stage. Stage 4 has 14 projects, which each receive a feasibility grant and a suite of business, mentoring and innovation supports to enable them to progress their business idea.

Action 271: Advance 10 further food industry co-opetition projects.

Q3 Measure: Two projects introduced or progressed. (Bord Bia)

Update: Complete

In Quarter 3, steps were taken to assist in the establishment of a Producer Organisation for the broader field vegetable sector with Bord Bia, the Irish Farmers Association and a consultant experienced in the area. A joint promotional exercise for farmhouse cheese secured EU funding in the third quarter and will be implemented in the following quarter. A shared logistics solution for seafood companies in the south was trialled in the third quarter and will be reassessed in the fourth quarter.

Action 274: Progress new industry-led Dairy Processing Technology Centre with a clear commercialisation agenda and launch Phase 2 of Food for Health Ireland (FHI).

Q3 Measure: Finalise agenda for new Dairy Processing Technology Centre (EI)

Update: Complete

The agenda which includes an implementation timeline, for the new Dairy Processing Technology Centre has been finalised.

The Dairy Processing Technology Centre is a dairy-industry led initiative, supported by Enterprise Ireland, which aims to build a strong research base in dairy processing. This will enable the sector to best exploit the projected long term growth opportunities.

A call for Expression of Interest (EOI) proposals from the Research Community was launched on August 8th and closed on October 9th. A mid-way Briefing Day was subsequently hosted

by Enterprise Ireland in conjunction with the Irish Dairy Industry Association (IDIA) on September 10th 2013. The purpose of the briefing day was to provide further insight and clarity on the project. The briefing day was well attended with representatives from the dairy industry group, Enterprise Ireland, other agencies and the IDIA.

It is expected that final approval for funding will be made by the Board of Enterprise Ireland in Q2 2014.

Green Economy

Action 276: Establish and convene meetings of a Consultative Committee on Jobs in the Green Economy to identify opportunities for further job creation in the sector.

Q3 Measure: Meet according to agreed schedule (DJEI)

Update: Complete

As part of the Action Plan for Jobs in 2012, the Government published a Policy Statement on Growth and Employment in the Green Economy – Delivering Our Green Potential. The policy statement envisaged the establishment of a Consultative Committee on Jobs in the Green Economy to identify emerging opportunities for Ireland in the Green Economy, to be chaired by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

The Committee was established in Q1 of this year and comprises six representatives each from industry and the public sector. Other relevant industry practitioners and stakeholders are invited to meetings to discuss thematic areas as required.

The Committee has met on two occasions, including on July 18th, when it focussed on the potential for waste as a market for enterprise opportunity. It is anticipated that a further meeting of the Consultative Committee will take place in Q4.

Action 277: Monitor and Report progress on Delivering Our Green Potential to the Cabinet Committee on the Green Economy.

Q3 Measure: Present report to Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Green Economy in collaboration with DECLG (DJEI and DECLG)

Update: Complete

Delivering Our Green Potential - A Government Policy Statement on Growth and Employment in the Green Economy - was published in November 2012.

A progress report on developments in the Green Economy in Ireland since the publication of Delivering our Green Potential was presented to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Recovery and Jobs on September 30th 2013.

The report, which was prepared in conjunction with a number of key Departments including the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, highlights many examples of enterprises and projects which are creating jobs, driving exports and improving competitiveness through activity in the Green Economy.

Since its publication last year, Delivering Our Green Potential has attracted national and international media attention and has been broadly welcomed by industry. The Policy Statement has been used extensively by Government agencies working in the area of the green economy/cleantech sector, including IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Action 279: Bring forward for Government, a proposal for domestic financing mechanism (PAYS) to stimulate Energy Efficiency projects in the domestic consumer market.

Q3 Measure: Bring Memorandum to Government on PAYS initiative (DCENR)

Update: Delayed

The final Better Energy Financing Board meeting took place on October 15th with papers in the final stages of drafting ahead of formal submission to the Minister. Following appropriate considerations, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources will bring forward a Memorandum for Government for decision.

Action 285: Promote the adoption of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standard and/or the ISO 50001 Energy Management System standard by Irish based companies.

Q3 Measure: Provide industry and industry consultants with access to NSAI Lead Auditors in these scheme so as to advice on application and benefits of ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) has produced supporting guidance documents on the benefits and requirements of the ISO 14001 standard on Environmental Management Systems and the ISO 50001 standard on Energy Management Systems. NSAI Lead Auditors as Scheme Champions are available to meet and advise business operators and consultants on advantages and effective means of overcoming obstacles to implementing the standards.

The guides are available from NSAI as downloads through the NSAI website (www.n Sai.ie) or as published documents available on enquiry or request.

Construction and Property

Action 292: Bring the draft Forfás strategy and outlook for the construction sector to Government for consideration and agree actions to be undertaken to meet the Government's objectives for the sector on foot of the report's recommendations.

Q3 Measure (and ongoing): Commence implementation of the recommendations (Relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

The Forfás report on the construction sector was published in July 2013 along with a Government response to the report announcing measures to be undertaken. It was also agreed that a new Construction Sector Consultation and Coordination Group, chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach, would be established as a forum for engagement with the industry. A number of measures to be progressed by the new Group were agreed to help improve the sector such as developing a robust Statutory Register of Builders and Contractors; tackling the shadow economy, engaging with relevant Departments on the review of public works contracts; consideration of policy statement on planning, close coordination with the work of the high level group on property.

Terms of Reference and membership of the Group are currently being considered.

Action 294: Better cross-Government co-ordination of action on the property market will be progressed under the active leadership of the Department of Finance.

Q3 Measure: Engage with key stakeholders to finalise proposals for further action as necessary (D/Finance, with other relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

An Inter Agency Property Group, chaired by the Department of Finance and with membership from the relevant Government Departments and agencies, has been established. The group has held a number of meetings to date, with three separate workstreams looking at demand and supply, funding and structural issues in the sector.

Q3 Measure: Develop priority workstreams, assign responsibility and timelines for delivery (D/Finance, with other relevant Departments and agencies)

Update: Complete

The demand and supply workstream is being chaired by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the funding workstream by the Department of Finance, while the workstream looking at structural issues in the construction sector is being developed in close coordination with the work of the proposed Construction Sector Consultation and Coordination Group, the establishment of which was announced at end-July. The work of the Inter Agency Property Group and related activities will continue in the context of the development of the Medium Term Economic strategy by the Department of Finance.

Retail Sector

Action 309: Establish an Interdepartmental Group to consider further possible measures to assist the retail sector.

Q3 Measure: Identify, through series of meetings, possible measures that could be taken by Government to further assist the Retail sector (DJEI, Forfás and relevant Departments)

Q3 Measure: Assess the cost of potential measures identified (DJEI, Forfás and relevant Departments)

Update: Complete

Over the summer period, the Inter Departmental Group met with, and received submissions from, the main bodies representing the retail sector and other stakeholders, including practitioners, business representative bodies, workers representatives and the INOU.

A range of proposals were received from the consultation process, covering the following broad headings:

- Business costs/administration
- Planning issues

- Skills/training for the sector
- Social welfare system
- Access to finance
- Government administration
- Hidden economy
- Taxation

The Inter Departmental Group has assessed the proposals received and has identified a number of measures, which could be taken to support the retail sector over the remainder of 2013 or in 2014 in the context of next year's Action Plan for Jobs. Most of these can be delivered at no additional cost to the Exchequer.

A report from the Inter Departmental Group will be submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Recovery and Jobs in Q4, in accordance with the commitment in the Action Plan for Jobs.

Creative Services

Action 318: Continue to increase the profile of the Craft Sector in Ireland through the involvement of the Crafts Council of Ireland in a number of key initiatives.

Q3 Measure: Participate in London Design Festival. (Crafts Council of Ireland)

Update: Complete

'Vernacular' - an exhibition of contemporary design and craft from Ireland, was held at Tent London as part of the London Design Festival 2013 (September 19th – 22nd), as a follow up to the Crafts Council of Ireland's successful debut exhibition at last year's Festival.

Tent attracted over 20,000 visitors over four days, including press, trade and specifiers. The exhibition featured contemporary work by 24 designers, design studios, architects and craft makers and the products on exhibition included textiles, furniture, lighting, ceramics and homeware. It enjoyed significant visitor numbers, with an average of 100 per hour to the exhibition.

Contact and enquiries were received from press, retailers and industry specifiers from countries including China, Brazil, Korea, New Zealand, Italy, Portugal, Spain, France, Sweden, and the UK over the course of the exhibition.

Elle Décor named Vernacular as one of the highlights of Tent, and other international publications, House and Home UK and Wallpaper Magazine, selected work from the exhibition to be included in their next editions. Reaction to the exhibition was overwhelmingly positive and evaluation and follow-up of sales and press contacts is now underway.

Action 319: Assess the case for a new financial instrument/relief to incentivise creative content development in the games sector.

Q3 Measure: D/JEI will liaise with the Games Ireland industry association and progress with D/Finance if appropriate. (DJEI)

Update: Complete

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (D/JEI) has liaised with the Games Ireland industry association and the Digital Games Cluster Development Team as part of the process of assessing the case for a new financial instrument/relief to incentivise content development in the games sector.

D/JEI's preliminary finding is that there is some economic merit associated with a targeted tax incentive for the games sector. Progressing this further with the D/Finance is dependent on the outcome of a broader EU state aid examination which, inter alia, will help to clarify the options open to incentivise creative content development in the Irish games sector.

Aviation Services

Action 322: Review the tax code to establish feasibility of providing a market for specific forms of aircraft financing - enhanced equipment trust certificates.

Q3 Measure: As per headline action (D/Finance)

Update: Complete

These provisions were enacted in the Finance Act 2013.

Cloud Computing

Action 328: Provide forums for the purpose of promoting the cloud computing standard, SWIFT 10, and discussing cloud computing and issues related to standards

Q3 Measure: Host conferences, "road shows," demonstrations and other promotional events in various venues (NSAI)

Update: Complete

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) associated its promotion of the cloud computing standard, SWiFT 10, with road shows organised by the Irish Internet Association in Dublin, Cork and Galway. NSAI promoted the event through its website and LinkedIn and NSAI staff members facilitated discussions, answered questions and participated in break-out sessions on the benefits of standardisation, the existing standard and SME case studies. 300 copies of the SWiFT 10 standard were distributed at these events. NSAI will also participate at the final event organised for Dublin in Q4.