

Enterprise Newsletter

November 2022

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Tánaiste announces new €200 million Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme

Last month, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar announced details of the new €200 million Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme.

There are two streams of funding under the Scheme to assist viable but vulnerable firms of all sizes in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors.

The first stream assists firms suffering liquidity problems as a result of Russia's war on Ukraine, and the second stream helps those impacted by severe rises in energy costs.

More: [Tánaiste announces new €200 million Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme - DETE](#)

New law to protect employees' tips

The Payment of Wages (Amendment) (Tips and Gratuities) Act 2022 will come into effect on 1 December 2022.

There is a four-week period to provide employers with a lead-in time to prepare for the changes required by the new law. This new law will include:

- More rights for employees over payment of tips
- More clarity for customers
- Employers must display tips and service charge policy
- Any charge called a 'service charge' will have to be distributed to staff as if it were a tip or gratuity received by electronic means

More: [New law to protect employees' tips to be introduced from 1 December - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](#)

Young people kickstart national brainstorm on Artificial Intelligence

The National Youth Assembly on Artificial Intelligence (AI) took place last month at the Tangent Ideas Workspace in Trinity College Dublin.

The Assembly brought together youth delegates from across the country as well as guest delegates from Foróige, Spun Out, and Cork ETB to discuss AI and to present their recommendations to Government.

Speaking at the National Youth Assembly on AI, Ireland's AI Ambassador Dr Patricia Scanlon said: "I am excited to engage with the National Youth Assembly to understand the attitudes, awareness and fears of the young attendees in relation to AI, as well as hear their views about the role they believe AI should have in shaping their futures and the future of Ireland in the coming decades."

More: [Young people to kickstart national brainstorm on Artificial Intelligence - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](https://enterprise.gov.ie/enterprise/news-and-events/news/young-people-to-kickstart-national-brainstorm-on-artificial-intelligence-det-101022)

Oireachtas approves the Consumer Rights Bill 2022

On 26 October 2022, the Oireachtas approved the Consumer Rights Bill 2022 which is an important step on the road to improving consumer rights in Ireland.

With this Bill, for the first time, consumers will have the same rights and protections over digital content and digital services.

Businesses will be required to set out clearly a description of the goods or services being provided, the total price of the item and the cost of delivery before entering into a contract with a consumer.

Companies who engage in misleading and aggressive commercial practices could be subject to fines.

More: [Minister Calleary welcomes Oireachtas approval of the Consumer Rights Bill 2022 - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](https://enterprise.gov.ie/enterprise/news-and-events/news/minister-calleary-welcomes-oireachtas-approval-of-the-consumer-rights-bill-2022-det-101022)

Ireland National Contact Point issues Assessments of Complaints under OECD Guidelines

The [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) are a set of recommendations for responsible business conduct (RBC) covering all areas of business responsibility including disclosure, human rights, employment and industrial relations, environment, anticorruption, competition and taxation.

Under the Guidelines adhering countries including Ireland are required to set up a National Contact Point (NCP). The Ireland NCP is a standalone unit within the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. It is responsible for promoting the Guidelines and handling complaints of alleged non-observance of the Guidelines. The Ireland NCP can offer a non-judicial grievance mechanism to help parties resolve complaints through a mediation/conciliation platform. The complaints procedure is available [here](#).

The published statements relating to the complaints are also available [here](#).

More: [OECD Guidelines NCP - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](#)

Major milestone on Ireland's journey into space

Last month, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Minister Damien English signed an Exchange of Letters with the European Space Agency (ESA) to facilitate the launch of Ireland's first satellite, which has been designed and built by academic staff and students at University College Dublin (UCD).

This marked a historic milestone in Ireland's first space mission, which will see the launch of EIRSAT-1 for a 4-year mission from ESA's base in French Guiana early next year.

The Tánaiste and UCD also signed a Registration and Supervision Agreement which sets out the details required for the registration and supervision of the mission throughout its lifetime.

More: [Major milestone on Ireland's journey into space - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](#)