



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# White Paper on Enterprise

*Implementation Plan: Update Report H1 2023*

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## Introduction

This is the first update report detailing progress on implementation of the 40 initiatives set out in the White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024. The report details progress during the first six months of 2023 on the 40 key initiatives that were identified and agreed as part of the 2023-2024 Implementation Plan, with more recent updates for key initiatives, as well as highlighting forward looking actions for the remainder of the period 2023-2024.

The Government published the White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030 ('the White Paper'), in December 2022. The White Paper sets out Ireland's medium- to long-term industrial strategy, with the vision for Irish-based enterprise to succeed and deliver rewarding jobs and livelihoods by increasing their sustainability, innovation, and productivity. This will be achieved on a whole-of-Government basis through the pursuit of seven priority enterprise policy objectives:

1. Integrating decarbonisation and net zero commitments
2. Placing digital transformation at the heart of enterprise policy
3. Advancing Ireland's FDI and trade value proposition
4. Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector
5. Enabling locally trading sectors to thrive
6. Stepping up enterprise innovation
7. Building on strengths and opportunities

In addition, the White Paper recognises the importance of ensuring the correct framework conditions are in place to enable enterprise to thrive and deliver strong, sustainable economic growth and quality employment. In particular, infrastructure, the cost of doing business, skills and talent, access to finance, taxation, and regulation are identified as key competitiveness conditions for Irish enterprise. These are beyond the purview of the Implementation Plan 2023-2024 directly, and are the focus of other cross-Governmental strategies complementing the White Paper, such as Impact 2030, Project Ireland 2040, Housing for All, and others.

To realise the vision set out in the White Paper, 15 key targets were set across the lifetime of the strategy, covering each of the White Paper's 7 priority policy objectives, as well as employment.

The White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 ('the Implementation Plan'), published in May of 2023, is the first in a planned series of consecutive two-year implementation plans to oversee commitments outlined in the White Paper.

The Implementation Plan details 40 key initiatives that will ensure that substantial progress is made towards delivering on the White Paper priorities by the end of 2024. These 40 initiatives are not intended to be exhaustive of all Government's activities, but represent critical efforts being progressed across all seven priority policy objectives across the Government system, including by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Ireland's enterprise development agencies (Enterprise Ireland, IDA, and Údarás na Gaeltachta), other relevant Departments and public bodies.

This progress report provides the first update on ongoing activities against the 40 implementation initiatives set out in the Implementation Plan, during the first six months of 2023. The progress report also provides an update on the 15 key metrics contained in the White Paper, subject to data availability. Further progress reports against the Implementation Plan will be developed over 6-month intervals.

The Implementation Plan 2023-2024 identified 40 initiatives, with 93 underlying activities, across the seven priority pillars set out in the White Paper on Enterprise. In the first half of 2023, 83 of these activities were undertaken, with 10 not yet scheduled to commence.

10 activities are currently completed as of H1 2023, with 61 activities on track for completion against their intended target dates. 12 are currently delayed against their intended targets, but are expected to be completed.

**Figure 1:** Status of the 93 activities across all 40 Implementation Initiatives



Activities contributing towards the 15 metrics set out in the White Paper continue to progress. At the end of H1 2023 (June), the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate for persons aged 15-74 years stood at 3.8%, staying below the targeted ceiling of 5% and representing a level of employment consistent with full employment. The employment situation is generally well-balanced regionally, with only one region exceeding the national unemployment level by more than 1 percentage point, as of end Q2 2023. This region was the South East, which exceeded the national unemployment figure for the quarter by 1.6 percentage points.

Other key metrics are also positive. Enterprise agencies have seen year-on-year increases in IDA Ireland client expenditure, increases in the number of large Irish exporting companies and the number of High-Potential Start-Ups (HPSUs) supported by Enterprise Ireland, and Irish-owned enterprise productivity growth. Moreover, enterprise agency targets for regionally balanced development were either met or almost met in 2022, with 52% of all FDI investments located outside of Dublin (against a 50% target over multiple years) and 64% of new jobs created in Enterprise Ireland-assisted firms outside of Dublin (against a 2 out of every 3 jobs target).

The update report also shows that strides have already been made in the implementation of key initiatives across all priority policy objectives. Among other progress made:

- Carbon abatement has now been integrated into the Oversight and Performance Delivery Agreements of Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland;
- Work is underway on the development of a national strategy for offshore wind, with stakeholder groups established and a broad outline agreed;
- Efforts towards a more circular economy have progressed, including through the launch of the Food Waste Charter 2.0 under the EPA;
- Four new European Digital Innovation Hubs are now fully operational, to support the digitalisation of the economy;

- A High-level Trade Conference took place in Dublin during July 2023, promoting awareness of the opportunities of trade in what will be a series of annual Trade Horizons conferences;
- Enterprise agencies are facilitating green and digital transformation in the FDI and Irish exporting base, with IDA supporting nearly €40 million in decarbonisation investments and EI supporting 86 climate projects in the first half of the year, alongside ongoing efforts to enhance digital adoption across the enterprise base;
- Irish exports have expanded to exceed €30 billion in total value, with efforts to diversify ensuring that more than 70% of exports now go to markets elsewhere than the UK, well ahead of schedule against the end of 2024 target;
- A framework was launched on a pilot basis to enable LEOs to support companies with international ambition employing more than 10 and less than 50 full time employees, addressing an existing gap in the scaling pipeline;
- Dedicated funding has been launched to support locally traded enterprise to navigate their decarbonisation journeys, in addition to increased funding to aid decarbonisation and encourage digitalisation and innovation across the enterprise base, through new and existing schemes;
- Multiple new European Regional Development Fund initiatives were launched during Q1 2023 to increase innovation, commercialisation, and innovative spin-outs;
- Work is well underway on the development of a Coordinated National Approach to Clustering, due to launch in 2023; and
- Work continues on a whole-of-Government basis to enhance Ireland's competitiveness framework conditions, including enhancements to green skills provisions, the creation of a working group to increase access to finance, and the delivery of a Roadmap for Increased Adoption of Modern Methods of Construction which will modernise construction and infrastructure provisions.

Further details of progress made, and the other initiatives contained in the Implementation Plan, are organised by policy priority objective in the sections below.

# 1. Integrating Net Zero and Carbon Commitments

Embedding decarbonisation into enterprise policy is no longer a choice but an environmental and economic imperative. To reflect this, the White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 set out an approach for enterprise policy to support firms in meeting the costs of decarbonisation and position them to exploit the opportunities of the low carbon economy. In particular, environmental aid will be delivered to companies, green skills will be enhanced, decarbonisation will become a key consideration in enterprise development agencies' operations, and strategies will be developed to harness Ireland's natural resource in offshore wind and enhance circularity and the bioeconomy. Detail on the progress of these initiatives is contained below.

## 1.1 Develop a National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Completion of Phase 1- Scoping / Consultation</p> <p>Q2 2024: Finalisation and publication of strategy</p> <p>Q2 2024: Commence implementation</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Offshore Wind Strategy Unit was established within the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in March 2023, and is leading on the development of the Strategy. Government approved plans to develop a National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind in May 2023.</p> <p>The broad outline of the Strategy has been endorsed separately by an Interdepartmental Group (IDG) and an Industry Forum which have both been established during H1 2023 to guide its development. The Strategy will encompass: research of international best practice; forecasting energy requirements and additional industrial demand; establishing an active Irish R&amp;D ecosystem and capable skills base; developing a strong domestic supply chain and mitigation of risks to the supply chain; assessing indigenous and export demand for offshore wind energy; developing an integrated spatial and economic framework for the development of clusters of economic activity associated with offshore wind energy; and a robust governance and reporting framework.</p> <p>The IDG is meeting quarterly to review progress and provide input. The Industry Forum, with representation from Government, developers, supply chain and industry representative groups will also meet quarterly, complemented by targeted consultations across industry.</p> <p>An initial Strategic Roadmap is expected to be published in H1 2024 to coincide with DECC's planned publication of the Future Framework for Offshore Wind.</p>



## 1.2 Embed Carbon Abatement into Enterprise Development Agency Operations

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: Carbon abatement reflected in Enterprise Development Agency OPDAs</p> <p>Q4 2023: Agreed design of Enterprise Development Agency carbon budgets and timelines for different stages of implementation</p> <p>Q1 2024: Implementation of agreed Enterprise Development Agency carbon budgets using available data</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The enterprise agencies have committed through the Oversight and Performance Delivery Agreements (OPDAs) to align their strategic direction, grant funding, policies and supports with the policy direction articulated in the White Paper, in particular the priority to integrate decarbonisation and net zero commitments in enterprise policy. This will include the incorporation of carbon abatement as an objective, equal to and alongside employment and value-added. It also commits to the adoption of a carbon budget reflecting statutory emissions ceilings for industry.</p> <p>Carbon abatement is reflected in IDA Ireland’s OPDA with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. IDA Ireland is proactively engaging with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the Agency’s actions in support of the National Climate Objective, and of enterprise decarbonisation, as set out in the Climate Action Plan. In targeting a 35% reduction in emissions from the FDI base, IDA Ireland is working with existing clients to reduce their carbon footprint. For the remainder of 2023, IDA Ireland will carry out a climate appraisal of capital-intensive project proposals from new and existing clients as part of ongoing work with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to integrate the cost of carbon into project evaluations and to embed carbon abatement objectives into the operations of Ireland’s enterprise agencies.</p> <p>Carbon abatement is also reflected in Enterprise Ireland’s OPDA with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The 2023 agreement has been signed off and implementation has commenced.</p> <p>Údarás na Gaeltachta will develop an implementation plan to ensure similar actions are undertaken which align policy direction with wider decarbonisation and net zero commitment efforts. In H2 2023, ÚnaG and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Art, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will commence discussions and agree targets, for incorporation during 2024.</p> <p>The enterprise agencies will report to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on activities and all reporting requirements for the National Recovery and Resilience Plan as set out in the Operational Arrangement with the European Commission, and on reporting of climate action activities including quarterly progress reporting on the Climate Action Plan 2023 and Environmental Aid activities.</p>
	<p>A project is underway to develop an evidence-based methodology for assigning carbon budgets to the enterprise development agencies based on the emissions profiles of their client companies. It is expected that the agreement of carbon budgets will also include a framework for reporting a number of indicators for the decarbonisation activities of the agencies on an ongoing basis, so that progress towards our national decarbonisation targets can be tracked and measured.</p>
	<p>Carbon budget implementation will begin once agreed with the respective agencies, along with the associated reporting framework.</p>

### 1.3 Integrate the Cost of Carbon into Enterprise Agencies' Project Evaluation Models

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Cost of carbon included in agencies' assessments of support for capital investment projects, through implementation of the Climate Appraisal Model
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>A set of climate parameters were developed and integrated into the Economic Appraisal Model, which is used in the grant decision-making process for projects supported by Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland as part of their system of appraisal for investment projects. This adapted model has been piloted in the enterprise agencies, and the initial results were assessed by the Climate Appraisal Steering Group in Q4 2022. Adjustments to the model have been implemented in line with the steering group's recommendations during H1 2023.</p> <p>The model is now awaiting the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform's establishment of an updated shadow price of carbon values, before it can be finalised and fully implemented into the agencies' project evaluation models. This is expected to occur by the end of 2023, with implementation set to commence in Q1 2024.</p>

## 1.4 Design Decarbonisation Roadmaps for Industry and our Commercial Built Environment

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q3 2023: Roadmap for Decarbonising Commercial Built Environment</p> <p>Q4 2023: Roadmap for Decarbonising Industrial Heat</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta; Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Commercial Built Environment Roadmap Working Group reports into the Heat and Built Environment Taskforce which was established by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications earlier this year to accelerate and drive delivery in relation to retrofitting renewable heat, district heat and decarbonisation of the building stock.</p> <p>During H1 2023, the Working Group focused on the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD), the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), relevant data availability, the elements to be included in the roadmap, and their approach to engagement with stakeholders. Subsequent engagements with sectoral representative bodies for sectors identified as having a high carbon abatement potential have taken place during the same period. These engagements included discussions on where each sector is currently in relation to decarbonising their buildings and the pathways and barriers to each sector moving further on the decarbonisation journey. The roadmap is slightly delayed, but is expected to be finalised by the end of the year.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment established an Industrial Heat Decarbonisation Working Group under the Heat and Built Environment Taskforce in March 2023. Since then, the Working Group has agreed a Terms of Reference for the work of the group and is currently engaging in a series of workshops on decarbonisation technologies as part of its role overseeing and supporting the development of a Roadmap on the decarbonisation of heat in industry.</p>

## 1.5 Prioritise Financial Support for Green Investments

<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing: Roll out of the Green Transition Fund incentives
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta
<b>Update</b>	The Green Transition Fund was launched in June 2022. It is specifically designed to address manufacturing combustion emissions from our industrial sector by accelerating the uptake of carbon-neutral heating in manufacturing businesses. It provides manufacturing businesses with the foundation they need to begin their transition to low carbon production processes through investment in carbon abating capital equipment and technologies. It is expected that the level of demand will grow significantly as it continues to roll out.

<b>Timeline</b>	Q2 2023: Launch of Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme
<b>Responsibility</b>	Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>In partnership with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and the European Investment Bank Group, the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) is delivering this SME loan Scheme via participating finance providers.</p> <p>The SBCI launched an Open Call for Expressions of Interest in February 2023, to identify and select qualifying participating finance providers to deliver the Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme (GSLs). A number of financial institutions have been approved to join the scheme following completion of the due diligence process, with others currently progressing through the approval process with a view to joining the scheme in H2 of 2023.</p>

## 1.6 Develop Green Skills and Capacities Required for a Net Zero Economy

<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing: Promote green skills within the Higher Education system to support a more sustainable enterprise sector
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
<b>Update</b>	<p>Springboard+ and Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 1 were launched in June 2023, and will play a vital role in the green transition by providing funding to Higher Education system in the areas of green skills.</p> <p>Under green skills and green skills-related areas, Springboard+ 2023 will provide 610 places on 20 courses and HCI Pillar 1 will provide 536 places on 22 courses for the academic year 2023/24, a combined total of 1,146 places on 42 courses to be delivered by public and private higher education providers around the country.</p> <p>HCI Pillar 3, was funded in 2020 over a five-year period to 2024, under which there are 12 projects related to Green Skills. These projects include but are not limited to REEdI- Rethinking Engineering Education in Ireland, Sustainable Futures, Digital Academy for Sustainable Built Environment (DASBE), Ireland's Knowledge Centre for Carbon and Climate and Resilient Design Curricula for 21st Century. To date, projects are exceeding targets, and more places and courses are expected to be delivered and reported on within the lifetime of the project.</p>

<b>Timeline</b>	2023 -2024: Develop full suite of green skills programmes
<b>Responsibility</b>	SOLAS
<b>Update</b>	<p>The SOLAS Green Skills for FET Roadmap 2021-2030 has 3 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Skills for Life is to create awareness of climate justice, sustainability and bioeconomic issues across FET learners, FET staff and school students.</li> <li>• Green Skills for Construction focuses on the built environment with training and upskilling for those in construction occupations in the latest green technologies.</li> <li>• Green Skills for Careers develops opportunities in the green economy for the employed, unemployed and those within vulnerable sectors.</li> </ul> <p>SOLAS is working to expand green provision in the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) with over 75 programmes delivered. The programmes range from specific skills training, upskilling and reskilling, Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses, Back To Education Initiative (BTEI) Groups, Adult and Community Education Groups, Traineeship and Apprenticeship in areas such as Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Climate Justice, Green Construction, Biodiversity and Ecology and Renewable Energy.</p> <p>Education and training relevant to the skills needed in the retrofitting and construction sector are delivered through more than fifty programmes running in the four established Nearly Zero Emission Building (NZEB) Centres of Excellence. These are operated by Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB), Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB), Limerick Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), and the Cork Education and Training Board (Cork ETB) which opened its Centre of Excellence in H1 of 2023.</p> <p>Courses are also delivered in Tipperary ETB, Mayo-Sligo-Leitrim ETB and commenced in Q3 in City of Dublin ETB, with further provision due later this year and in 2024.</p> <p>Enrolments in retrofit skills training, including NZEB skills, from January to end July 2023 are 1,822. SOLAS plans to have a cumulative total of 4,550 trainees complete NZEB training by the end of 2023.</p>

<b>Timeline</b>	Q2 2023: Detailed Skills Assessment Report by Skills and Workforce Workstream
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (Co-Lead); Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Co-Lead)
<b>Update</b>	<p>In April 2023, a detailed skills assessment report for the development of offshore wind was commissioned by Greentech Skillnet, in collaboration with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. This falls under Workstream 8: Skills and Workforce, of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme. The report will give an overview of the overall skills need for offshore wind, including an indication of jobs per GW, split by category.</p> <p>The report is underway and being conducted by BVG, in collaboration with Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions and Beauchamps. Initial results and recommendations from the report have been provided to the workstream members and will feed into the planning process for the development of training programmes required for the future skills needs of the offshore wind energy sector.</p> <p>The report is due to be completed during H2 2023 and will inform planning and actions around skills development for offshore wind in the coming years.</p>

## 1.7 Promote the Development of the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: Launch of Food Waste Charter 2.0, with implementation and reporting covering the period through to the end-2024</p> <p>Q3 2023: Launch national decisions on construction by-product and waste material to promote circularity</p> <p>Q4 2023: Review of Green Enterprise Fund Completed</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
<b>Update</b>	<p>The new Food Waste Charter (Food Waste Charter 2.0) was launched in June 2023, calling on all businesses and State Agencies operating across the food supply chain to sign up. By signing the Charter, food sector businesses and organisations commit to measuring their food waste using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) measurement methodologies, to setting targets and taking action to reduce food waste, and to reporting annually to the EPA on their progress. Organisations that do not produce, process, manufacture, distribute or sell food and drink can also sign the Charter as a supporting organisation.</p> <p>During H1 2023, progress has been made on the development of national decisions on construction by-product and waste material. It is anticipated that decisions on end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates and by-product criteria for site-won asphalt/ road plannings will be finalised and made available in H2 2023, following the completion of 3 month standstill periods since notification to the European Commission. The national decisions for greenfield soil and stone are under draft and were published for public consultation with a closing date in Q4 2023.</p> <p>The EPA and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications are working collaboratively on the review of the Green Enterprise Fund during 2023. This collaboration has included sharing information on relevant funding sources available in the market, documenting information on those funding sources and meeting with the funding agencies to gather further information. An analysis of funding sources for circular economy innovations in Ireland, is underway, informing the review process and is expected to be completed in early 2024.</p>



<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: Publish Bioeconomy Action Plan</p> <p>Q2 2023 – Q4 2025: Implementation of Action Plan, including the Industry and Enterprise Pillar</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine led Bioeconomy Action Plan is not yet published and the anticipated publication date is in Q4 2023.</p> <p>A key element of the plan is enhanced investment. A Call for Proposals for Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiatives under the EU Just Transition has recently closed, and a further Call for Proposals for Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiatives will also open under the Shared Island Initiative Fund in H2 2024.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and its agencies has been heavily involved in the development of the plan, providing policy input on how enterprises in the bioeconomy sector can be supported by the Government and its agencies.</p> <p>This action will be implemented upon publication of the Bioeconomy Action Plan, in line with the reporting framework contained in the plan. Implementation is expected to commence in Q4 2023.</p>

## 2. Placing Digital at the Heart of Enterprise Policy

To ensure competitiveness, drive productivity and enable a decoupling of economic growth from resource consumption, Ireland is committed to becoming a digital leader. To realise this ambition, the White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 set out an approach for enterprise policy to champion and facilitate the adoption of digital technologies, position Ireland at the frontier of Advanced Manufacturing, and develop a supportive digital ecosystem for enterprise. Detail on the progress of these initiatives is contained below.

### 2.1 Support the Digital Transformation of Enterprise

<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing roll out of Digital Transition Fund to 2026
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Digital Transition Fund continues to be in place for 2023 to support enterprises to digitalise all businesses across products, processes, supply chains and business models. The fund has been focusing particularly on SME`s, supporting companies at all stages of their digitalisation journey.</p> <p>The fund is delivered through Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta. Since its launch in June 2022, the Digital Transition Fund supported 159 companies across 175 digitalisation projects.</p>

## 2.2 Establish European Digital Innovation Hubs

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Ireland’s EDIH programme will be operational by end of 2023
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland (lead); Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>Ireland aimed to establish four new European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) as part of the European Commission Digital Europe Programme. These hubs support digital transformation in SMEs and public sector organisations by encouraging the adoption of the latest advances in the three key technologies of Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and High-Performance Computing.</p> <p>All four European Digital Innovation Hubs are now operational, having commenced during 2023.</p> <p>FactoryxChange led by the Irish Manufacturing Research in Mullingar was established in January 2023 and is supporting manufacturers to integrate ecological, digital, and societal solutions into their core business models to become ‘Factories of the Future’.</p> <p>Data2Sustain led by Atlantic Technological University Sligo commenced in February 2023, and is supporting digitalisation with a particular emphasis on the circular economy, operations and business sustainability across all sectors.</p> <p>ENTIRE led by Tyndall National Institute Cork was established in June 2023 and is supporting companies to become more competitive in their business/production processes using digital technologies such as Internet of Things and sensors as well as introducing cybersecurity advances.</p> <p>CeADAR AI, led by the UCD Technology Centre CeADAR commenced in Q3 2023 and will support Artificial Intelligence (AI) transformations, data analytics and machine intelligence.</p>

## 2.3 Develop a Digital Portal for Enterprise

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Digital Portal is live</p> <p>Q4 2024: Continuous development and refinement of portal</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta; Local Enterprise Offices</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>In H1 2023, a tender was awarded for the development of the Grow Digital Portal, and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment officials alongside Enterprise Ireland have had extensive engagement with the contractors on the design, functionality and operation of the Portal.</p> <p>The “Grow Digital” Portal will help businesses to self-assess their digital needs as well as signposting to training, resources, and funding options by providing a tailored roadmap to progress on their digital journey. The Portal is under development and is on track to be delivered on time by the end of 2023.</p> <p>The development and refinement phase will commence after the Digital Portal is launched and will add to the features of the Portal to ensure that the process of digital transition is made as simple and understandable as possible for businesses.</p>

## 2.4 Drive Uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Enterprise

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Publish a Standards and Assurance Roadmap for AI</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Implement the recommendations of the Expert Group on Future Skills Need</p> <p>Ongoing: Monitoring of uptake of AI tools as part of the EU Digital Decade to 2030</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>'Update</b>	<p>The AI Standards and Assurance Roadmap was published by the NSAI in July 2023. The roadmap sets out a number of actions to support implementation of the Standards and Assurance aspects of the EU AI Act, ensuring that Ireland can safely unlock the potential that AI can provide.</p> <p>The Roadmap was developed by the Top Team on Standards for AI process, led by NSAI, through collaborative engagement with leading AI experts from across the Irish AI community, including industry, academia, civil society, the private and public sectors.</p> <p>The report on AI Skills was published by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs in June 2022. An Implementation Group was subsequently formed to realise the ten recommendations set out in the report. This group consists of stakeholders responsible across each of the ten recommendations, and first met in January 2023.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made already on many of the recommendations set out in the report, including the commissioning of a Foundation Certificate in AI for public servants lead by DPER and TU-Dublin, a SOLAS led ICDL module to support workers in upskilling and reskilling including in areas relating to AI, as well as the rolling-out of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) funded MicroCreds initiative which works to align enterprise needs and academic programmes in the context of upskilling and lifelong learning in AI.</p> <p>The current figure of 8% of companies with uptake of AI technologies relates to 2021. This figure is in line with the EU-wide average, where Ireland stands as the median in the EU27. The next update of this uptake indicator will be made available during Q4 2023.</p> <p>The progress report on implementation of the National AI Strategy was published in 2023 and contained key updates on deliverables under Strand 3 (Driving Adoption of AI in Irish Enterprise), including the establishment of an Enterprise Digital Advisory Forum and the designation of a national AI Innovation Hub (CeADAR).</p>

## 2.5 Drive Digital Manufacturing Objectives Through Support for Industry 4.0

<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing: Implementation of Industry 4.0
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>Advancements in the implementation of the National Industry 4.0 strategy include the formation of Future Manufacturing Ireland (FMI) to provide oversight and to raise the awareness of supports available to the manufacturing sector. This has been achieved through speaking events, conferences, seminars, and online virtual panel events during H1 of 2023. Work is also continuing during 2023 to support the development of clusters in the areas of advanced manufacturing and engineering.</p> <p>Industry 4.0 consortia building has been ongoing in H1 2023, through the Disruptive Technology Innovation Fund (DTIF) competitive process and the national and All-Island funding streams. Coordination of the National Infrastructure supporting the manufacturing sector has continued with agency (IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland &amp; Science Foundation Ireland) representatives maintaining updates on the national centres ecosystem, which support the manufacturing sector. This includes centres of scale; the Enterprise Ireland/IDA Ireland Technology Centre – Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR), the SFI Research Centre – I-Form, and the newly established IDA supported centre – Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI).</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment continues to monitor supports which enable digital transformation in the manufacturing sector. This includes engagement with Digital Transformation, Lean and Operational Excellence teams within the enterprise agencies to monitor the uptake and adoption of supports to drive the adoption and deployment of digital technologies and skills development within the manufacturing sector.</p>

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q3 2023: Commencement of further funding of technology gateways</p> <p>Ongoing: Further development of IMR Technology Centre</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>Enterprise Ireland continues to increase its fundings of Technology Gateways during 2023, to support clients in embracing digital manufacturing technology, promoting productivity, efficiency and supporting the decarbonisation journey for Irish enterprise.</p> <p>A funding call issued in November 2022 received 17 applications by the closing date in January 2023. All 17 applications were evaluated and subsequently approved for funding by the Enterprise Ireland Board in April 2023. Contracts have now been issued to all 17 Gateways for review and signature, where the total value of these contracts is €36.47 million.</p> <p>The external evaluation of Irish Manufacturing Research Technology Centre has commenced and is expected to be completed in Q4 2023. This evaluation will include an economic appraisal of the centre’s impact, as well as an analysis of the Centre by an international expert panel which will further inform the development of the Centre in the future.</p>

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: NIBRT – Completion of Advanced Therapeutics extension</p> <p>Q4 2023: DMI – Development of a pipeline of digitalisation projects for Ireland’s manufacturing sector</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>IDA Ireland; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>NIBRT’s Advanced Therapeutics Extension was completed on time and on budget at the end of June 2023. New courses in cell therapy manufacturing have been launched which will grow capability in Ireland in this important area.</p> <p>The NIBRT brand now has global recognition and has been a major enabler for investment in the biopharma sector in Ireland. It is delivering on its vision to become a global leader in research, education and training this space and is a critical component in Ireland’s value proposition for attracting biologics investments.</p> <p>Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI) is a joint initiative between Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland which allows Irish companies and multinationals to work together on market focused strategic R&amp;D projects in collaboration with research institutions.</p> <p>With a specific focus on enabling and creating efficiencies in manufacturing processes, DMI can support all manufacturers, including both MNCs and SMEs, to reduce overheads and maximise the potential of their operations and competitiveness through digital transformation.</p> <p>DMI is actively engaging with industry and has established two cross-sectoral collaboration groups designed to take an industry led approach to addressing manufacturing challenges and driving competitiveness: an Industry 5.0 Lighthouse network and a Vision Cognitive Manufacturing Group. These groups, which include over 80 company participants and other Centres of Excellence like LERO, I-Form, Tyndall and Insight; develop solutions to real world manufacturing challenges through a unique collaborative process; making use of the core expertise and infrastructure of DMI in addition to seconding resources from collaboration partners to form focused and results-driven industry collaboration projects.</p>



### 3. Advancing Ireland’s FDI and Trade Value Proposition

FDI and trade will remain central to our growth model and economic strategy, even as changing globalisation patterns and changes to supply chains require flexibility and agility to respond. The enterprise policy approach set out in the White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 is for Ireland to continue to champion and promote the open free trade model that has underpinned our economic success, and to retain our position as an investment destination of choice, including by leveraging the green transition, while increasing the connections between multi-national enterprises and domestic firms. Detail on the progress of these initiatives is contained below.

#### 3.1 Promote Open, Rules-Based and Sustainable Global Trade

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q1 2024: Finalise and publish report on ‘The Opportunities and Impacts of Digital Trade for Ireland’, to support Irish policy and influence at WTO</p> <p>Q1 2024: Successful advocacy for open sustainable trade at EU Trade Policy Committee, EU Trade Council and WTO Ministerial Council with ratification of new EU Free Trade Agreements and successful outcome of WTO MC-13</p> <p>Q2 2024: Progress all seven priority actions in the Trade &amp; Investment Strategy</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>Following an open procurement process, Indecon International Consultants were selected to undertake a review of the opportunities for Ireland in Digital Trade. The project commenced in May 2023, with a draft interim report furnished in July. The final report is expected to be available in Q4 2023.</p> <p>The report will include an analysis of international digital trade and its evolution and will identify policy considerations for Ireland in advance of the next WTO Ministerial Conference in February 2024. The final report will also aid Ireland’s engagement with EU colleagues regarding the development of digital trade principles in Free Trade Agreement negotiations.</p> <p>Work to promote open, rules-based trade is an ongoing priority for Ireland, interwoven in all of the Department’s Trade policy activities, and high-level engagements including Ministerial attendance at EU Trade Councils.</p> <p>Ireland’s trade policy objectives are channelled through our membership of the European Union, which holds exclusive competence for trade policy and trade agreements with third countries. In May 2023, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney T.D. attended a formal meeting with other EU Trade Ministers in Brussels, engaging on how trade policy can better maintain and strengthen competitiveness, on international</p>

	<p>trade relations with key trading partners such as the US, and China, as well as on preparations for the WTO Ministerial Conference in February 2024.</p> <p>At the WTO, Ireland consistently advocates open, rules-based and sustainable trade policy, including through involvement in multilateral and plurilateral initiatives, with the Geneva-based team supported by a programme of visits from Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment representatives including attendance at the WTO General Council in Q2 2023.</p> <p>The seven priority actions, aimed at advancing Ireland's trade and investment goals, including diversifying our markets, strengthening our supply chains, are well advanced.</p> <p>Support for Ireland's Economic and Trade Ecosystem is ongoing and the Department of Enterprise, Trade &amp; Employment has continued to refine its dashboard approach to pressing trade issues identified by the Trade and Investment Council during H1 2023.</p> <p>Following completion of the Local Market Teams (LMTs) review in December 2022, implementation of its recommendations began during H1 2023. In the same period, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment finalised its shared approach for communicating Ireland's interests as a trading nation, following the completion of a survey study in 2022.</p> <p>The campaign to progress all seven priority actions in the Trade &amp; Investment Strategy is ongoing during 2023, with key priorities including; communicating the benefits of trade, fostering a deeper understanding of the important role that trade and investment plays in contributing to the wider economy in Ireland and illustrating how trade policy can be used as a vehicle to promote Ireland's and the EU's wider interests, including our values, principles and standards.</p> <p>3.2 and 3.3 below contain further activities advancing specific aspects of the Trade &amp; Investment priorities.</p>
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### 3.2 Deepen Irish Participation in Global Value Chains

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2024: Review report published and next steps confirmed
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>An expert group on Global Value Chains (GVCs) has been established to provide fresh perspectives in understanding the business-business relationships, mechanisms for increasing efficiency, productivity, competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and SME growth within GVCs.</p> <p>The Group, which is chaired by the Department of Enterprise, Trade &amp; Employment, comprises subject matter experts drawn from across the public and private sectors and academia. The Group is working on identifying critical trade dependencies, and appropriate sector-level responses to maximise opportunities and facilitate risk-mitigation and will publish a report on these issues and a modelling and mapping of GVCs by year end 2023.</p>

### 3.3 Promote Trade Opportunities

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q3 2023: High-level Trade Conference</p> <p>Q3 2023: First Team Ireland Trade Mission week</p> <p>Q4 2023: Review of first Team Ireland Trade Mission week by Trade and Investment Council</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>A conference to raise awareness of the value of Free Trade Agreements in promoting market diversification and increasing Irish exports, particularly to markets outside the EU was held in Dublin Castle in July 2023. This conference was the first in what will be a series of annual Trade Horizons conferences.</p> <p>Over 300 people registered for the conference, which was addressed by both Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Simon Coveney T.D. and Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Mr Dara Calleary T.D. as well as a keynote address by Ms Maria Martin-Prat, Director in the European Commission Directorate General for Trade in the European Commission.</p> <p>A Team Ireland Trade Mission Week (TMW) is being piloted as a one a year event, to support the Government’s drive towards market diversification and assist in the development and expansion of Ireland’s exports, tourism and inward investment from existing and new markets. During H1 of 2023, the inaugural TMW 2023 was confirmed to take place in South Korea during Q4 2023. The schedule of events and meetings for TMW is being developed in collaboration with the relevant Departments and Agencies.</p> <p>A review of the inaugural TMW will commence after its completion.</p>

### 3.4 Transform the Sustainability Performance of the FDI Sector

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Promote a coherent suite of advisory and financial supports for FDI clients to achieve their carbon reduction and net zero ambitions</p> <p>Q4 2024: Achieve 60 sustainability investments in the period 2021 to 2024</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	IDA Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>IDA Ireland’s dedicated Green Economy team has developed a new client engagement framework (DEEDS<sup>1</sup>) during 2023 to deliver a coherent programme of supports to accelerate client decarbonisation and net zero ambitions.</p> <p>IDA Ireland is using Green Start/Plus grant supports to encourage clients to develop Climate Action Plans and is using the Sustainable Recovery Fund (SRF) and Environmental Aid Programme (EAP) to accelerate client decarbonisation investments.</p> <p>During the first 6 months of 2023, IDA Ireland supported clients to invest nearly €40 million in decarbonisation which will remove over 15k tonnes of carbon from their operations. This brings total client investment supported under these programmes to over €100 million which is set to remove over 40k tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Key investments areas include energy efficiency, electrification of heat and on-site solar generation.</p> <p>IDA Ireland secured 13 sustainability investments during H1 2023, bringing the total number of investments to 50 (83% of Q4 2024 target) under the 2021-2024 IDA Ireland strategy.</p> <p>In terms of the sustainable impact of these investments, seven projects focused on Building Ireland’s green economy capacity and six projects focused on Reduced Environmental Impact in Ireland.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Develop a climate action plan, make Efficiency improvements, **electrify** onsite machinery and equipment, Decarbonise facilities and sites, Scope 3 emissions

### 3.5 Increase Investments in our Regions

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2024: At least half of all FDI investments for 2021-2024 to locations outside Dublin</p> <p>Q4 2024: Progress the delivery of 19 advanced building solutions in regional locations and the development of strategic landbanks for utility intensive investments</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	IDA Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>In the first half of 2023, 139 FDI investments were won by IDA Ireland, with a potential for 12,072 jobs to be created. 67 of these 139 investments went to regional locations, representing 48% of total FDI investments going to locations outside of Dublin during H1 2023. This brings total regional investments to 327 (51.9% of total investments), against a target of 400 (50% of total investments) under the 2021-2024 IDA Ireland strategy.</p> <p>IDA Ireland’s Property Division has completed 8 of the 19 Advanced Building Solutions (ABS) including the Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI) centre. The remaining ABS’ are at various stages of design, planning, procurement and site selection. IDA Ireland’s Property Division continues with the active development of strategic landbanks in the regions across the existing portfolio, with a view to identifying the next phase of strategic sites for utility intensive investments. This is an ongoing activity and wholly dependent on identifying suitable lands with the appropriate zoning, services and development potential.</p>

### 3.6 Strengthen Collaboration between MNCs and SMEs

<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing to Q4 2024: Implementation of Global Sourcing Initiative to contribute to a 20% uplift in IDA client expenditure in Ireland by Q4 2024.
<b>Responsibility</b>	IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland have developed a new strategy to enhance global sourcing linkages between their respective clients. This new strategy is designed to enhance client engagement and accelerate the delivery of a 20% uplift in global sourcing from IDA Ireland clients for Enterprise Ireland clients by the end of Q4 2024. Growing supply chain linkages, driving sustainable growth, promoting jobs and increasing cooperation on the development of national industry clustering, amongst many others, have been identified as additional enablers for the advancement of collaboration by the two agencies.</p> <p>Under the umbrella of 'Export in Ireland', IDA Ireland will facilitate introductions to up to 80 IDA Ireland Clients / MNCS up until the end of 2024. This includes sectors such as; Biopharma; Medtech; Financial Services, Technology Manufacturing; Internet Based Services / Platforms; and Business Services. Such MNC introductions will investigate and source supply opportunities for Enterprise Ireland client companies through understanding the individual current and future MNC supply pressure points, together with future MNC growth and development plans, that may lead to additional supply and service opportunities for Enterprise Ireland client companies.</p> <p>The motivation for MNCs to look to additional indigenous Irish supply options is driven by post-Covid international trends such as supply localisation and diversification, digitalisation and the sustainability agenda. Tangible outcomes will include direct Enterprise Ireland client introductions to MNCs, curated MNC supplier events with Enterprise Ireland client participation, networking and sectoral themed networking events.</p>

### 3.7 Enhance FDI Partnering in Research, Development and Innovation

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2024: Deliver 170 additional RD&I investments, and cumulative RD&I investment of €3.8 billion, by client companies in the period 2021-2024
<b>Responsibility</b>	IDA Ireland
<b>Update</b>	Increasing investment in RD&I is essential to help companies realise future growth opportunities, create high quality jobs, and enhance the reputation of their operations in Ireland. IDA Ireland secured 25 RD&I projects during H1 2023, bringing the total number of RD&I investments to 105 since 2021, against a target of 170 investments by Q4 2024. This represents cumulative RD&I investment of €3.34 billion to date, against the 2024 target of €3.8 billion in investment by Q4 2024.

### 3.8 Enable Digitalisation of our FDI Base

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2024: Engage 400 companies to commence their digitalisation journey with awareness and advisory assistance
<b>Responsibility</b>	IDA Ireland, Digital Manufacturing Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI) was opened in Q1 2023 and was established to form an industry-led national organisation that enables Irish-based manufacturers to access, adopt and accelerate new digital technologies. Since its inception, DMI staffing count has grown to 35, with a leadership team, subject matter experts and support functions in place.</p> <p>There has been strong industry interest to date, with over 1,055 visits during H1 2023, just over half of which were repeat visits from clients looking to participate in the activities of DMI.</p> <p>In May 2023, DMI launched the Visual Cognitive Manufacturing Group, a cross industry collaboration consisting of over 60 organisations to date, designed to establish Ireland as a global centre of excellence in the use of machine vision in manufacturing. The first projects will begin in late 2023.</p> <p>In July 2023, the Human Centric Manufacturing research study was launched in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the International Academy of Automation Engineers. The study is in partnership with 12 Medical Device Manufacturers and the first report is expected in Q4 2024 which will provide unique insights into the human side of adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies at scale.</p> <p>As part of the DMI mandate, the target of over 400 companies to be engaged was set, to assist Irish-based enterprise in digital transformation, digital manufacturing as well as wider training and collaboration on the digitalisation of enterprise. DMI has engaged approximately 100 companies during the first half of 2023, well ahead of the Q4 2024 target timeline.</p> <p>As part of wider digitalisation efforts, IDA Ireland diagnostics tools have been developed during 2022 and 2023 to support enterprises in Ireland in positioning themselves for future growth as technology adoption and digital transformation accelerate. These tools help assess the digitalisation maturity of organisations, and were developed and informed by international best practice, industry, and academia.</p> <p>IDA Ireland is engaging clients with these tools, with 267 diagnostics having been completed by IDA clients by end of H1 2023. Feedback has been provided to client companies during this process, and areas for further development around innovation, sustainability, talent development and digitalisation have been identified for improvements moving forward. IDA will continue to work with clients to develop roadmaps to address these areas, such as digitalisation transformation plans, talent development strategies as well as sustainability assessments and resultant action plans.</p>

## 4. Strengthening the Irish-owned Exporting Sector

It is critical that we enable the Irish-owned exporting sector to fulfil its potential to scale and succeed in global markets, thereby building a strong domestic growth engine to support sustainable, diversified growth. The White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 sets out an enterprise policy agenda to achieve that by addressing barriers to finance and skills for scaling, strengthening the pipeline from start-up to at-scale exporting, and enhancing the diversity, sustainability, and competitiveness of the Irish-owned exporting sector. Detail on the progress of these initiatives is contained below.

### 4.1 Support Entrepreneurship and Start-Ups

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Strengthen the pipeline of entrepreneurs and start-ups through the Start your own Business Programme, New Frontiers and FoodWorks, targeting increased participation</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Support 60 companies annually through the HPSU pre-seed offer</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Support 90 new HPSUs at seed stage with risk capital annually.</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>The LEO Start your own business/Entrepreneurship programme continues to support budding entrepreneurs in setting up a business. As of end H1 2023, there are 207 programmes with 2,910 people participating across 6 – 8 modules, against a target of 4,000 participants nationally by end 2024.</p> <p>17 New Frontiers Phase 1 programmes have taken place with three Phase 2 programmes currently running during H1 2023.</p> <p>The annual Food Works 10-month programme approved 7 companies for participation during the 2023 programme. Participating companies can apply for a series of grants to support salaries and other expenditures, where a total of €244,125 in grant funding was provided through the programmes 2022 cohort.</p> <p>The new Enterprise Ireland Pre-Seed Start Fund was opened for applications in Q1 2023 and will remain open for applications throughout 2023. There has been strong interest across all sectors, with ICT attracting the greatest level of interest. There have been 28 approvals during H1 2023, against the annual target of 60 companies.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland has approved a total of 25 new High Potential Start Ups in the year-to-date into all sectors, with female founders involved in 5 projects and 6 projects having a sustainability/ GreenTech focus. In addition, 17 follow-on investments were approved for existing HPSU clients during 2023, which is significantly ahead of the previous year. Enterprise Ireland continue to drive entrepreneurship across all sectors, through various Start-Up Events, accelerator programmes and panel and expert support. A media campaign is furthermore set to commence in Q4 2023.</p>



## 4.2 Develop Scaling Finance for Irish Firms

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q3 2023: Delivery and publication of Report from the Finance for Scaling Working Group</p> <p>Q4 2023: Analyse recommendations of the Working Group report, and develop implementation plan</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Finance for Scaling Working Group was established to address the limitations in access to finance, which can constrain business' ability to scale and grow. The Working Group has been developing its report on policy direction and actionable recommendations to increase scale-up activity in the Irish equity ecosystem during 2023. The report is now in the final stages of drafting and is expected to be published in Q4 2023.</p>
	<p>Following publication of the report by the Working Group, an implementation group will be formed in Q4 2023, consisting of key stakeholders. This implementation group will be responsible for the delivery of the actions and recommendations detailed within the report, and will meet regularly to track progress and ensure key milestones are reached.</p>

## 4.3 Enhance Scaling Capabilities and Skills

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Redesign leadership programmes that support scaling including the Leadership 4 Growth and Go Global for Growth to meet the changing needs of scaling companies</p>
	<p>Q4 2023: Expand programme of events and number of participants availing of strategic funding upskilling initiatives so that more business owners have access to advice on how to rapidly scale a business and source the most appropriate funding based on their business needs</p>
	<p>Ongoing: Continue to support the scaling of Irish companies through initiatives such as the Job Expansion Fund, the Capital Investment Initiative and tailored company expansion packages to contribute to the overall White Paper target of a 50% increase in the number of large Irish companies by 2030</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland

<p><b>Update</b></p>	<p>The redesign of both Leadership 4 Growth and Go Global 4 Growth programmes is underway, and is largely driven by stakeholder engagement and evaluations. It is expected that the subsequent tendering process will be largely completed by the end of Q4 2023.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland's comprehensive evaluation of the programme during 2020-2021 was completed by independent evaluators and included Leadership 4 Growth programmes 2016-2019. Engagement with programme alumni and other stakeholders continued during the tender preparation, looking at barriers to entry for the programme and improvements to enhance client experience and impact.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Ireland completed a funding bootcamp to support scaling clients raising funding and delivered a series of Scaling and Funding webinars during H1 2023. 12 Companies attended the Bootcamp, which was the start of a series of events arranged for the cohort of companies, culminating in attendance at the three-day TechCrunch Disrupt in San Francisco, which gave companies the chance to connect with investors.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland continued its partnership with Initial Public Offering (IPO) Ready programme. During 2023, IPO ready sponsored 10 Enterprise Ireland clients to access strategic finance, understand the IPO process, get investor ready and understand capital markets. The programme focuses on 5 key modules, pitch days, one-to-one mentoring and seminars. The 2024 programme is currently in development in partnership with INSEAD Business School and targets 12 ambitious companies for participation.</p> <p>A CFO/ Strategic finance programme is currently under development by Enterprise Ireland, and it will provide supports in enhancing the skillsets of executives for scaling their companies and raising strategic finance. The programme is expected to be launched as a pilot during 2023.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Ireland furthermore continues to support the scaling of Irish companies, with 2,900 new job commitments being approved as of end-H1 2023, where the investment pipeline continues to build across all sectors. Companies are focusing on Digital Transformation and Operational Excellence in addition to R&amp;D, capital investment and expansions. Enterprise Ireland furthermore continues to actively engage companies which show the potential to achieve global growth of €1 billion over the coming 10 years.</p>

<b>Timeline</b>	Q1 2024: Complete OECD-led study on incubation and acceleration programmes to support internationalisation of HPSUs
	Q4 2024: Launch new policy on incubation and acceleration programmes that will increase the internationalisation of HPSUs
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	Project terms of reference for the OECD-led study were agreed with the OECD in Q2 2023, and the study will set a basis from which to develop new policy around the ecosystem of incubators and accelerators for start-ups in Ireland, maximising their export and scaling potential.
	An oversight group also convened in Q2 2023 to assist with data gathering, stakeholder identification and management of the project. The oversight group conducted a project kick-off meeting with OECD experts and the study is expected to progress on schedule, in line with the completion target date in Q1 2024.
	The launch of a new policy will follow on from completion of the OECD study on incubation and acceleration programmes to support the internationalisation of HPSUs. The OECD project is underway and expected to be completed on schedule in Q1 2024.

#### 4.4 Accelerate the Export Growth of Irish Enterprise

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2024: The total value of exports reported by Enterprise Ireland client companies on an annual basis to reach €30 billion by 2024, and updated accordingly following periodic review
	Q4 2024: The value of Enterprise Ireland client companies' exports going to destinations outside of the UK market will represent 70% of total exports
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	In 2022, Enterprise Ireland recorded the highest ever level of growth in export value, as exports increased by 19% to €32.1 billion, ahead of the Q4 2024 target of €30 billion. 2023 results will be captured in the Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review during H1 2024.
	Enterprise Ireland client exports in 2022 reached a record €32.1 billion of which 71% was to outside UK. The UK now accounts for exports of €9.22 billion, representing 29% of total exports during 2022. 2023 results will be captured in the Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review during H1 2024.

## 4.5 Expand LEO Mandate to Develop the Export Potential of Irish Businesses

<b>Timeline</b>	Q1 2023: Launch pilot of new LEO/Enterprise Ireland framework to extend direct financial assistance to small companies in the manufacturing and internationally traded sectors to become export-ready
<b>Responsibility</b>	Local Enterprise Offices; Enterprise Ireland; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>The LEO Framework for companies employing more than 10 and less than 50 full time employees with international ambition was launched in Q1 2023. The framework supports the extension of direct financial assistance to small companies in the manufacturing and internationally traded sectors to become export ready.</p> <p>The framework launch has been supported with 9 Regional Information and Knowledge Sharing Events, bringing together the Enterprise Ireland Regional Teams and the corresponding LEO teams to share knowledge and experience and case studies and develop working relationships to best support client engagement, development and support. Practical supports have also been developed and made available to companies online.</p> <p>A formal review will take place by end of Q4 2023, to consider the impact and effectiveness of the of the new LEO/EI Framework.</p>

## 4.6 Support Market Diversification of Irish Firms

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Deliver digital sales and marketing capability programmes to support clients to reach new markets and customers, in addition to its Market Discovery Fund, Enterprise Ireland will also undertake the Strategic Marketing Review and Digital Marketing Review</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2023: Launch the Post Brexit: Market Growth &amp; Diversification Grant to support firms impacted by Brexit to identify new market opportunities, develop a market entry plan and grow exports in markets outside of the UK</p> <p>Q2 2023: Develop proposal for a new targeted approach to increase the number of first-time exporters to contribute to the Government’s target of growing Irish-owned exporters by 2,000 by 2030</p> <p>Q4 2024: Co-ordinate and promote over 100 trade events in key international and local markets annually in 2023 and 2024 to give clients the opportunity to connect with existing and new customers, access key decision makers, increase sales in international markets and exchange ideas</p> <p>Q4 2023: A new Enterprise Ireland website will be launched to better signpost relevant supports for Enterprise Ireland and provide an enhanced customer experience for client companies, international partners and customers</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2023: Enterprise Ireland and Local Enterprise Offices to target the delivery of 200 new exporters per annum by end 2023</p> <p>Q4 2024: A LEO website review to be completed as part of the wider LEO digital transformation plan</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland

<p><b>Update</b></p>	<p>The Sales and Marketing client support programmes that Enterprise Ireland manages continue to experience a strong uptake. Over €4 million has now been approved across the various marketing support programmes, supporting 137 Enterprise Ireland clients to help them develop their sales and marketing capabilities internationally. Programmes include the Strategic Marketing Review, Digital Marketing Capability, Digital Marketing Assessment and the Marketing Discovery Fund.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland Market Research Centre (MRC) has also handled 1,232 client research assignments in the year to date. The Digital Marketing Unit will be hosting an in-person client Digital Marketing Workshop during Q4 2023, where more than 120 clients are expected to attend.</p>
	<p>The Post-Brexit Market Growth &amp; Diversification grant was launched in April 2023, in partnership with Bord Bia. The grant supports companies to plan their new market entry strategies for regions outside of the UK. Strong levels of approval for the Post-Brexit Market Growth &amp; Diversification Grant have been experienced, with almost €1.6 million in supports approved. There is now a pipeline total of over €2 million of company supports to help diversification into new markets.</p>
	<p>A business case is being developed with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, to outline the rationale and a roadmap to deliver on an increase in the number of first-time exporters. The intention is to develop and launch a new national partner led approach to create and deliver a New Exporters Accelerator Programme along with a dedicated New Exporters Central Team to be hosted within Enterprise Ireland.</p> <p>The Accelerator will focus on building ambition, capability and market entry strategies for potential first-time exporters. A pilot will be launched in Q4 2023 with a full rollout to take place in 2024, subject to review and approvals.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Irelands programme of Trade Missions and events are important gateways to international markets; promoting opportunities for Irish enterprise globally, whilst also highlighting the innovation Irish companies are bringing to international markets. Enterprise Ireland co-ordinated and promoted 57 trade events during H1 2023.</p> <p>18 Enterprise Ireland Trade missions are planned for 2023 across North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, with 12 of these having already taken place during H1. These included four joint Enterprise Ireland and IDA trade missions to Australia, USA and France and Germany.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland also led out on 45 global trade events during H1 2023, highlighting Irish innovation to a global audience. Enterprise Ireland hosted 48 trade events across 17 countries on St. Patrick’s Day, supporting 350 clients and was furthermore a sponsor of the Bloomberg New Economy event held Ireland in April 2023, which supported clients in engaging and connecting on prospective business opportunities.</p>

	<p>The Development of a new Enterprise Ireland client website to better signpost relevant supports available from Enterprise Ireland and an enhanced customer experience commenced during 2023. This remains on track for completion by the end of 2023, along with the creation of a client showcase directory to promote Irish companies to international buyers.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Ireland and the LEO network are working closely together on the delivery of 200 new exporters per annum by end of 2023.</p>
	<p>The Centre of Excellence engaged during Q1 with the LEO Network on the identification of 75 clients who have the potential to become first time exporters. LEOs are engaged in an intensive working relationship and related developmental milestones with clients on this journey since Q1 and these will contribute to the overall total 200 first time exports.</p>
	<p>The target of 200 new exporters is expected to be met by end Q4 2023, and engagements are expected to continue throughout 2024.</p>
	<p>The wider LEO Digital Transformation Programme was approved formally by Enterprise Ireland in 2023. The LEO Digital Transformation Programme is now being considered with the Enterprise Ireland Service Delivery Programme with regard to a single procurement framework and single technical solution. The Enterprise Ireland EI Website Project review and update is underway and will be launched in Q4 2023.</p>

## 4.7 Transformation of Irish exporting base

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Support 425 climate projects between 2022 and 2024, to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the Irish exporting base</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Support 400 digitalisation interventions between 2022 and 2024 to enable the digital transformation of Irish exporters</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2024: Support 300 significant R&amp;D projects (defined as projects with a value in excess of €100,000) between 2022 and 2024 to drive the competitiveness of Irish companies in international markets</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>Enterprise Ireland continued extensive engagements with client companies on sustainability and climate issues, where 86 climate projects were supported by Enterprise Ireland during H1 2023. 87 climate projects were approved during H2 2022, since the launch of the Green Transition Fund, with 151 climate projects run in total during 2022. Enterprise Ireland continues to work with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment alongside other partners in raising awareness of these offers to its client base.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland continued to work closely with client companies on their strategic development plans and to incentivise projects in digitalisation strategy &amp; roadmap development, digital marketing capability development and digital process innovation projects as part of the suite of wider digitalisation interventions. In this effort, projects were approved for 86 Enterprise Ireland companies during the first half of 2023.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland continues to accelerate the development of research and innovation capability in Irish enterprise, where 40 R&amp;D projects with grant expenditure greater than €100k were approved in H1 2023, building on 102 R&amp;D approvals over €100K during 2022.</p>



## 5. Enabling Locally Traded Sectors to Thrive

Locally traded enterprises play an important role in placemaking, contributing to the economic and social fabric of towns and villages across Ireland, as well as employment and regional development. The White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 sets out an enterprise policy approach of assisting locally traded sectors to reduce energy and carbon emissions and to improve productivity through digitalisation, as well as supporting social enterprise and its distinct role in Ireland’s enterprise ecosystem. Details on the progress of these initiatives are contained below.

### 5.1 Facilitate our Locally Trading Sectors to Navigate the Twin Transition

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Publication of Report to provide a clear evidence base for addressing the priority productivity challenges of the locally traded sector, particularly around climate action and digitalisation</p> <p>Q1 2024: Launch Implementation Plan to address the priority productivity challenges of the locally traded sector, particularly around climate action and digitalisation</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Department of Trade, Enterprise and Employment intended to commission a research study during 2023 to establish the extent to which locally trading enterprise are engaging with digitalisation and decarbonisation.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of this research study, the Department of Enterprise, Trade, Employment has been engaging with the CSO during Q1 and Q2 of 2023, to source data and map the locally traded sectors in order enhance the wider research planned.</p> <p>Upon completion of this data and mapping exercise, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will engage an external research consultant to research the sector further. This research will feed into the publication of the report on addressing productivity challenges in the locally traded section, which is now expected to be published in Q2 2024.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan will be formalised upon completion of the external research study. Both are now expected to be completed during Q2 2024.</p>

## 5.2 Support Small Firms in Energy Cost Reduction and Decarbonisation Investments

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: Launch the pilot of the Small Firms Investment in Energy Efficiency Scheme to help small firms to reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>Q4 2023: Evaluate the pilot of SFIEES with a view to mainstreaming in 2024</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Enterprise Ireland - Centre of excellence; Local Enterprise Offices; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Údarás na Gaeltachta</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The pilot Energy Efficiency Grant was launched in May 2023 by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mr Simon Coveney, T.D. The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises with 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €5,000 following on from a Green for Micro/Business Report, GreenStart Report or a SEAI Energy Audit. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses.</p> <p>National and local publicity campaigns have taken place since the launch along with a website presence Energy - Local Enterprise Office and online application form with supporting information and relevant links to the Climate Tool Kit, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and other sustainability supports. Since the launch of the scheme in May 2023, 5 clients have been approved for Energy Efficiency Grants. A review of the pilot will be complete by end 2023.</p> <p>Following the launch of the pilot in May 2023, an evaluation is expected to commence during Q4 2023 as originally scheduled. An extension of the Green for Micro programme, renamed Green for Business, also commenced in Q3 2023 for eligible companies with up to 50 employees across all sectors.</p>

## 5.3 Assist Locally Traded Sectors in Increasing Digital Intensity

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q4 2023: Launch of new scheme and funding to support locally traded sectors, in conjunction with the development of the Digital Portal</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Enterprise Ireland are working to develop the scheme and ensure that there is coherence in the digital supports available to businesses.</p> <p>This scheme is being developed alongside the Digital Portal, which is on track for a delivery in Q4 2023. Further details on the Portal can be found under Section 2.3.</p>

## 5.4 Enable Locally Traded Sectors to Capture e-Commerce opportunities through Digitalisation

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: Launch Online Retail Scheme call for 2023 to enhance retailers' online capability and presence so as they can best exploit new opportunities and attract new customers</p> <p>Q4 2024: Completion of a full programme review of the Online Retail Scheme. The review will establish the Scheme impact over all calls with a view to potentially mainstreaming the Scheme as an ongoing Enterprise Ireland support</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Online Retail Scheme 2023 was launched in April 2023 with a €3.4 million budget. and closed for applications in May. A total number of 151 applications were received, and 98 successful applications were announced. The evaluation process is now complete with all applicants informed of the outcome of their respective applications.</p> <p>The invitation to tender for the Online Retail Scheme (ORS) review is expected to be published during Q4 2023. A full review of the ORS will be completed in Q4 2024, where the review will establish the Scheme's impact over all calls in order to inform decisions regarding the long-term strategy of the scheme.</p>

## 5.5 Boost Social Enterprise Contributions to the Irish Economy and Society

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023 - Publication of OECD review of Social Enterprise in Ireland</p> <p>Q2/3 2023 - Public consultation on the new National Social Enterprise Policy</p> <p>Q4 2023 - Publication of the new Social Enterprise Policy</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Rural and Community Development
<b>Update</b>	<p>The OECD review of Social Enterprise in Ireland will help inform policy makers on a range of topics pertinent to the social enterprise sector in Ireland. The review is expected to be published in Q4 2023 following finalisation and approval of the review by the OECD.</p> <p>Although publication of the review is behind the target of Q2 2023, the draft review has already had a significant influence on the Department of Rural and Community Developments' work on a new National Social Enterprise Policy.</p> <p>A public consultation on the new National Social Enterprise Policy is now due to be launched for submissions in Q4 2023.</p> <p>The New Social Enterprise Policy is at an advanced stage of drafting by the Department of Rural and Community Development and is currently due for publication in Q1 of 2024, slightly behind the target of Q4 2023. The policy will be further developed during 2023, taking account of the OECD review, the baseline data report, submissions received during the public consultation process and bilateral meetings with other Government Departments.</p>

## 6. Stepping Up Enterprise Innovation

Expanding the innovation capacity across enterprise and stimulating disruptive innovation is critical for enhancing productivity and enabling enterprise to enter new markets and avail of new opportunities. This will require both private and public investment in research, development, and innovation (RDI), and is a key goal of Impact 2030, Ireland’s Research and Innovation Strategy. The White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 sets out a commitment to increase development and innovation activity, drive spin-outs through increased research commercialisation and industry-academic collaboration and ensure funding and advisory supports are in place for businesses throughout their innovation journey. Additionally, the Implementation Plan identifies certain sectors of opportunity for innovation, and sets out a smart specialisation approach to address ecosystem gaps and improve regional performance. Detail on the progress of these initiatives is contained below.

### 6.1 Double Spin-outs and Enhance Research Commercialisation

<b>Timeline</b>	Q1 2024: Complete awards to universities and commence the KT Boost Programme Q1 2024: Commence Innovators Initiative
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland (Lead); Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>To support the generation of spinouts and High Potential Start-Ups from research, Enterprise Ireland launched two new European Regional Development Fund initiatives during Q1 2023. The Knowledge Transfer (KT) Boost Programme and the Innovators’ Initiative, will be vital to boosting the number of applications to Enterprise Ireland’s Commercialisation Fund, ultimately leading to a growth in the number of HPSUs from research.</p> <p>The KT Boost scheme will provide funding to universities to support knowledge transfer and boost their innovative capacity and capability, whilst also supporting companies and investors to access new knowledge and expertise, to drive innovation through collaboration, and to identify and license new technologies and IP. The Call process for the KT Boost scheme opened in February 2023 and the scheme is expected to be operational by 1st January 2024.</p> <p>Innovators Initiative call launched in Q1, closed in Q2 and evaluations of applications have been completed. Successful programmes are expected to begin operating in Q4 2023, ahead of schedule. Eleven eligible applications were received in the Innovators’ Initiative call for proposals.</p>

## 6.2 Invest in Disruptive Technologies Innovation and Commercialisation

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Announce results of Call 6 of DTIF, which closes in Q2 2023
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	The Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) is a €500 million challenge-based fund established under Project Ireland 2040. The fund supports collaborative enterprise-driven partnerships that develop, deploy and commercialise disruptive technologies to transform business, with a particular focus on industrial research and SME participation. Call 6 of the DTIF sought applicants with projects across a range of national research priorities areas, including in digital transformation and integrating decarbonisation and net zero commitments. Call 6 of DTIF closed in May 2023, with 27 applications received. These are currently going through the DTIF eligibility checks and project evaluation stages. It is anticipated that the successful projects will be announced on schedule in Q4 2023.

## 6.3 Strengthen Regional Smart Specialisations

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Implement first phase of allocation of €445 million of ERDF Funding for regional enterprise development and innovation initiatives
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Smart Specialisation National Steering Group
<b>Update</b>	<p>The first phase of the allocation of European Regional Development Fund funding commenced during 2023. Four programmes are presently being co-funded under the ERDF over a 7-year period. The budget allocation for Technology Gateways, Knowledge Transfer (KT) Boost, and Innovator’s Initiative programmes is €15.65 million in total for 2023. The overall budget is €117 million over 7 years.</p> <p>The Technology Gateways programme was launched in May (Q2) 2023, with funding for the 16 Technology Gateways announced. Funding will also be used to add a new Gateway to the existing Network based in Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands and Midwest.</p> <p>As detailed in 6.1, the KT Boost programme will bridge the knowledge transfer gap between industry and academia. It will fund technology transfer specialists in both universities and technological universities across Ireland. The Innovators’ Initiative programme is being developed as a national innovation training initiative to build on existing international and national best practice in immersive-based, needs-led innovation training programmes connecting on multiple levels with the industry sector clusters in a particular region.</p> <p>Calls for applications to both initiatives were issued in Q1 2023 and closed during Q2 2023. The applications received are currently being assessed, and it is anticipated that successful applications will be announced by end of Q4 2023.</p> <p>In addition, the first call under the ‘Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme’ for €35m was announced and the Scheme is now open for applications on Enterprise Ireland’s website until March 2024. Further details on this scheme are detailed under Section 7.2.</p>

## 6.4 Drive Innovation and Adoption of Modern Methods in Construction (MMC)

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: Delivery of MMC Roadmap for publicly procured residential construction</p> <p>Q4 2023: Launch of Construct Innovate industry outreach and engagement programme and completion of Housing for All priority research programme</p> <p>Q4 2023: Completion of first phase of MMC Demonstration Park</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science</p>
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage published the Roadmap for Increased Adoption of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) in Public Housing Delivery in July 2023. The Roadmap sets out a range of actions for public bodies to undertake, in order to increase use of MMC in residential construction. This includes measures to support the delivery of 1,500 social homes in 2023 and 2024 using MMC. In parallel, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have also published an 'Introductory Guide to Modern Methods of Construction', which sets out information on the different forms of MMC available.</p> <p>The Construct Innovate leadership team, consisting of a Centre Manager, Centre Steering Committee Chair, and Centre Chairs, is now in place, with the final appointments made in Q2 2023. The team will take on an ecosystem-wide view on innovation adoption in residential construction. Construct Innovate has onboarded 35 industry members. The first Academic Industry Meeting (AIM) day workshop was held in May 2023 to gather industry views on the Centre's research programme and working groups have been formed under agreed topics. A second AIM Day is planned for Q4 2023. The Housing for All priority research programme continues to progress and is expected to be completed on time during Q4 of 2023.</p> <p>The development of the first phase of the MMC Demonstration Park continues to progress. During H1 2023, the relevant construction surveys were completed to enable the progression of the Park. These included ecological reports and an examination of the most suitable type of foundation for the individual platforms on which the housing units will be built. An expressions of interest process has been completed to select preferred contractors to deliver the demonstration buildings for Phase 1 of the development. The Department of Further and Higher Education Research, Innovation and Science is currently in the process of appointing a Project Manager and a Structural Engineer to conduct a peer review on the overall plans, with a view to moving the project forward to planning stage in Q4 of 2023.</p>



<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Provide a range of lean, innovation and productivity advisory and financial assistance to home builders, general contractors, and offsite manufacturers with ambition to adopt modern methods of construction
<b>Responsibility</b>	Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>Enterprise Ireland’s Built to Innovate initiative was launched in 2022 with the aim of increasing the productivity and innovation capabilities of the domestic residential sector. Enterprise Ireland continues to actively promote this range of financial and advisory supports to the construction sector with presentations to sector stakeholders, highlighting these new offerings.</p> <p>These include engagements at the National Construction Summit, Irish Homebuilders Association regional roundtable, MMC Ireland member meetings as well as attendance at regular industry events with 20 companies being approved for funding from March 2022 to June 2023.</p>

## 6.5 Pursue Frontier Technology Opportunities in the Space Sector

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Achieve 100 Irish based companies working with the European Space Agency
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>By end of H1 2023, 97 Irish based companies have successfully secured contracts with the European Space Agency (ESA).</p> <p>In the period January to March 2023, seven Irish based companies, including two first time companies, concluded contracts with the ESA to the value of €1.4 million. These contracts ranged from provision of components or services for Space Launchers to Telecommunications systems. The target of 100 Irish based companies working with ESA is expected to be achieved on schedule by Q4 2023, and a target of 105 companies has been set to be achieved by Q4 2024.</p>

## 7. Building on Strengths and Opportunities

By building on existing capabilities and strengths in global markets and positioning Ireland at the frontier of emerging opportunities, we will underpin Ireland’s resilience in the face of disruption and transition. The White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024 commits to doing this by developing of a national approach to clustering - which brings together enterprise, higher education, and researchers to drive competitive advantage – supporting regional employment and development through Regional Enterprise Plans and the deployment of European funding, as well as a national strategy for hubs. Detail on the progress of these initiatives is contained below.

### 7.1 Develop a Coordinated National Approach to Clustering

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q3 2023: Devise a National Clustering Programme</p> <p>Q4 2023: Commence implementation with the target to fund five National Cluster organisations under the Programme by 2025</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
<b>Update</b>	<p>To support and inform the development of the National Cluster Programme, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment commissioned Grant Thornton to undertake research which involved a review of international case studies in clustering, stakeholder consultations, mapping of the cluster landscape in Ireland and consideration of the policy options for a national approach to clustering. This report was published in March 2023 and is now informing the development of the National Cluster Programme and considerations around the establishment of the national coordination mechanism.</p> <p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment officials have been engaging with a range of stakeholders during 2023, to ensure the National Clustering Programme is tailored effectively to support and enhance the Irish clustering ecosystem, and to establish a central coordination mechanism which will oversee delivery of the Programme.</p> <p>Since Q2 2023, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment officials have also been working with colleagues in the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and the enterprise development agencies across the island, to develop a proposal for a clustering initiative to be funded through the Shared Island Fund. This funding stream will support the National Clustering Programme in taking a shared island approach, as set out in the White Paper on Enterprise.</p> <p>The approach to the National Cluster Programme and the establishment of a national coordination mechanism was agreed in 2023 and further development is being undertaken during Q4 2023, with the aim of funding five National Cluster Organisations under a new National Clustering Programme by 2025.</p>
	<p>Work is underway to finalise the National Clustering Programme. Following this, implementation of the National Clustering Programme will commence by year end.</p>

## 7.2 Support Balanced, Sustainable Regional Development

<b>Timeline</b>	<p>Q2 2023: First call under the ERDF for regional enterprise development to be held, with further calls on an annual basis or every nine months, depending on demand</p> <p>Q4 2023: Completion of all nine Building Better Business conferences</p>
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Enterprise Ireland
<b>Update</b>	<p>Up to €145 million in regional enterprise funding to 2027 has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), to support projects aligned to the Regional Enterprise Plans.</p> <p>The first call under the 'Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme' for €35m was announced and the Scheme is now open for applications on Enterprise Ireland's website until 31 March 2024. The Scheme provides an opportunity for regional stakeholders to unlock potential from the bottom up through collaboration and will have major impact in all regions of the country, supporting projects aligned to the Regional Enterprise Plans. This is the first of a number of calls over the coming years.</p> <p>Seven of the nine Building Better Business conferences have taken place across the country during 2023, which focused on supporting SMEs in navigating the green journey and boosting business performance through digital transformation. These conferences were held in; North-West (Donegal); Midlands (Laois); Mid-West (Limerick); Mid-East (Kildare); South-East (Waterford); North-East (Louth); West (Mayo). The remaining two conferences are expected to take place during Q4 in South-West (Cork) and Dublin.</p>

<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing to 2030: Offer qualifying businesses and companies from various sectors a range of incentives and supports to start up, develop, expand or locate in a Gaeltacht region
<b>Responsibility</b>	Údarás na Gaeltachta
<b>Update</b>	Údarás na Gaeltachta has approved 17 projects to incentivise its client companies to commence their green, lean and digital journeys. 'Gaeltacht Glas', a strategic project of Údarás na Gaeltachta, will enable the Gaeltacht to lead the way in providing innovative leadership in the green sector, promoting sustainability and its accompanying opportunities, while taking into consideration climate, environment, language, community and economy development. This Strategy is under development during 2023 and is expected to launch by year end.

## 7.3 Develop Ireland’s National Hub Strategy

<b>Timeline</b>	Q4 2023: Publication of Ireland’s National Hub Strategy
<b>Responsibility</b>	Department of Regional and Community Development (Co-Lead); Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Co-Lead)
<b>Update</b>	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Department of Rural and Community Development are leading on the development of the first National Hub Strategy, which will be published in January 2024. The Strategy will provide an overview of the hub ecosystem in Ireland and examine the contributions that hubs make to the economic and social development of communities across the State.</p> <p>During H1 2023, the two Departments and the Western Development Commission held four workshops with stakeholders which included hub managers, enterprise agencies, Regional Enterprise Plan Programme managers and local authorities, on the Strategy's themes to inform its development. These workshops focused on the themes of enterprise, community, employment, and climate action. One-to-one consultations have also taken place with stakeholders to inform the content of the Strategy.</p>

## Appendix I Metrics and Targets

Target 2030	Parent Strategy	Metric	Baseline	H1 2023 Update	Source
Employment					
Maintain full employment (unemployment below 5%)		Standard measure of monthly unemployment (persons aged 15-74 years)	4.4% (October 2022)	3.8% (June 2023)	CSO Labour Force Survey
Integrating decarbonisation and Net Zero commitments					
35% Emissions reductions from Industry by 2030	Climate Action Plan	Million Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent	6.98 MtCO <sub>2</sub> eq. (2018) *	6.58 MtCO <sub>2</sub> eq (2022)	EPA (2022) Final Emissions Data 1990 – 2021
45% emissions reductions from Commercial Built Environment by 2030	Climate Action Plan	Million Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent	1.5 MtCO <sub>2</sub> eq. (2018)	1.4 MtCO <sub>2</sub> eq (2022)	EPA (2022) Final Emissions Data 1990 – 2021
Placing digital transformation at the heart of enterprise policy					
90% of SMEs at basic digital intensity by 2030	Harnessing Digital: The Digital Ireland Framework	SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity	64% (2021)	N/A	Digital Economy and Society Index 2022 Ireland
Advancing Ireland's FDI and trade value proposition					
20% increase in IDA Ireland client expenditure in Ireland by 2024	IDA Ireland Strategy 2021-2024	Direct Economy Expenditure by Foreign owned firms	€29 billion (2020) **	8.4%, to €31.5 billion (2021)	DETE Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact
At least half of all FDI investments (400+) from 2021- 2024 to locations outside of Dublin	IDA Ireland Strategy 2021-2024	FDI Investment in regional locations	-	52% (2022)	IDA Ireland

Target 2030	Parent Strategy	Metric	Baseline	H1 2023 Update	Source
<b>Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector</b>					
2.5% average annual growth in Irish-owned enterprise productivity by 2024	Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024	Value added per person employed	1.8% (2017-2020) (Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review) ***	4.5% (2022) (Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review)	DETE Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact
50% Increase in the number of large Irish exporting companies (150 companies) by 2030		Number of large Irish exporting companies (250+ employees)	104 Companies (2021) (Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review)	120 Companies (2022) (Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review) – 15% annual increase	DETE Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact
2,000 additional Irish-owned exporters by 2030	SME & Entrepreneurship Growth Plan	Number of Irish-owned exporting firms	9,167 (2017)****	N/A	CSO
Over two-thirds (30,000) of new jobs created in Enterprise Ireland assisted firms will be outside of Dublin	Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024	Employment in Enterprise Ireland Supported firms outside Dublin	-	64% of job gains outside Dublin (2022)	Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review
<b>Enabling locally trading sectors to thrive</b>					
1% average annual increase in multifactor productivity growth in domestic sectors of the economy by 2025	Future Jobs Ireland 2019	Multifactor productivity growth for Economic sectors dominated by domestic and other enterprises (AAGR)	-0.2% average annual rate (2016-2019)*****	+0.17% average annual rate (2016-2021)	CSO
<b>Stepping up enterprise innovation</b>					
Gross (public and private) Expenditure on R&D 2.5% of GNI by 2030	Impact 2030	GERD as a % of GNI	2.21 as a % GNI (2020)	2.00 as a % GNI (2021)	DFHERIS Research and Development Budget

Target 2030	Parent Strategy	Metric	Baseline	H1 2023 Update	Source
20% Increase in the number of High-Potential Start-Ups (HPSUs) supported by 2024	EI Strategy 2022-2024	High-Potential Start-Ups supported	82 HPSUs (2021)	91 HPSUs (2022)	Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review
Building on strengths and opportunities					
Five National Cluster Organisations funded under a new National Clustering Programme by 2025		National Cluster Organisations funded under a new National Cluster Programme	National Cluster Programme to be established 2023	National Cluster Programme to be established 2023	National coordination body
Regional employment – Unemployment not to exceed one percentage point above national unemployment rate in any region		Standard measure of quarterly unemployment (persons aged 15-74 years)	Less than 1% above national average in every region (October 2022)	South East at +1.6pp (6.0%) from the quarterly national average. Less than 1% above national average in every other region (Q2 2023)	CSO Labour Force Survey

\* Baseline 2018 figure of 7.014 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. has been restated to 6.98 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. due to revisions in the national energy statistics provided to the EPA by SEAI

\*\* Baseline total IDA client expenditure for 2020 has been restated to €29 billion , up from the previously reported figure of €27.9 billion.

\*\*\* Baseline growth rate has been restated from 3.6% in the White Paper on Enterprise, to reflect Enterprise Ireland 2022-2024 Strategy, target to be reviewed in 2024/2025

\*\*\*\*Irish-owned Enterprise Agency Clients

\*\*\*\*\* Baseline annual productivity growth has been restated from -0.6% average annual rate (2016-2019) in the White Paper on Enterprise, to reflect revised estimates to annual productivity over the period by CSO

of the study, the authors also examined the impact of the presence of a witness on the accuracy of the recall. The results showed that the presence of a witness significantly improved the accuracy of the recall, particularly for the more difficult items. This finding is consistent with the idea that the presence of a witness can provide additional information and feedback that helps to improve the accuracy of the recall.

In addition to the impact of the presence of a witness, the authors also examined the impact of the presence of a reward on the accuracy of the recall. The results showed that the presence of a reward significantly improved the accuracy of the recall, particularly for the more difficult items. This finding is consistent with the idea that the presence of a reward can provide additional motivation and feedback that helps to improve the accuracy of the recall.

Overall, the results of this study suggest that the presence of a witness and a reward can both improve the accuracy of the recall, particularly for the more difficult items. This finding has important implications for the design of educational and training programs, as well as for the design of human-computer interfaces. For example, the presence of a witness and a reward could be used to improve the accuracy of the recall of information in a variety of contexts, including in the classroom, in the workplace, and in the home.

There are several limitations to this study that should be noted. First, the study was conducted in a laboratory setting, which may not be representative of real-world situations. Second, the study only examined the impact of the presence of a witness and a reward on the accuracy of the recall, and did not examine the impact of these factors on other aspects of memory, such as the speed of the recall or the amount of information recalled. Third, the study only examined the impact of the presence of a witness and a reward on the accuracy of the recall, and did not examine the impact of these factors on the accuracy of the recall over time.

Despite these limitations, the results of this study provide valuable insights into the factors that influence the accuracy of the recall. This information can be used to design educational and training programs that are more effective and efficient. For example, the presence of a witness and a reward could be used to improve the accuracy of the recall of information in a variety of contexts, including in the classroom, in the workplace, and in the home.

In conclusion, the presence of a witness and a reward can both improve the accuracy of the recall, particularly for the more difficult items. This finding has important implications for the design of educational and training programs, as well as for the design of human-computer interfaces. Further research is needed to explore the mechanisms underlying these effects and to determine the optimal conditions for their use.

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