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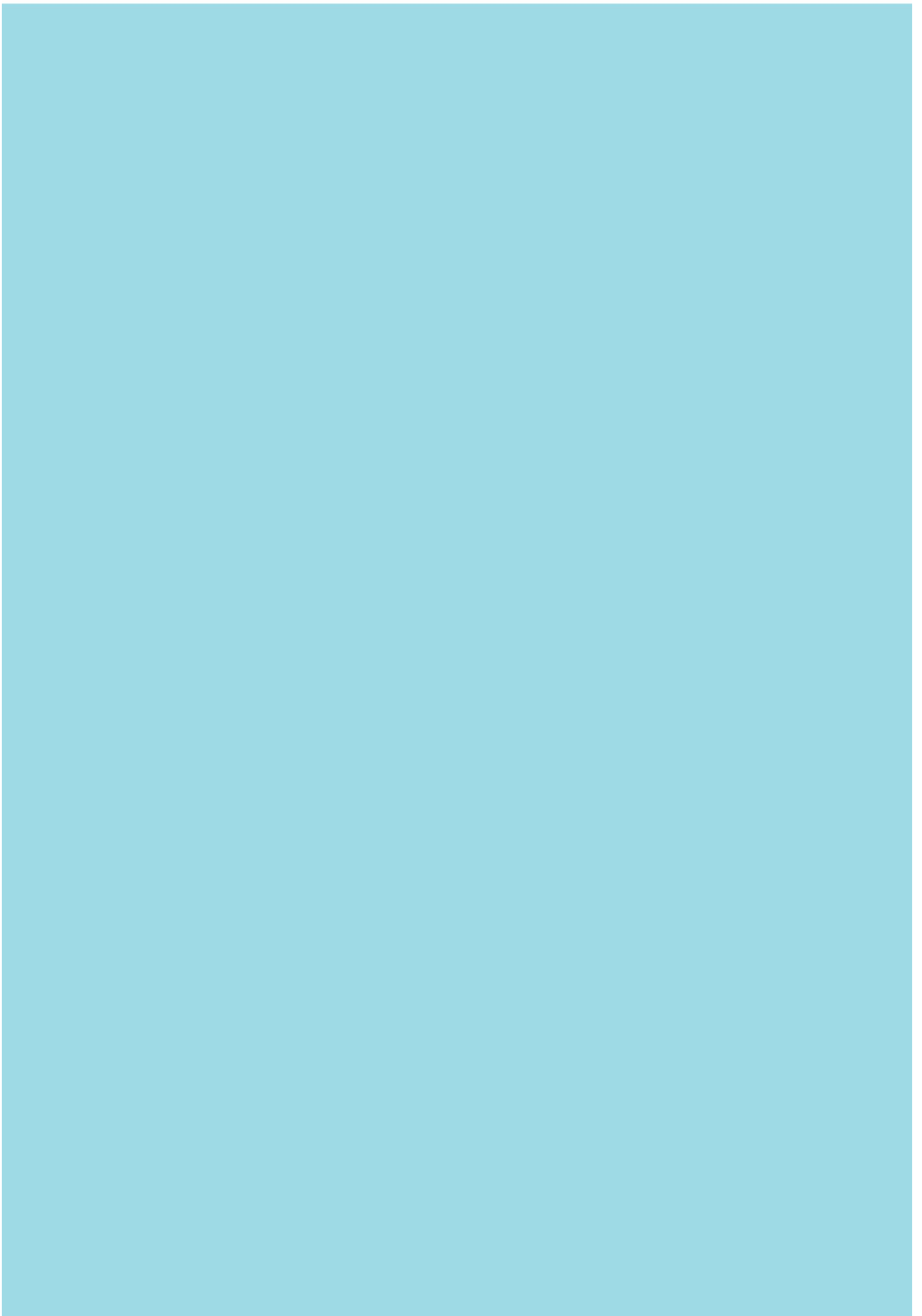
White Paper on Enterprise

Implementation Plan: Update Report H2 2023

May 2024



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



Foreword

When the White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030 was launched, it set Ireland on a clear and ambitious path towards achieving a thriving, sustainable, and resilient economy, which will deliver high-quality employment across the country. This vision builds on the key principles that have served the Irish economy so well, while recognising the changes that are needed to prepare Irish enterprise for the challenges and the opportunities of the future.

Since the White Paper's launch, significant work has been undertaken on a whole-of-Government basis to advance the vision it sets out. This update report, covering the first year in the White Paper's implementation, shows that significant delivery has occurred against the commitments set-out in the strategy to date. Almost half of the activities outlined in the first implementation plan (43%) have been delivered in the first year. This includes major milestones across all seven of our policy priorities, and represents a major achievement, of which we can be rightly proud.

At the same time, my Department recognises that significant challenges remain for business in Ireland, often reflecting changes in the dynamic global economic environment in which Ireland is deeply embedded. 2023 has proven to be a testing year for firms, as they grappled with the effects of inflation and rising interest rates, continued fluctuations in the energy market, and the ongoing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges only reaffirm Government's commitment to supporting enterprise in Ireland, and our drive to ensuring that the proper framework conditions are in place to promote Ireland's competitiveness and prosperity over the long run.

Ireland's commitment to achieving our ambitious decarbonisation objectives has been underscored by significant business funding for green investments - such as through the Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme and Green Transition Fund - alongside support for training provision in vital green skills, and the publication of our first *National Bioeconomy Action Plan*. The recent finalisation and launch of our national strategy for offshore wind, *Powering Prosperity*, meanwhile, marks a key step towards realising Ireland's significant renewable energy potential, securing Ireland's place in green value chains, and enhancing our competitiveness.

In support of digital technologies and innovative enterprise, we are now seeing 85% of SMEs at basic digital intensity, while four European Digital Innovation Hubs are now fully operational in Ireland. New funds have additionally been launched to enhance disruptive innovation and to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative research, while, in the frontier Irish space sector, more than 100 companies have benefitted from European Space Agency contracts, well ahead of our initial targets set.

The completion of all nine regional *Building Better Business* conferences last year, moreover, reflects Government's commitment to ensuring that the opportunities generated by Irish enterprise are regionally-balanced and shared. This can also be seen in our maintenance of full employment, and the majority of investment and employment created by IDA

and EI clients, respectively, being concentrated outside of Dublin.

The scale of these achievements to date is a credit to the collaborative approach being advanced across the whole of Government, including with our partners in other Departments and the enterprise agencies. Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta continue to work at the front lines of delivering our national policy priorities with enterprise, and in developing our ambitions for expanding domestic exports, attracting world class FDI, and supporting trade. Our Local Enterprise Offices also continue to play a vital role in supporting new and emerging enterprises across the country.

We know that the competitiveness of Ireland's enterprise environment is determined by a mix of factors including business costs, access to finance, skills, infrastructure, taxation and regulation. Ireland's international competitiveness as a country critically depends on strengthening these enabling conditions. We know more needs to be done in this regard, and across Government we will further our efforts in addressing challenges around the cost of doing business, as well as addressing wider capacity constraints including in the areas of housing, infrastructure and energy. While progress in these areas takes time, my colleagues and I are committed to working collaboratively across Government to see change, through the implementation of *Housing for All*, *Impact 2030*, and beyond.

I look forward to achieving further progress under this strategy during 2024, including the development of the next White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan for the period 2025-2026. Government will continue to fulfil its commitment to ensure Ireland remains attractive as a place to live, work and invest.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Burke". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Peter Burke TD.

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

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Introduction

This is the second update report detailing progress on implementation of the White Paper on Enterprise. The report details progress during 2023, incorporating updates for the second six months of the year, on the 40 key initiatives that were identified and agreed upon as part of the White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024. In some instances, more recent updates covering early 2024 have been provided for key initiatives, as well as highlighting forward looking actions for the remainder of the period through to end of 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. Such conditions are beyond the direct purview of the Implementation Plan 2023-2024, and are the focus of wider cross-Governmental strategies complementing the White Paper, such as Project Ireland 2040, Housing for All, Impact 2030 and others.

The 40 initiatives reported upon, as set-out in the White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan 2023-2024, 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 Ireland, and Údarás na Gaeltachta), other relevant Departments and public bodies.

To realise the vision set out in the White Paper, 15 key targets were also set across the lifetime of the strategy, covering each of the White Paper's 7 priority policy objectives, as well as employment. Data detailing progress across each of these 15 targets is also provided, where updated information was available.

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. As of the end of 2023, 90 of these activities were undertaken, with 3 not yet scheduled to commence until

2024 as initially planned. 40 activities are currently completed as of end H2 2023, with 31 activities on track for completion against their intended target dates. 19 are currently delayed against their intended targets, but are expected to be completed. (see Figure 1). The status of individual activities across this report are detailed through a series of indicators, namely:

- Pending - Scheduled to Commence in 2024 ●
- Complete ●
- On Track ●
- Delayed 2024 ●

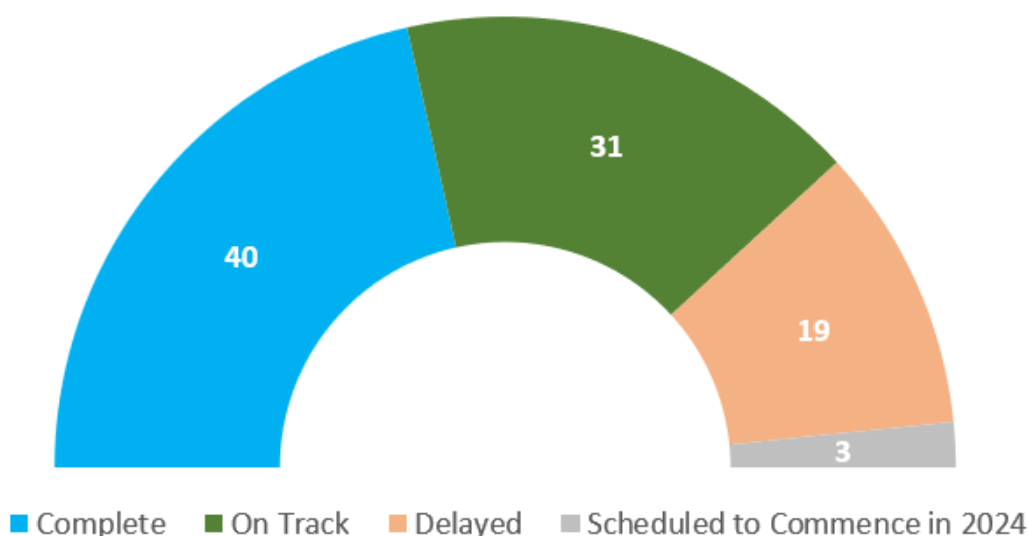


Figure 1: Status of the 93 activities across all 40 Implementation Initiatives

Activities contributing towards the 15 metrics set out in the White Paper continue to progress during the course of 2023, where some instances detail provisional results. At the end of 2023, the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate for persons aged 15-74 years stood at 4.5%, 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 Q4 2023. This region was the Midlands, which exceeded the national unemployment figure for the quarter by 1.4 percentage points.

Other key metrics are also positive. This includes 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, as well as productivity growth across Irish-owned enterprise. Moreover, enterprise agency targets for regionally balanced development were met during the course of 2023, with 53% of all FDI investments located outside of Dublin (against a 50% target over multiple years) and 68% of new jobs created in Enterprise Ireland-assisted firms outside of Dublin (against a 2 out of every 3 jobs target). Despite absolute increases in Gross (public and private) Expenditure on R&D (GERD), these increases have failed to keep pace with expanding GNI* in recent

years, falling as a percentage of GNI* year-on-year since 2020, to 1.80% in 2022, against a White Paper target of 2.5%.

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:

- Work was completed on the development of a national strategy for offshore wind, with *Powering Prosperity – Ireland’s Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy* published in early 2024, as well as the 2023 publication of a detailed skills assessment report for the development of offshore wind;
- The Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme was launched in Q3 2023, whilst take up of financial supports for green investments under the Green Transition Fund continued to progress during the year;
- Government published the Bioeconomy Action Plan and launched the Food Waste Charter 2.0, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) national end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates and national by-product criteria for site-won asphalt/road planning which were also published in H2 2023;
- Four new European Digital Innovation Hubs are now fully operational, to support the digitalisation of the economy;
- The AI Standards and Assurance Roadmap was published by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in H2 2023, along with a progress report on implementation of the National AI Strategy;
- A high-level Trade Conference took place in Dublin in July 2023, followed by further accomplishments through the signing of the EU-Chile Free Trade Agreement, and the successful completion of the inaugural Team Ireland Trade Mission Week (TITMW) to the Republic of Korea;
- Enterprise agencies are facilitating green and digital transformation in the FDI and Irish exporting base, with IDA Ireland supporting nearly €130 million in decarbonisation investments over the three year period 2021-2023, and Enterprise Ireland supporting 207 climate projects across 2023, 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 review of social enterprise in Ireland was published by the OECD in November 2023, with a new Social Enterprise Policy now at an advanced stage and due to be completed during H1 2024;
- 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;
- 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;
- The Roadmap for Increased Adoption of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) in Public Housing Delivery was developed and published, and sets out a range of actions for public bodies to undertake, in order to increase use of MMC in residential construction;
- Multiple new European Regional Development Fund initiatives were launched during 2023 to increase innovation, commercialisation, and innovative spin-outs;

- The total number of Irish companies benefitting from European Space Agency contracts exceeded its 2025 target of 100, achieved by end of Q3 2023;
- Work is well underway on the development of a Coordinated National Approach to Clustering, which is expected to be launched in 2024; 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 which is due to shortly publish a report on increasing access to finance, and the further roll-out of the modernization of construction and infrastructure provisions through Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), Construct Innovate and Housing for All priority research programme.

1. Integrating Net Zero and Carbon Commitments

Embedding Decarbonisation and Ireland's Net Zero commitments into enterprise policy is a key priority, both to address the urgent challenge of climate change and to establish and maintain Ireland's competitiveness in the decarbonised enterprise sectors of the future. To that end, Government continues to provide and roll out financial supports for green investments, including the Green Transition Fund and the Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme, which are increasing in take-up and are expected to grow further through 2024. Supports also continue to increase regarding the promotion of green skills training, which is showing high levels of enrolment and exceeding targets.

Progress continued on the development of Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy, which was published in early 2024. H2 2023 also saw the completion of a detailed skills assessment for Offshore Wind, the launch of a national decision to increase circularity in by-product and waste materials, and the launch of the bioeconomy action plan.

The decarbonisation of Ireland's commercial build environment also continued to progress during 2023, with the Commercial Built Environment Roadmap and the Industrial Heat Decarbonisation Roadmap close to completion and expected to be finalised in early 2024. Work also continues between the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the enterprise agencies to mainstream carbon abatement and carbon costs into operations and project management decisions, which will work to decarbonise client operations and facilitate new clients in low-carbon sectors of the economy. As developments continue to be made on decarbonisation policy at national and international levels, such as the forthcoming domestic transposition of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and the EU Net-Zero Industry Act, Ireland will work to ensure Irish based enterprise, in particular SMEs, are supported in the transition to low carbon business models and in their ability to realise the economic benefits of the green transition.

1.1 Develop a National Industrial Strategy for Offshore Wind

Timeline	<p>Q4 2023: Completion of Phase 1- Scoping / Consultation¹ ●</p> <p>Q2 2024: Finalisation and publication of Strategy ●</p> <p>Q2 2024: Commence implementation ●</p>
Responsibility	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland</p>
Update	<p>The development of Powering Prosperity – Ireland’s Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy has been led by the Offshore Wind Strategy Unit, which was established within the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment during 2023. To inform the development of this Strategy, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, completed a detailed programme of consultation during 2023.</p> <p>An Interdepartmental Group, including key stakeholders from across Government, convened further during H2 2023, guiding the development of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Offshore Wind Industry Forum was also further engaged, meeting twice during H2 2023. The Forum features balanced representation from offshore wind developers, companies in the offshore wind supply chain and industry representative groups, in which industry was kept up to date on developments to the Strategy.</p> <p>A series of targeted workshops took place during H2 2023, including in Rosslare, Dublin, Shannon, Cork & Killybegs. These forums targeted both SMEs and larger industry, as well as other regional stakeholders. The discussions at these workshops further informed developments to the Strategy.</p> <p>A public consultation was completed during Q4 2023, with over 45 submissions received that also informed the development of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment engaged consultants at Everoze to undertake research on international best practice with regard to industrial strategies for offshore wind, which is now reflected in the Strategy. The Offshore Wind Strategy Unit also completed a number of fact-finding missions to sites in Grimsby, Blythe, and Aberdeen.</p> <p>Powering Prosperity – Ireland’s Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy was published in Q1 2024 and is available at: Powering Prosperity – Ireland’s Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy - DETE (enterprise.gov.ie)</p> <p>Implementation of the Strategy is on track to commence in Q2 2024, following the finalisation and publication of the Strategy in Q1 2024.</p>

¹ Refer to page 4 for guidance on status colours for activities across this report

1.2 Embed Carbon Abatement into Enterprise Development Agency Operations

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland</p>
Update	<p>During 2023, the enterprise agencies 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>During H2 2023, IDA Ireland continued to engage with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the finalisation of the integration of the cost of carbon into economic appraisal of projects. In 2024, IDA Ireland will introduce climate appraisal of capital-intensive project proposals from new and existing clients, 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>Enterprise Ireland are also further supporting Irish enterprise on sustainability and decarbonisation during 2023, in line with climate action targets. This includes aligning Enterprise Ireland grant funding, policies and supports with the policy direction articulated in the White Paper on Enterprise, launching and rolling out a new Environmental Aid Offer targeting the largest carbon emitters to support in the delivery of the 2023 - 2030 carbon targets, delivering Enterprise Ireland commitments under Climate Action Plan 2024 and promoting the awareness of sustainability across the agency’s client base.</p> <p>In H2 2023, Údarás na Gaeltachta and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Art, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media commenced preliminary discussions on setting targets to incorporate into its OPDA for 2024.</p>

	<p>Significant progress has been made by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to build an evidence base and develop a framework around allocating carbon budgets to the enterprises agencies using data based on EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) emissions and non-ETS emissions, from the Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact 2021 and from the CSO.</p> <p>The enterprise agencies have identified and are working with their top emitters to plan emissions reductions in their processes, focusing on the most impactful interventions. In support of this work, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is working on finalising the Climate Appraisal Model to incorporate the environmental impact of projects. The Department is furthermore developing a Cost-Benefit Analysis framework to underpin cost-effective grant support for projects through Environmental Aid.</p>
	<p>Following agreement at the Trade, Enterprise and Climate Group in summer 2023, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has begun collecting data on the decarbonisation activities of Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland.</p> <p>The implementation of this new process will allow for ongoing monitoring of the climate transition activities of the enterprise agencies and furthermore allow sight of a pipeline of future projects that will contribute towards achieving the Department's binding decarbonisation targets.</p>

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

Timeline	Q4 2023: Cost of carbon included in agencies' assessments of support for capital investment projects, through implementation of the Climate Appraisal Model ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>Bilateral meetings were held during H2 2023 between the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland to discuss how the Climate Appraisal Model can be best structured. Following these meetings additional changes were made to the model to improve its usability for smaller companies, with the addition of projected emissions to ensure the information ask of companies was proportional to the scale of funding sought.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment received draft values for the new shadow price of carbon in Q4 2023. These draft values were integrated into the Climate Appraisal Model and the pilot was re-run by the agencies.</p> <p>The implementation of the Climate Appraisal Model was delayed into H1 2024, as the new shadow price of carbon was recently agreed by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in late Q4 2023. A final Climate Appraisal Steering Group meeting was held in January 2024. The model was approved by all Steering Group members at the end of Q1 2024, with implementation of the Model having subsequently commenced.</p>

1.4 Design Decarbonisation Roadmaps for Industry and our Commercial Built Environment

Timeline	<p>Q3 2023: Roadmap for Decarbonising Commercial Built Environment ●</p> <p>Q4 2023: Roadmap for Decarbonising Industrial Heat ●</p>
Responsibility	<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>
Update	<p>The Commercial Built Environment Roadmap is a key document for businesses that will convey policy decisions, pathways to decarbonisation, and address issues relating to significant barriers to decarbonisation and the green transition, such as split incentives, skills gaps and follow through by businesses.</p> <p>The Commercial Built Environment Roadmap will be a living document and will develop actions to be included in future Climate Action Plans. The roadmap will be informed by other policy developments and documents including the National Heat Policy Statement, District Heating Policy, and the Phaseout of Fossil Fuel Roadmap. The Roadmap will be an important tool for signalling to businesses and generating buy-in from the enterprise sector.</p> <p>Further work was undertaken in H2 2023 to finalise the Roadmap, which will be presented to the Heat and Built Environment Task Force for consideration and approval during H1 2024, where it will be published thereafter.</p> <p>The Industrial Heat Decarbonisation Roadmap will set out the key policy interventions, including supports, regulation and enabling measures to achieve the objectives for decarbonising heat use in manufacturing.</p> <p>A draft Roadmap has been produced and will be presented for discussion by the Heat and Built Environment Taskforce in advance of publication in Q2 2024. The Roadmap will be a living document and will develop actions to be included in future Climate Action Plans. Drafting and publication will be closely aligned, as far as possible, with other policy documents due to be published by other Departments in the coming months, regarding broader heat policy decisions. This includes the National Biomethane Strategy, the Roadmap for the Phaseout of Fossil Fuels and the Heat Policy Statement.</p>

1.5 Prioritise Financial Support for Green Investments

Timeline	Ongoing: Roll out of financial incentives for industrial decarbonisation including the Green Transition Fund ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta
Update	<p><i>Environmental Aid</i></p> <p>Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland are actively working with the top emitters in their client portfolios to develop impactful decarbonisation plans. These client companies have the potential to achieve the necessary reduction in Ireland’s industrial emissions and are primarily in the cement, alumina, food & beverage, pharmaceutical and chemicals sectors.</p> <p>Government, through Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, has to date successfully supported the decarbonisation of industry primarily through the Environmental Aid Scheme. It targets industry emissions reduction from manufacturing combustion across Ireland’s manufacturing base and is viewed by the agencies as the most effective funding vehicle to achieving decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>Some of the additional funding provided to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment following the recent National Development Plan Capital Ceilings 2025-26 review will allow for a programme to incentivise necessary investment to commence, although the scale of the funding commitment required to meet the targets will exceed that provided.</p> <p><i>Green Transition Fund</i></p> <p>The Green Transition Fund was launched during 2022 and is designed to address manufacturing combustion emissions from Ireland’s industrial sector by accelerating the uptake of carbon-neutral heating in manufacturing businesses.</p> <p>The Green Transition Fund has seen increased take-up year-on-year between 2022 and 2023. An additional allocated spend of €7.9 million across 206 projects occurred in 2023. During H2 2023 specifically, the number of projects was up 39% and total spend allocation was up 105%, when compared with H2 2022. This highlights the greater uptake under the fund for climate action planning, decarbonisation, and research projects. It is expected that the fund will see a continued acceleration of uptake during 2024.</p>

Timeline	Q2 2023: Launch of Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme ●
Responsibility	Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland
Update	<p>The €500m Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme provides longer-term lending to SMEs, including farmers, fishers and small mid-caps. It is jointly developed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The scheme is underpinned by resources from the European Investment Bank Group and delivered by the SBCI.</p> <p>The scheme targets a minimum of 30% of the lending volume towards environmental sustainability purposes with the aim of encouraging SMEs to take positive actions in support of the climate change agenda. Up to 70% of lending will be for strategic investments with a view to increasing productivity and competitiveness and thus underpinning future business sustainability and growth. Loans for climate action and environmental sustainability purposes will also benefit from an additional interest rate discount.</p> <p>The scheme was launched in Q3 2023, through the first participating finance provider, Bank of Ireland. AIB launched the scheme in Q4 2023, shortly followed by Finance Ireland as the first non-bank lender. A number of other lenders, including non-bank lenders, are expected to take part in the scheme during 2024.</p>

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

Timeline	Ongoing: Promote green skills within the Higher Education system to support a more sustainable enterprise sector ●
Responsibility	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Update	<p>Springboard + and Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 1 were launched during 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.</p> <p>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>

Timeline	2023 -2024: Develop full suite of green skills programmes ●
Responsibility	SOLAS
Update	<p>SOLAS continues to make progress on the Green Skills for Further Education and Training (FET) Roadmap 2021-2030 which has the objectives of Green Skills for Life which creates awareness of climate justice, sustainability and bioeconomic issues, Green Skills for Construction which focuses on training and upskilling on green technology and Green Skills for Careers which seeks to promote employment opportunities in emerging sectors related to the green economy.</p> <p>SOLAS continues to work on expanding green provision in the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs), with over 75 programmes delivered. These 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. Education and training relevant to the skills needed in the retrofitting and construction sector are delivered through more than fifty programmes running in the six operational 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), Cork Education and Training Board (Cork ETB), Mayo-Sligo-Leitrim ETB (MSLETB), as well as City of Dublin ETB which began delivering training in H2 of 2023. Courses are further offered through Tipperary ETB. The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science continues to engage with the SEAI in exploring additional emerging skills needs for low carbon construction.</p> <p>Enrolments in retrofit skills training, including NZEB skills, from January to end December 2023 were 4,442². The cumulative total for 2020-2023 inclusive was 7,667 enrolments in NZEB training.</p>

² These are provisional numbers, where final figures will be made available during Q2 of 2024.

Timeline	Q2 2023: Detailed Skills Assessment Report by Skills and Workforce Workstream ●
Responsibility	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (Co-Lead); Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Co-Lead)
Update	<p>A detailed skills assessment report for the development of offshore wind was commissioned in 2023 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.</p> <p>The skills assessment report supports the activities of Workstream 8: Skills and Workforce, of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme.</p> <p>The skills assessment report was completed in H2 2023 and was officially launched at the Wind Energy Ireland Annual Conference in January 2024. This report will inform the ongoing planning process to address the skills requirements of offshore wind, forming part of a broader package to produce a development pathway tool in 2024 for offshore wind in Ireland.</p>

1.7 Promote the Development of the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Update	<p>The new Food Waste Charter (Food Waste Charter 2.0) was launched during 2023, calling on all businesses and State Agencies operating across the food supply chain to sign up. As of end 2023, there were 23 members of the Food Waste Charter. Meetings took place with Teagasc and Enterprise Ireland during H2 2023, to identify levers within their programmes and actions to drive membership to obtain a critical mass for success. In addition, the Charter was highlighted at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Forum on Food Waste in November 2023, as the national voluntary agreement to support a collaborative approach to meet Ireland’s challenging food waste reduction target (50% by 2030). By signing the Charter, members commit to both measuring and reducing their food waste using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) measurement methodologies. Reporting templates for members to monitor progress will be developed and disseminated during Q1 2024.</p> <p>During H2 2023, the EPA published national end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates and national by-product criteria for site-won asphalt/ road plannings. These were the first national end-of-waste and by-product decisions to be published by the Environmental Protection Agency, and provide a clear framework for operators to follow in ensuring consistent and quality resources are produced. A national decision for greenfield soil and stone is expected to be notified to the European Commission for a 3-month standstill period in Q1 2024, with the criteria anticipated to be finalised and made available in Q2 2024.</p> <p>An analysis of funding sources for circular economy innovations in Ireland was progressed in H2 2023 by the Environmental Protection Agency and is due to be completed in Q1 2024. The analysis will inform the wider review of the Green Enterprise Fund taking place in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, which is expected to be completed in H1 2024.</p>

Timeline	<p>Q2 2023: Publish Bioeconomy Action Plan ●</p> <p>Q2 2023 – Q4 2025: Implementation of Action Plan, including the Industry and Enterprise Pillar ●</p>
Responsibility	<p>Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
Update	<p>The Bioeconomy Action Plan was published in Q4 2023. The plan’s development was led by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the enterprise agencies also contributing to the development of the plan.</p> <p>The plan contains actions for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to support the development of the bioeconomy, encourage and support bio-based industries to undertake lifecycle analyses, develop a coordinated approach to bioeconomy investment for faster bioeconomy industrial development and leverage existing innovation supports to generate valuable IPs.</p> <p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is working with its enterprise agencies to implement relevant actions under the Bioeconomy Action Plan.</p> <p>The first update on the implementation of the Plan will take place in Q2 of 2024. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment will be offering a full update to the Bioeconomy Implementation and Development Group on the actions for which it is responsible.</p>

2. Placing Digital at the Heart of Enterprise Policy

Ireland has set its ambition to be a digital leader, reflecting the key role that digital technology will continue to play in shaping competitiveness and driving productivity. The continued roll out of the Digital Transition Fund during 2023 supports companies, and especially SMEs, to advance in their digitalisation journeys, while 4 European Digital Innovation Hubs are operational in Ireland as of 2023, further supporting the digital transformation of SMEs. The EU's Digital Economy and Society Index now shows at least basic digital intensity among SMEs at 85% in Ireland, well above the EU-wide average and on track to meet the White Paper's target of 90% by 2030. Meanwhile, almost 1 in 10 enterprises in Ireland used AI in 2023. digital integration of enterprise will be further supported by the forthcoming launch of the Digital Portal, which is now in its final phase of development, as well as the ongoing implementation of the National AI Strategy and the recommendations of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, which both continued to progress during 2023. Support for the enhancement of digital manufacturing continues to increase strongly, with Digital Manufacturing Ireland and NIBRT just two of various technology centres and gateways which are facilitating Irish based manufacturers in accelerating their adoption of Digital Transformation and Sustainable Manufacturing Practices

2.1 Support the Digital Transformation of Enterprise

Timeline	Ongoing roll out of Digital Transition Fund to 2026 ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta
Update	<p>The Digital Transition Fund (DTF) continued to be rolled out during 2023, supporting enterprises in digitalising across products, processes, supply chains and business models.</p> <p>The DTF is administered by Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta, through a range of schemes to boost uptake of digital technology. Since its launch in June 2022, the Digital Transition Fund has supported 233 companies across 278 digitalisation projects.</p> <p>This funding is in place to help companies at all stages of their digital journey, with particular emphasis on SMEs – from simply bringing businesses online, to the digitalisation of products and business processes, as well as facilitating exporting and using digital technologies to develop new markets and business models.</p>

2.2 Establish European Digital Innovation Hubs

Timeline	Q4 2023: Ireland’s EDIH programme will be operational by end of 2023 ●
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland (lead); Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>Ireland successfully established four new European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) as part of the European Commission’s Digital Europe Programme. These hubs were all fully operational by end of 2023, and will 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>FactoryxChange led by the Irish Manufacturing Research in Mullingar commenced in Q1 2023, and is supporting manufacturers to integrate ecological, digital, and societal solutions into their core business models to become ‘Factories of the Future’. Data2Sustain led by Atlantic Technological University Sligo also commenced in Q1 2023, and is supporting digitalisation with a particular emphasis on the circular economy, operations and business sustainability across all sectors. ENTIRE, led by Tyndall National Institute Cork, started in Q2 2023, and supports 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. The fourth EDIH, CeADAR AI, is led by the UCD Technology Centre CeADAR and commenced in Q3 2023. This Hub supports Artificial Intelligence (AI) transformations, data analytics and machine intelligence.</p>

2.3 Develop a Digital Portal for Enterprise

Timeline	<p>Q4 2023: Digital Portal is live ●</p> <p>Q4 2024: Continuous development and refinement of portal ●</p>
Responsibility	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Enterprise Ireland; IDA Ireland; Údarás na Gaeltachta; Local Enterprise Offices</p>
Update	<p>The “Grow Digital” Portal will help businesses to self-assess their digital needs as well as signposting to training, resources, and funding options.</p> <p>Following the award of the tender in H1 2023 for the development of the Portal, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment officials alongside Enterprise Ireland have engaged with the contractors on the design, functionality and operation of the Portal.</p> <p>The Portal is currently in the final stages of development and is scheduled to be delivered in H1 2024.</p> <p>Following the Portal’s launch, a development and refinement phase will commence to ensure that the Portal remains up to date and 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

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>The AI Standards and Assurance Roadmap was published by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in H2 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. The Roadmap was developed by the Top Team on Standards for AI process, which is led by the NSAI and represents a collaborative effort based on input from various stakeholders and experts from across the Irish AI community, including industry, academia, civil society, the private and public sectors.</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 during 2023 to realise the ten recommendations set out in the report and consists of stakeholders responsible across each of the ten recommendations. Significant progress has been made during 2023 on many of the recommendations set out in the report. This includes the commissioning of a Foundation Certificate in AI for public servants lead by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform and TU Dublin, which had over 122 public servants enlisted on the course by the end of 2023. This community of practice now includes public servants from over 70 public service bodies and will continue to grow.

The EU AI Act will come into force from May 2024, where a key objective of the Act is to boost innovation and employment, and to make the European Union a leader in the uptake of trustworthy AI. The Act contains specific measures in support of innovation, with a particular focus on SMEs.

Under the Act, Ireland will establish an AI regulatory sandbox at national level within 24 months of entry into force of the Act. Work is underway to develop a sandbox which aims to remove barriers for SMEs and enhance legal certainty for innovators, enabling innovative firms to access finance more readily and reduce administrative and transaction costs, thereby driving the uptake of AI tools.

A SOLAS led ICDL module was developed 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. There were 24 Human Computer Interaction pillar 3 projects ongoing during 2023, all developing microcredentials.

The FET micro-Qualifications project was developed further during 2023, and was launched in early 2024. This project promotes micro programmes in digital skills including artificial intelligence.

The ICT apprenticeship programme has been developed to span occupational areas, including software development, network engineering, cybersecurity, CGI technical artistry, telecommunications, and data network technology. Enrolment requests for this project, has been extremely strong at this preliminary stage.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment continues to monitor the uptake of AI tools. The CSO's Information Society Statistics – Enterprises was published in January 2024, noting that almost one in ten (8%) of all enterprises used Artificial Intelligence in 2023: comprising 37% of large enterprises (up from 31% in 2021), 18% of medium enterprises (up from 13% in 2021) and 5.4% of small enterprises (6% in 2021). There are plans at EU level to create a new combined indicator which will indicate the rate of adoption of one or more of cloud, data analytics and AI in line with the EU's Digital Decade targets.

The progress report on implementation of the National AI Strategy was published in H2 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).

2.5 Drive Digital Manufacturing Objectives Through Support for Industry 4.0

Timeline	Ongoing: Implementation of Industry 4.0 ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>Digital transformation of the manufacturing sector remains a key priority for the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment. Ensuring the resilience of this sector is essential to maintain employment and the productivity of this core component of our economy.</p> <p>While Industry 4.0 epitomises the drive towards the deployment of digital technologies underpinning step changes in productivity and efficiency, an expanded scope to include wider societal issues such as sustainability and the net zero agenda, human centric manufacturing perspectives, supply chain resilience and an emphasis on culture, skills and training, are the core focus of what is now termed Industry 5.0.</p> <p>To quantify progress in the context of both Industry 4.0 and 5.0, three core sets of activity have progressed during 2023. The first of these is ongoing work of the enterprise agencies to deploy a suite of support mechanisms designed to develop and sustain the manufacturing enterprise base. Key support tools such as digital assessment and benchmarking, skills and training assessment, and sustainability mechanisms have been developed and join a suite of measures designed to enhance innovation, productivity, and the sustainability of the manufacturing base. The second distinctive activity of the enterprise agencies to support the digital transformation agenda of manufacturing companies. This approach is strategic and takes into account the innovation profile of the company as well as training and talent, and sustainability and net zero targets. Support mechanisms administered by the enterprise agencies are tailored to companies depending on their specific needs and digital maturity levels. Collaborative innovation forms a third set of activity where companies are actively engaging with state supported infrastructure and programmes to develop their internal operations and commercial products and services.</p> <p>A growing cohort of manufacturing companies continue to engage with technology centres, technology gateways, and with National Institutes and centres of scale such as Tyndall, NIBRT and Digital Manufacturing Ireland. In addition to these core centres of activity, there are additional centres which have specialist capability with certain technology sets or in certain market sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, Software, Data Analytics, and with Dairy, Nutrition or Renewable Energy which serve the innovation agenda of companies. Furthermore, collaborative innovation programmes such as the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund and access to European Funding programmes are also servicing further development and innovation functions within manufacturing companies across the enterprise sector.</p>

Timeline	<p>Q3 2023: Commencement of further funding of technology gateways ●</p> <p>Ongoing: Further development of IMR Technology Centre ●</p>
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>Since 2013, the number of Technology Gateways has increased from 12 to 17, covering all regions of the county and sector of the economy. These Gateways operate in a range of sectors and work with companies from start-ups and SMEs through to Multinationals, providing knowledge, experience, funding support and innovation solutions. The latest funding call closed in Q1 2023, and received 17 applications. All 17 applications received were evaluated and subsequently approved for funding by the Enterprise Ireland Board in Q2 of 2023. Contracts were issued to all 17 Gateways for review & signature in Q3 2023, where contract value across the Gateways totals €36.47 million. The Gateways have now completed over 7,300 industrial projects in collaboration with local industry, to a total value of more than €64 million, of which €34million was funded from industry.</p> <p>The external evaluation of Irish Manufacturing Research Technology Centre was successfully completed in Q4 2023. This evaluation included 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. Following the successful evaluation results, Irish Manufacturing Research has been requested to submit a business plan for their next phase, covering the period 2025 - 2029. This plan is expected to be completed for review towards the end of Q2 2024, and will focus on the future of manufacturing in Ireland to significantly expand its influence.</p>

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	<p>IDA Ireland; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
Update	<p>NIBRT’s Advanced Therapeutics Extension was completed on time and on budget at the end of H1 2023. NIBRT is continuing to build its global brand. This will lead to a significantly expanded institute that will deepen its research capabilities and enable the continued growth of the Biologics sector in Ireland. Success will be demonstrated in Ireland’s ability to maintain current momentum in a highly competitive global market and secure further new Biologics job creation over the next 10 years with significant related capital investment.</p> <p>Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI) is an Irish Government initiative, aligned with Government’s Industry 4.0 Strategy 2020-2025. It is supported by IDA Ireland, and facilitates Irish based manufacturers (MNCs and SMEs) in accelerating their adoption of Digital Transformation and Sustainable Manufacturing Practices including the necessary upskilling and business supports to facilitate such deployment. DMI works with Irish based and international clients, industry leaders, academia and other Research & Technology Centres.</p> <p>As of end H2 2023, Digital Manufacturing Ireland had approximately 50 client digitisation projects underway in relation to digital transformation needs. DMI, in its engagement with industry has established several cross-sectoral collaboration groups designed to take an industry-led approach to addressing manufacturing challenges and driving competitiveness. These groups, which consist of over 100+ company participants, include an Industry 5.0 Lighthouse Network, the Vision Cognitive Manufacturing Group, the Data Driven Manufacturing Group as well as the successful launch of the Human Centric Manufacturing Group in March 2024.</p> <p>As part of wider digitalisation efforts, IDA Ireland also utilises diagnostics tools (Advanced Manufacturing Diagnostic, Innovation Scorecard and Digitalisation Diagnostic for Services) to support its client base in Ireland to position themselves for future growth as technology adoption and digital transformation accelerate. A total of 282 diagnostics having been completed by IDA Ireland clients by the end of H2 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 Ireland 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>

3. Advancing Ireland’s FDI and Trade Value Proposition

As a small open economy deeply embedded in Global Value Chains, FDI and Trade will remain central to Ireland’s growth model and economic strategy. Ireland’s trade policy objectives are embedded through her involvement in the EU and WTO, where Ireland continues to advocate for open sustainable trade. The signing of the EU-Chile Free Trade Agreement, and the successful completion of the inaugural Team Ireland Trade Mission Week (TITMW) to the Republic of Korea, both during H2 2023, show Ireland’s continued commitment to expanding trade opportunities and opening new markets. Strategies are also now approaching finalisation on the opportunities of digital trade and the opportunities from Ireland’s participation in Global Value Chains, while the existing Trade and Investment Strategy continues to be refined and implemented, including through the finalisation of a shared approach to communicating Ireland’s trading interests. IDA Ireland and Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI) continue to promote the transformation of Ireland’s FDI base to meet the twin transition, with sustainability investments and digitisation engagements continuing to perform well during 2023. The enterprise agencies are also working to ensure that FDI is embedded in local enterprise and in a regionally balanced manner, with over half of investments being made outside of Dublin and over €3.7 billion committed by FDI companies towards Research, Development & Innovation projects.

3.1 Promote Open, Rules-Based and Sustainable Global Trade

Timeline	<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 & Investment Strategy ●</p>
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>Indecon International Consultants were selected to undertake a review of the opportunities for Ireland in Digital Trade. The project commenced in May 2023. The draft report is under consideration by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and is expected to be finalised in Q2 2024. The report details an analysis of international digital trade and its evolution, which informed policy considerations for Ireland in advance of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Q1 2024. It is expected the findings will also support Ireland’s wider engagement with EU colleagues regarding the development of digital trade principles in the 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</p>

Trade Councils. This is an ongoing process. In December 2023 the EU-Chile FTA was signed by the EU, the Member States, and Chile.

At the WTO, Ireland consistently advocates for 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 Senior Officials Meeting in October 2023.

Trade Ministers met in Valencia in Spain in October 2023, and again in November in Brussels for their formal meeting, engaging on how trade policy can better maintain and strengthen competitiveness on international trade relations with key trading partners, as well as discussing preparations for the WTO Ministerial Conference in 2024.

Support for Ireland's Economic and Trade Ecosystem is ongoing and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment continues to refine its dashboard approach to pressing trade issues in tandem with the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council who published Ireland's Competitiveness Challenge in H2 2023. Implementation of recommendations contained in the review of Local Market Teams (LMTs) are substantially completed, and the HQ Markets Team are overseeing the formation of local and regional markets, promoting collaborative working, and supporting LMT members in meeting their objectives in-market.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment finalised its shared approach to communicating Ireland's interests as a trading nation during 2023. This common approach to communications with colleagues across Team Ireland, reinforces the important role that trade and investment plays in contributing to the wider economy in Ireland.

3.2 Deepen Irish Participation in Global Value Chains

Timeline	Q4 2024: Review report published and next steps confirmed ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>An expert group on Global Value Chains (GVCs) was established to provide fresh perspectives in understanding business-business relationships, mechanisms for increasing efficiency, productivity, competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and SME growth within GVCs.</p> <p>The Expert group completed the research phase of their work during 2023 and are expected to complete the report during H1 of 2024. The report includes the identification of critical trade dependencies, and appropriate responses to maximise opportunities as well as risk mitigation considerations.</p>

3.3 Promote Trade Opportunities

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>A conference to raise awareness of the value of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in promoting market diversification and increasing Irish exports was held in Dublin Castle in H2 2023. This conference, the first in a series of annual Trade Horizons conferences, was attended by over 300 people. It received significant media coverage, successfully highlighting the importance of FTAs in promoting exports. Planning is underway for a Trade Horizons Conference which will take place in July 2024.</p> <p>The inaugural Team Ireland Trade Mission Week (TITMW), to South Korea, led by the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD was completed in November 2023. Plans for TITMW 2024 are at preliminary stage, with a decision expected in Q2 2024.</p> <p>A contingent of Enterprise Ireland client companies were introduced to potential South Korean investors, where a number of prominent and strategically-important contract signings took place. This included the signing of a joint venture by an Irish company and a major Korean corporation, for a joint data centre project running on fuel cell technology - the very first of its kind in Europe. The delegation also visited the new Korean National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training, or K-NIBRT, which is the first global partner in Asia of Ireland's own NIBRT initiative. Additional meetings were held between the delegation and representatives from Korean pharma and tech industries. Bilateral meetings were further held between Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD and Korean Minister for Trade, Dr. Dukgeun Ahn. where it was agreed to strengthen bilateral ties between Ireland and South Korea.</p> <p>The report on TITMW to South Korea in November 2023 was finalised in Q1 2024. Feedback from participants indicate TITMW was successful with market access for Irish beef, and Korean Electronic Travel Authorization (K-ETA) visa exemptions noted as tangible outcomes as a direct result of the mission.</p>

3.4 Transform the Sustainability Performance of the FDI Sector

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	IDA Ireland
Update	<p>Through the promotion of its suite of advisory and financial supports for FDI clients, IDA Ireland secured 25 sustainability investments during 2023. This brought the total number of sustainability investments to 62 over the three-year 2021-2023 period and exceeds the four-year sustainability target set out in IDA Ireland’s strategy “Driving Recovery & Sustainable Growth 2021-24”.</p> <p>Of the 62 investments, 20 investments were carbon abatement investments highlighting total client investment of €130m to reduce carbon emissions by 44,000t CO2. The primary focus of the carbon abatement investment by clients is in energy efficiency, process electrification and in on-site renewable energy generation with IDA grant support of approximately 21% provided under the Sustainable Recovery Fund and Environmental Aid Programme.</p> <p>IDA Ireland secured an additional 12 sustainability investments during H2 2023. Five of these projects focused specifically on carbon abatement, while others focused on building Ireland’s green economy capabilities.</p> <p>A total of 25 sustainable investments were approved during 2023, bringing the overall number approved since 2021 to 62 and surpassing the strategy target of 60 (103% of Q4 2024 target).</p>

3.5 Increase Investments in our Regions

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	IDA Ireland
Update	<p>In the second half of 2023, a further 110 investment projects with 6,898 associated jobs have been approved. 66 (60%) of these approved investment projects have been outside of Dublin.</p> <p>In total 248 projects, with 18,796 associated jobs, have been approved in 2023³. 132 of these projects went to regional locations (53%). This brings total regional investments to 392 against a target of 400 under the 2021-2024 IDA Ireland strategy (98% of regional target). Regional projects account for 53% of total investments approved in the current strategy to date.</p> <p>As of end 2023, IDA Ireland’s Property Division has completed eight of the 19 Advanced Building Solutions (ABS) in 7 locations across 4 regions including the Digital Manufacturing Ireland (DMI) centre. In H2 2023, IDA Ireland commenced an additional two ABSs in Galway and Sligo. The remaining ABS are at various stages of design, planning, procurement and site selection. IDA Ireland’s Property Division continues with infrastructure delivery and the active development of strategic landbanks in the regions across the existing portfolio to future proof same and support investments, with a view to also 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 Original H1 2023 IDA results provided were preliminary, and have now been updated. H2 2023 data also remains preliminary and will be updated if necessary at the stage of next reporting if required.

3.6 Strengthen Collaboration between MNCs and SMEs

Timeline	Ongoing to Q4 2024: Implementation of Global Sourcing Initiative to contribute to a 20% uplift in IDA client expenditure in Ireland by Q4 2024 ●
Responsibility	IDA Ireland; Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland have developed a new engagement strategy to encourage and enhance global sourcing linkages between their respective clients. Under the umbrella of ‘Export in Ireland’, IDA Ireland will facilitate introductions of up to potentially 80 IDA Ireland Clients / MNCs up until the end of 2024.</p> <p>Tangible activities to achieve this goal include direct Enterprise Ireland client introductions to MNCs, curated MNC supplier events with Enterprise Ireland client participation, networking and sectoral themed networking events.</p> <p>To date, IDA Ireland have introduced Enterprise Ireland executives to fifteen multinational companies based in Ireland. These introductions have included sectors such as; Biopharma; Medtech; Technology Manufacturing and Business Services. The introductions will help Enterprise Ireland investigate and identify supply chain opportunities for their client companies through understanding the individual current and future MNC supply pressure points, together with future MNC growth and development plans. Following this engagement, Enterprise Ireland will identify suitable clients for introduction, that may have the potential for additional supply and service contracts for their clients in the future.</p> <p>The Global Sourcing Initiative will support Enterprise Ireland’s client base in engaging with IDA clients located in Ireland to complement the objective of assisting Enterprise Ireland clients in winning foreign earnings abroad. IDA clients are simultaneously advantaged in exploring international supply chain options, which has taken increasing precedence post-Covid on matters including supply localisation and diversification, digitalisation, and the sustainability agenda.</p>

3.7 Enhance FDI Partnering in Research, Development and Innovation

Timeline	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 ●
Responsibility	IDA Ireland
Update	<p>IDA Ireland secured 21 Research, Development & Innovation projects in H2 2023, bringing the total number of approved projects in 2023 to 46. Client companies committed to an R&D spend of €1.4 billion associated with these projects.</p> <p>Against the targets set out, 126 R&D projects have been approved to date. This represents 74% of the targeted 170 projects to be delivered by Q4 2024.</p> <p>The approved projects are of significant scale, with client companies committing to spending €3.7bn on research and innovation. This represents 97% of the targeted €3.8bn investment by Q4 2024.</p>

3.8 Enable Digitalisation of our FDI Base

Timeline	Q4 2024: Engage 400 companies to commence their digitalisation journey with awareness and advisory assistance ●
Responsibility	IDA Ireland, Digital Manufacturing Ireland
Update	<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.</p> <p>Since its inception, DMI staffing count has grown to 37, with a leadership team, subject matter experts and support functions in place.</p> <p>There has been strong industry interest to date, with over 1,350 client visits during 2023, just over half of which were repeat visits from clients looking to participate in the activities of DMI. This has positioned DMI's client engagement numbers well ahead of their Q4 2024 target of 400 companies engaged to commence their digitalisation journey with awareness and advisory assistance.</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 were scoped with clients in Q4 2023 and will commence during 2024. These projects will be structured off client needs and problem statements aligned to the use of machine vision systems and AI in enhancing manufacturing practices.</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 14 medical device manufacturers and the first report is expected in H1 2024 which will provide unique insights into the human side of adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies at scale.</p>

4. Strengthening the Irish-owned Exporting Sector

Enabling the Irish-owned enterprise sector to fulfil its export potential in diversified global markets will provide Ireland with a strong domestic growth engine. To that end, Enterprise Ireland (EI) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have been active in supporting start-ups, and providing entrepreneurs and managers with the skills and training they need to scale business into international markets. Engagements with these programmes are on track to meet and exceed targets, including 85 high-potential start-ups being supported in 2023. To ensure access to finance for entrepreneurship and scaling, Enterprise Ireland, under its Pre-Seed Start Fund, approved funding for 74 companies in 2023, while the findings of the Finance for Scaling Working Group are expected to be published, and to begin being actioned, in early 2024. Exports have also shown substantial growth, with Enterprise Ireland client exports reaching a record €32.1 billion, in excess of the €30 billion target set for 2024, of which 71% went outside UK, reflecting the increased market diversification of Irish exports. Moreover, this export base is being transformed through climate projects, digitalisation initiatives, and innovative research investments, supported by Enterprise Ireland.

4.1 Support Entrepreneurship and Start-Ups

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>The LEO Start Your Own Business/Entrepreneurship programme continues to support budding entrepreneurs in setting up a business. As of the end of H2 2023, there are 363 programmes with 4,960 people participating across 6 - 8 modules, exceeding the target of 4,000 participants which was set for 2023. There is a further target set of 4,000 participants nationally by the end of 2024.</p> <p>Nine New Frontiers Phase 1 programmes have taken place in H2 2023, with nine Phase 2 programmes having taken place during the same period. This brings the total number of New Frontiers programmes run during 2023 to 23 Phase 1 programmes with 470 participants and 13 Phase 2 programmes with 170 participants.</p> <p>The annual Foodworks Programme continued to progress during 2023. The programme is a 10-month tri-agency (co-managed by Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and Teagasc) accelerator programme designed to support the accelerated growth of indigenous food and drink start-ups. This annual programme successfully concluded in H2 2023, where the 2023 iteration attracted a high number of applicants, resulting in the onboarding of seven high-potential food and drink companies during 2023. This included five female-led businesses. Participating companies apply for a series of grants to support salaries and other expenditures, where a total of €208,489 in grant funding was provided to participants during 2023.</p> <p>The new Enterprise Ireland Pre-Seed Start Fund was opened for applications in Q1 2023 and remained open for applications throughout 2023. There was a strong interest across all sectors, with ICT attracting the greatest level of interest. There have been 74 approvals during 2023, ahead of the annual target for 2023 of 60 companies.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland has approved a total of 85 new High Potential Start Ups during 2023, against an end-of-2024 target of supporting 90 High Potential Start Ups. These start-ups span all sectors, with female founders involved in 26 projects and where 16 projects have a Sustainability/GreenTech focus. In addition, 28 follow-on investments were approved for existing HPSU clients. Enterprise Ireland is continuing to build the pipeline with active prospecting by all sectors, driving entrepreneurship through attending and sponsoring Start-Up Events. A media campaign commenced in Q4 2023 with a high reach campaign targeting the start-up community with radio, print ads, paid & organic search. The campaign was very successful in generating significant interest in the Pre-Seed Start Fund and also generating some new enquiries across Ireland and a number of female led enquiries.</p>

4.2 Develop Scaling Finance for Irish Firms

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>In response to challenges for scale ups in accessing finance in Ireland, a Finance for Scale Ups (FSU) Working Group was established.</p> <p>The Group’s aim was to develop a report during 2023, detailing actionable recommendations to support high potential firms to access scaling finance, noting that Ireland, and the wider EU, continue to lag behind in terms of access to finance when compared with other regions. Publication of the report is expected in Q2 2024.</p> <p>Following publication of the report by the Working Group which is expected in Q2 2024, an implementation group will be formed shortly thereafter. This implementation group, consisting of key stakeholders from the Working 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

<p>Timeline</p>	<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>
<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>Enterprise Ireland</p>
<p>Update</p>	<p>Both the Leadership 4 Growth and Go Global 4 Growth programmes are being redesigned, largely driven by feedback derived from stakeholder engagement and evaluations conducted during 2023. The subsequent tendering process was largely completed by the end of Q4 2023 with programme alumni and other stakeholders consulted during the tender preparation and analysis assessing barriers to entry for the programme with subsequent improvements to enhance client experience and impact.</p> <p>In regard to Leadership for Growth, the Pre-Qualification stage was completed in 2023. The issue of tenders, responses review, evaluation, interviews and design will be completed by end of Q2 2024. Additionally, the client recruitment for cohort 1 will commence in Q3 2024 with the cohort expected to commence by Q4 2024.</p> <p>With regard to Dynamic Leadership, Roadmap to Growth (which will replace Going Global), the Pre-Qualification questionnaire (PQQ) phase will close and the PQQ evaluation will take pace in Q1 2024. The short listed responders will be invited to tender during Q2 2024 and the tender will close in the same quarter. The tender response review, evaluation, interviews and design will be completed by Q3 2024 along with client recruitment for cohort 1. This cohort will commence in Q4 2024.</p>

	<p>Enterprise Ireland completed a funding bootcamp to support scaling clients through raising funding, and delivered a series of Scaling and Funding webinars during 2023. Twelve 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 event in San Francisco, which gave companies the chance to connect with investors.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland also continued its partnership with the Initial Public Offering (IPO) Ready programme throughout 2023. 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 focused on 5 key modules, pitch days, one-to-one mentoring and seminars.</p> <p>In H2 2023, Enterprise Ireland engaged with 10 companies in preparation of a Stanford University CFO training event for Q1 2024, as well as organising a Get Investment for Scaling Programme attended by twelve companies. The programme consisted of a number of activities designed to help companies accelerate their progress on their journey to get investor ready. A new strategic leadership programme for CFOs to support the acceleration of scaling companies has been approved by Enterprise Ireland and is expected to go to tender in early 2024.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland continues to support the scaling of Irish companies, where the investment pipeline continues to build across all sectors. Companies are focusing on Digital Transformation and Operational Excellence in addition to R&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 and is closely monitoring progress related to increasing the number of large companies supported by 50% by 2030. The number of large companies supported by Enterprise Ireland has continued to increase in 2022 versus 2021, and remains on track for reaching the 2030 target.</p>
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Timeline	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 ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment facilitated OECD led interviews and roundtables with a broad spectrum of stakeholders throughout during Q3 2023. These interviews and roundtables helped inform the wider study as it advanced during H2 2023, where an initial draft was completed on schedule in late 2023. The project continues to progress well and it is expected that a draft will be finalised and published during Q2 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 a full draft is expected to be completed in Q2 2024.

4.4 Accelerate the Export Growth of Irish Enterprise

Timeline	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 ●
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland
Update	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 are being captured in the Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review survey during H1 2024.
	Enterprise Ireland client exports in 2022 reached a record €32.1billion of which 71% was to destinations outside the UK. The UK now accounts for exports of €9.22 billion, representing 29% of total exports during 2022. The 2023 results are being captured in the Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review survey during H1 2024.

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

Timeline	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 ●
Responsibility	Local Enterprise Offices; Enterprise Ireland; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	The LEO Framework for companies employing more than 10 and fewer 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. The framework launch has been supported, through 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. A business case was developed by Enterprise Ireland 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. Enterprise Ireland will launch a pilot of the new Export Accelerator Programme during 2024, which aims to build overseas market entry capability and to generate a market entry plan for first time exporters. The full rollout of this initiative is expected in 2025

4.6 Support Market Diversification of Irish Firms

<p>Timeline</p>	<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 & 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>
<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>Enterprise Ireland</p>
<p>Update</p>	<p>The Sales and Marketing client support programmes that Enterprise Ireland manages are experiencing strong uptake and pipeline development. To date, across the various marketing support programmes, over €6.3 million has been approved to 208 clients to help them develop their sales and marketing capabilities internationally.</p> <p>The programmes include the Strategic Marketing Review, Digital Marketing Capability, Digital Marketing Assessment and the Marketing Discovery Fund. Enterprise Ireland Market Research Centre (MRC) has handled 1,933 client research assignments by the end of 2023. The Digital Marketing Unit hosted an in-person client Digital Marketing Workshop in Q3 2023, where 133 clients attended.</p>

	<p>The Post-Brexit Market Growth & Diversification grant was launched in April 2023 in conjunction with Bord Bia to support Brexit-impacted companies in planning their new market entry strategies outside of the UK. The funding programme concluded in December 2023. There was a strong level of interest in the post-Brexit support, which resulted in 55 client companies being approved a total of €1.833m. The drawdown of the total approved was €1,701m which was impressive given the short-term nature of the support. This was a collaboration between EI's Sales & Marketing team and Bord Bia.</p>
	<p>During 2023, a business case was developed with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, to outline the rationale and a roadmap to deliver an increase in the number of first-time exporters. The intention was 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. The business case is currently under review, with a decision expected in early 2024.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Ireland's programme of Trade Missions and events are important gateways to international markets; promoting opportunities for Irish enterprise globally, whilst also highlighting the innovation that Irish companies are bringing to international markets. 20 Enterprise Ireland Trade Missions took place in 2023, across North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. These included nine joint Enterprise Ireland and IDA Trade Missions, to markets including Australia, USA and France and Germany, Canada and Singapore.</p>
	<p>In Q4 2023, South Korea hosted the first Team Ireland Trade Mission Week which saw the arrival of Taoiseach and Ministers for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. As part of Trade Mission week, a contingent of Enterprise Ireland client companies were introduced to potential investors and partners in South Korea, with several prominent and strategically important contract signings taking place.</p>
	<p>Enterprise Ireland also led out on 104 global trade events during, 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 and successfully launched on schedule in H2 2023. This further amplified the positive impact of the new Enterprise Ireland corporate branding which was launched in H1 of 2023.</p>

	<p>72 first time new exporters from the Local Enterprise Offices were delivered during 2023, against the LEO target of 100 first time exporters. During 2023, the Local Enterprise Office transitioned 204 companies into Enterprise Ireland where a number of these are expected to evolve into first time exporters. In 2023, 84 Enterprise Ireland clients were recorded as first-time exporters. Work is ongoing with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, to develop a new exporters accelerator to increase the number of new exporters.</p>
	<p>The wider LEO Digital Transformation Programme was approved formally by Enterprise Ireland during 2023. The LEO Digital Transformation Programme is now being considered along with the Enterprise Ireland Service Delivery Programme with regard to a single procurement framework and single technical solution. Procurement process and subsequent appointment of successful vendor are due for completion by the end of Q4 2024. The Enterprise Ireland EI Website Project review and update was launched successfully in Q4 2023.</p>

4.7 Transformation of Irish exporting base

Timeline	<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&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>
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>Enterprise Ireland continued intensive engagement with client companies on sustainability and climate issues during 2023, with awareness campaigns, targeted sectoral meetings and leadership programmes and workshops being utilised as part of this engagement process. 207 climate projects, totaling €7.8 million, were supported by Enterprise Ireland in 2023. This brings a total of 358 projects supported during the course of 2022-2023, against a target of 425 by end of 2024. Enterprise Ireland continues to work with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, as well as other partners to raise awareness of these offers to the Enterprise Ireland client base.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland staff continued to work closely with client companies on their strategic development plans and to incentivise projects in digitalisation strategy & roadmap development, digital marketing capability development and digital process innovation projects as part of the suite of wider interventions. In this regard, projects for a total of 170 companies were approved in 2023.</p> <p>Enterprise Ireland continues to accelerate the development of research and innovation capability in Irish enterprise, where 107 R&D projects with grant expenditure greater than €100k were approved during 2023. This builds on the 102 R&D approvals over €100K achieved during 2022.</p>

5. Enabling Locally Traded Sectors to Thrive

Locally traded enterprises are vital to the economic and social fabric of towns and villages across Ireland and underpin regional development and employment. In 2023, Enterprise Ireland launched schemes to support firms to build their online retail capability and invest in carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures. These initiatives are to be followed by a wider report for addressing the challenges posed by the twin transitions to locally traded sectors, and the forthcoming launch of a funding scheme for the digitalisation of locally traded sectors in conjunction with the Digital Portal for enterprise, both of which are now expected to commence in 2024. In H2 2023, the OECD published its review of Social Enterprise in Ireland, which was used to inform a public consultation on the new National Social Enterprise Policy, open from December 2024 to January 2024. Following review of the consultation, publication of this policy is expected in early 2024.

5.1 Facilitate our Locally Trading Sectors to Navigate the Twin Transition

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade 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>Engagement with the CSO to source data on the locally traded sector continued in H2 2023 in this regard. Additional data was received in Q1 2024 and is now undergoing analysis, where progress to initiate the delayed research study is expected to commence in Q2 2024. The potential publication of the resulting report is now anticipated for Q3 2024.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan will be formalised in Q4 2024, upon completion of the external research study.</p>

5.2 Support Small Firms in Energy Cost Reduction and Decarbonisation Investments

Timeline	<p>Q2 2023: Launch the pilot of the Small Firms Investment in Energy Efficiency Scheme (SFIEES) 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>
Responsibility	<p>Enterprise Ireland - Centre of excellence; Local Enterprise Offices; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Údarás na Gaeltachta</p>
Update	<p>The Energy Efficiency Grant was launched in May 2023 by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney, T.D.</p> <p>The Energy Efficiency Grant supports businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and overall energy costs by accelerating the adoption of low carbon technologies or processes. Small firms can receive a grant of 50% towards eligible expenditure of energy efficiency projects up to a maximum of €5,000. In 2023, the Local Enterprise Offices received 57 applications of which 35 of these have been approved, to a value of €137,423. There were 554 Green for Business and 2 Green Start approvals in 2023, which provides a strong pipeline of potential clients for this scheme in the future.</p> <p>A review of the Energy Efficiency Grant was undertaken during 2023, which will inform considerations on the appropriate administration of the Grant during 2024.</p>

5.3 Assist Locally Traded Sectors in Increasing Digital Intensity

Timeline	Q4 2023: Launch of new scheme and funding to support locally traded sectors, in conjunction with the development of the Digital Portal ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Enterprise Ireland are working to develop changes to the Trading Online Voucher and the Digital for Business schemes and ensure that there is coherence in the digital supports available to businesses. These reforms are being developed alongside the Digital Portal, which is expected to be delivered in H1 2024.</p> <p>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

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>The objective of Online Retail Scheme (ORS) 2023 was to enhance online capability/ skills and attract new customers for Retail businesses. The scheme was launched in April 2023 with a €3.4 million budget allocation and closed for applications in May 2023. 151 applications were received, where a total of €2.28 million of grant funding was offered to the 98 successful applicants by Q3 2023. The percentage of successful applicant companies based outside of Dublin was 79%, with almost half of total successful applicants being first time recipients of the ORS funding. The claim process commenced in Q4, where a total of €1.8 million has been disbursed to 85 companies by end of 2023.</p> <p>A tender framework for the provision of supports and services in relation to the evaluation of financial products managed and administered by Enterprise Ireland was established in 2023. The invitation to tender for the Online Retail Scheme (ORS) review was published in Q4 2023. A full review of the ORS will be completed by Q4 2024. The review will establish the Scheme impact over all calls in order to inform the long-term future of the scheme</p>

5.5 Boost Social Enterprise Contributions to the Irish Economy and Society

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	Department of Rural and Community Development
Update	<p>The review of social enterprise in Ireland was published by the OECD in November 2023 and can be accessed on the OECD library webpage.⁴ The review will help inform policy makers on a range of topics pertinent to the social enterprise sector in Ireland and has already supported the Department of Rural and Community Development's work on a new National Social Enterprise Policy.</p> <p>A public consultation on the new National Social Enterprise Policy was launched by the Minister of Rural and Community Development in December 2023. The submissions received will assist in informing the new National Social Enterprise Policy to be published in 2024.</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 planned for publication in H1 2024. Prior to its publication, it will be finalised taking account of the OECD review, a baseline data report, submissions received during the public consultation process, and bilateral meetings with stakeholders and other Government Departments.</p>

⁴ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/boosting-social-entrepreneurship-and-social-enterprise-development-in-ireland_3115bcb6-en

6. Stepping Up Enterprise Innovation

Stimulating innovation, and expanding innovation capacity, is critical to enhancing enterprise productivity and enabling enterprise to avail of new opportunities and enter new markets. Further funding was rolled out under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF), which seeks to support collaborative enterprise-driven partnerships that develop, deploy and commercialise disruptive technologies to transform business, as call 6 was announced in late 2023. Ireland successfully commenced the first phase of European Regional Development Fund funding allocation for Technology Gateways, KT Boost, and Innovator's Initiative, as part of a 7-year commitment. In H2 2023, Ireland further announced the first call for €35m funding under the €145m Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme, and awarded almost €51 million across 11 projects under call 6 of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund, with a further call to be announced in 2024. In specific sectors, Irish companies and research institutions are benefitting from engagements with the European Space Agency (ESA) to pursue opportunities in the space sector, with the total number of Irish companies working with the ESA exceeding the targets set out in the National Space Strategy for Enterprise in 2023. Meanwhile, the Construct Innovate industry outreach and engagement programme was launched, engaging researchers and industry members in its first year, and facilitating training and equipment funding to drive modern methods of construction that will boost productivity, reduce delivery time, and reduce environmental impact.

6.1 Double Spin-outs and Enhance Research Commercialisation

Timeline	<p>Q1 2024: Complete awards to universities and commence the KT Boost Programme ●</p> <p>Q1 2024: Commence Innovators Initiative ●</p>
Responsibility	<p>Enterprise Ireland (Lead); Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
Update	<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. KT Boost Programme is co-financed by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-27 and the Northern & Western Regional Programme 2021-27. The call for applications opened in February 2023 and closed in March 2023. Enterprise Ireland approved the allocations of the funding and all contracts were signed during H2 2023, with advanced funding allocated accordingly. The €33.4 million fund was formally launched by Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD in December 2023 and the programme commenced in January 2024.</p> <p>The Innovators' Initiative call was launched in Q1 2023 and closed in Q2. Eleven eligible applications were received and evaluated. Four of these eleven applications were recommended and approved for funding in Q3 2023. The four successful programmes commenced in Q4 2023 and are now all operational. The four programmes each address a specific sector of economic importance. These consist of medtech, agritech, cybersecurity and digital health. Out of the four applications approved for funding, three initiatives signed contracts during Q4 2023.</p>

6.2 Invest in Disruptive Technologies Innovation and Commercialisation

Timeline	Q4 2023: Announce results of Call 6 of DTIF, which closes in Q2 2023 ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Update	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. The results Call 6 of the DTIF were announced in November 2023 and January 2024, with 12 projects awarded almost €58 million in funding over three years. The successful projects address a range of national research priorities areas, including in digital transformation and integrating decarbonisation and net zero commitments. A seventh DTIF Call will be announced in the coming weeks, in H1 2024.

6.3 Strengthen Regional Smart Specialisations

Timeline	Q4 2023: Implement first phase of allocation of €445 million of ERDF Funding for regional enterprise development and innovation initiatives ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Lead); Smart Specialisation National Steering Group
Update	<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.</p> <p>The budget allocation for the first three programmes: Technology Gateways, Knowledge Transfer (KT) Boost, and Innovator’s Initiative programmes is €117 million over 7 years.</p> <p>Following the Technology Gateways programme, with 17 Gateways, being launched in May 2023, the KT Boost programme was launched in December 2023 by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Simon Coveney TD. Finalisation of the Innovators’ Initiative programme continued in H2 2023, and the successful initiatives were announced in February 2024.</p> <p>In addition, the first call for €35m of the €145m Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme was announced in October 2023. The Scheme is now open for applications on Enterprise Ireland’s website until end of Q1 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)

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	<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>
Update	<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 H2 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>In its first year, Construct Innovate has welcomed its first 50 industry members, and signed up another research performing organisation (bringing the total number of research organisations to six). 30 industry professionals are undertaking a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Innovation through the University of Galway. 12 webinars have been delivered alongside two Academic-Industry Meeting (AIM) days. €2m in equipment funding has been secured from Enterprise Ireland for testing equipment for construction products. The Centre has also delivered the first tranche of research to support residential construction under the Housing for All priority research programme, with the completion of the first 10 research projects last year.</p> <p>The development of the Phase 1 of the MMC Demonstration Park continues to progress. During H2 2023, preferred bidders were notified of their success in the H1 Expression of Interest process and the design for Phase 1 was finalised. A project manager was appointed, and an independent peer review of the proposed foundations was conducted, to provide further governance around this innovative project. Costings for Phase 1 were furthermore agreed by the Project Oversight Group. The Group (consisting of Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, SOLAS and Laois-Offaly Education and Training Board) agreed a decision pathway, and the staggered delivery of Phase 1 of the Park. Recognising the additional governance arrangements developed and implemented, delivery of this phase has been moved to Q4 2024. A planning application was granted permission by the local authority in H1 2024.</p>

Timeline	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 ●
Responsibility	Enterprise Ireland
Update	The have been 29 companies approved under Built To Innovate between the launch in March 2022 and the end of 2023. Built to Innovate initiative was launched in 2022 with the aim of increasing the productivity and innovation capabilities of the domestic residential sector. There have been 29 companies approved under Built To Innovate between the launch in March 2022 and end of 2023. During 2023, Enterprise Ireland continued to actively promote this range of financial and advisory supports to the construction sector with presentations to sector stakeholders to highlight these new offerings. Examples of events where presentations took place include the National Construction Summit, Irish Homebuilders Association regional roundtable, MMC Ireland member meetings. During 2023, 18 companies in total were approved for funding under the initiative. Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, together with attendees from Government Departments further hosted a Homebuilders' Roundtable in November 2023, which targeted larger construction companies for discussions on the respective stages of the housing development process; acquire, plan and build.

6.5 Pursue Frontier Technology Opportunities in the Space Sector

Timeline	Q4 2023: Achieve 100 Irish based companies working with the European Space Agency (ESA) ●
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Enterprise Ireland
Update	Latest figures available to DETE indicate that 27 Irish based companies and six third level institutions have won €7 million worth of contracts from the European Space Agency in 2023. These figures indicate that the total number of Irish companies benefitting from ESA contracts to 104, exceeding the National Space Strategy for Enterprise 2019-2025 target of 100 companies. The high level of space activity is anticipated to continue during 2024 with further additional companies expected to engage with ESA contract work.

7. Building on Strengths and Opportunities

In areas of existing expertise and future potential, we will continue to build on Ireland's distinctive areas of competitive advantage which is key for ensuring Ireland remains both resilient in the face of disruptions and can avail of emerging opportunities. This includes building on regional strengths, and developing clusters of firms, higher education institutions and research, for key strategic sectors. Preparations for the launch of a new centrally coordinated, cross-Government, approach to clustering advanced through the development of the National Clustering Programme during 2023. Similarly, the development of Ireland's National Hub Strategy will seek to ensure Ireland remains an attractive place to live and work, supporting wider economic ambitions across the country. The development of the National Hub Strategy continued to advance during 2023, supported through significant stakeholder engagements and consultations in advance of its launch in 2024. All nine regional Building Better Business conferences were successfully held in locations across the country during 2023, alerting and informing SME's on the range of opportunities and challenges arising from digital transformation and decarbonization, including government and agency supports available in this effort. The €145m Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme was launched through a first call in late 2023, and support early-stage funding that promotes regional job creation and enterprise development throughout Ireland.

7.1 Develop a Coordinated National Approach to Clustering

Timeline	<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>
Responsibility	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</p>
Update	<p>Work has continued on developing the National Clustering Programme which is being informed by the 2023 Grant Thornton evidence base report commissioned by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.</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 was undertaken during H2 2023, with the aim of funding five National Cluster Organisations under a new National Clustering Programme by 2025. Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment officials have continued to engage with a range of stakeholders during H2 2023, to ensure the National Clustering Programme is tailored effectively to support and enhance the Irish clustering ecosystem and is in line with International best practice. The target for devising the National Clustering Programme has been revised and is now expected to be met by Q2 2024.</p> <p>Following the finalisation of the National Clustering Programme, implementation will commence by Q4 2024. At the outset, the coordination entity will be sited within the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. To this end, the Cluster Ireland Unit was established in Q4 2023 and has responsibility for devising and implementing the National Clustering Programme.</p>

7.2 Support Balanced, Sustainable Regional Development

Timeline	<p>Q2 2023 and beyond: 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>
Responsibility	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Enterprise Ireland
Update	<p>In October 2023, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Coveney TD, announced a new €145m Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme, co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund, to support projects aligned to the Regional Enterprise Plans. The first call of €35m opened for applications in H2 2023. This is the first of a number of calls over the coming years. The Scheme supports innovative clusters, local infrastructure projects, programmatic supports to business and feasibility and priming funding for early-stage project development, ultimately supporting job creation and enterprise development in each region throughout Ireland.</p> <p>All nine planned Building Better Business conferences have taken place successfully across the country during 2023. The events focused on supporting SMEs in navigating the green journey and boosting business performance through digital transformation while also hearing from successful indigenous businesses which have scaled and internationalised. The events were held in the North-West (Donegal), Midlands (Laois), Mid-West (Limerick), Mid-East (Kildare), South-East (Waterford), North-East (Louth), West (Mayo), South-West (Cork) and Dublin.</p>

Timeline	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 ●
Responsibility	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Update	<p>Údarás na Gaeltachta approved 13 projects during H2 2023, to incentivise its client companies to commence their green, lean and digital journeys. This brings the total number of projects approved during 2023 to 27. Údarás na Gaeltachta has also agreed a target of 30 applications for the Green Transition Fund, along with a further 30 applications for the Digital transition Fund, from its client companies by the end of 2024.</p> <p>'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. Údarás na Gaeltachta has liaised with a wide range of stakeholders in preparing the Gaeltacht Glas Strategy, which will be launched in 2024 pending the conclusion of Gaeltacht energy usage and CO2 emissions baselining research.</p>

7.3 Develop Ireland’s National Hub Strategy

Timeline	Q4 2023: Publication of Ireland’s National Hub Strategy ●
Responsibility	Department of Regional and Community Development (Co-Lead); Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Co-Lead)
Update	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Rural and Community Development are working to develop the first National Hub Strategy, in close cooperation with the Western Development Commission. Four stakeholder workshops with hub managers, enterprise agencies, Regional Enterprise Plan Programme Managers and local authorities were held in H1 2023 to inform the Strategy's development. These workshops focused on the themes of enterprise, community, employment, and climate action.</p> <p>In H2 2023, the Department of Rural and Community Development provided an opportunity for stakeholders to submit written observations further one-to-one consultations took place and the National Hub Summit was held in November. This work continues to inform the development of the Strategy, which is nearing completion with an expected publication date in Q2 2024.</p>

Appendix I Metrics and Targets

Target 2030	Parent Strategy	Metric	Baseline	H2 2023 Update	Source
Employment					
Maintain full employment (unemployment below 5%)		Standard measure of monthly unemployment (persons aged 15-74 years)	4.4% (October 2022)	4.5% (December 2023)	CSO Labour Force Survey
Integrating decarbonisation and Net Zero commitments					
35% Emissions reductions from Industry by 2030	Climate Action Plan	Million Tonnes CO ₂ equivalent	6.98 MtCO ₂ eq. (2018) †	6.58 MtCO ₂ eq (2022)	EPA (2022) Final Emissions Data 1990 – 2021
45% emissions reductions from Commercial Built Environment by 2030	Climate Action Plan	Million Tonnes CO ₂ equivalent	1.5 MtCO ₂ eq. (2018)	1.4 MtCO ₂ 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)	85% (2022)	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) ‡	23.3% increase to €35.8bn (2022)	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	-	53% (2023)	IDA Ireland

Target 2030	Parent Strategy	Metric	Baseline	H2 2023 Update	Source
Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector					
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	-	68% of job gains outside Dublin (AES 2023)	Enterprise Ireland Annual Business Review
Enabling locally trading sectors to thrive					
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
Stepping up enterprise innovation					
Gross (public and private) Expenditure on R&D 2.5% of GNI* by 2030	Impact 2030	GERD as a % of GNI*	2.15 as a % GNI* (2020)	1.80% as a % of GNI* (2023)	Budget 2024: Economic & Fiscal Outlook
20% Increase in the number of High-Potential Start-Ups	EI Strategy 2022-2024	High-Potential Start-Ups supported	82 HPSUs (2021)	85 HPSUs (2023)	Enterprise Ireland Annual

Target 2030	Parent Strategy	Metric	Baseline	H2 2023 Update	Source
(HPSUs) supported by 2024					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 2024	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)	Midlands at +1.4pp (5.6%) from the quarterly national average. Less than 1% above national average in every other region (Q4 2023)	CSO Labour Force Survey

† Baseline 2018 figure of 7.014 MtCO₂eq. has been restated to 6.98 MtCO₂eq. due to revisions in the national energy statistics provided to the EPA by SEAI

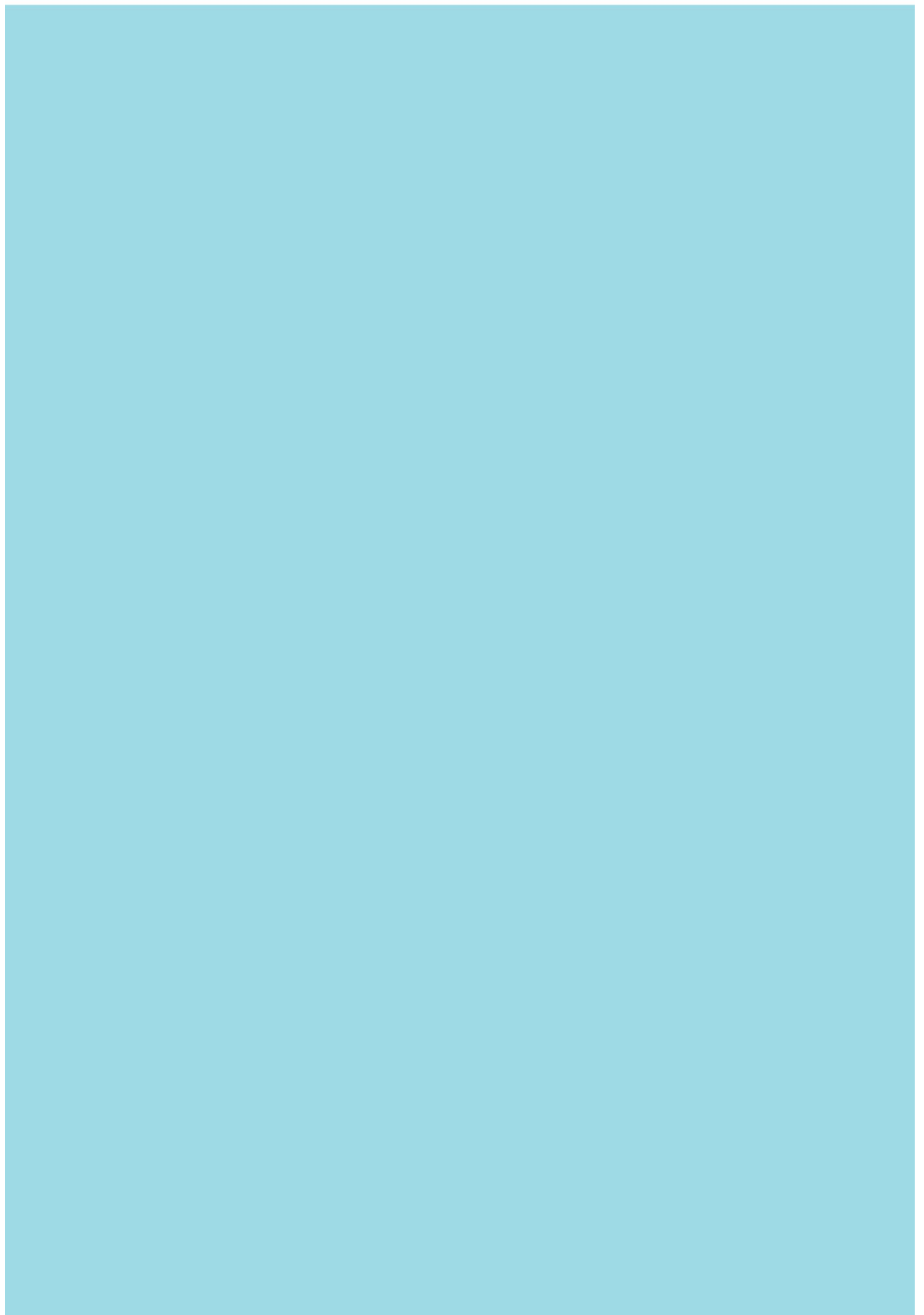
‡ Baseline total IDA client expenditure for 2020 has been restated to €29 billion , up from the previously reported figure of €27.9 billion.

§ 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

^ No latest figures available, under review by the CSO



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