

# Enterprise Newsletter

March 2022

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## Contents

- **Agile Innovation Supports Webinar**
- **€1m Enterprise Ireland Competitive Start Fund**
- **Public Consultation on the National Minimum Wage 2023**
- **InterTradeIreland's Venture Capital Conference 2022 - Opportunity Island**
- **Public Consultation on Upgrading Digital Company Law**
- **The National Standards Authority of Ireland launched Certification in Modern Methods of Construction**
- **The EU Commission has announced a call for evidence and a public consultation on standard-essential patents (SEPs).**

# Enterprise Ireland Agile Innovation Supports Webinar

Innovation is key to staying ahead of the competition.

If you're thinking of developing new products, processes or services, sign up for Enterprise Ireland's Agile Innovation Supports webinar on Tuesday, 8 March at 11am.

The webinar will feature presentations by Jonathan Larbey, CEO of T-Pro and by Enterprise Ireland's Company R&D Supports team, who will provide details of the Agile Innovation Fund: what it is for, eligibility criteria, the application process and how to access the funding supports.

Offering fast-track approval and a streamlined online application process, the Agile Innovation Fund allows companies to access up to 50% in support for product, process or service development projects with a total cost of up to €300,000.

For further information, contact: R&D Unit, Enterprise Ireland, Tel: 01-727 2120 or email: [rdcoreunit@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:rdcoreunit@enterprise-ireland.com)

[Register for the webinar](#)

## €1m Enterprise Ireland Competitive Start Fund open for applications

*CLOSING: 3pm on Tuesday, 8 March 2022*

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, invited early-stage entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial teams to apply for

Enterprise Ireland's €1m Competitive Start Fund (CSF) which is now open for applications.

The competition is open to early-stage companies from all sectors with an eligible innovative product or service set for global markets. The fund will award up to €50,000 in equity funding for up to 20 successful applicants.

The CSF is part of Enterprise Ireland's strategy for increasing the number of diverse High Potential Start-Up companies (HPSUs) that have the potential and ambition to succeed internationally. The fund is designed to help start-ups reach key commercial and technical milestones, including evaluating overseas market opportunities, building prototypes, developing market entry plans, and securing third party investment.

[Apply: €1m Enterprise Ireland Competitive Start Fund](#)

## Public Consultation on the National Minimum Wage 2023

*Closing: Wednesday, 23 March 2022*

The [Low Pay Commission](#) is looking for your views on the National Minimum Wage rate for 2023.

The Low Pay Commission makes recommendations to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment designed to set a minimum wage that is fair and sustainable.

When appropriate the minimum wage can be adjusted to assist as many low-paid workers as possible without harming overall employment or competitiveness.

To have your say, simply email: [secretarylpc@enterprise.gov.ie](mailto:secretarylpc@enterprise.gov.ie)

[Have your Say!](#)

# InterTradelreland's Venture Capital Conference 2022 - Opportunity Island

Attendees will have the opportunity to gain insight into the Venture Capital Industry and hear from world-class companies which have started and are scaling from the island. Including insight into the entrepreneurial journey - sourcing teams, growing sales and raising capital while participating in workshops on the fundraising process, pitch decks, term sheets, EIS and post investment investor relations.

## *Monday, 14 March Live Broadcast from 2.45pm - 5pm*

Insight into the Venture Capital Industry. Speakers will focus on the current themes and trends in the venture capital industry in Europe and Ireland. Hear from the European Investment Fund and the Irish Venture Capital Association. Opportunity for live questions and online discussion.

## *Tuesday, 15 March Live Broadcast from 9.15am - 2.30pm*

Scaling journeys - For entrepreneurs planning to access capital for starting or scaling their business. Several of the most active sources of Accelerator, Seed and Angel capital on the island will discuss their strategy, portfolio and how to approach them. Experienced venture investors will deliver workshops on Series A pitch decks and term sheets. Opportunity to sit in an exclusive AMA (Ask Me Anything) roundtable with scaling founders.

[Register for the InterTradelreland Venture Capital Conference](#)

# Public Consultation on Upgrading Digital Company Law

*Closing: 8 April 2022*

The European Commission is currently seeking views from stakeholders and interested parties on upgrading digital company law.

This consultation aims to provide an opportunity for interested parties to share their views on digital company law including on the problems to be addressed, potential policy options and their impacts. This consultation will not cover any of the areas of digital company law which were dealt with under the Digitalisation Directive EU 2019/1151.

The process of updating EU company law in line with digital developments has already begun, Directive (EU) 2019/1151 on the use of digital tools and processes in company law (Digitalisation Directive) provided the first step in advancing digital tools and procedures in company law (e.g. by providing for fully online creation of companies, registration of branches and filing with business registers). This consultation is canvassing views on whether further steps should be taken, and what they should be, in order to continue the process of upgrading digital company law by building on the progress achieved by the 2019 Digitalisation Directive.

The public consultation closes on Friday, 8 April 2022.

[Have your say](#)

## The National Standards Authority of Ireland launched Certification in Modern Methods of Construction

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) launched Certification in Modern Methods of Construction, which offers Certifications on the construction stage and sign-off on Modern Methods of Construction (MMOC) products and building system installation compliance under Building Regulations.

Prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

To apply, a company must already have completed Agreement Certification, provided by NSAI. This is designed specifically for recently developed building materials, products and processes for which published national standards do not yet exist. This action falls under the “Housing for All” the Government’s housing policy to 2030.

The NSAI are hosting a webinar on March 25th from 10am to 12 noon on “Emerging opportunities in design standards for our built environment”

[Register for webinar here](#)

## **The EU Commission has announced a call for evidence and a public consultation on standard-essential patents (SEPs).**

The EU Commission invites interested parties to express their views and experiences in order to improve the current system, mainly transparency and predictability of the licensing framework. With the call for evidence, the Commission is looking for input on the main problem areas identified with the current licensing framework.

In addition, with the public consultation launched in parallel, the Commission seeks to gather views on more specific questions related to SEP licensing and a possible new SEP licensing framework, including regarding its transparency, licensing on fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms and conditions, and the enforcement of such a system.

As announced in the 2020 [Action Plan on Intellectual Property](#), the Commission aims at setting the right condition to have a transparent, predictable and efficient SEP system. The call for evidence and public consultation build on [thorough assessments regarding SEPs in recent years](#), including a number of studies, an expert group on licensing and valuation of SEPs, a 2017 Communication on “Setting out an EU approach to SEPs” as well as more recent webinars with key actors in the field.

The call for evidence and the public consultation will be open until 9 May 2022.

Have your say on the call for evidence and public consultation