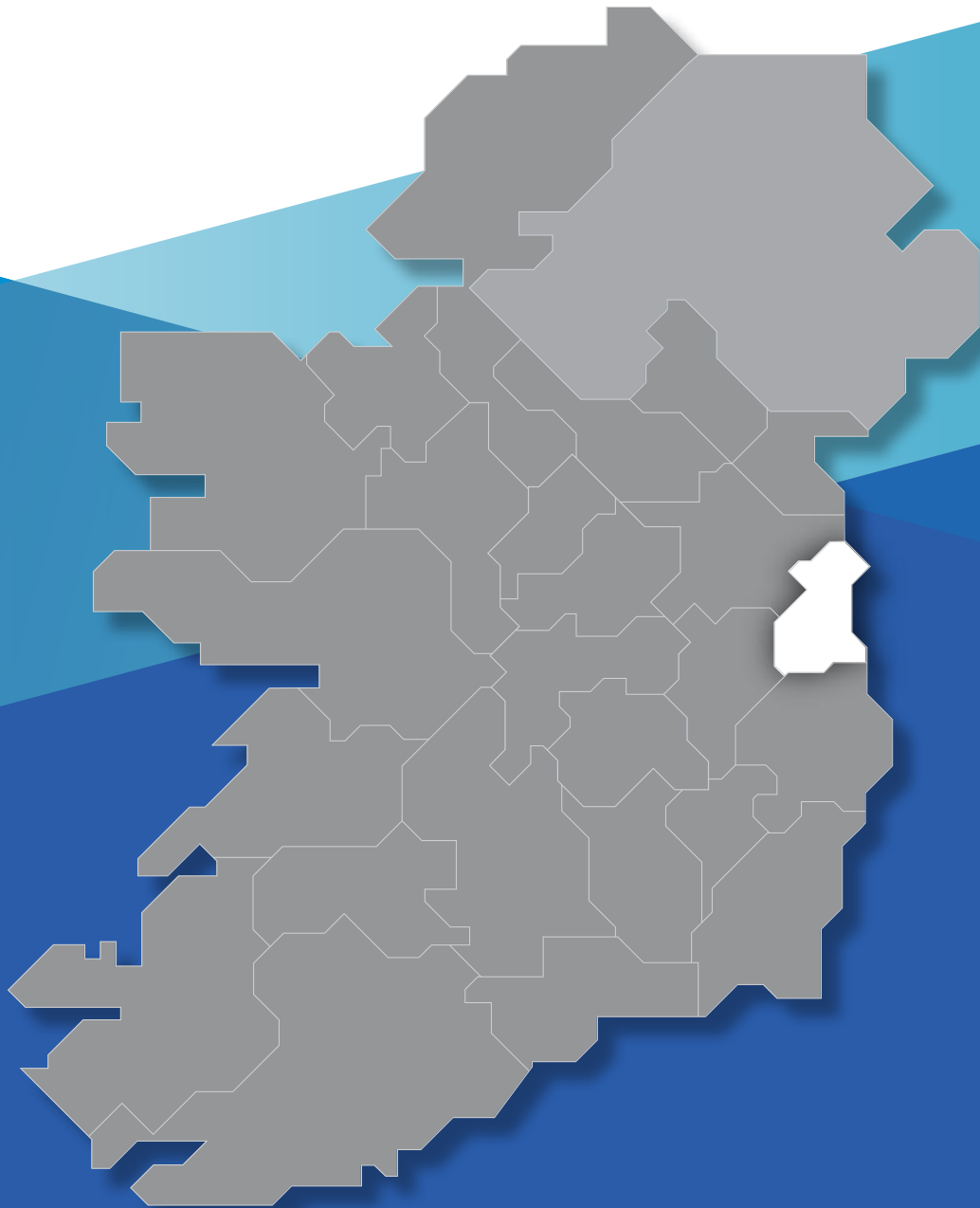




Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

DUBLIN

Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 – Final Progress Report



An initiative of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

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Tánaiste's Foreword

Dublin is the power house of the Irish economy competing for Ireland internationally. Huge advances have been made in recent years notwithstanding the setbacks. As a government, we are ambitious for Dublin for the year ahead.

This Final Progress Report shows that 92% of the actions in the 2019-2020 Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan have been completed. This is an impressive completion rate and I commend everyone involved for creating a focussed set of actions for the period.

The world has changed utterly since the plan was launched in early 2019 and Dublin now faces a new set of challenges. The capital is internationally recognised as a leader in areas such as digital and internet services, financial services, international education and life-sciences. However, Covid-19 has had a really negative impact on some businesses with the pandemic having a 'hollowing out' effect on the city centre especially.

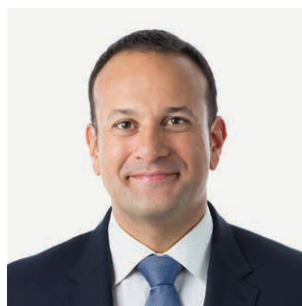
As well as helping businesses rebuild after Covid-19, we need to look further ahead to the future. Climate action and the rise of digitalisation will continue to have a really transformative effect in the years to come. We need to look at how we stay ahead, make the most of the opportunities available, while also preparing for the challenges they bring.

Many of the actions achieved under the 2019-2020 Regional Enterprise Plan will stand to us. For example, the Plan's strong focus on skills is something we can build on and which takes on a new relevance in a recovering economy.

The Progress Report demonstrates that there is added benefit for all if we work together to understand challenges, recognise opportunities and make the most of our complementary skills and resources. The Regional Enterprise Plans bring together local and regional stakeholders to focus on both vulnerabilities and opportunities and we will continue to take a bottom up approach, led by local business leaders and those that work and live in the region.

Thank you to all the members of the Dublin Steering Committee, and Declan McCulloch, Programme Manager, for your work. I also want to pay tribute to the outgoing chairperson, Caroline Keeling, CEO, Keelings, who led both the 2019-2020 Plan and its previous iteration up to 2018.

I welcome Susan Spence, Co-founder and President, SoftCo, as our new chairperson. I have enjoyed our initial engagement and work so far and I look forward to completing a refreshed Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 over the coming months.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Varadkar'.

Leo Varadkar TD,
Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

1. Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 – Final Progress Update

DUBLIN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Increase enterprise engagement in innovation, research and development to ensure Dublin's continued competitiveness and productivity.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Build a pipeline of sustainable and scalable start-ups in Dublin and provide quality support.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

Strategically build on existing activities to enhance the attractiveness of Dublin as a region to live, work, invest and visit.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5:

Facilitate every individual to realise their full potential through engagement in economic activity.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6:

Support Dublin enterprises to adapt to more sustainable practices.

Overall high-level outcomes for the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020

This is the final Progress Report of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 which closes out this iteration of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan 2020. For the Steering Committee to present a final assessment on the level of implementation achieved during the 2019-2020 period, actions have been classified into three categories.

Complete: The Committee has deemed that these actions have been fully completed within the scope and lifetime of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020.

Action commenced but requires further work: The Committee has deemed that while these actions were not completed in full, work had commenced, and significant progress was made during the lifetime of the Plan and will continue, as many projects are of a delivery period which exceed the plan duration. The Committee will consider if these actions could be included as part of future regional strategic objectives in the new Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan through to 2024.

Action not commenced: The Committee has deemed that these actions were either not initiated, or insufficient progress was made within the scope and lifetime of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020. These actions will be reconsidered as part of future strategic objectives in the in the next Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan.

Table 1: Progress on Actions during 2020 and Final Status

Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan	
Total Actions	25
Complete	19
Action commenced but requires further work	4
Action not commenced	2

Each of the previous Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2015-2017/8 set out two core outcomes for achievement in each region by the end of 2020 and these continued to be monitored under the Regional Enterprise Plans to 2020:

- employment growth of between 10 and 15 percent; and
- an unemployment rate reduced to within one percentage point of the State average.

Table 2: Utilising data from the CSO Labour Force Survey (LFS), the rate of growth and unemployment rates achieved for the Dublin region during the period Q1 2015 up to Q4 2020 are as follows:

Region	Numbers Employed			Actual Increase in Employment	Unemployment Rate	
	Q1 2015	Q4 2020	Growth Rate Q1 2015 - Q4 2020	Q1 2015 - Q4 2020	Q1 2015	Q4 2020
Dublin	600,900	693,100	15.3%	92,200	9.1%	6.2%
State	2,014,400	2,306,200	14.4%	291,800	10.5%	5.7%

Source: CSO Labour Force Survey, Q4 2020

Since the launch of Regional Action Plan for Jobs in 2015, 92,200 more people are in employment between Q1 2015 and to Q4 2020. This is an increase of 15.3 percent which exceeds the Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 target while the unemployment rate also fell from 9.1 percent to 6.2 percent over the same period, in the region, again well inside the 2020 target.

The figures in Table 2 exclude people who were receiving the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) at the end of 2020. As of the 31st of December 2020, a total of 111,654 people were in receipt of the PUP (see Table 3).

Table 3: Persons in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment at the end of 2020

County	Persons in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (Number)
Dublin	111,654

Source: CSO, Labour Market Live Register (<https://data.cso.ie/table/LRW03>)

2020 Highlights



Reset Summit – Dublin City Council in collaboration with the Dublin Region Enterprise Plan and the REP COVID-19 response hosted Reset Summit.



Dublin Place Brand - Campaigns – In response to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, a series of communications campaigns were conducted to support businesses, encourage citizens and increase footfall in the city and region.



Pathways to employment – A hugely successful series of 5 webinars were held with registrations in excess of 100 on the topic of business start-up for people with disability.



Enterprise Ireland developed a training programme for SMEs on how to carry out R&D projects, develop R&D capability and manage R&D projects.



Cultural / Creative Spaces Audit – To help assess the needs of artists, musicians and others in the creative fields, an audit report was conducted and published of the existing cultural and creative spaces in the Dublin region.



MODOS Circular Economy Training Programme – The Modos pilot programme to assist small and medium enterprises to embed circular economy principles was scaled further from a regional to national pilot programme.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

1

Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential

**Action 1:**

As part of the Skills for Growth initiative the Regional Skills Forum will assist local enterprises to identify their skills needs through a variety of audit tools to ensure that the region has the effective use of skills to support economic and social prosperity. Once skills needs have been identified, the Regional Skills Forum will link companies with the education and training providers best suited to responding to identified skills need.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members: Dublin Regional Skills Forum

Educational Providers: City of Dublin Education and Training Board, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board, Dublin City University, National College of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, TU Dublin (Blanchardstown Campus, Tallaght Campus, City Campus), Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology, National College of Art and Design and Skillnet Ireland

Also working in partnership with other industry bodies including:

DEASP, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, National Disability Authority, Ibec, local county councils, Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), ISME and Dublin chambers of commerce

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Final Status:

Complete

Outline of work undertaken during 2020:

Skills for Growth continued through the facilitation of online engagement (due to the impact of COVID-19) through each Regional Skills Forum (RSF) website. In the absence of face-to-face audits, the online forum allows the same process to be applied to ensure the business can submit skills needs for RSFM to respond for outcomes.

In addition, the Spotlight on Skills Project in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland has now also gone online with webinars facilitated regionally. The online process facilitates businesses developing their critical skills strategy, with an online meeting then conducted with each RSFM to respond with outcomes based on needs identified by each company. A webinar was completed on 8th July 2020 with eight client companies.

Final outcome achieved:

Almost 200 companies/sector bodies across several sectors (including – hospitality/retail/construction/financial services/ICT/logistics/professional) have been engaged up to Q3 with RSF to support and facilitate responses and signposting to provisions within both further education and higher education for upskilling and reskilling.

Action 2:
Double the number of participants on the EXPLORE programme over the 2018 figure.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
Dublin Regional Skills Forum Partners (Educational Providers further education and higher education with other Industry bodies) as noted above
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Final Status:
Complete
Outline of work undertaken during 2020:
Due to the impact of COVID-19 and inability to conduct onsite business consultations, Explore was proposed to run regionally where feasible in September/October/November 2020. The intention 'being that within the ETBs nationwide which can facilitate it, they will now specifically open to sectors which have been hugely impacted by COVID-19. Where business can facilitate on-site visits adhering to the guidelines Explore will be offered. Explore will be offered to businesses regionally including manufacturing/retail /hospitality/logistics.
Final outcome achieved:
One cohort is running Explore in collaboration with Replace with one cohort ran Explore in collaboration with Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB, completing it in December 2020.

Action 3:
Support education and training providers in preparing applications under Springboard+ 2019 in collaboration with local enterprise to increase provision of programmes for upskilling and reskilling within the region.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
Dublin Regional Skills Forum Partners (Educational Providers further education and higher education with other Industry bodies) as noted above
Timeframe for delivery:
Q2 2019
Final Status:
Complete

Action 4:

Support all actions in the Regional Enterprise Plan where linkages to Education and Training Providers are required.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Dublin Regional Skills Forum Partners (Educational Providers further education and higher education with other Industry bodies) as noted above

Timeframe for delivery:

2020

Final Status:

Complete

Outline of work undertaken during 2020:

Supports continued on all REP actions where linkage to education and training providers are required. Collaboration of all partners within RSF has continued over COVID-19 where RSFM very much continued its work and activities with all conducted online since Mid-March.

DRSF also supported Pathways event Strategic Objective 5.

Final outcome achieved:

DRSF continues to work with SMEs and business regionally to identify and address skills needs where interventions specific to COVID-19 require development as well as directing them to the relevant supports from agencies such as LEOs, EI, IDA, sectoral bodies etc.

The focus of supports highlighted business needs and skills specific to impacts of COVID-19.

<p>Action 5:</p>
<p>Communicate to employers the services available through the Regional Skills Forum to assist with resolution of emerging skills needs.</p>
<p>Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:</p>
<p>Dublin Regional Skills Forum Partners (Educational Providers further education and higher education with other Industry bodies) as noted above</p>
<p>Timeframe for delivery:</p>
<p>2020</p>
<p>Final Status:</p>
<p>Complete</p>
<p>Outline of work undertaken during 2020:</p>
<p>RFSM have continued to provide supports specifically based on the impacts of COVID-19 through online communications channels since mid-March.</p> <p>Given the particular needs of business within each region a specific online campaign was developed by RSF to showcase the various supports available including all financial state funded opportunities as well as all available skills provision most of which was translated online and fully funded.</p> <p>Linkage with sectoral bodies and SMEs continued throughout online with informed participation within relevant webinars to gather insights on sectorial impacts. All of these are reported monthly direct to Skills Planning and Enterprise Engagement unit.</p>
<p>Final outcome achieved:</p>
<p>Action complete as ongoing communication has continued to employers of services available. In addition, the Regional Skills websites has facilitated a specific COVID-19 hub section and online portals to update and communicate using E-zines and Social Media.</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

2

Increase enterprise engagement in innovation, research and development to ensure Dublin’s continued competitiveness and productivity



Action 1:

Develop a training programme for SMEs on how to carry out R&D projects, develop R&D capability and manage R&D projects.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Enterprise Ireland and Dublin Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)

Timeframe for delivery:

Q3 2019

Final Status:

Complete

Action 2:

Leverage momentum and potential of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) initiative in the Dublin Region.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Enterprise Ireland and 4 Dublin Local Authorities

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Final Status:

Complete

Outline of work undertaken during 2020:

The SBIR has proven to be a very important initiative for the Dublin region and following the completion of the REP targets for Q4 2019 the SBIR continues to be developed and managed in the Dublin area.

The four Dublin Regional Challenges have commenced or are in the process of commencing the 2nd and final phase, that of developing a working prototype. The 1st phase of delivering a proof of concept having been delivered. COVID-19 has had an impact on phase two schedules, but all should be completed by Q3 of 2020. The live challenges which have commenced are as follows:

- Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (Internet of things).
- Smart Dublin (Last Mile Delivery).
- Smart Dublin (Smart Mobility).
- Dublin City Council (Gully monitoring).

At the Public Sector Innovation conference, notable achievements were highlighted such as the Gully monitoring Challenge between Dublin City Council and two SME's; Danalto and Semicon. The *Gullyspy* product has been continuing to garner interest on an international level. The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are responsible for running the Internet of things challenge. This has progressed over time to focus on an innovative product to remotely monitor cracks in buildings and civil infrastructure. Crack sensors will notify authorities as to any movement of a fissure and by so doing provide additional security while reducing time and costs spent on physical inspections.

Final outcome achieved:

Further progress in 2020 is evident throughout the various challenges stated above by the Dublin City Council and the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. In terms of the Smart Dublin challenges, achieving success in completing these challenges would be pivotal in establishing building blocks for future Smart Dublin initiatives. The challenges of Last Mile Delivery and Smart Mobility, if achieved, could contribute to the progression of increased connectivity throughout the Dublin region.

Action 3:

Deliver a coordinated Innovation Week, including an awareness campaign, across the Dublin region to raise awareness of supports and services available and to stimulate networking and engagement.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Enterprise Ireland and Dublin Borough Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)

Timeframe for delivery:

2019

Final Status:

Complete

Action 4:

Publish a dedicated edition of the Dublin Economic Monitor in order to raise awareness of innovation initiatives being embarked on by Dublin companies and their partners.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Led by Dublin City Council in collaboration with DLR, SDCC and Fingal, EI and IDA Ireland and others

Timeframe for delivery:

Q1 2020

Final Status:

Complete

Final outcome achieved:

Action completed in Quarter 4 2019

Start-up Week Dublin - Innovation & Entrepreneurship - Special edition of the Dublin Economic Monitor published as part of Start-up Week Tech Stars Dublin 2019 including contributions from Enterprise Ireland.

- Special edition launched at the launch event of Start-up Week Dublin – 21/10/2019 Dublin City Council – Civic Offices

- Approximately 1,000 printed copies circulated and disseminated at events during Start-up Week

Dublin 21-25/10/2019

- Special edition promoted online via social media
- Special edition available at www.dublineconomy.ie
- From website - special edition obtained: 88 Reads / 327 Impressions

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

3

Build a pipeline of sustainable and scalable start-ups in Dublin and provide quality support



Action 1:

Conduct and publish joint surveys across the four Dublin Local Authority areas on existing co-working and enterprise space in order to identify providers, current trends and gain sector insights to inform future planning and networking. The information will be promoted on Dublin.ie and the Local Authority websites.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Led by Dublin City Council in collaboration with DLR, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and Fingal, Dublin Chamber

Timeframe for delivery:

Q2 2019

Final Status:

Complete

Final outcome achieved:

Action completed in 2019

Desktop research conducted which identified the current enterprise and co-working space providers in Dublin.

- Survey conducted of enterprise and co-working spaces / centres
- Relevant insights and trends identified
- Draft Report – presented to the Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Development

Committee – Dublin City Council on 12/11/2019

- Final Report – Enterprise and Co-working Space Providers in Dublin – Research Report – produced and presented at the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Action 2:

Establish a subgroup to review relevant metrics on start-up survival rates across Dublin to identify gaps and possible improvements in available supports for start-up.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

LEOs

Timeframe for delivery:

2019

Final Status:

Action not commenced

Reason:

Action did not take place due to COVID-19.

A baseline study was commenced and delivered. Extensive data was acquired and analysed from Vision Net for a selection of NACE codes.

It was felt that it was not however fit for purpose for the following reasons.

1. The lag of up to 18 months when a company is formed and when it must file accounts meant that data was always at least a year old and not timely enough to provide the required interventions.
2. The fact that a company only files a balance sheet and not T/O or profit/ loss. The financial health of a company can be inferred from the balance sheet but not with adequate accuracy.
3. The data straddled the recession and upturn and now we have COVID-19/BREXIT, so the baseline is being impacted.
4. It was concluded that a real-time collection of data would be highly valuable, and this could best be achieved by potentially tracking VAT/tax/PRSI (indicating employee numbers) returns from target companies of different staff sizes

Action 3:

Create an opportunity for practitioners who directly support/advise early-stage companies in the incubation/acceleration space to learn best practices through peer to peer learning and training provided by leading practitioners.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

LEOs, EI

Timeframe for delivery:

2019

Final Status:

Complete

<p>Action 4:</p>
<p>Review existing ‘Maker Space’ provision in the Dublin Region.</p>
<p>Action amended from the following:</p> <p>Research the feasibility of establishing a Dublin based ‘maker space’ or ‘tech-shop model’ equivalent that will provide the equipment and learning environment that will drive innovation within the smart city, internet of things, tech start-up, and Third Level Institutions eco-system.</p>
<p>Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:</p> <p>Third Level Institutions to work with Dublin City Council and other stakeholders including EI</p>
<p>Timeframe for delivery:</p> <p>2020</p>
<p>Final Status:</p> <p>Action commenced but requires further work</p>
<p>Expected Completion Date:</p> <p>Q1 2021</p>
<p>Progress achieved to date and reason for delayed completion:</p> <p>Initial research conducted on maker space business model and on provision in the Dublin region.</p>
<p>Outline of remaining work to be completed on this action:</p> <p>Final report to be written and shared with DREP Steering Committee in Q1 2021</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

4

Strategically build on existing activities to enhance the attractiveness of Dublin as a region to live, work, invest and visit

**Action 1:**

Work with stakeholders to promote the Dublin region to local and internal audiences building on Fáilte Ireland's strategy and the city branding project delivered through www.Dublin.ie. Learn from other cities and draw on local resources to ensure consistency of messages and increased collaboration and cross promotion of key sites and content.

Action amended from the following:

Establish a new branding and marketing forum for the Dublin region to increase the promotion of the Dublin. ie place brand and to ensure consistency of messages and increased collaboration and cross promotion of key sites and content.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Dublin Chamber of Commerce, Failte Ireland, IDA Ireland, Four Local Authorities

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Final Status:

Complete

Outline of work undertaken during 2020:

The Stakeholder Engagement & Marketing Officer at www.dublin.ie continued to conduct a series of engagement meetings with key stakeholders and disseminated a Dublin Place Brand. Team members from Dublin Place Brand are linked into a network to learn from other cities. Dublin City Council participated in Tourism Task Force Working Groups.

Final outcome achieved:

The forum established and will deliver on agreed actions in 2021 and beyond.

<p>Action 2:</p>
<p>Increase collaboration across the four Dublin Local Authority areas to broaden the content available on www.Dublin.ie by providing space to an increased number of partners, in particular for campaigns to continue to promote Dublin as a region to live, work, study, visit and invest in.</p>
<p>Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:</p>
<p>Dublin City Council working in collaboration with three other Dublin Local Authorities</p>
<p>Timeframe for delivery:</p>
<p>2020</p>
<p>Final Status:</p>
<p>Complete</p>
<p>Outline of work undertaken during 2020:</p>
<p>Increased regional content and articles added to site including growing the visual content pool. Multiple campaigns designed and conducted during 2020. In particular, regarding the impact of COVID-19 crisis, the following campaigns were conducted: Support Local Business, Make a Day of It, Be Active, Stay Healthy and Open for Christmas. These campaigns are in keeping with place branding initiatives in other cities designed to support local businesses and citizens. The campaigns included outdoor advertising, videos, social media, articles and competitions and involved engagement with multiple stakeholders.</p>
<p>Final outcome achieved:</p>
<p>Action will continue into 2021 and beyond.</p>
<p>Action 3:</p>
<p>Promote the digital resources (www.visitdublin.com www.dublin.ie www.dublineconomy.ie and www.dublinsoutdoors.ie) to visiting delegations and international groups and individuals as up to date sources of valuable information to plan a visit to the Dublin region for visiting, living, working, investment or study purposes.</p>
<p>Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:</p>
<p>Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council working in collaboration with three other Dublin Local Authorities, Digital Hub and IDA Ireland</p>
<p>Timeframe for delivery:</p>
<p>2019</p>
<p>Final Status:</p>
<p>Complete</p>

Action 4:
Research benchmark and monitor Dublin's progress and position regarding place-making and city branding and seek to enhance Dublin's position on key international rankings.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
DCC, DLR, Fingal, SDCC
Timeframe for delivery:
2020
Final Status:
Action commenced but requires further work
Expected Completion Date:
Q1 2021
Work on the report continued during 2020
Progress achieved to date and reason for delayed completion:
Draft report completed
Outline of remaining work to be completed on this action:
Final report to be completed and shared with DREP Steering Committee by Quarter 1 2021.

Action 5:
Conduct an Audit of existing cultural and creative spaces in the Dublin region to help assess needs of artists, musicians and others in the creative fields.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
DCC
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Final Status:
Complete
Outline of work undertaken during 2020:
Audit Report complete in Quarter 1 2020
Final outcome achieved:
Audit Report presented to the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation – Strategic Policy Committee on 17/02/2020. Report shared with DREP Co-ordinator.

Additional action
Host a Summit to bring together key stakeholders to focus on and discuss challenges, initiatives and opportunities to collaborate regarding the COVID-19 crisis and the city and region economic recovery.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
Dublin City Council in collaboration with Dublin Region Enterprise Plan stakeholders and others
Timeframe for delivery:
Quarter 4 2020
How will delivery be measured:
Summit hosted. Outcomes Report Produced and disseminated
Final Status:
Complete
Outline of work undertaken during 2020:
<p>Reset Summit was hosted on 26th November 2020 as an online event with an overall goal to: bring together key stakeholders to share perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of resetting the Dublin economy. The summit chaired by Councillor Claire O'Connor featured keynote speakers including the Lord Mayor of Dublin Hazel Chu; Richard Shakespeare, Assistant Chief Executive Dublin City Council; Declan Hughes, Assistant Secretary General Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Mairéad McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union. Twenty representatives from both public and private sectors then engaged on panel discussions to share ideas and perspectives.</p> <p>A summit outcomes report is currently being produced in order which will record the contributions, insights and examples shared.</p>
Final outcome achieved:
Reset Summit was hosted with over 100 people in attendance.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

5

Facilitate every individual to realise their full potential through engagement in economic activity

**Action 1:**

Develop and communicate a pathway to economic activity for selected cohort(s).

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Prof Tom Cooney, DSP, CDETB, Accenture

Timeframe for delivery:

2020

Final Status:

Complete

Outline of work undertaken during 2020:

A series of webinars were scheduled for 2020 on the topic of Business start-ups for people with disabilities led by the Dublin Steering Committee in association with Professor Tom Cooney of TUD and facilitated by The Open Doors Initiative. This initiative is also supported by EI who are developing a program for people with disability with the 4 Dublin LEOs providing financial assistance and mentoring for start-up initiatives. To date, 3 webinars have been held with registrations for each event well over 100 and reaching 146 for the last webinar. The webinars were held on 30th June 8th October and 5th November. The first webinar held on 30th June featured Matt McCann (Access Earth) and Niamh Malone (Fatigue Friend) who spoke of their entrepreneur journey. The second webinar held on 8th October addressed the issue of supports for people with disabilities and there were contributions from Audrey McPartlin (DEASP), Larry O'Neill (Southside Partnership) who spoke about the training programs available and Eric Lamb (Step Up Ireland). The last webinar held on 5th November feature an opening address from Minister Niamh Rabbitte, Minister of State for Disability. In addition, Eoghan Hanrahan (EI) detailed the supports available from EI and Garrett Stokes (Micro Finance Ireland) detailed the loan packages currently available. Caroline Shaughnessy (Cumas Ceangal) spoke about her journey to start a social enterprise that supports people with disabilities.

Iulia Crisan who leads the 'I am remarkable Initiative' hosted two webinars for people with disabilities on 3rd and 9th December. The 'I am remarkable Initiative' is a Google initiative empowering underrepresented groups to celebrate their achievements.

Final outcome achieved:

Three successful webinars during 2020 with another two workshop webinars held in December on the topic of business start-ups for people with disabilities.

Action 2:
In conjunction with action 1, develop and deliver a ‘design workshop’ to plot out the high-level pathway and identify policy changes and actions to address barriers.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
Prof Tom Cooney, DSP, Accenture, CDETБ
Timeframe for delivery:
2020
Expected Completion Date:
Q4 2021 Work will continue during 2021
Progress achieved to date and reason for delayed completion:
During 2020 a series of webinars took place on the topic of business start-ups for people with disabilities. A series will be looked at in 2021.
Outline of remaining work to be completed on this action:
It is intended to host a rolling series of workshops every 2 months for 3 cohorts based on the learnings of the webinars held during 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. nascent entrepreneur 2. potential entrepreneurs 3. existing entrepreneurs
Action 3:
Develop an overall methodology based on the pilot and apply to other cohorts.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
EI, CDETБ, DSP, Accenture, Prof. Tom Cooney
Timeframe for delivery:
2020
Final Status:
Action commenced but requires further work The pathways objective focused on people with disability 2021 could extend the above methodology to other cohorts to be decided when framing the next REP.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

6

Support Dublin enterprises to adapt to more sustainable practices

**Action 1:**

Develop an online checklist for companies to measure their sustainability and to provide an authorised sustainability quality mark.

Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:

Dublin City Council, BITC

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Final Status:

Action commenced but requires further work

Initial conversations were had with Enterprise Ireland to assist in scoping out what should be included in a sustainability checklist.

Progress achieved to date and reason for delayed completion:

During 2020, the new Programme for Government set ambitious environmental targets and plans. New environmental policies were launched, including but not limited to the *A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy*. At a government level, so much is progressing so quickly, and there is an ambition to support businesses on their sustainability journey. Many new initiatives/actions are being discussed.

In this context it was decided to pause developing the checklist until the end of 2020, until such time as the direction of travel on policy and associated initiatives became clear.

Outline of remaining work to be completed on this action:

Follow up with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) Centre of Excellence and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to determine if similar initiatives (checklists) are being developed. If so seek to input into this process, and if not begin work on the checklist review and carryover this action to the next Dublin REP.

Action 2:
Conduct MODUS - pilot training program to assist small and medium enterprises in the Dublin area to apply circular economy principles to their operations.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
Dublin City Council and other stakeholders
Timeframe for delivery:
Q2 2019
Final Status:
Complete
Action 3:
Develop a template for companies to develop their own Climate Change Action Plans as set out in Dublin LA's "Strategy towards Climate Change Actions Plans.
Lead Actor(s)/Working Group Members:
SDCC, DCC, DLR, Fingal, with Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Timeframe for delivery:
Q3 2019
Final Status:
Action not commenced
Reason:
It was planned to follow up with the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) on this action in Q4 2020. This is now being initiated during 2021.
It is also intended to follow up with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Local Enterprises Offices Centre of Excellence to see if similar initiatives are being developed.

2. Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Local Enterprise Office activities and outcomes in the Dublin Region during 2020

In order to achieve the 2020 employment targets and maintain strong regional enterprise and job creation performance, the Strategic Objectives and collaborative actions identified for the Dublin region complement and reinforce the core activities of the Enterprise Agencies, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).

The Enterprise Agencies each have corporate strategies which include national level objectives as well as frameworks for bespoke regional activities that support regional enterprise development potential and leverage regional assets and opportunities.

During 2020, the Agencies and LEOs worked in partnership with regional stakeholders to strengthen regional enterprise ecosystems as well as maintaining their focus on attracting foreign investment, providing guidance and financial supports to the installed base of companies in the region, and fostering new enterprise start-ups.

Enterprise Ireland

The Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 included one main objective for Enterprise Ireland (EI) from a Dublin regional perspective. Strategic Objective 2: “Increase enterprise engagement in innovation, research and development to ensure Dublin’s continued competitiveness and productivity.”

This has largely been achieved in 2019 by engagement with EI and Dublin City Council (DCC) through Start-Up week Dublin, where an innovation day was hosted in the Guinness Enterprise Centre, which championed the importance of innovation and introduced the mechanics of innovation and prototyping to small and medium sized companies, as well as embryonic start-ups who also attended the events.

The purpose of this was to provide a workshop to attendees who would have a tangible ‘something’ to take away, in this case it was a Lean Canvas on which they could continue to build. The event also included speakers from SMEs who were able to enthuse and engage others on their innovation journey. Other units from EI that also engaged in start-up week were New Frontiers and HPSU, articles from Executive Director, Stephen Creaner and Senior Executive, Sheelagh Daly were included in a special edition of the Dublin Economic Monitor on the importance of innovation and female Entrepreneurship respectively. In 2019 Enterprise Ireland also hosted similar ongoing outreach events through the ‘In-Company R&D supports unit’ with nine events being held in Dublin.

In 2020 it was the intention to build on these successes, to host another series of events within start-up week which, even though the week itself did not take place, was still largely accomplished with the ‘In company R&D supports unit’ running nine events in 2020, while one was held in person, the remainder were held virtually and therefore engaged nationwide. However, from these sessions 46 Dublin EI clients submitted EI Agile Applications, and seven Agile applications were submitted from Dublin LEO companies. Two R&D Project Planning and Costing webinars were also held by EI in 2020 to provide LEO business advisors with a better understanding of R&D funding supports and how they can better support their clients.

EI is also engaging with the Dublin Councils on Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR). These four challenges outlined below commenced in 2019 and have been delayed by COVID-19 and require further time to carry out the necessary testing and will conclude by the end of Q2 2021. The challenges consist of: The Gully monitoring challenge, with Dublin City Council which will be undergoing testing at time of writing, an Internet of Things challenge run with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown which is currently testing a crack sensor solution for buildings, the Smart Dublin (last mile delivery) a new zero emissions delivery solution, trialled by UPS, this has seen five diesel vehicles removed from city centre streets, and the Smart Mobility Hub challenge.

The events of 2020 have demanded a rapid response from the agency. While much has been achieved in previous years it will be critical that the level of engagement from EI towards its regional stakeholders including the councils and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) is enhanced. To this end it is proposed that the successes of the past two years are built upon and expanded to include, the LEAN and Green offers (Green Start and Green Plus), which will enable companies improve their real productivity and competitiveness and will reflect the increasingly internalised costs of achieving Ireland's Carbon Neutral objectives.

In addition to the main objective of 'increased engagement in Innovation and R&D', EI actively support other strategic objectives including the 'skills and talent development', 'building a pipeline of sustainable start-ups' and a webinar to 'support the realisation of an individual's full potential' with Professor Thomas Cooney. Discussions had also started on 'sustainable practices' with DCC.

In December 2020 the Brexit Unit rolled out a series of regional webinars outlining the impacts of Brexit on businesses. It is proposed in early 2021 to continue to promote the Brexit offers for EI and LEO clients and other impacted businesses namely; Ready for Customs Grant, Act On Initiative, Be Prepared Grant and the Brexit Readiness Checker.

Investment in people is an important route to achieving a sustainable business model. This is to be achieved through the introduction and uptake of full-time and part-time key manager funding, which will also tie into the recently published *Enterprise Ireland Women in Business strategy, and the Powering the Regions* goal for Dublin of creating 2,800 co-working spaces. These supports are designed to generate opportunities and employment which would not otherwise be possible. Collaboration with Dublin Regional Skills forum will continue to provide for the skills needs of businesses and their employees. If the world of work is changing in Dublin, the Agency and its regional partners will have offers and supports to reflect a more flexible outlook.

The Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 has been an important driver for entrepreneurship in the county, it is the fervent aim of the Dublin Regional team at Enterprise Ireland to be fully steadfast in its support of the next iteration of the plans.

Overall Enterprise Ireland created 6,216 new jobs in the Dublin region during 2020 bringing the total number employed by Enterprise Ireland to 77,854 in the region.

IDA Ireland

IDA Ireland's mission is to partner with multi-national companies to win and develop foreign direct investment, providing jobs for the economic and social benefit of Ireland. IDA Ireland works with key stakeholders both in the public and private sectors to deliver on this mandate. IDA Ireland partners closely with Enterprise Ireland across the Regions on multiple initiatives under the Regional Enterprise Plans and in relation to the provision of property solutions to the indigenous base, where appropriate.

On January 6th, 2021, IDA Ireland launched summary results for FDI for the country for 2020, and also launched a new Strategy, "*Driving Recovery & Sustainable Growth 2021-2024*".

Employment growth of 3.6 percent in IDA Ireland supported companies was achieved in 2020. Total employment in IDA Ireland client companies in Ireland now stands at 257,394, accounting directly for 12.4 percent of COVID-19 adjusted national employment

Dublin accounts for 44 percent of total employment in FDI companies nationally, with a further 90,164 employed indirectly. Dublin is home to over 850 companies employing 112,705 staff. The region has repeatedly attracted significant investment across all sectors and activities with prominent investment in ICT, International Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals and Global Business Services. FDI in Dublin also has a high concentration of R&D investment particularly in the Tech sector. Key clients in Dublin include; Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, LinkedIn, Twitter, CITI, Bank of America, Mastercard, Pfizer, MSD, Takeda, Hubspot, Tik Tok and Paypal.

Dublin continued to perform strongly in terms of foreign direct investment in 2020. The existing base of FDI has shown continued resilience. Of the 246 projects won for Ireland in 2020, 48 percent were for the Dublin region. Overall, there were 10,041 new jobs created in the Dublin region by the FDI sector.

Reflecting the ambition of the Government's forthcoming National Economic Recovery Plan, IDA Ireland's new Strategy 2021 - 2024 aims to target 800 investments and 50,000 new jobs with focus on five pillars – Growth, Transformation, Regions, Sustainability and Impact. Three hundred of these investments are targeted to be achieved in the Dublin region.

Competition for FDI is both intense and global and there is a continuing trend of FDI locating in larger urban areas. The managed growth of Dublin, as Ireland's leading global city and key attractor of investment and talent, remains vitally important – the capital continues to win projects that otherwise would not locate in Ireland. Dublin is an engine of both national and regional growth, as evidenced by IDA's success in partnering with existing clients based in Dublin to expand into second sites in regional locations.

Successful place-making will provide a competitive edge when attracting and retaining the skills and talent on which FDI is reliant. It is critical that the planning and development of Ireland's capital city creates a world-class urban area that continues to attract not only international investment but also international talent. The Regional Enterprise Development Fund has been an important tool in enhancing the Dublin region as a location for doing business, with seven projects supported by the fund to date. In its marketing of Dublin, IDA will leverage these, and other projects, which build on Dublin's track record in creating an inclusive environment for working and living.

Emerging technology trends globally will continue to create new opportunities across the Dublin region in home and hub working but also in cybersecurity, data analytics, artificial intelligence and smart manufacturing. IDA will continue to build on the strengths and competencies of the wider Dublin region focusing on opportunities arising in Global Business Services, High Tech Manufacturing and Research, Development & Innovation.

Winning investments is a challenge, particularly in the context of the current international operating environment due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Building on the success achieved to date IDA Ireland will continue to work with its partners and regional stakeholders in the Dublin region through the Regional Enterprise Plans process.

Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)

In 2020 the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) continued to be the 'first stop shop' providing entrepreneurs and business owners with advice, guidance, financial assistance, and other supports. The developing pandemic saw their focus shift from assisting with start-up or growth, to triage and rescue. With 31 offices spread throughout the country the LEOs were truly operating at the coalface of the COVID-19 response to the SME sector and provided a 'signposting' service for all the relevant COVID-19 supports available through all State bodies.

The LEOs supported 35,236 jobs across 7,529 client companies in 2020 of which there was an additional 82 companies outside of the Dublin region. In 2020 there was a fall of 1,494 net jobs during the year the State. It is worth noting however, that micro enterprises were adding jobs with a gross job gains across all regions. The challenge ahead will be to restore businesses to growth once the impact of the pandemic subsides. The LEOs provided significant training and mentoring to small businesses in 2020 to help them navigate the particularly difficult trading environment created by Covid-19 and Brexit. Last year, the Local Enterprise Offices trained over 77,000 entrepreneurs and business representatives, up from 37,000 the year previous. 16,231 completed business mentoring assignments up from 10,756 in 2019.

In response to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the LEOs quickly moved to introduce new schemes and adapt existing supports to meet the needs of micro and small enterprises across all regions and business sectors.

The Business Continuity Voucher, introduced in March 2020, offered businesses with up to 50 employees, across all sectors, a voucher of up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs, and helped companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the COVID-19 restrictions and prepare for reopening of the economy.

This scheme closed for new applications in May 2020 and within that period the LEOs processed 14,871 applications and approved 12,077 of these to a value of €25.8m.

The **Trading Online Voucher Scheme (TOVs)** was adjusted from a 50% co-funding basis to 90% and businesses who had successfully implemented a previous voucher were now allowed to apply for a second voucher. Further amendments enabled sectors that were normally excluded from the scheme to apply.

In previous years this scheme would have seen an average of around 1,200 applications; in 2020 the LEOs processed 17,315 applications for TOVs and approved 12,984 of these. The unprecedented demand for the scheme saw funding rise from €2.3m to an estimated cost of €30m.

The Micro Enterprise Assistance Fund, introduced in September 2020, targeted a small cohort of micro enterprises that could not avail of existing government supports by virtue of their sector, size or by way of operating from a non-rateable premise, many of which were small local traders who provided unique services within their communities. A total of 196 successful applicants were awarded a grant of between €500 - €1,000 of vouched expenditure on adaptation and reconfiguration costs, as well as COVID-19 consumables such as PPE and sanitisation equipment.

Throughout 2020 and despite the pandemic and lockdowns, the LEOs continued to offer grant aid to entrepreneurs who spotted opportunities in the current climate to start or grow their businesses through their Feasibility, Priming and Expansion grant programmes. To assist in their remit of developing regional employment, the LEOs also continued to offer 'soft' supports by way of their free of charge **Mentoring programme**, where clients work with an experienced mentor to identify solutions to areas of exposure within their business.

The LEOs have pivoted their extensive suite of **Training programmes**, workshops and networking meetups to an online platform covering areas such as: cash management in a crisis; leading your business through COVID-19; and advice for employers impacted by the crisis.

During 2020, there have been 10,255 participants in the Mentoring Programme and 49,623 participants in the COVID training programmes. In addition to this, the LEOs launched a new 'Lunch & Learn' live training webinar series that is open and accessible to all LEO client companies and prospective clients across the country, with no registration or sign-up required. This new series complements existing online training and webinar programmes offered by the LEOs.

Many of the successful projects under the LEO Competitive fund in 2019 had to be put on hold as a result of the pandemic. These were collaborative projects between two or more LEOs; and LEOs working with other local groups like Chambers, Community Enterprise Centres, Education or training bodies, Local Authorities or colleges. Many of these projects are aligned with the Strategic Objectives in the Regional Enterprise Plans and it is hoped that they can progress.

3. Achieving a Just Transition in Ireland's Regions

The Climate Action Plan 2019 sets out the measures by which Ireland can reduce its emissions from sectors outside the EU's Emissions Trading System by 30% (relative to 2005 levels) by 2030. It sets out ambitious environmental targets for Ireland to meet over the next 40 years.

Just Transition is a key part of climate action policy. It supports the idea that communities and individuals are safeguarded in the move to face the challenges presented by climate change, in a climate-proofed economy.

Under Action 164 of *Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019* the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committees were asked to include a Just Transition standing item on the agenda of each of the nine regional areas. This is now in place for all the Committees and has encouraged consideration of region-specific impacts that transitioning to a low carbon economy will have in their region, and the possible solutions to mitigate these impacts.

How to manage a transition to a fundamentally new economic future was the focus of work at the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) in late 2019 and early 2020. The Council's work, a key deliverable in the Government's Climate Action Plan and Future Jobs Ireland 2019, was detailed in their final report, *Addressing Employment Vulnerability as Part of a Just Transition in Ireland* published in May 2020.

NESC's report is focused on how to manage the transition associated with climate change and digital automation, and identified recommendations to help Ireland address them and embrace the significant opportunities presented through three broad areas:

- continuous, pre-emptive workforce development;
- building resilient enterprises; and
- delivering high-impact targeted funding to support transition.

In the preparation of their report, NESC consulted with a number of the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committees to consider the engagement already taking place in the regions and explore how place-based collaborative solutions could be adopted.

Finally, two calls for proposals under the Just Transition Fund, administered by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, have resulted in Strand 1 grant offers totaling €1.2m for 16 successful applicants, and Strand 2 grant offers totaling €27.8m for 47 projects.

Appendix 1: Regional Funding approved for Dublin supported by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in 2020

Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF)

The Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) was launched in May 2017 with the overarching aim of driving enterprise development and job creation in each region throughout Ireland.

Administered by Enterprise Ireland, it supports new collaborative and innovative initiatives that can make a significant impact on enterprise development in the region/across regions, or nationally. Just under €100m has been approved across 68 projects nationally.

During 2020 the Dublin Region secured funding of €2,149,940 for one project*.

Project	Location	Description	Grant amount €
LINC Collaboratory Designated Activity Company	Dublin	A learning & innovation centre focussing on Cyber Security, Internet of Things Technology and Artificial Intelligence.	2,149,940
Total			€2,149,940

*See the first Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan for details of Calls 1 & 2.

Enterprise Centres Fund

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, announced €1.7m in grants for 17 enterprise centres in Dublin under Enterprise Ireland's Enterprise Centres Fund. Enterprise centres are embedded in communities in every county in the country. They provide space and training for entrepreneurs, allowing them to work remotely, access training and advice, and network with other business leaders.

Approvals (for profit centres):

Applicant Name (Correct legal entity name)	County	Nuts III Region	Grant amount €
Landingzone Ltd t/a Dogpatch Labs	Dublin City	Dublin	150,000
Total			€150,000

Approvals (Not for profit centres)

Applicant Name (Correct legal entity name)	County	Nuts III Region	Grant amount €
Action Community & Enterprise CLG t/a ACE Enterprise Park	Dublin South	Dublin	150,000
BASE Enterprise CLG	Dublin Fingal	Dublin	81,920
Digital HQ CLG t/a Dún Laoghaire Enterprise Centre	Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	Dublin	28,483
Dublin Business Innovation Centre t/a Space@ Dublin BIC	Dublin City	Dublin	34,353
Dublin Enterprise & Technology Centre t/a Guinness Enterprise Centre	Dublin City	Dublin	147,000
Fumbally Exchange CLG	Dublin City	Dublin	148,600
Innovate Dublin Communities CLG	Dublin City	Dublin	145,024
Nutgrove Community Enterprise Centre CLG	Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	Dublin	39,896
Partas CLG	Dublin South	Dublin	64,000
Social and Local Enterprise Alliance DAC	Dublin South	Dublin	136,000
St Paul's Area Development Enterprise Ltd t/a SPADE Enterprise Centre	Dublin City	Dublin	119,200
Tangent	Dublin City	Dublin	100,200
The Community Enterprise Society CLG t/a Terenure Enterprise Centre	Dublin City	Dublin	54,660
The Media Cube	Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	Dublin	120,000
TU Dublin Tallaght Campus t/a Synergy Centre	Dublin South	Dublin	89,390
UCD Nova Designated Activity Company	Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	Dublin	132,043
Total			1,590,769
Grand Total			1,740,769

Appendix 2: Statistical snapshot – Dublin

Constituent counties	Dublin	
Regional Population and change (1996-2016)	1,058,264 (1996): 1,347,359 (2016) increase of 289,095	
Total in employment	693,100*	
Labour Force participation rate	63.9%*	
% of Male employment (State)	54.3%	
% of Female employment (State)	45.7%	
Live Register at 31/12/20	48,401	
Unemployment rate	6.2%*	
Persons in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment at 31/12/20	111,654	
Unemployment blackspots ¹	12 ²	
Employed in Enterprise Ireland companies	220,613	
Total Employment outside Dublin in Enterprise Ireland companies	65%	
Jobs created in Enterprise Ireland companies ³	16,496	
Job losses in Enterprise Ireland companies ⁴	17,368	
Net Change in Enterprise Ireland companies ⁵	-872	
EI supported employment and number of client companies (2019-2020)	2019	2020
	Jobs: 78,003	Jobs: 77,352
	Companies: 2,178	Companies: 2,323
IDA supported employment and number of client companies (2019-2020)	2019	2020
	Jobs: 106,466	Jobs: 112,705
	Companies: 825	Companies: 861
New jobs created in 2020 by the IDA ⁶	Over 20,000	
% of IDA investments to regional locations ⁷	52%	
IDA net job created ⁸	8,944	
LEO supported employment & no. client companies (2019-2020)	2019	2020
	Jobs: 682	Jobs: -343
	Companies: 1,300	Companies: 1,347

1 Unemployment Blackspots are defined as Electoral Districts with at least 200 people in the labour force and an unemployment rate of 27% or higher

2 Unemployment blackspots in the Region: Dublin City (7), South Dublin (4) & Fingal (1)

3 Enterprise Ireland End of Year Statement 2020

4 Enterprise Ireland End of Year Statement 2020

5 Enterprise Ireland End of Year Statement 2020

6 IDA Ireland Results for 2020

7 IDA Ireland Results for 2020

8 IDA Ireland Results for 2020

* CSO Q4 2020 Labour Force Survey

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