



Digital Creative Industries Forum

19th June 2025

Meeting 5

CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY

Minutes: The minutes from this meeting are to be agreed under Silence Procedure and will be available on www.enterprise.gov.ie

Attendees

Chairs: Rebecca Minch (DTCAGSM), Karen Hynes (DETE)

Secretariat: Adele Mealey (DTCAGSM), Gary Ward (DETE) and Niall Judge (DETE)

Attendees:

Tania Banotti, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (Creative Ireland Programme)

Charlotte Barker, Institute of Design (IDI)

Ian Brannigan and Teresa Hooks, Western Development Commission (WDC)

Camille Donegan, Eirmersive

Melissa Feddis, Enterprise Ireland (EI)

Chantelle Lamont, Skillnet Ireland

Gareth Lee, Furthr

Chris Melia, The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht ((DRCDG)

Miriam Ní Néill, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Justin O'Connor, Imirt

David Quinn, IAPI

Anne Ribault and Danielle Pugh, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)

Tom Watts, Design and Craft Council Ireland (DCCI)

Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)

Item 1: Welcome, opening remarks and introductions

- The minutes of the previous Forum meeting held on the 20th March 2025 were agreed and it was noted that they are due to be published online.

Item 2: Update on Data Workstream

- There was an update provided on the future plans of the data subgroup which includes proposals for further research.
- There was a discussion regarding the use of the proposed research and how it can be aligned to the Roadmap for the Digital Creative Industries.
- It was noted that this research would be an industry led proposal and may seek funding under the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme. The regional subgroup will explore this funding option, using the expertise of existing members.
- It was noted that the funding provided to the research study may be linked to clustering programmes.
- Industry bodies discussed whether the proposal could meet the requirements of the SREIS funding programme.
- **Action**– It was agreed that the regional subgroup would assess the viability of this option.

Item 3: Innovation

- There were updates by each of the industry bodies on their recent activities relating to the innovation sub-theme Digital Creative Industries, including an overview of recent events held to promote the sector and upcoming activities.
- The IDI presented to the LEO Network to raise awareness of design businesses and are also working with the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation on the Design in Government action plan.

- Eirmersive provided update on its ongoing engagement with the VR association Brussels as the Irish representative and highlighted their upcoming summit.
- It was agreed that Research Ireland will be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to provide an update on how it supports research into the arts and humanities relevant to the digital creative sector.
- **Action** – Secretariat to invite Research Ireland to next Forum meeting and prepare briefing in advance.

Enterprise supports and Market Opportunities

- There were updates by State agencies on their recent activities relating to the Digital Creative Industries with a focus on innovation supports beneficial to companies in the digital creative industries.
 - There was a discussion regarding the eligibility of the Section 481 Tax credit and if immersive companies can apply for this, industry bodies agreed to collaborate to provide guidance on applications.
 - Discussions also arose regarding potential targeted refinements to the existing Digital Games Tax Credit (DGTC) to permit claims for partial game development and to revise the Cut-Off Point for Qualifying Expenditure to Include Post-Launch Activities
 - Enterprise Ireland provided an overview of the Market Discovery fund and how the funding helps firms entering a new market or bringing a new product to an existing market.
 - Enterprise Ireland also provided an overview of the process for deciding the calendar of trade fairs to support.
- Action** – Progress international events calendar and clarify supports that can be provided to LEO clients.

Item 4: Update on Regional Development Workstream

- An update was provided by the regional working group on the projects and activities being undertaken.
- The regional subgroup highlighted the MedTech digital twin project and will bring an update to the next Forum meeting on its progress.
- Forum members welcomed the update provided on and it was agreed that members will engage on the development of these initiatives and provide support.

Item 5: Update on Skills Development Workstream

- The first meeting of the Forum's Skills development subgroup was held with a Terms of Reference agreed.
- Members of the Forum will be invited to join this subgroup, and an email will be sent by the secretariat.
- It was noted that the terms of reference of the Forum will form the basis for the subgroup and that it would meet 4 times in the year.
- The subgroup will focus on two areas, on activities to promote skills for the digital creative industries and to discuss the proposed Skillnet emerging skills gaps analysis.
- Members of the forum welcomed the update provided on the Cultural and Creative Industries Skillnet Graduate Traineeship Programme.

Item 6: AOB

- It was noted that the next meeting of the Forum could focus on the Global Ireland Agenda.