Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Progress Report

Implementation of the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity



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Foreword

Ireland's robust economic performance over the past decade can be attributed to its status as one of the most competitive economies in the world. By fostering an environment that is conducive to the growth and scaling of enterprise in Ireland, we were able to accelerate our economic recovery and maintain a more robust level of growth relative to many other economies.

However, as a small open economy, Ireland is vulnerable to external developments. The uncertainty in the international trade environment has translated into an increase in risk in relation to business planning and investment more broadly.

The competitiveness of Irish businesses is also being undermined by persistently high costs related to energy, supply chain, and regulatory compliance. This is particularly true in the case of SMEs, with increased costs at risk of becoming embedded into the cost structure of Irish businesses.

In response to these developments, an Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity was included within the Programme for Government. The plan aims to reflect a whole of government approach to the domestic drivers of competitiveness, with the emphasis being on those policy areas that are within the domestic sphere of influence.

In overseeing the implementation of this plan, my Department hopes to improve Ireland's position as a competitive and productive economy capable of withstanding shocks. The plan also hopes to expand upon our strengths and to develop a more robust base of SMEs while continuing to be the location of choice in attracting internationally mobile foreign investment.

To date, several key actions have already been implemented. For example, the AI Office of Ireland was established and the updated National Digital and AI Strategy 'Digital Ireland – Connecting our People, Securing our Future' was published. There was significant progress on the work of the Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce, which included the publication of the Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan and the signing into law of the Critical Infrastructure Act, aimed at removing barriers to the delivery of essential infrastructure.

The Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity was published in September 2025, and since then, we have already seen significant progress. The project team in my Department has worked closely with colleagues across Government and state bodies to drive progress on the actions within their remit. These updates have been promising and serve as evidence that implementation of the plan is progressing as scheduled one year after its publication.



Peter Burke, T.D.
Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment

Progress Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity

Enhancing Ireland's competitiveness and productivity remains critical to securing sustainable economic growth, supporting rising living standards, and maintaining Ireland's position as an attractive location in which to invest, innovate, work and do business. In an increasingly challenging global environment, characterised by geopolitical uncertainty, trade fragmentation, technological disruption and intensified international competition for investment, continuous improvements in national competitiveness have become more important than ever.

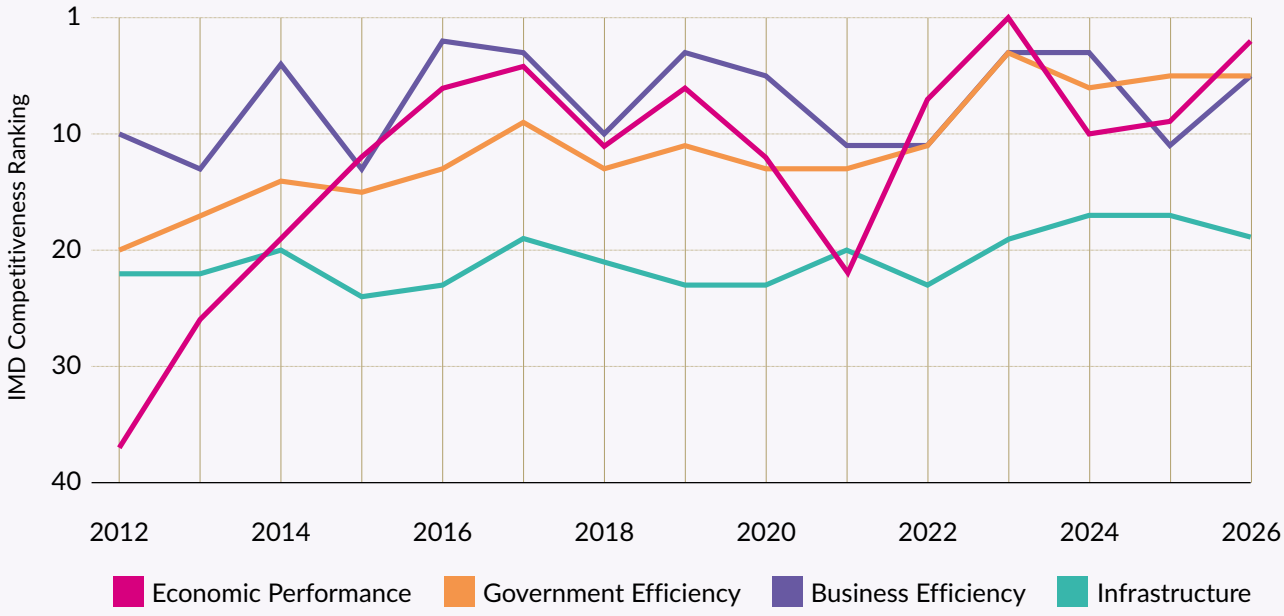
Recognising these challenges, the Government published the **Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity** – a key commitment in the Programme for Government – setting out a comprehensive programme of reforms designed to strengthen Ireland's long-term economic resilience and improve productivity performance across the economy. The Action Plan adopts a whole-of-government approach and outlines 85 actions intended to address structural barriers to competitiveness, support enterprise growth, enhance innovation capacity and improve the State's ability to deliver critical infrastructure.

This report provides an update on progress made in implementing these actions during the first twelve months of delivery. While many of the measures are designed to be implemented over several years, this review provides an opportunity to assess early progress, identify areas where momentum is building, and highlight priorities for future action.

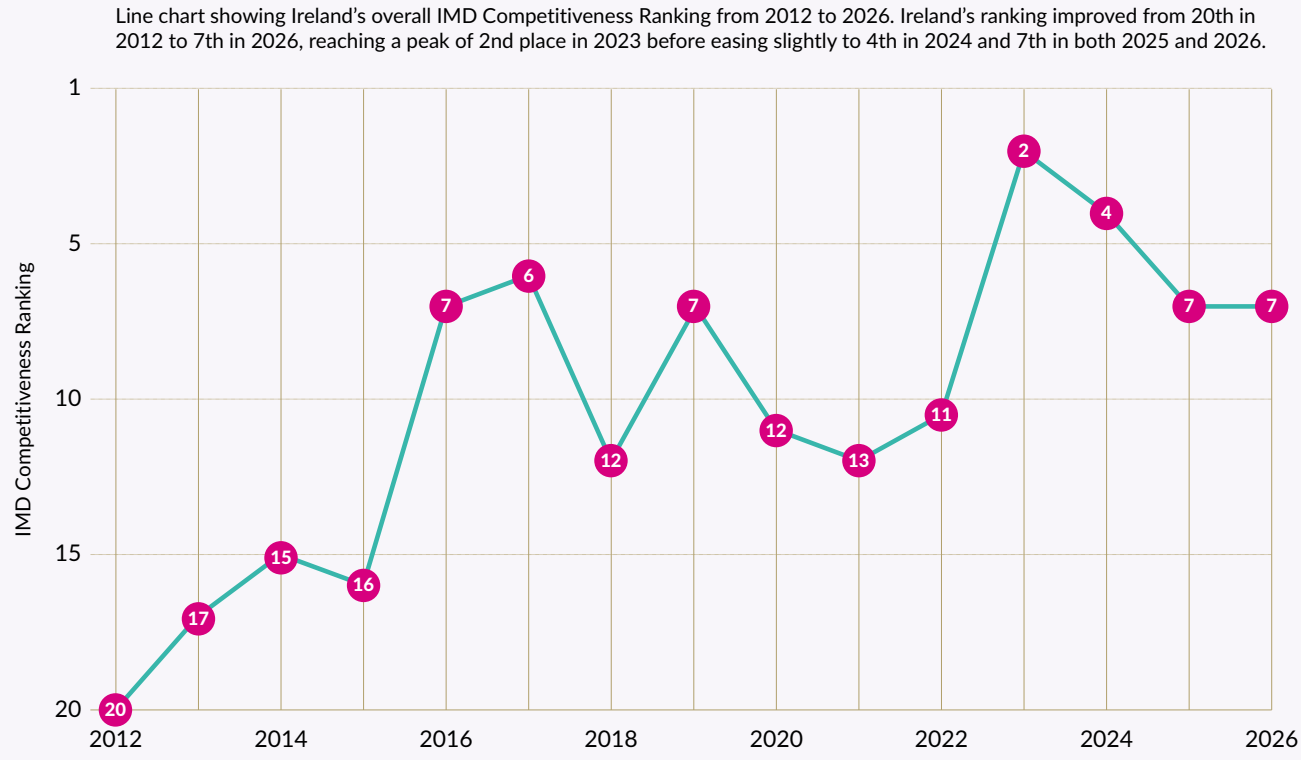
Ireland's Competitiveness Performance

In benchmarking Ireland's international competitiveness performance, the primary reference point is the **IMD World Competitiveness Ranking**, one of the most widely recognised international assessments of national competitiveness. Ireland continues to perform strongly across many dimensions of competitiveness, particularly in areas such as economic performance, business efficiency, talent attraction and openness to international trade and investment.

However, despite these strengths, Ireland's competitiveness performance has faced increasing challenges in recent years. While the country continues to rank favourably overall, there has been a notable decline in its overall position since 2023. This reflects both growing competitive pressures internationally and persistent domestic constraints that continue to hinder productive capacity.



Panel A: Ireland IMD Ranking Metrics 2012-2014



Panel B: Ireland IMD Overall Ranking 2012-2014

A consistent finding across international competitiveness assessments is that infrastructure remains the most significant weakness in Ireland's competitiveness profile. Deficits in areas such as housing, energy infrastructure, transport connectivity, water services and planning capacity continue to place pressure on businesses, constrain investment and increase the overall cost of economic activity. These challenges have become increasingly prominent as population growth, enterprise expansion and the transition to a low-carbon economy place greater demands on the State's infrastructure network.

Addressing Ireland's infrastructure deficit will therefore remain a key policy priority. However, infrastructure investment alone will not be sufficient to safeguard Ireland's future competitiveness. Emerging risks associated with shifts in global trade patterns, international tax developments, technological transformation and geopolitical uncertainty underline the importance of pursuing a broad-based competitiveness agenda. Continued reforms aimed at improving productivity, strengthening innovation, supporting enterprise growth and enhancing regulatory effectiveness will be essential if Ireland is to maintain and improve its competitive position relative to international peers.

Progress in Implementing the Action Plan

It is important to recognise that the majority of actions contained within the Action Plan were designed with implementation timelines extending beyond the initial twelve-month reporting period. Many measures involve complex reforms requiring collaboration across multiple departments and agencies, while several actions are scheduled for completion over the medium term, with delivery milestones extending to 2030.

Each action was assigned a specific owner (i.e. government department or state agency), as well as an implementation timeline, extending in some cases to 2030. Responsibility for monitoring the progress of the Action Plan lies with the project team in DETE, with periodic updates requested from the action owners. Nevertheless, the first year of implementation has demonstrated significant progress across the Action Plan, with work advancing on the vast majority of measures.

To assess progress, all action owners were contacted and requested to provide updates on the status of their assigned actions in Q2/ Q3 of 2026. These updates were reviewed by the project team, which independently assessed progress against the objectives and timelines specified in the Action Plan. Actions were subsequently classified according to their level of completion and implementation status, providing a consistent and transparent basis for monitoring delivery. In addition to this, interim updates were provided periodically, including contributions prepared for the Competitiveness Summit that was held in July 2026.

Key Highlights

Among the **26 priority actions and 85 actions in total:**

- 23 actions have been completed
- 23 actions are on track for completion and expected to be completed shortly
- 37 actions are in actively in progress

The remaining actions are at various stages of implementation and development, reflecting their longer-term nature. Some notable achievements are outlined below:

Area	Key Development	Status / Outcome
Infrastructure	Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce report published (December 2025)	Provides a framework to accelerate the delivery of strategic infrastructure projects.
Transport & Connectivity	Dublin Airport (Passenger Capacity) Act 2026 enacted in July 2026	Environmental assessments for the making of an Order under the Act currently being carried out.
Energy Infrastructure	General Scheme of the Private Wires Bill approved (December 2025)	Legislative drafting is underway to enable private wire connections and improve energy access and competitiveness.
Artificial Intelligence	National Artificial Intelligence Office (NAIO) established	Strengthens national coordination and governance of AI policy and implementation.
Research & Innovation	Research, Development and Innovation Compass published (February 2026)	Provides strategic direction for Ireland's research and innovation ecosystem.
Research Infrastructure	€750 million INSPIRE Research Infrastructure Programme progressed	Phase One applications opened in May 2026, supporting investment in world-class research facilities.
Enterprise Development	Life Sciences and Space Enterprise Policy Unit established (January 2026)	Enhances policy focus on high-value and high-growth sectors.
Business Growth & Scaling	National Accelerator Programme funded and procurement launched	First activities expected by Q4 2026 to support start-ups and scaling firms.
Energy Competitiveness	Large Energy User Action Plan (LEAP) approved by Government (January 2026)	Supports energy-intensive enterprises and aims to improve Ireland's competitiveness

These results demonstrate that implementation is progressing broadly in line with expectations and that significant momentum has been established across Government.

Given the whole-of-government nature of the Action Plan, progress updates have been provided by the relevant departments and agencies responsible for delivery. This collaborative approach reflects the reality that improving competitiveness requires coordinated action across multiple policy areas rather than isolated interventions.

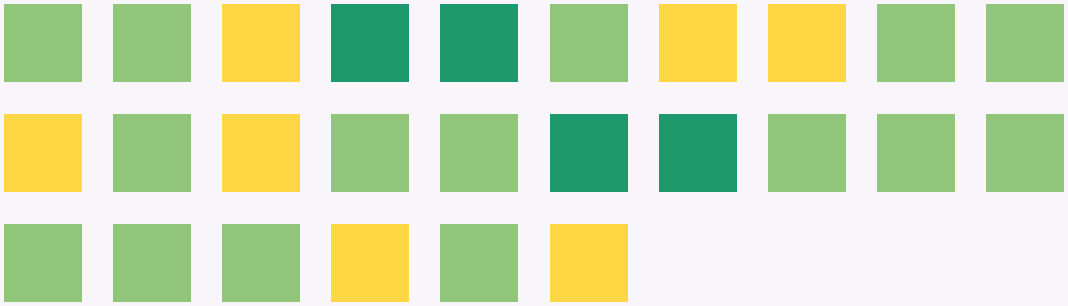
Completed

On Track to be completed on schedule

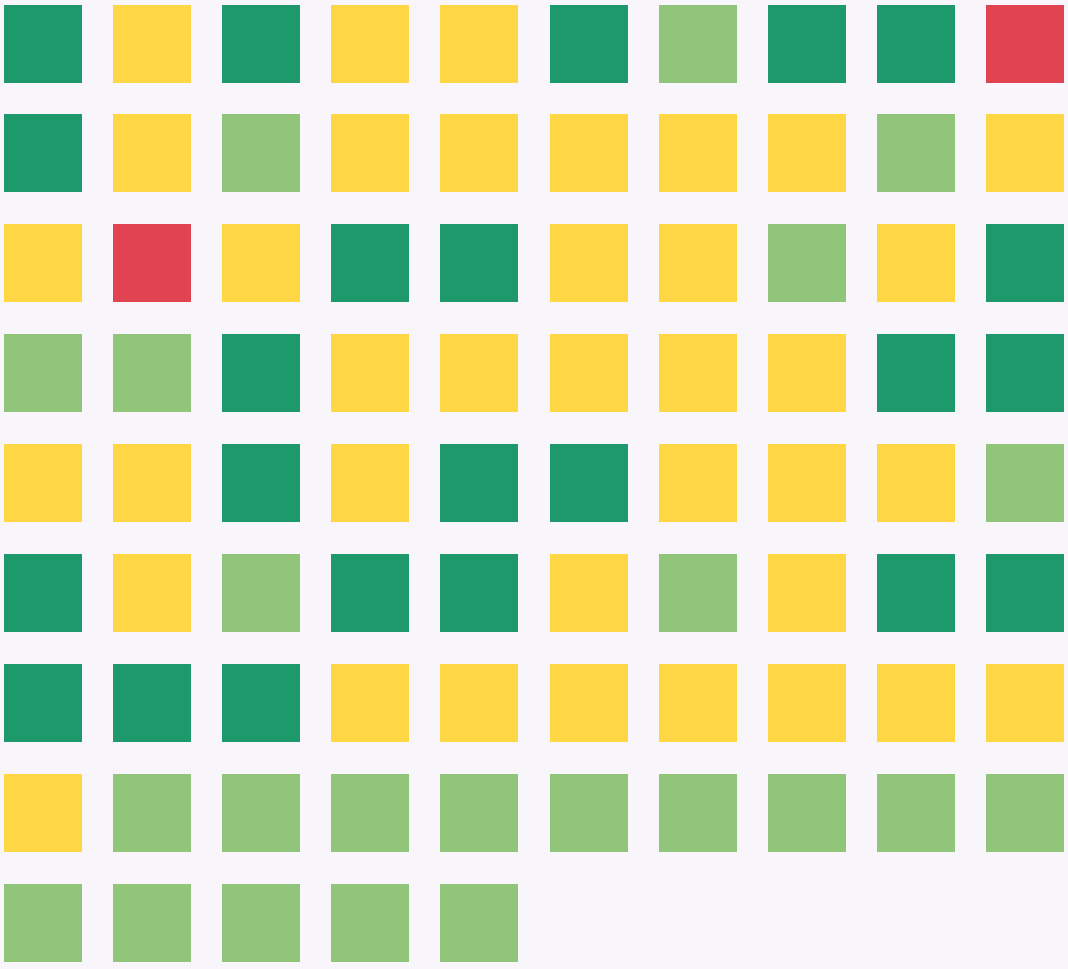
In Progress

To be commenced

26 Priority Actions



Total: 85 Actions



The below provides a summary implementation update in line with the six thematic challenges set out in the Action Plan.



Productivity – Embracing Research, Innovation and Skills:

Progress has been made in measures designed to strengthen productivity growth through increased investment in research, development and innovation. Particular emphasis has been placed on addressing the gap in R&D activity between multinational enterprises and domestic firms, especially SMEs. Actions are also supporting greater collaboration between industry and research institutions while encouraging business innovation, skills development and technology adoption.



International – Boosting FDI and Exports and Influencing at EU Level:

Measures are being implemented to strengthen Ireland's international competitiveness and reinforce its position as a leading location for investment and trade. Actions focus on supporting export diversification, maintaining Ireland's attractiveness for foreign direct investment and ensuring Ireland's interests are effectively represented in the development of EU policies affecting competitiveness. These initiatives are helping to promote a more resilient, outward-looking and internationally connected economy.



SMEs – Creating and Scaling More SME's:

Recognising the central role SMEs play in employment and economic development, progress has been made in identifying barriers to business growth and scaling. Particular attention is being given to addressing financing constraints, improving access to investment and supporting firms to expand into new markets. These measures aim to strengthen the capacity of indigenous enterprises to grow, innovate and compete internationally.



Competition – Regulating for Growth and Controlling Costs:

Reforms are progressing to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and predictability of the regulatory environment. The objective is to ensure that regulation supports innovation, investment and sustainable economic growth while minimising unnecessary administrative burdens and controlling cost pressures. Enhancing market competition and improving regulatory quality will remain important factors in supporting productivity growth across the economy.



Infrastructure – Increasing the State's Capacity to Deliver Infrastructure:

Infrastructure continues to represent the most significant challenge to Ireland's international competitiveness performance. Reflecting this, substantial focus has been placed on actions aimed at improving the State's capacity to plan, finance and deliver major infrastructure projects. Reforms are advancing across housing, energy, transport, water and planning systems, with the objective of addressing long-standing bottlenecks that constrain economic growth and investment.



Sustainability – Growing Sustainable Irish Businesses and Boosting Regional Development:

Progress is also being made in supporting businesses to transition towards a more sustainable and low-carbon economy. Actions are focused on improving the operating environment for firms, supporting investment in renewable energy and decarbonisation technologies, and ensuring that businesses have the incentives necessary to participate in Ireland's green transition. Additional measures seek to strengthen regional economic development and ensure that growth opportunities are shared across all parts of the country.

Conclusion:

This annual review demonstrates that meaningful progress is being made in implementing the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity. While many actions remain in the delivery phase and several of the most significant reforms will require sustained effort over a number of years, the overall trajectory is positive. Strong implementation across Government has established a solid foundation for further progress.

As Ireland faces an increasingly competitive and uncertain international environment, continued focus on infrastructure delivery, productivity enhancement, innovation, enterprise development and sustainable growth will be essential. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan will ensure that implementation remains aligned with strategic objectives and that Ireland is well positioned to enhance its competitiveness, strengthen economic resilience and support long-term prosperity through to 2030 and beyond.

Priority Actions by Theme



Theme 1 – Embracing Research, Innovation and Skills

Action	**1. Increase expenditure on research activity in the Higher Education sector to align more closely with leading Small Advanced Economies through a structured programme of investment in National Research Infrastructure (i.e. "PRTLI2" to boost basic and applied research and innovation, build the talent pipeline for our indigenous and FDI enterprise base and continue to strengthen Ireland's capabilities in frontier, emerging and deep technology sectors.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2026-2030
Status	On track to be completed on schedule
Update	Following the announcement of the landmark €750m INSPIRE research infrastructure programme in November 2025, the Phase One call was opened to applications from all eligible higher education institutions on 12 May 2026. Funding awards are expected to be announced in late Q3/early Q4 2026.

Action	**2. Scale Ireland's Technology Centres in the priority enterprise sectors to drive collaborative RD&I in SMEs and to anchor high-growth FDI companies in Ireland.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE; Enterprise Ireland
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Enterprise Ireland is engaging with the Department in preparation for scaling of both the IMR (Irish Manufacturing Research) and CeADAR Technology Centres. This scaling initiative involves the provision of additional funding of €50 million over the next 5 years under the NDP sectoral plan.

Action	**3. Review IP development in Ireland with a view to the development of "IP Ireland" – a new agency to position Ireland as a global IP hub, leveraging our strengths in technology, pharmaceuticals, and creative industries, and exploiting the economic potential of IP management.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	In Progress
Update	Development of IP Ireland will proceed on a long-term basis, commencing post-Presidency in 2027 with initial stakeholder engagement.

Action	**4. Establish a National Artificial Intelligence Office (NAIO) as the central co-ordinating authority for the EU AI Act and to provide a focal point for the promotion and adoption of transparent and safe AI in Ireland, to ensure that we fully capture the strategic opportunity that AI presents. The NAIO will work with CeADAR to engage with business and organisations in Ireland around the role and potential of AI adoption.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE; D/FHERIS
Delivery	2026
Status	Complete
Update	The Oifig IS na hÉireann (the AI Office of Ireland) commenced operations on 31 July 2026 and has made significant progress in putting in place the systems, relationships and organisational capacity required to carry out its functions under the EU AI Act. Since its establishment, the Office has put in place its public-facing website and Service Desk, commenced engagement with relevant Competent Authorities and Market Surveillance Authorities and with counterparts at EU level, and begun the development of the internal governance, risk, resourcing and operational processes required by the new organisation. The Office is continuing to build its organisational and specialist capacity, with recruitment underway across a number of functions. In parallel, work is progressing on the systems, processes and operational arrangements required to support the Office in carrying out its functions under the EU AI Act. On 31st July 2026 Minister Burke approved the appointment of the Chairperson and six Board Members to the Board of Oifig IS na hÉireann. They will have responsibility for governance and oversight of the functions of the AI Office of Ireland in meeting its obligations to coordinate Irelands approach to the implementation of the EU AI Act. Their role and these functions are prescribed by the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026.

Action	**5. Given the economic potential of encouraging the adoption of innovative technologies by the SME sector, examine options – including, but not limited to, the introduction of new tax-based supports – to encourage innovation by all firms.**
Responsible Body	D/FIN
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	The Research & Development and Innovation Compass, as committed to in Budget 2026, was published in February 2026. The D/FIN established a working group with key advisory and representative bodies to examine potential options to enhance the subcontracting provisions



Theme 2 – Boosting FDI and Exports, and Influencing at EU Level

Action	**27. Promote Ireland's vision for European competitiveness and the Single Market and advocate for Ireland's national interests at EU level on themes including frontier technologies, competitiveness, digital and green transitions and energy costs, Savings and Investment Union, regulatory simplification, sustainable food production, deepening capital markets and completing the internal market.**
Responsible Body	D/FAT
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Progress on this action included the continued advocacy of Ireland's vision of competitiveness and the Single Market prior to the start of our presidency at meetings between leaders at the European Council, between ministers at the Competitiveness Council, and in other EU forums in which economic competitiveness issues emerge such as ECOFIN, GAC, and the TTE council. With competitiveness challenges becoming increasingly cross cutting, Irelands now has placed competitiveness at the heart of our EU Presidency and continued to progress policies which will greatly improve Ireland and the EU's competitiveness. In doing so we are prioritising delivery of key competitiveness files under the One Europe, One Market Roadmap during out presidency. We will advance negotiations on the initiatives of Roadmap, working with colleagues across government and supporting the Permanent Representation in Brussels to come to shared member states positions and engaging in trilogue negotiations on proposals with the European Parliament and Commission. This includes seeking to deliver agreements on the Grids Package, Digital Euro, EU-Inc. and the Industrial Accelerator Act, and completing all outstanding simplification Omnibus packages. Through these initiatives we are working with Council to tackle high energy costs, reduce regulatory and administrative burden, and improving access to finance.

Action	**28. Enable Irish-based firms to participate in Innovative Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI), in key strategic sectors. Such IPCEIs will help to strengthen Ireland's and Europe's capacity and capability in frontier technologies as well as building value chains to secure Ireland's competitiveness in strategic sectors (including, but not limited to, microelectronics, AI and quantum computing).**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	In September 2025, Minister Peter Burke allocated up to €120m from DETE's NDP to fund IPCEI participation up to 2030. A joint Call for Expressions of Interest in 3 digital IPCEIs was launched nationally on December 3rd, 2025, coordinated by DETE, in conjunction with IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. The Call, which closed on 4th February 2026, sought Expressions of Interest from Irish-based industry and Research Organisations in the 3 strategic digital sectors of Advanced Semiconductor Technologies, AI, and Compute Infrastructure Continuum. An assessment of final project proposals will shortly be undertaken by the enterprise agencies when companies have successfully concluded an organised EU matchmaking process, to identify potential collaborations with projects in other Member States, which is currently underway.

Action	**29. Develop large-scale Next Generation Sites (NGS) as master-planned locations with property, utility and sustainable infrastructure, so as to attract transformational advanced manufacturing investment in key sectors, including in AI, semiconductors, life sciences and sustainability.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE IDA
Delivery	2026
Status	In progress
Update	IDA Ireland is continuing with the process to identify suitable locations and appropriate land banks to accommodate the development of this Next Generation Sites. Given the scale of land and requisite infrastructure to fully develop an NGS, IDA Ireland is also continuing the engagement with the relevant stakeholders to deliver same. It is envisaged that the sites will be developed over a 5-10 year pipeline.

Theme 3 – SMEs: Creating and Scaling More SMEs

Action	**38. Establish Start-up Ireland as a central coordinating body to enhance alignment and collaboration across the national start-up ecosystem. This initiative will provide a unified strategic direction for start-up development, including the rollout of a new National Accelerator Programme, as a successor to the NDRC and act as a national focal point for policy, investment, and ecosystem development and aligning with European and global best practices.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q4 2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Funding has been committed to the new National Accelerator Programme and Enterprise Ireland has launched the procurement process with the first stream of activity expected to be underway by Q4 2026. The Startup Ireland Roadmap is on schedule to be launched by Q3 2026.

Action	**39. Establish an SME Scaling Fund of scale to increase the available public capital for direct and indirect investment to support scaling, to improve access and choice for founders and encourage new private capital into Irish market.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE EI
Delivery	Publish Strategy • Q3 2025 Implementation of Strategy • 2025/2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	DETE continues to explore the prospective SME Scaling Fund, including consideration of overall funding requirements and arrangements.

Action	**40. Develop policy actions that will incentivise pension fund and institutional investor participation, either directly or indirectly, into scaling equity funds to further enhance the Irish scaling ecosystem, and consider options for the development of incentives for the participation of retail savings in capital markets.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q2 2026
Status	In Progress
Update	DETE continues to progress this action through analysis of barriers to private investment and review of international models, with a view to developing appropriate policy options to incentivise investment.

Theme 4 – SMEs: Creating and Scaling More SMEs

Action	**42. Department of the Taoiseach to coordinate a range of actions aimed at regulatory reform across Government Departments, including the establishment of a central Economic Regulators Forum.**
Responsible Body	D/Taoiseach
Delivery	2026-2027
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Proposals for cross-government approach to Regulatory Reform were presented to the Cabinet Committee on Economy, Trade and Competitiveness in March and to Government in May. These include working with the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment on a Red Tape Challenge, mapping the Irish regulatory landscape, updating the Policy Statement on Economic Regulation from 2013, and supporting the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment in further embedding the SME Test. Actions are being co-ordinated by the Department through the existing Senior Officials Group on the Economy, Trade and Competitiveness.

Action	43. Introduce a Red Tape Challenge across Government to significantly reduce regulation for SMEs reflecting the European Commission's commitment to simplifying and reducing administrative burden for SMEs by 2029. This would include a review by each Government Department to identify regulations to be removed or reduced without impacting on policy objectives and a public consultation to identify areas of high burden or where burden reduction could be launched.
Responsible Body	Cross Government
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	In July, the Taoiseach and the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment wrote to all Ministers requesting that each Department, and relevant Agencies under their remit, identify actions which can reduce the regulatory and administrative burden placed on SMEs. As part of their considerations, Ministers were asked to take account of recommendations from the Cost of Business Advisory Forum and other feedback from their own stakeholder engagement. This exercise is currently underway, and progress will be overseen through the Cabinet Committee on the Economy, Trade and Competitiveness. D/Taoiseach will work with D/ETE on co-ordination of the 'red tape challenge'. This will involve Departments and Agencies being challenged to respond to priorities identified from Cost of Business Advisory Forum and other feedback from SMEs; and will encourage the spread of good practice examples. It is intended to launch this challenge following consideration by Government of the report and recommendations of the Cost of Business Advisory Forum

Action	**44. Expedite the Environment Miscellaneous Provisions Bill to put in place statutory timelines for EPA decisions and enable 'limited' licence reviews where the changes to an installation are examined (rather than a full review of the licence) in circumstances where an EIA is not required and the proposed change is not substantial. Resource EPA sufficiently to comply with these required licencing decision timeframes and review the legislative possibilities to allow for concurrent processing of planning and licencing decisions.**
Responsible Body	D/CEE
Delivery	Q1 2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2026 (No. 5 of 2026) was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas and was signed into law by the President on 12th March 2026. The Act enables the Minister to introduce regulations for licencing timeframes and partial review of licences, in addition to provisions to deal with emergency situations. Certain sections of the Act have already commenced as of the 8th of May 2026, with further provisions (relating to timeframes, partial reviews and emergency provisions which are contingent on regulations) intended for commencement in Q3 2026.

Action	**45. Acknowledging the substantial legislative progress made with regard to planning, consenting and judicial review arrangements through the Planning and Development Act 2024, commence these reforms to enhance delivery of infrastructure as soon as possible.**
Responsible Body	D/HLGH; D/CEE
Delivery	2025-2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The phased commencement of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act of 2024) continues to progress and facilitate the transition from the existing legislative framework under the Planning and Development Act 2000 to that provided for under the Act of 2024. The phased commencement helps ensure that the planning system continues to operate with minimal disruption and takes into account the need to liaise with planning authorities, planning bodies and a range of other stakeholders. As of 8th May 2026, 237 of 633 sections of the Act of 2024 have been fully or partially brought into operation. Key provisions that have been commenced include: • Part 3 – National Planning Framework, National Planning Statements, Regional and Spatial Strategies, Development Plans and Area Plans; • Part 9 – Judicial Review for Planning Matters; • Part 17 – An Coimisiún Pleanála; • Part 18 – Office of Planning Regulator. Following the enactment of the forthcoming Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill, the remaining Parts of the Act of 2024 are expected to be brought into operation. These will include provisions relating to development consent, environmental assessment, enforcement, architectural heritage and Urban Development Zones. A dedicated website has been launched for the Act of 2024 and is available to view at www.gov.ie/planning. This website provides a guide to the Act, correlation tables, commencement schedules and is used to communicate important updates on the commencement of the Act of 2024 as well as any corresponding Regulations.”

Action	**46. Implement the outstanding recommendations from the Review of the Administration of Civil Justice: Review Group Report (2020) including: reform of legal discovery, reform of the wider non-planning judicial review process and development of new guidelines to set clear rates and scales of fees for civil litigation.**
Responsible Body	D/JHAM
Delivery	Q4 2027
Status	Completed
Update	The General Scheme of the Civil Reform Bill 2025 was published in January 2026.

Theme 5 – Infrastructure: Increasing the State's Capacity to Deliver Infrastructure

Action	**60. Prioritise the Work of the Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce to ensure that barriers to the delivery of infrastructure are addressed and the provision of infrastructure accelerated.**
Responsible Body	D/PER
Delivery	Q4 2025
Status	Completed
Update	Action Plan published.

Action	**61. Prioritise increased construction sector productivity in national infrastructure and housing programmes, through further embedding supply and demand side initiatives at design and procurement stages and strengthening industry capability through initiatives such as EI's Built to Innovate, Construct Innovate Technology Centre, and the national MMC Demonstration Park at Mount Lucas, maintaining a focus on digitalisation, sustainable practices, lean processes and adoption of modern methods of construction.**
Responsible Body	D/Taoiseach D/PER D/ETE D/ FHERIS D/ HLGH
Delivery	2026-2027
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The groundworks for the National Demonstration Park for MMC at Mount Lucas are complete, with the first units expected to be in place from the second half of 2026. DFHERIS is preparing the workforce for the transition to MMC through a variety of initiatives, including the implementation of the MMC Action Plan, rollout of the Skillnet MMC Accelerate platform, and provision of new MMC training.The National Construction Training Campus at Mount Lucas has strategically pivoted to upskilling the existing MMC workforce. This includes the development of a number of new MMC traineeship programmes, an overhead lines apprenticeship programme, and embedding an 'MMC Essentials' module across all programme offerings.

Action	**62. Explore further flexibility for fixed term contract recruitment of specialist expertise by Government Departments and agencies on a case-by-case basis, with the aim of embedding knowledge spill over and specialised expertise directly into relevant Units over a fixed period.**
Responsible Body	D/PER
Delivery	2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Departments/agencies can request, via a business case, sanction for specialist expertise at senior levels above delegated sanction as required for projects or programmes. Requests for flexibility are considered on a case-by-case basis, in keeping with Government pay and recruitment policies.

Theme 6 – Sustainability: Growing Sustainable Irish Businesses and Boosting Regional Development

Action	**65. Examine the scope for supporting energy intensive manufacturing sectors, under EU guidelines on State Aid for climate, environmental protection and energy, to ensure the competitiveness and resilience of Ireland's manufacturing base. Supporting manufacturers with the cost of their efficient electricity use, as a temporary response to elevated prices, would also underpin investment in domestically produced energy, and utilisation of renewable energy during periods of abundant supply. A targeted support to mitigate high electricity prices can also reduce the 'spark gap' and facilitate reduced emissions in these sectors. This measure should also incentivise firms to use the existing electricity grid as flexibly and efficiently as possible to keep overall system costs down.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE; IDA
Delivery	2025
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The National Energy Affordability Taskforce (NEAT), established by Minister O' Brien, works to identify relevant cost drivers within the Irish energy system and discern where long-term cost reductions can be achieved for both households and businesses. The taskforce will develop measures to enhance energy affordability and cost competitiveness for businesses, including energy-intensive manufacturing, which will be included within the taskforce's Energy Affordability Action Plan, which is due for completion in Q3 2026. In July 2026, a proposed €300 million State Aid scheme to provide temporary electricity price relief for energy-intensive companies operating in Ireland was approved by the European Commission under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework. Further information will be made available if a scheme is developed in line with this proposal in due course.

Action	**66. Bring forward legislation to permit and implement a new Private Wire Framework allowing private sector to install electricity grid within well-defined conditions and to a standard consistent with national infrastructure, enabling expedited grid delivery, deployment of 'proximate' renewables and storage, and allowing innovative energy park systems to emerge in certain locations.**
Responsible Body	D/CEE
Delivery	2025-2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The General Scheme of the Private Wires Bill was approved by Government on the 16th of December 2025. DCEE has been engaging with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to begin drafting the necessary legislation required to bring forth the private wires regime. Introducing a private wires framework is a priority for this Government. The Joint Committee on Climate Environment and Energy have undertaken pre-legislative scrutiny on the General Scheme of the Private Wires Bill with a report published in April 2026. It is the intention that the Bill will have completed its passage through the Oireachtas as early as possible this year.

Action	**67. Utilise the Environmental Aid Scheme to the fullest extent in providing capital support grants to high impact decarbonisation projects in manufacturing sectors through Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. Increased levels of support for more expensive abatement in lower margin sectors will be required to incentivise investments of significant scale and ambition to achieve our 2030 climate targets.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	DETE and its agencies are focussed on maximising the €300m available for industrial decarbonisation under the Environmental Aid fund. €154m has been approved since the fund's launch towards 41 projects as of the end of Q1 2026. In addition to this, the agencies are providing €122m in grant aid through other funding mechanisms in support of industrial decarbonisation measures. When combined, this amounts to more than 334,994 tonnes of CO2 equivalent removed from industry. DETE and its agencies are focussed on maximising the €300m available for industrial decarbonisation under the Environmental Aid fund. €154m has been approved since the fund's launch towards 41 projects as of the end of Q1 2026. In addition to this, the agencies are providing €122m in grant aid through other funding mechanisms in support of industrial decarbonisation measures. When combined, this amounts to more than 334,994 tonnes of CO2 equivalent removed from industry.

Action	**68. Conduct a review of electricity network tariffs to ensure that the fixed cost element of electricity prices (TUoS / DUoS) do not disincentivise demand flexibility and to facilitate industry maximising the use of renewable energy in their heating systems when renewable energy availability is high, and wholesale prices are low, as part of the broader tariff review. Grid costs are important to sending the right price signals to industry to respond commercially to the availability of low costs renewable electricity, unlocking emissions savings and reducing curtailed renewables.**
Responsible Body	CRU D/CEE
Delivery	Commencing 2025
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The CRU recommenced its Electricity Network Tariff Structure Review in September 2025. • It is expected that this will be a multi-annual programme of work to be progressed in phases. • At present, under Phase 1, CRU is carrying out a Review of International Experience of Network Tariff Structure and Reform and is collating responses from the Request for Supplemental Input in 2025. The CRU will launch a public consultation on the objectives, principles and scope of the Electricity Network Tariff Structure Review later this year.

Action	**69. Informed by findings from the Review of the Regional Enterprise Plans consider the establishment of a new Regional Enterprise Development Fund.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The REP Final Progress Reports have been received and reviewed along with the findings and recommendations of the review of the REP initiative. A Memo for Government for Information was issued on the 9th June noting the future approach to the Regional Enterprise Plans. The most recent regional scheme administered by Enterprise Ireland – Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme closed on the 12th June. A full review of this and previous regional schemes REDF and BEDF will take place in 2026 by EI and D/ETE, including consideration of the establishment of a new Regional Enterprise Development Fund.

Action	**70. Task the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs to carry out an Assessment of the Future Skills Needs of the Tourism and Hospitality Sectors.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Following a request for tender, submissions are currently being evaluated for this study. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in the next few weeks, and the project will start in June.

Action	**71. Promote the digitalisation of tourism SMEs, establish test and learn pilot projects to support adoption of innovative technologies (Generative AI, IoT, Immersive Experiences) among tourism SMEs, and partner with EU Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH's) to foster applied innovation within tourism enterprises.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	Irish tourism is a sector dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the large majority of which lack the capital and in-house expertise to keep pace with the rapidly evolving digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) landscape. This is of critical importance for a sector where visibility in digital and AI-driven search directly determines whether a business is found and chosen by visitors, and where digitalised operations are key to unlocking efficiency and productivity gains. In line with the Action Plan's focus on growing sustainable enterprise and boosting balanced regional development, Fáilte Ireland's role is to create a practical support environment that helps businesses assess their current capability, invest in the right tools, and apply digital and AI technologies to improve sales, operational efficiency and visitor experience. The concluding digital transformation scheme, Digital that Delivers (2021-2026), has supported over 600 visitor experience businesses through digital maturity assessments, tailored roadmaps, expert capability support and capital investment across websites, online booking systems, digital marketing and data. This scheme creates a strong evidence base to guide the next phase of Fáilte Ireland's digitalisation supports, having driven a 50% average improvement in participating businesses' digital maturity and remaining on track to deliver a 9:1 return on investment. Fáilte Ireland is currently developing an industry-focused strategy to support digitalisation and AI adoption across the tourism sector, aligned to the Tourism Policy Statement, the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity, the National Digital and AI Strategy and the emerging AI Sectoral Strategy for AI in Enterprise. Its focus is to help tourism SMEs move from basic online presence and manual operations, to connected, data-informed and AI-enabled business models, improving direct booking, year-round demand, regional dispersal and resilience, in support of the national targets of tourism businesses achieving 90% advanced digital adoption and 25% AI adoption by 2031. From 2027, Fáilte Ireland intends to roll out an integrated suite of supports, including a free Digital and AI Maturity Assessment (DMA) developed in partnership with Ireland's European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs), including CeADAR, which will give each business a benchmarked score, a tailored roadmap and a route into relevant supports. Planned industry supports are expected to span areas including sales and digital conversion, operational efficiency and productivity, AI-driven visibility and discoverability, destination-level digitalisation, and test-and-learn pilots for emerging technologies such as Gen AI, Internet of Things (IoT) applications and immersive visitor experiences. This range of supports is still in development, and the exact scope and elements to be supported are being confirmed as the strategy is finalised. Fáilte Ireland is also exploring further partnerships with the EDIHs to give tourism SMEs access to relevant expertise, test-before-invest opportunities and practical adoption pathways. In parallel, Fáilte Ireland is engaging with the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) to explore direct tourism SME access to existing LEO digital grant supports, including the Digital for Business and Grow Digital schemes, and with Skillnet Ireland to develop a suite of tourism-digitalisation capability-building supports.

Other Actions by Theme



Theme 1 – Embracing Research, Innovation and Skills

Action	**6. Update the National Digital and AI Strategies to support Ireland's ambition to remain a global digital leader, and to ensure that Ireland is positioned to maximise the benefits and opportunities of AI and digital technologies in the public and private sectors.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE D/Taoiseach
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	The updated National Digital & AI Strategy, Digital Ireland – Connecting our People, Securing our Future, was published in February 2026. It sets out the Government's ambition to 2030 to strengthen our position as a digital leader and a global hub for applied AI innovation. Through Digital Ireland, we are building on our strengths – a well-established reputation as a digital hub, an exceptional talent base and a vibrant innovation ecosystem – to ensure our economy reaps the benefits of digital and AI for growth and competitiveness, to enhance public service delivery, and to empower our people to thrive in a digital society. The Strategy sets out 20 high-level objectives and 90 specific deliverables, reflecting the breadth of ambition right across government on Public Services, Enterprise, Infrastructure, Cyber Security, Digital Regulation, Online Safety, and Skills and Talent.

Action	**7. Develop a High-Performance Computing Strategy on a cross-Government basis encompassing Quantum, High Performance Computing, AI and data infrastructures to enhance Ireland's competitiveness in deep tech, strengthen Ireland's public research system, enable greater participation in EU initiatives such as AI Factories and the AI Continent Action Plan and support innovative start-ups.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	Early scoping of potential strategy priorities and associated timelines under development.

Action	**8. Seek to establish an AI Factory Antenna hosted in Ireland under the current EuroHPC Joint Undertaking call to enable Irish SMEs to access supercomputing resources in an established AI Factory in the EU. This will enable SMEs to integrate advanced AI into their products and processes efficiently, fostering productivity growth and innovation capacity within the EU's digital ecosystem.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2026
Status	Completed
Update	Officially launched on July first.

Action	**9. Establish a real-time, publicly available AI Observatory that delivers data and insights on a wide range of AI metrics. These could include labour market dynamics, capital flows, skills development, quality of life enhancement, complementary innovations, public attitudes and the impact of AI on certain sectors as they unfold. In order to avoid duplication of effort and siloing of data, this work should be aligned with the development of the wider National Skills Observatory. This resource will help policy makers, educators, and workers better navigate the changes ahead.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The plan for an AI Observatory is in the very early stages of initial scoping. It will take some time to fully develop a comprehensive plan.

Action	**10. Increase the drawdown of European Digital funding by Irish enterprise, including by removing barriers such as lack of security clearance and strengthening the Digital Europe Programme National Contact Network.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025-2027
Status	In Progress
Update	The National Security Authority (NSA) is currently supported by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and operates on an administrative basis. The Programme for Government includes a commitment to bring the NSA under the remit of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. A project has been established to provide for a new statutory NSA. It is a large-scale multi-year complex project with implications for several Departments and bodies. The NSA will be capable of providing the full spectrum of security clearances including personnel and facilities clearances required by Government Departments, public bodies, and commercial entities. To mitigate against the time needed for the establishment of the statutory NSA, an interim system of operations for Personnel Security Clearance to enable private sector personnel working in businesses in areas of strategic importance in Ireland to apply for personnel security clearance has been drafted by DETE and is currently under review by the relevant Bodies within the state.

Action	**11. Provide improved and more targeted funding for the adoption of AI and digital tools under the enterprise pillar of the new National Digital & AI Strategy.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	Digital and AI strategy has been published.

Action	**12. Develop and deliver a programme of "research collaboration missions" to connect and develop strategic partnerships between Irish researchers and international businesses and research and innovation centres in key strategic sectors.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2025-2026
Status	In Progress
Update	Planning for a Research Mission to be led by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to the United States in Q4 2026

Action	**13. Examine options to enhance the competitiveness of the R&D Tax Credit, to ensure Ireland maintains a best in class incentive to encourage innovation by domestic and international companies.**
Responsible Body	D/FIN
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	Budget 2026 increased the rate of this credit from 30% to 35% and increased the first-year refund threshold by €12,500 (up to €87,500). It also committed to the publication of a Research & Development Compass. The Research & Development and Innovation Compass, which was committed to as part of Budget 2026, was published in February 2026. Work is continuing in 2026 to progress the areas of further analysis as set out in the Compass.

Action	**14. Undertake a mid-term review and updating of the National Research and Innovation Strategy IMPACT 2030 aimed at strengthening the capability and performance in innovation of Ireland's Research and Innovation ecosystem.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2025-2026
Status	Completed
Update	The independent mid-term review of Impact 2030 has been completed and recommendations are being examined by the Department for further action.

Action	**15. Establish a single point of entry for SMEs in engaging with RD&I opportunities and collaboration with national R&I system to drive increased R&D in SME sector and support greater mobility of researchers into SMEs.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS/DETE/Enterprise Ireland
Delivery	2025-2026
Status	Yet to Commence
Update	The INSPIRE Research Infrastructure programme is building out the research strengths and capabilities of the higher education research system, aligned with national priorities and with key sectors of strategic economic interest. Its Shared Advanced Infrastructures will be of particular relevance to industry, importantly including SMEs who often do not have the resources in-house to deliver their innovations and technology ideas to market. An important element of INSPIRE will be the development of a central access portal. This will enable all users, including SMEs, to identify and access the research infrastructures, and therefore the research capabilities in the higher education research system, that will best help them to grow their research and innovation performance. Maximising industry accessibility and utilisation (within State Aids parameters) to INSPIRE-funded equipment is fundamental to the overarching strategic intent of the programme to advance Ireland's competitiveness and productivity.

Action	**16. Work with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to ensure that creation and delivery of commercialisation opportunities by researchers in HEIs is valued, incentivised in terms of academic progression, and more fully enabled, examining whether current metrics (e.g. patents, licences, spinouts etc.) accurately measure commercialisation performance and, if so, are appropriately incentivised.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS D/ETE Research Ireland Enterprise Ireland
Delivery	2026
Status	Completed
Update	Under Research Ireland's ARC Hubs programme to accelerate research commercialisation in the higher education sector, two further Hubs were announced in H1 2026: the ARC Hub for ICT and the ARC Hub for HealthTech (this follows the launch of the ARC Hub for Therapeutics in Q4 2025).

Action	**17. Continue to embed a focus on skills among SMES, including via the rollout of a targeted SME incentivisation scheme, aimed at reimbursing the cost of upskilling and reskilling of employees.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The planned SME Incentivisation Scheme will operate a cost recovery system for Irish SMEs, enabling business owners to reclaim costs relating to salary costs incurred to allow staff to attend training and development programmes in relation to AI skills and upskilling.

Action	**18. Increase investment in the European Space Agency to facilitate increased participation by Irish-based firms in the European Space Agency programmes to drive the success of start-ups and provide routes to market for innovative companies looking to accelerate technology commercialisation.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE Enterprise Ireland
Delivery	2025-2027
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	At the European Space Agency's Ministerial Council in November 2025, Ireland committed an additional €40 million to the European Space Agency (ESA) bringing Ireland's overall investment in ESA to over €170 million for the period 2026-2030. This significant investment and programme expansion underscores Ireland's strong commitment to the European space sector and will ensure the continued growth and success of our domestic space sector, by supporting the creation of new enterprises and enabling established companies to scale across both space and space adjacent industries. By the end of 2025, 126 companies had entered contracts with ESA during the lifetime of the National Space Strategy for Enterprise 2019-2025. Continuing on from a strong performance in 2025, in H1 2026 ESA entered into 33 contacts valued at almost €13 million with 26 Irish entities. Of these, 4 contracts, valued at almost €2 million, were first time contracts. Building on the success of the first Call by the newly established ESA ΦLab in 2025, Call 2 is now open to established companies across the entire Irish industrial base. The ESA ΦLab offers financial and mentoring support to companies through the full lifecycle from materials development, to design and high-volume manufacturing and is another strong signal of the maturity and credibility of the Irish space sector to lead on research, innovation and commercialisation of space technologies.

Action	**19. Develop a CAV (Connected and Autonomous Vehicles) strategy and framework for the safe introduction of the use and testing of autonomous vehicles on Irish roads.**
Responsible Body	D/Transport
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The strategy development is underway and on course for delivery in 2026 per the action plan

Action	**20. The Department of Defence will continue to progress the interests of Irish SME's to facilitate growth and ensure deeper engagement in the commercial dual use area – both nationally and at an EU level. In that context, Ireland will look to enhance its engagement and identify opportunities for Irish SME's in EU collaborative defence research and development programmes such as the European Defence Fund.**
Responsible Body	D/Defence
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	The Department continues to coordinate the national position relating to proposed defence relevant EU regulations to ensure proposed legislative acts are inclusive of smaller Member States and their industrial and technological base.

Action	**21. Strengthen capacity and capability of the national RD&I innovation system through a structured and targeted programme of recruitment of international talent across RD&I landscape at all levels of education (i.e. basic research, applied research, innovation leaders) in key strategic sectors of the Irish economy.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	The Global Talent Initiative was established to enable HEIs to bring forward applications for both established academics and rising stars with significant potential. Research Ireland are currently engaging with HEIs with regard to engaging with successful candidates following the completion of the final stage of the screening process.

Action	**22. Review skills' needs (both critical and general) to inform the employment permit process, following early stakeholder consultation, to evaluate and expand eligible roles for employment permits where there is a solid evidence base for doing so. Review the Occupations Lists for employment permits to prioritise skills-based migration for those sectors facing significant shortages.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	In Progress
Update	In July 2025, the department launched a Review of the Occupations List. This is a key step in ensuring that Ireland's employment permits system continues to align with the evolving needs of the labour market. This review generated an unprecedented level of engagement, receiving the highest number of submissions ever recorded for a consultation of this kind. The Economic Migration Interdepartmental Group, chaired by DETE's Economic Migration Policy unit will meet in early December 2025 to assess the evidence-based submissions, lead Department perspectives, and subgroup expertise to create a list of recommended changes to the occupation lists. A report of this process, including recommended changes will be presented to the Minister in early Q1 2026.

Action	**23. In partnership with D/JHAM, develop a single application procedure for immigration and employment permission and deliver on the digitisation of the permits system to ensure service integration and delivery improvements, working across government to merge the employment permit and visa systems into one user friendly process supported by a modern ICT system.**
Responsible Body	D/JHAM D/ ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	In Progress
Update	The project is currently progressing through a phased development and scoping process, with on-going cross-departmental engagement to support the design and testing of the proposed model prior to wider implementation.

Action	**24. Invest in the engagement skills of social partners to drive productivity and transformation, including a series of capacity building actions to support dispute avoidance and resolution being included in the Action Plan on Collective Bargaining later this year.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	There is active engagement with the social partners on implementation of all aspects of the Action Plan on Collective Bargaining including capacity building

Action	**25. Deliver a targeted programme of Lifelong Learning to help prepare for the twin green and digital transitions.**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	The D/FHERIS supports several initiatives to meet the skills needs of the green transition – from developing transferable green skills for life through to specific requirements for sectors such as Near Zero Energy Buildings/ Retrofit, eMobility, sustainability and renewable energy. To provide a strategic focus, SOLAS launched Green Skills 2030: The First National Further Education & Training Strategy for the Green Transition in October 2024. This outlines how the FET sector can meet the skills needs of the green transition. The Strategy's Implementation Plan aims to integrate green and transversal skills across all FET offerings and expand programme design and delivery. In addition to the pipeline of ICT specialists, digital and the development of AI skills are specifically developed through mainstream provision and through specific skills initiatives: • SOLAS AI micro-qualifications, developed with enterprise partners and delivered through the ETB network. • Springboard+, support the upskilling of the workforce. We currently offer digital and AI-related upskilling programmes (free or heavily subsidised) and micro-credentials (50% of the 179 micro-credentials offered under the Micro-credential Learner Fee Subsidy 2026 have a digital or AI skills focus). • AIready.ie, providing accessible introductory AI learning opportunities. • AI-related programmes delivered across further and higher education to support learners at all stages of their careers. • The Policy Framework on Generative AI in Teaching and Learning, developed by the HEA sets out principles for values-based integration of AI and supporting shared practice on AI literacy and academic integrity.

Action	**26. Establish the National Skills Observatory to act as Ireland's centre for skills and labour market intelligence across the labour market, including the public and private sector, serving as the Government's central information broker and depository for skills and labour market intelligence**
Responsible Body	D/FHERIS
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	Plans are underway by DFHERIS officials to have the Observatory established before the end of the year.

Theme 2 – Boosting FDI and Exports, and Influencing at EU Level

Action	**30. Publish a new Government Trade and Investment Strategy in line with Global Ireland 2040's regional and country strategies.**
Responsible Body	D/FAT D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	To be commenced
Update	DETE is in process of finalising a review of the 2022-2026 Trade and Investment Strategy: Value for Ireland, Values for the World. Pending completion of the review consideration will be given to developing a new Trade and Investment Strategy, which will be aligned to the Government's overall framework for international engagement, Global Ireland 2040.

Action	**31. Implement in full the Government Action Plan on Market Diversification.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE; DFA
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In progress
Update	The First Progress report was published in March 2026. The first progress report demonstrated steady implementation, strong interdepartmental cooperation, and a clear commitment to delivering the ambitions of the Government Action Plan on Market Diversification. This included new Departmental and State Agency resourcing in target markets including the US, India, UAE, NZ, and South Korea. Progress was also made in supporting firms to enter new markets through funding initiatives, advisory services, and improved market intelligence. The second progress report is currently in the final stages of preparation and will be published in Q4.

Action	**32. Scale-up the presence of enterprise and tourism promotion agencies in key strategic locations, to support and build on commercial opportunities in existing and high-potential markets.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	**TI** In North America, Tourism Ireland has expanded its team in New York and Toronto to increase activity in new gateway cities and in Mainland Europe. Tourism Ireland has expanded the team in Germany to enable the implementation of the Mainland European Strategy for Growth. New Tourism Ireland representatives have been appointed, and a presence re-established in UAE and India in January 2026, dedicated to growing business from these markets. The Shanghai and Global Partnerships teams have been scaled-up to increase the routes to market for industry in Nascent Markets. **IDA** IDA have currently three lead pathfinder regions, including South America and the UAE, with one region yet to be confirmed. The IDA Canada market review has been completed, and an additional resource has been allocated. Also, an additional resource has been allocated to South Korea, with an additional resource being considered to cover South America. Future key geographic areas of ongoing interest include the UK and the wider Eurozone in terms of FDI. **EI** Enterprise Ireland continues to support the market diversification of Irish industry across 5 regional markets. Three new offices opened in 2025 in Glasgow, Atlanta and Zurich. EI has a total of 42 offices across the globe and 200 staff at full complement. These in-market teams are providing local market expertise to clients entering new markets and scaling to sustain and grow exports and in so doing support well paid jobs regionally across Ireland. South America represents a strong growth opportunity and requires proactive engagement; this process remains ongoing with the EI resources already in the region.

Action	**33. Consider the establishment of a "Market Diversification and Resilience Fund", pending the outcome of tariff negotiations, to support enterprises impacted by trade disruptions in the areas relating to customs and compliance, supply-chain capabilities, changing trade requirements, consultancy and market research**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	In the face of unprecedented global economic uncertainty, EI launched two new grants to support Enterprise Ireland client companies. The new supports will help companies to develop tariff mitigation strategies and to be market diversified. They are: • Enterprise Ireland's Market Research Grant offers funding of up to €35,000 for companies to assess the full impact of tariffs, gain market insights and develop mitigation strategies. • Enterprise Ireland's New Markets Validation Grant offers funding of up to €150,000 for companies to develop market entry strategies for new markets or new products

Action	**34. In order to better understand how Irish companies perform globally, advance Ireland's participation in the Microdata Infrastructure (MDI) for productivity research.**
Responsible Body	CSO D/ ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	In Progress
Update	The CSO and the NCPC are actively engaged with CompNet (the Competitiveness Research Network) and are currently reviewing the schedule of variables provided. A CSO statistician has been assigned to the work and it is hoped that the data gathering can be gathered for the inputs in Q3-Q4 this year, after the ANA.

Action	**35. Accelerate the programme of work to establish a National Security Clearance Framework and, in the interim, establish a temporary personnel security clearance framework.**
Responsible Body	D/JHAM
Delivery	2025 (interim arrangement)
Status	In Progress
Update	DETE is the lead on the Personnel Security Clearance Interim Framework for Business and is responsible for developing the overall scheme in collaboration with DJHAM, DFAT, AGS. Progress is being made across all legislative, operational, and IT workstreams. An overview of the scheme (including company eligibility and assessment criteria) has been prepared as an intended public facing document to support the legal robustness of the scheme and the Data Protection Regulations required. Draft Regulations prepared by DJAM are with the OPC for drafting. DHAM has also made substantial progress on bottoming out the practical aspects of the processing of the personnel security clearance applications in respect of employees with partners and is progressing work on the necessary departmental IT infrastructure to link to AGS systems to support the clearance process. The project is subject to a number of external dependencies including consultation with the DPC and drafting work by the OPC.

Action	**36. Publish a new national Life Sciences Strategy.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The Life Sciences and Space Enterprise Policy Unit was established within the Department in January 2026. Since then, extensive stakeholder engagement has taken place. This has included a public consultation conducted last year, which received 75 submissions. In addition, three consultative forums were held, bringing together representatives and leaders from the Irish life sciences sector, Government Departments, public bodies, and research organisations to inform discussions on strategic priorities. A joint Ministerial event was held with the Department of Health in June which sought stakeholder's views on how to strengthen Europe's competitiveness in life sciences. To support the development of the strategy, a cross-departmental High-Level Steering Group and a Working Group have been set up. Both groups have met three times since their establishment. An external consultant has also been engaged to carry out a foresight analysis of the sector through to 2040, which is currently being drafted. The strategy is expected to be published later this year.

Action	**37. Through the work of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force, explore the potential for indigenous production of Sustainable Aviation Fuels in Ireland taking into account progress on the National Hydrogen Strategy and Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy.**
Responsible Body	D/Transport
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	Work is underway to advance the commitment to explore the potential for indigenous production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in Ireland. Following publication of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy Roadmap in 2025, the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force has been reconstituted as the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Advisory Group to support implementation of the Roadmap and provide strategic advice on the development of the SAF sector. In 2026, the Department commenced procurement for an Ireland-specific Commercial Feasibility Assessment of electro-Sustainable Aviation Fuel (eSAF) production. The assessment will examine the technical and commercial viability of developing a domestic eSAF industry, including the potential contribution of renewable electricity and green hydrogen. This work supports the objectives of both the National Hydrogen Strategy and Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy. The Department has also commenced procurement for a review of Ireland's aviation fuel transport and storage infrastructure. The review will assess the infrastructure requirements necessary to support the future production, importation, distribution and use of SAF and will complement wider work on indigenous SAF and eSAF production.

Theme 3 – SMEs: Creating and Scaling More SMEs

Action	**41. Review tax measures to incentivise investment into start-up and scaling companies, including the potential benefits and costs of modifying aspects of Entrepreneur Relief and also of retaining the Key Employee Engagement Programme (KEEP) so that founders and employees are incentivised to remain with and grow their ventures.**
Responsible Body	D/FIN
Delivery	Q4 2026
Status	Completed
Update	Under Budget 2026, the 10% threshold for qualifying gains (under the CGT-Revised Entrepreneur Relief) increased by 50% (to €1.5m) and KEEP was extended until end-2028.

Theme 4 – Competition: Regulating for Growth and Controlling Costs

Action	**47. Establish an AI regulatory sandbox and publish guidance and support for innovative companies on compliance with the EU AI Act and other sectoral regulations, with a particular focus on SMEs and startups.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The National AI Office has recruited a sandbox lead as part of our work to establish the regulatory sandbox. Refinements to the Digital Omnibus with regard to the deadline for implementation will be incorporated as prescribed. There is also engagement with the EU Regulatory Sandboxes for AI (EUSAiR) which is a two-year project funded by the European Union's Digital Europe program, working in cooperation with the AI office to support the implementation of AI regulatory sandboxes across the EU.

Action	**48. All Government Departments will apply the SME Test to all measures, in particular to policy initiatives where it is proposed to increase costs on small business and include the SME test in the Government handbook.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Ongoing
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The SME Test continues to be applied across Government to assess and mitigate impacts on SMEs. In 2024, 26 SME Tests were applied by 8 Government Departments and in 2025, 33 SME Tests were applied by 10 Government Departments. The year-on-year growth of almost 27% in the number of Tests applied is a good indication that this action is having an impact. To the end of Q1 2026 a further 9 SME Tests have been applied by 6 Departments. DETE chairs a cross-Government network on implementation of the SME test, which meets quarterly to share best practice and improve consistency. Engagement continues between officials in the Department of the Taoiseach and DETE on including specific reference to the SME Test in the Cabinet Handbook

Action	**49. Introduce a scale of fees for environmental legal costs as a matter of priority, as provided for under the Planning and Development Act 2024**
Responsible Body	D/CEE D/ HLGH
Delivery	Q2 2026
Status	Completed
Update	Scale of fees now in legislation SI200 of 2026 It came into effect on 18th May 2026

Action	**50. Substantially increase the limit of the Small Claims Court procedure.**
Responsible Body	D/JHAM
Delivery	2027-2028
Status	In Progress
Update	Initial scoping exercise for this project is underway and expected to continue.

Action	**51. Expand the coverage of the one-stop application service for business licensing by making participation mandatory for all licensors, as per the OECD Economic Survey of Ireland 2025.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q4 2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The issue of licensing was dealt with extensively in the COBAF report, and is expected to be considered as part of the Government's Red Tape Challenge, which is currently underway

Action	**52. Legislate to empower Court Presidents to manage courts efficiently, including a model for the delegation of tasks to court officers to free up judicial time for judgment writing and other judicial tasks.**
Responsible Body	D/JHAM
Delivery	Q2 2027
Status	In Progress
Update	Initial work is underway with a view to commence drafting of a General Scheme.

Action	**53. Continue rolling out the unified case management systems to improve the quality of data on court operations and allow for an improved real-time understanding of court and judicial resourcing needs.**
Responsible Body	D/JHAM
Delivery	Q2 2027
Status	In Progress
Update	The multi-year initiative to roll out a unified case management system across court jurisdictions, combined with increased investment in data engineering capability, is incrementally improving the quality, consistency and availability of data that can be used to support operational, policy and resourcing analysis. Since October 2023, the unified case management system has been deployed to the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal (civil matters), High Court, Central Criminal Court, Circuit Court (family matters) and Probate. Work continues on the migration of the principal remaining court jurisdictions and business areas to the new system over the coming years. In parallel, recent improvements in data engineering capability have enhanced access to information held across existing heterogeneous and legacy case management systems. This has supported improved publication of court data through data.courts.ie and the provision of standardised detailed reports to the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. Data governance structures have also been established involving the Courts Service, the Judiciary and the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. Building on improvements in data availability and quality, work has commenced on the development of a judicial resourcing needs model to support a more evidence-based understanding of court activity, workload trends and resource requirements. Work will continue to refine this model, alongside the broader programme to increase data availability and maturity across the Courts and the continued migration of court business onto the unified case management system.

Action	**54. Implement a new cross-Government Action Plan on Insurance Reform, led by the Cabinet Committee Sub-Group on Insurance Reform, which will focus on improving insurance affordability, transparency and availability.**
Responsible Body	D/FIN D/ETE D/JHAM
Delivery	2025-2029
Status	In Progress
Update	D/JHAM elements are progressing including the publication of the General Scheme of the Judicial Council (Amendment) Bill I January 2026.

Action	**55. Embed the Administrative Enforcement regime under the Competition (Amendment) Act 2022 which provides the power to impose administrative financial sanctions of up to €10 million or 10% of total worldwide turnover for infringements of competition law.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q2 2026
Status	Complete
Update	The Competition (Amendment) Act 2022 came into force on 27 September 2023. It transposed the European Competition Network (ECN+) Directive and represents the biggest overhaul of competition law in Ireland in a generation. For the first time in Irish law, breaches of competition law can be enforced through administrative sanctions taken by the CCPC and ComReg, with maximum fines of up to €10 million or 10% of total worldwide turnover, whichever is greater. In order to enforce this new regime, the Minister appointed a Chief Adjudication Officer (CAO) in March 2025 for an initial five-year term. A panel of supporting Adjudication Officers (AOs) was appointed in November 2025. The CAO and AOs will play a central role in competition enforcement in Ireland. They will be responsible for making decisions on breaches of competition law and determining the level of fines to be applied, a position previously held by the Courts.

Action	**56. Complete a 'State of Competition in Ireland' study by end 2025 to examine the non-financial services sector and potentially identify markets or sectors of concern that could benefit from further study.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q4 2025
Status	Completed
Update	In December 2025 the CCPC published the State of Competition report. This study examined several indicators of competition over a 15-year period to assess how competition has evolved across Ireland's services sector. It found an overall increase in concentration across multiple service industries, meaning that, in a number of areas, a smaller number of companies now account for a greater share of activity. That matters because, if left unchecked, such trends can weaken competitive pressure over time, with possible adverse consequences for prices, choice, innovation and consumer outcomes for households and businesses alike. Importantly, this is not a development unique to Ireland. Similar analysis undertaken internationally has identified comparable patterns in other economies. While the findings do not in themselves point to an immediate or serious cause for alarm, they do underline the need to avoid complacency and to continue monitoring how competition is developing across the Irish economy. They also reinforce the importance of an active and proactive national competition authority.

Action	**57. Provide the CCPC with new powers to impose administrative financial sanctions in respect of breaches of consumer protection legislation.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q4 2026
Status	In Progress
Update	Heads are being prepared for the Consumer Protection, Competition and Enforcement Bill, 2026, to modernise the State's penalty regime for consumer law infringements by increasing maximum fines and introducing the ability to impose administrative financial sanctions. Administrative sanctions offer a flexible and efficient enforcement option, allowing the CCPC to address significant breaches quickly, while ensuring that penalties remain proportionate to the conduct and its impact. The Bill will also provide a new function to the CCPC to allow it to screen public procurement data for indications of bid rigging. This will address Actions 57 and 58 of the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity and support the Programme for Government commitments to strengthen consumer protection and enforcement of competition law.

Action	**58. Provide the CCPC with new powers to undertake Bid Rigging Screening which is a form of anti-competitive behaviour where a number of suppliers come together and agree not to compete against one-another for a tender or contract. This power will be of enhanced importance in the context of the State's ambitious capital expenditure plans.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	Q4 2026
Status	In Progress
Update	Heads are being prepared for the Consumer Protection, Competition and Enforcement Bill, 2026, to modernise the State's penalty regime for consumer law infringements by increasing maximum fines and introducing the ability to impose administrative financial sanctions. Administrative sanctions offer a flexible and efficient enforcement option, allowing the CCPC to address significant breaches quickly, while ensuring that penalties remain proportionate to the conduct and its impact. The Bill will also provide a new function to the CCPC to allow it to screen public procurement data for indications of bid rigging. This will address Actions 57 and 58 of the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity and support the Programme for Government commitments to strengthen consumer protection and enforcement of competition law.

Action	**59. Complete the development of an Action Plan on Collective Bargaining in order to enhance collective bargaining in ways that contribute positively to economic performance and social well-being, while supporting competitiveness and driving productivity**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	On 5 November 2025, Minister Burke launched Ireland's Action Plan to Promote Collective Bargaining 2026-2030, a comprehensive strategy aimed at strengthening the country's well-established system of voluntary industrial relations, one of the first countries in the EU to prepare such a plan. The Action Plan is an ambitious one, with 22 actions to be delivered over the lifetime of the Plan, including building a research base, building capacity and skills, and other measures to support collective bargaining. A scoping exercise has been undertaken to identify available resources and key stakeholders to support delivery of the actions in the Action Plan. A Technical Sub-Group of the Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF), comprising officials of the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment and representatives of the Social Partners, meets regularly to monitor progress with implementation. The next meeting of the group is scheduled to take place at the end of August. A mid-term review is scheduled for 2028 to ensure the Plan remains responsive to evolving labour market conditions and developments in collective bargaining.

Theme 5 – Infrastructure: Increasing the State's Capacity to Deliver Infrastructure

Action	**63. Develop a long-term strategy for Irish airports as part of a review of Ireland's National Aviation Policy, recognising the dependency risk of having a large share of Irish air traffic going through a single airport.**
Responsible Body	D/Transport
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The 2015 National Aviation Policy ('NAP') establishes a policy framework for the development of the aviation sector in Ireland. Whilst the principal goals of the 2015 NAP remain valid, and it continues to guide decision-making, the Department of Transport has commenced work on revising the NAP to update existing policy in response to developments in the aviation sector since 2015. It is anticipated that a call for evidence will issue in Q1 2027 to enable stakeholders to inform the development of the revised NAP. The revised NAP will include a focus on maximising use of our regional airports, in line with commitments made in the Programme for Government. A long-term strategy for Irish airports will be developed as part of the new NAP and as part of this work, a study will be conducted to examine future airport capacity needs across the island to ensure economic growth is supported while balancing regional development.

Action	**64. The Minister for Transport to establish a Stakeholder Forum of key agencies to focus on the actions required to facilitate swift progression of DAA's planning application for the construction of infrastructure including additional pier and stand capacity at Dublin airport to facilitate an increase in passenger numbers to 40m p.a. (while respecting independence of planning authority). This forum should seek to quickly identify and remove any barriers to progress including in relation to surface access to ensure that infrastructure enhancements that are necessary at Dublin Airport to ensure maximum connectivity for our island to the rest of the world can be progressed and to achieve the objective of removing the 32m passenger cap at Dublin Airport as soon as possible.**
Responsible Body	D/Transport
Delivery	Q4 2025
Status	Completed
Update	The inaugural meeting of this Forum was held with the relevant statutory agencies in July 2026. The Forum's initial focus is on implementation of Dublin Airport (Passenger Capacity) Act 2026, ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of each of the relevant statutory bodies involved are clearly understood so that the passenger cap can be addressed through a Ministerial Order as expeditiously as possible. The Forum will also contribute to work on the future framework for planning at Dublin Airport as well as helping to quickly identify and address any barriers to progress including in relation to surface access and infrastructure enhancements.

Theme 6 – Sustainability: Growing Sustainable Irish Businesses and Boosting Regional Development

Action	**72. Establish up to 3 pilot national clusters in H2 2025 to deliver proof of concept in order to secure funding for the National Clustering Programme for 2026 and beyond. In line with international best practice, clusters will be funded for a period of 6 years subject to meeting Key Performance Indicators, measured through annual and mid-term reviews.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	An Taoiseach launched the International Impact Clustering Programme at the Global TCI Conference in October 2025 and announced that it will initially fund three pilot clusters with funding of €2.3 million over 6 years. Two of these pilots are Cyber Ireland and ATIM (Advanced Technologies in Manufacturing) and it is anticipated that there will be a third pilot in the semiconductor sector. It is envisaged to use data from the pilot IICP clusters to build a robust evidence base to seek additional funding for IICP in Budget 2027.

Action	**73. Develop a regional enterprise policy statement.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	In Progress
Update	The Regional Enterprise Plans Final Progress Reports have been received and reviewed along with the findings and recommendations of the review of the Regional Enterprise Plans initiative. A Memo for Government for Information was issued on the 9th June noting the future approach to the Regional Enterprise Plans. Initial work on a regional enterprise policy statement framework is underway, and stakeholder engagement will continue in Q3 and the statement is expected to be delivered in 2026.

Action	**74. Publish and resource new Regional Enterprise Plans – with metrics for measuring success tailored to the region as appropriate. The Department will work closely with the Regional Assemblies to better align regional enterprise policy with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, through the Regional Enterprise Policy Statement and the subsequent development of new Regional Enterprise Plans.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	A Memo for Government for Information was issued on the 9th June noting the future approach to the Regional Enterprise Plans which includes the integration of the Plans into the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies of the Regional Assemblies. Work is underway with the relevant stakeholders including the DHLGH; Regional Assemblies; County and City Management Association and Enterprise Ireland to support the integration and initiation of this approach. The framework of how this approach will be operationalised will be included in the Regional Enterprise Policy Statement.

Action	**75. Further develop DETE engagement with the Regional Assemblies to use the forthcoming Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies to better align regional activity with national enterprise policy, and in accordance with the National Planning Framework**
Responsible Body	D/ETE; Regional Assemblies
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	DETE continues to work closely with the Regional Assemblies on the development of the next Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and the integration of the Regional Enterprise Plans into these Strategies. DETE provided a formal submission to the pre-draft public consultation phase of the drafting of the strategy. DETE will continue to formally engage with the drafting process highlighting national enterprise policy and the importance the alignment regional activity with national priorities and policy.

Action	**76. Publish a green industrial growth strategy focused on the development and industrial deployment of green technologies to support sectoral growth and unlock economic opportunities across all regions.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	Work is underway on the development of the green growth industrial strategy, which is expected to be published in Q4 2026, subject to approval by Government. The strategy will be designed to unlock the wider economic opportunities of the green transition, focussing on energy generation, the systems required to support transmission and distribution, and future end-uses of clean energy. The strategy will place a particular emphasis on supporting companies developing green and emerging technologies through innovation, in-company R&D, and the strengthening of associated supply chains. Development of the strategy is already well advanced, with targeted stakeholder consultations commencing in 2025 and a public consultation concluding in March 2026. Further targeted consultations with key stakeholders will take place across Q2 and Q3 2026 as the strategy is being finalised.

Action	**77. Review the Employment Investment Incentive Scheme (EIIS) with a view to minimising the administrative burden on the tourism sector.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	DETE and other interested stakeholders have continued to advocate for measures to simplify EIIS and reduce the administrative burden including streamlining of Revenue guidance, changes to holding company rules and an advanced assurance mechanism. Revenue has streamlined its tax and duty manuals in December 2025. The length of the manual had previously led to criticism from stakeholders. It has now been split into multiple manuals including manuals specifically aimed at the Qualifying Company Perspective and the Qualifying Investor Perspective. There were no changes to EIIS in Budget 2026 and the other measures outlined above have not been introduced. EII was last reviewed under the Tax Expenditure Guidelines in 2024. The EII was renewed for a further two years with a sunset clause of 31 December 2026 to coincide with the expiry date of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) The GBER is currently being revised by the EU Commission and a new GBER is expected in Q4 2026 to take effect from 1 January 2027. A high-level review of EII is due to be published in the Tax Strategy Group papers shortly ahead of the end-2026 sunset. Any changes to the relief would need to be considered in the context of the new GBER framework once finalised

Action	**78. Support the Adoption of Sustainable Tourism Certification through the development and implementation of a national support programme to promote the adoption of credible, third-party verified sustainability certification schemes in the tourism sector.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	In Progress
Update	The current position is that the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) and Fáilte Ireland have commenced exploring potential synergies in order to further the development and implementation of a national support programme to promote the adoption of credible, third-party verified sustainability certification schemes in the tourism sector.

Action	**79. The National Energy Affordability Taskforce (NEAT) will identify both relevant cost drivers and measures to enhance energy affordability for households and businesses.**
Responsible Body	D/CEE
Delivery	2025
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	The NEAT Energy Affordability Action Plan will be completed in Q3 2026. The First Report of the Taskforce, which included measures for consideration in Budget 2026, was published last November.

Action	**80. Design a medium-term plan to connect new, very large energy-intensive industries to the electricity grid, setting out actions to inform and enable a coordinated approach to future Large Energy User investments — including data centres — with respect to their location, alignment with the National Planning Framework, and integration into energy system planning. This plan should emphasise the importance of co-locating energy-intensive sectors with renewable energy resources, while also acknowledging the critical need for supporting infrastructure such as conventional generation capacity, energy storage, and grid reinforcement to ensure security of supply and system resilience.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE; D/CEE
Delivery	2025
Status	Completed
Update	The Large Energy User Action Plan (LEAP) was prepared by the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE) and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE), and approved by Government in January 2026. Through the delivery of its 17 key enabling actions, the implementation of LEAP is taking place across Government, with workstreams to be led on and supported by a number of Government Departments and State agencies. A key pillar of LEAP will be to provide a framework for the establishment of green energy parks, in which to co-locate the most energy-intensive LEU sectors with the supply of renewables and other enabling technologies. Further clarity on these developments and associated national policy will be forthcoming through the preparation of a National Planning Statement on green energy parks, led by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and supported by an across Government working group to include DETE and DCEE.

Action	**81. Complete the ongoing scoping study for an Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence by end-Q3 2025 and develop a project plan detailing next steps towards the establishment of the centre by end-2026.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	Completed
Update	The scoping study has been completed and a project manager was appointed by Enterprise Ireland in October 2025. The offshore wind centre of excellence, which is to operate as an innovation centre, will be known as Propel Ireland and was launched in March 2026 based on a linked set of work packages – referred to as the Offshore Wind Linkage Programme – each targeting a critical dimension of offshore wind development. Propel Ireland was introduced to an international audience at the Ireland Pavillion at the WindEurope Annual Event in Madrid in April 2026. In May 2026, an expert advisory group was established bringing together senior members of industry and academia working in the renewable energy sector. This collaborative forum will allow for the sharing of ideas, concerns and aspirations for the sector in Ireland, and help guide Propel Ireland's goals and actions in the years to come.

Action	**82. Review supports and funding available to businesses for climate adaptation measures.**
Responsible Body	D/ETE
Delivery	2025-2026
Status	In Progress
Update	This action is ongoing with no specific update at this time. We hope to make more progress on it when an IGEES intern will look more closely at it this Summer.

Action	**83. Promote the use of 'Regulatory Sandboxes' in the piloting of innovative clean technologies, to facilitate small-scale, live testing of innovations with derogations from certain regulatory provisions.**
Responsible Body	D/CEE D/ETE
Delivery	2026
Status	On Track to be completed on schedule
Update	In 2025 DETE commissioned a consultant report to examine the case for the development of a regulatory sandbox for offshore wind and related technologies in line with Action 29 of Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy. That report outlined that an industry-initiated sandbox could have merit in certain circumstances and includes recommendations for next steps Government could consider in preparation for this. The report is currently under consideration by DETE.

Action	**84. Continue to progress the ongoing economic and environmental sustainability ambitions of the agri food sector, including farmers, fishers, foresters and food producers, and – in the context of Food Vision 2030 renewal – ensure a continued focus on the competitiveness issues facing the sector.**
Responsible Body	D/AFM
Delivery	2025-2030
Status	In Progress
Update	The Food Vision 2030 High-Level Implementation Committee, chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, continues to monitor the delivery of its four main Missions. The third Food Vision Annual Report detailing progress was published in September 2025. Good progress on implementation has been made to date. 172 actions (79%) have either been completed or have had substantial action undertaken, a further 46 actions (21%) have commenced. A new Food Vision dashboard has been developed and is available online. A mid-term review of Food Vision 2030 commenced earlier this year. This review will ensure that Food Vision remains ambitious, focused, and responsive to evolving challenges and opportunities. A public consultation was launched by Minister Heydon in April and targeted stakeholder engagement is currently ongoing. The review will be finalised later this year.

Action	**85. Deliver a feasibility study relating to the establishment of a new industry led pre-commercial pilot-to-scale Precision Fermentation Demonstrator, to maximise the opportunity of this cutting-edge technology for the Irish manufacturing sector in partnership with key government stakeholders.**
Responsible Body	Enterprise Ireland
Delivery	2026
Status	Completed
Update	The feasibility study on the establishment of an industry-led, pre-commercial Precision Fermentation pilot-to-scale demonstrator has now been completed. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the opportunity for Ireland outlining the potential role of a national pilot-scale facility to support the next generation of innovation.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