‘Innovation Policies and Knowledge Transfer: Some Experiences from Ireland’

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Outline

* South-East regional profile
* Policy overview
* Regional perspective
South-East region profile

- Functional Area (5 Counties): Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford
- Area: 9,406 Sq. Kms. – 13.5% of State
- Balanced Urban Structure; good rural settlement pattern
- Population (2011): 497,578 (8% increase from 2006) – 10.85% of State
- Projected Population (2016): 542,200
- Population Density – 52 persons/sq. km.
South-East region urban centres

Main urban centres:

- **Waterford City & Environs** – 51,519
- **Kilkenny** – 24,423
- **Carlow** – 23,030
- **Wexford** – 20,072
- **Clonmel** – 17,908
- **Dungarvan** – 9,427

(Figures based on CSO 2011 [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie))
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic indicators</th>
<th>South-East</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVA per capita (2009)</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (2012)</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
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<td>Labour Force participation rate</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
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<td>Rate of growth in unemployment since 2008</td>
<td>+11.4%</td>
<td>+7.3%</td>
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Main Industries

- Agriculture, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals,
- Healthcare, Manufacturing, Tourism, Services

Company/Business Size

- @ 12,400 enterprises in the Region
- @ 80% + are micro-enterprises

Employment by Sectors (Q1 2011)

- Wholesale & Retail  28,500
- Industry  27,200
- Human Health & Social Work  23,200
- Agriculture  18,100

Employment – assisted companies:

- IDA: + 12,000 persons in the Region
- EI: + 32,000 persons in the Region
Higher Level Education

- 4 Third-level education institutions in SE Region
  - Waterford institute of Technology
  - Institute of Technology Carlow
  - Limerick Institute of Technology (Clonmel)
  - Carlow College
  - Outreach (Wexford, Kilkenny)

- Total FTEs approx. 11,000 +
- 3rd level participation rates and qualification levels below national averages
National Policy overview

- Economic crisis catalyst
- More hands-on approach from government – prioritise support for RDI, targeted / interventionist measures
- ‘Smart specialisation’ strategies – identify areas of potential – concentrate on limited priorities leading to excellence, economic returns
- R&D spend lower than OECD and EU-27 avgs.
- Innovation, KT, R&D policy tends to be top down
Centrality of research and innovation towards achieving knowledge economy (‘Erawatch’)

- Policies seek to attract FDI, facilitate the commercialisation of public research
- Supports aims of Lisbon Agenda, aligned with European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures
- Europe 2020
- Funding priorities favour HEI-industry linkages
- Review of research funding priorities
"Where national priorities and European priorities match we will find the areas of greatest opportunity". The recently published report from the Research Prioritisation Steering Group, which has been adopted by Government, has identified 14 priority areas that are the focus of future State investment in research and innovation.
Main national policy driver

Vision and Innovation Taskforce

- Suitability of Ireland to become an Innovation hub
- Creation of innovation eco-system
- Investing 3% of GDP in R&D
- Co-ordinated public research investment
- Marketing, attracting high quality
- Venture capital
- IP best practice, metrics and protocols
- Education system promoting creativity and entrepreneurial skills
- Strengthen linkages between education and industry
- Physical infrastructure – broadband, lab space, incubation
Key Policy Documents

- Maximising the environment for company research and development (2010) – ACSTI
- Science, Technology and Innovation – Delivering the Smart Economy (2009) – developing ‘smart’ economy through strategic investment in R&D
Technology Transfer

- Role of Enterprise Ireland [www.enterprise-ireland.ie](http://www.enterprise-ireland.ie)
- Commenced Technology Transfer programme in 2006
- In South-East, TT Office is based in Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)
- Facilitate level and quality of IP from research in HEIs
- Identification, development, protection and transfer
- Network of TTO in HEIs (10+) resulted in significant increase in commercialisation activity
- Although young, performing well internationally
- 2007-2010: 82% of IP from HEIs was transferred to companies in Ireland
Map of Ireland’s Technology Transfer System

Technology Transfer Offices:
1. Dublin City University
2. Dublin Institute of Technology
3. NUI Galway
4. NUI Maynooth
5. Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
6. Trinity College Dublin
7. University College Cork
8. University College Dublin
9. University of Limerick
10. Waterford Institute of Technology

Other colleges engaged in the Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative:
1. Athlone Institute of Technology
2. Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
3. Dundalk Institute of Technology
4. Cork Institute of Technology
5. Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
6. Limerick Institute of Technology
7. Letterkenny Institute of Technology
8. Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown
9. Institute of Technology, Carlow
10. Institute of Technology, Sligo
11. Institute of Technology, Tallaght
12. Institute of Technology, Tralee
13. National College of Ireland
14. The National College of Art and Design
Research centres

- **Advisory Council on Science, Technology and Innovation (ACSTI, 2012)** – “Sustainability of Research Centres” recommendations on how to support research centres
- Optimise return (economic and social) on State investments in RDI “maximising economic impact”
- 14 key areas – National Prioritisation Exercise
- Balance between academic and commercial outputs
- Metrics and common indicators to be developed
- Oversight, sustainability, funding diversification, incentivisation
Source: InterTrade Ireland

Research & Technological Development Centres (RTD) – approx. 225
Key policy areas that impact Innovation, KT and RDI

- National Spatial Strategy 2012-2020
- Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022
- Future of Higher Education to 2030
  ‘The Hunt Report’

Other developments

- Local and regional government review
- Role of regions and structures to change
- Other unknowns
Higher Education Authority (HEA) - research and research capacity at HEI level (PRTLI programme)

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) – funding support, programmes to strengthen research bases “how Ireland needs to target future R&D investments in areas that have a direct link to both future economic and societal needs”

Enterprise Ireland (EI) – wide ranging supports for innovation, technology and knowledge transfer E.g. TTO, Innovation Vouchers

BICS, CEBs, IDA, Forfas
Regional perspective

- Policy is centralised, driven by national government.
- Policy context and framework is clear, but...
  “less clear is role of regional development and in particular imbalances between different regions”, “a deficiency in the national innovation policy that should be addressed as a matter of priority” (BMW Audit of Innovation System, 2011)
- Little or no spatial or regional emphasis “deficient in recognition of role of regions innovation systems as a complement to national innovation system”
- No defined or specific policy unique to SE region, but ..
Regional perspective

* Activity at regional level
* Technological University, amalgamation, 2014/2015
* Clustering, critical mass and scale, exchange
* Kilkenny Innovation & Research Centre (2012) collaborative, high quality
* ArcLabs Innovation Centre (WIT)
* Importance in regions aligning their policies with national priorities and government objectives
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Multumesc!
Thank you for listening