

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



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Outline

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



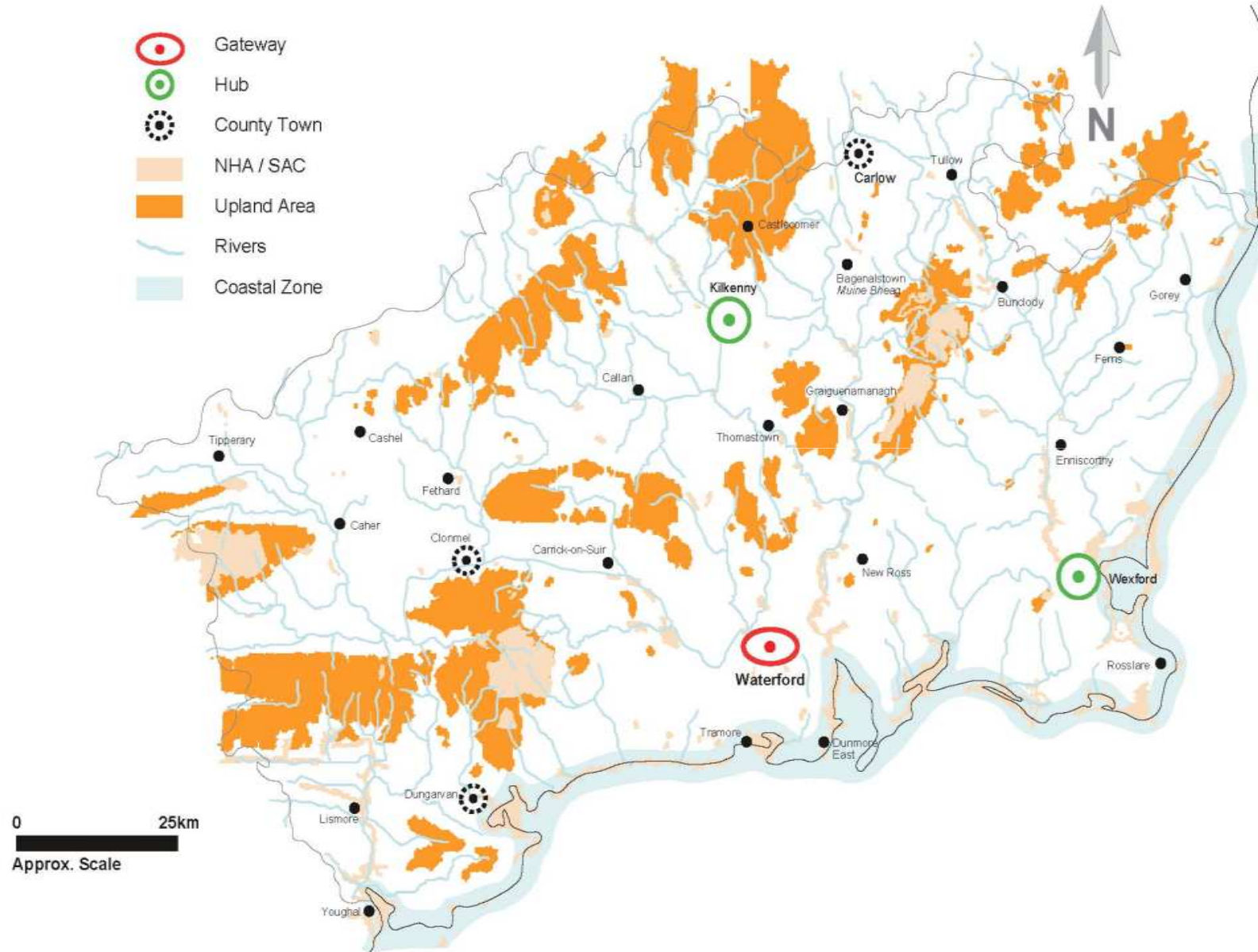
KT
FORCE
knowledge as a value



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.

Natural & Physical Characteristics of the South East Region



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)

Economic indicators

	South-East	National
GVA per capita (2009)	68.3%	100%
Unemployment rate (2012)	18.9%	14.8%
Labour Force participation rate	57.8%	60.2%
Rate of growth in unemployment since 2008	+11.4%	+7.3%

South-East industry & employment

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**(undergraduate, postgraduate, research, post-doctoral)
 - 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

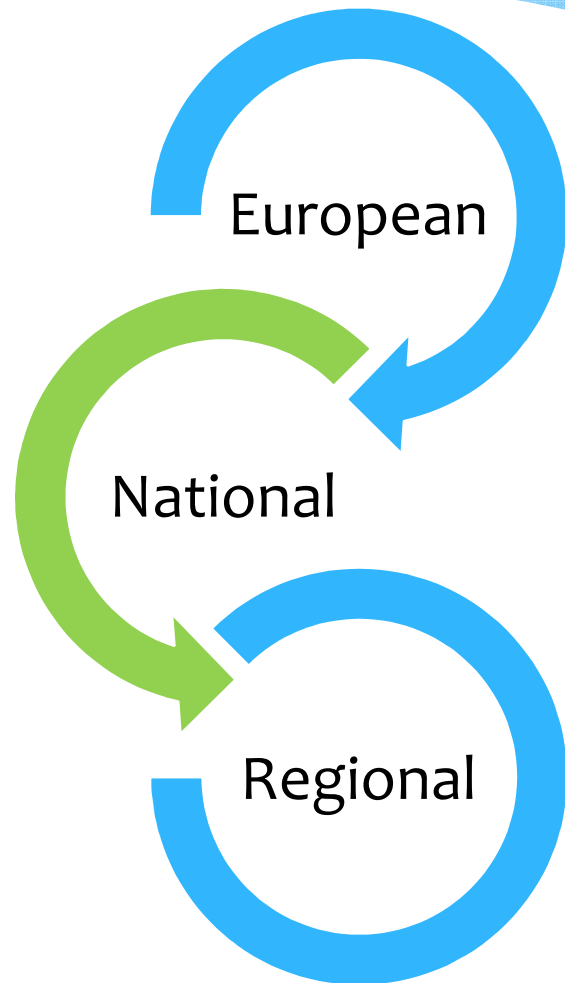
- * Economic crisis catalyst
- * More hands-on approach from government – prioritise support for RDI, targeted / interventionist measures
- * ‘Smart specialisation’ strategies – identify areas of potential – concentrate on limited priorities leading to excellence, economic returns
- * R&D spend lower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

National Policy overview II

- * 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

Policy hierarchy

Alignment



Aligning with the EU's R&I strategies

"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

- * **Innovation Taskforce: Report of the Innovation Taskforce (2010)
Positioning Ireland as an
Innovation Hub**

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

- * Report of the Research Prioritisation Steering Group (2011) Forfás
- * Review of supports for exploitation of IP from Higher Education Research (2010)
- * Maximising the environment for company research and development (2010) – ACSTI
- * Sharing our future (2009) – Forfás– *Enterprise Development, long-term assessment*
- * Sustaining Investment in R&D (2009) – ACTSI - *priorities for R&D investment*
- * 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
- * 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

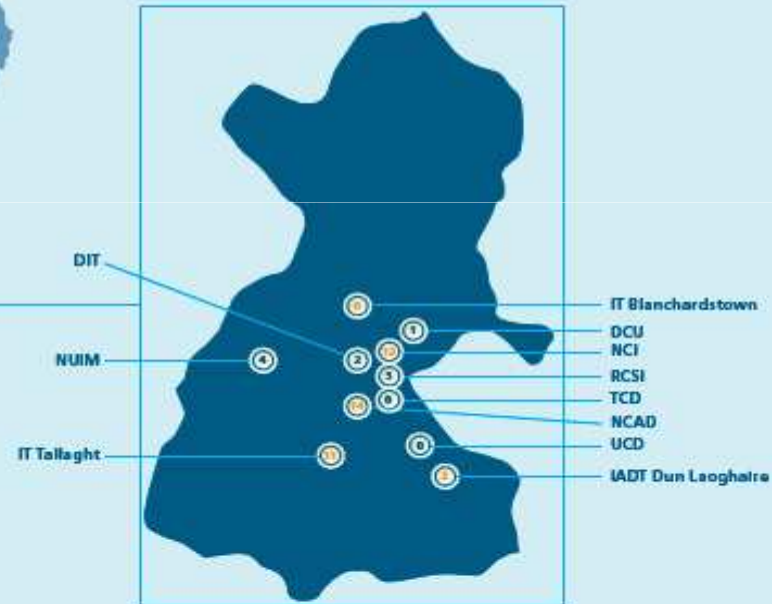


Technology Transfer Offices:

- 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

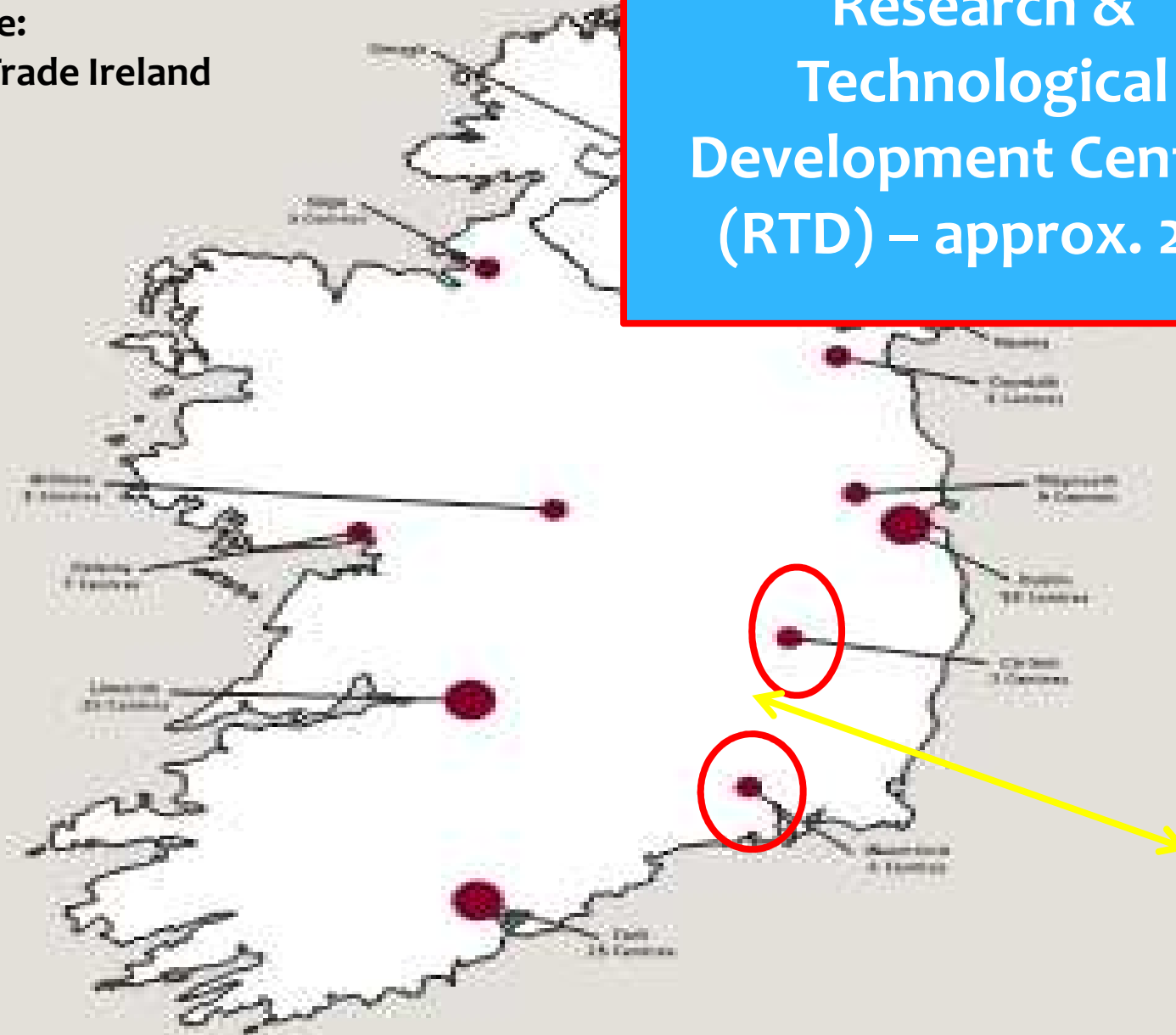


Research centres

- * **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

Other key players in supporting innovation

- * **Higher Education Authority (HEA)** - research and research capacity at HEI level (PRTL 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

