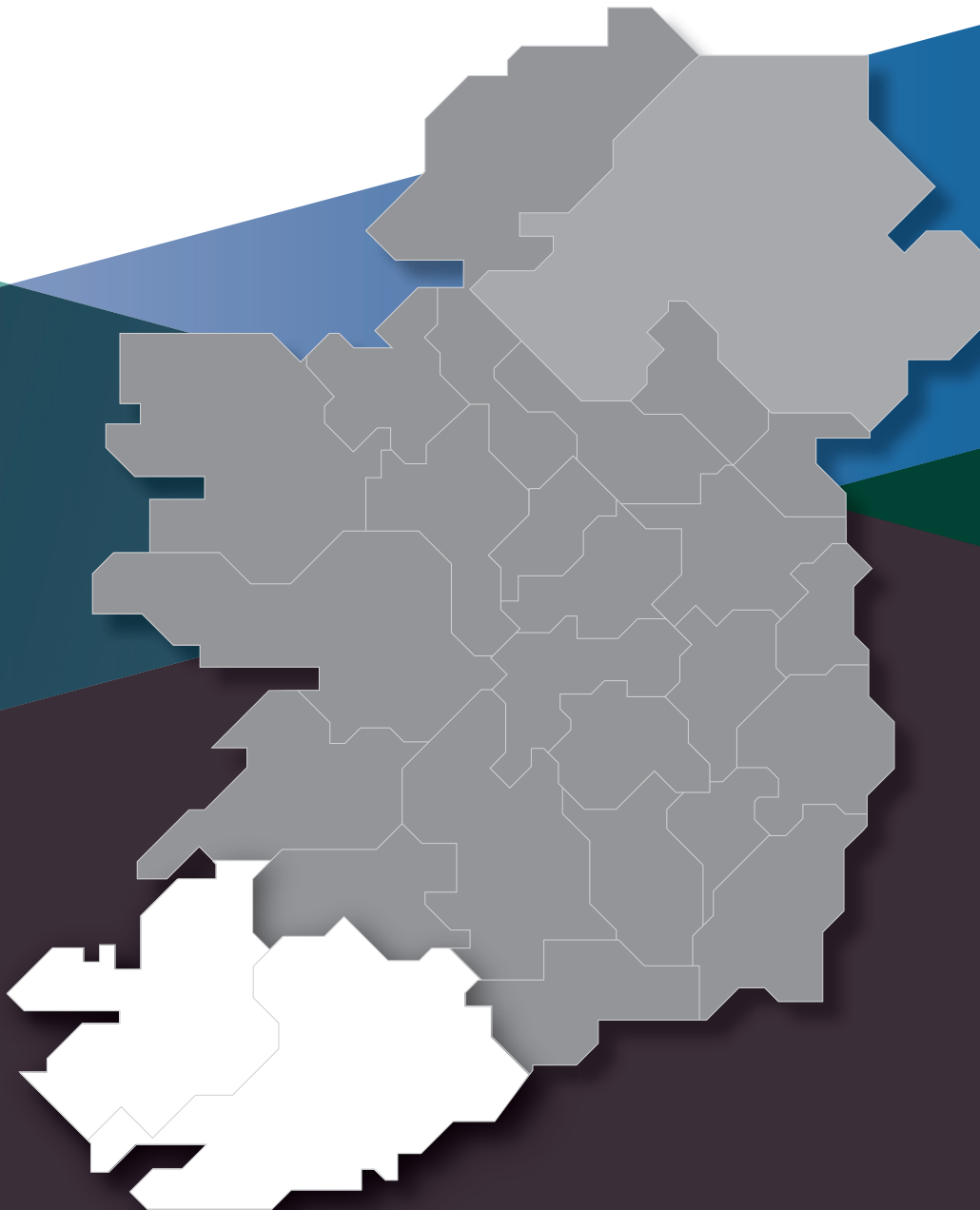




Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

SOUTH-WEST

Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 – First Progress Report



An initiative of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

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1. Introduction

The South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 is one of nine regional enterprise plans launched in early 2019 by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. The Plan was developed by regional stakeholders, and as a 'bottom-up' initiative, it complements national enterprise policies and programmes. The Plan is a 'live' agenda that allows new initiatives to be considered in addition to the strategic focus it currently contains.

The principle underpinning the Regional Enterprise Plans is collaboration between regional stakeholders on initiatives that can help to realise each region's enterprise development potential, adding value to the core activities being delivered by the enterprise agencies, LEOs and other bodies in the region.

Implementation of the Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 for the South-West is being delivered by the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Adrienne Harrington, Chief Executive, Ludgate Hub. During 2019, Ross Church was appointed jointly by the Local Authorities in the South-West and is providing project management support to the initiative. The South-West Steering Committee has met on two occasions during 2019, and as part of the implementation process has formed smaller Working Groups to drive delivery of actions or groups of actions.

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has oversight of the nine Plans nationally, and in September 2019 facilitated collective engagement between the Chairs of the Steering Committees with the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation. This meeting provided an opportunity for updating on progress, sharing good practice, and identifying areas for potential inter-regional cooperation.

Climate Action Plan 2019 has tasked each of the Regional Steering Committees with considering 'Just Transition' as part of their ongoing agenda. On 20 November 2019, Just Transition was included as an Agenda item for the first time by the South-West Steering Committee and this facilitated a discussion on the topic. Just Transition will remain as a standing item on the Steering Committee's agenda.

The South-West Regional Enterprise Plan is focused around 6 Strategic Objectives to positively influence enterprise and job creation in the region. The South-West Plan is looking to build capability and resilience in enterprise; develop enterprise hubs; leverage opportunities through business clustering; increase capacity in the tourism sector; support the marine & maritime sector and ensure the availability of skills and talent.

This Year 1 Progress Report details of the progress that has been made to date on the South-West Plan. It also reports on the outcomes from the Enterprise Agencies and LEOs' core activities in the region during the year. Of particular significance for the region in 2019 is that in excess of €7.3 million has been secured for the South-West under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF). (detailed in Appendix 1).

Finally, overall employment creation and levels of unemployment continue on a positive track in the South-West. Since the first Regional Action Plan for Jobs was introduced in Q1 2015, 43,300 more people are in employment in the South-West, and the region currently has an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent, down from 10.5 percent in Q1 2015, which means that the region has already exceeded the targets set in relation to employment growth and the reduction in unemployment since 2015.

2. Enterprise Agencies and LEO activities in South-West in 2019

In order to achieve the 2020 employment targets and maintain strong regional enterprise and job creation performance, the Strategic Objectives and collaborative actions identified for the South-West region in the Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 are complemented by the ongoing core activities of the Enterprise Agencies (IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland) and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).

Representatives of the Enterprise Agencies and the four LEOs are active members on the REP Steering Committee in the Midlands and will continue to work with regional stakeholders on key regional enterprise ecosystem strengthening initiatives in the region in 2020.

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

IDA Ireland is currently completing work on its new five-year strategy which will focus on attracting foreign direct investment across all regions. Enterprise Ireland launched its regional plan 'Powering the Regions' in 2019, and in 2020, will commence the preparation of a new corporate strategy, the successor to 'Build Scale and Expand Reach 2017-2020.

Over the course of 2019, the enterprise agencies and the LEOs have achieved impact in a number of areas as they continue to roll out their core activities across all of the regions. The following summarises some key results and developments during the year.

Enterprise Ireland Activities

During 2019, Enterprise Ireland published a new plan 'Powering the Regions' to accelerate growth throughout Ireland's regions. The plan is built on four key pillars, each of which support the nine Regional Enterprise Plans.

4 Key Pillars

1. Maximising growth of Enterprise Ireland clients in the regions
2. Strengthening regional infrastructure to maximise future growth of Irish enterprise in the regions
3. Support entrepreneurship in all regions
4. Work in collaboration to deliver regional growth

In 2019, 16,971 new jobs were created by clients of Enterprise Ireland in all regions with 66% of this growth delivered outside of Dublin. Enterprise Ireland clients employed a record high of 221,895 during the year.

€24m was invested in 127 startups with 42% of these located outside Dublin.

During 2019, Enterprise Ireland ran a third competition for projects under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund. Minister Humphreys announced in January 2020 that under the fund 26 projects across every region were approved funding of over €40m and these will make an important contribution to the delivery of the Regional Enterprise Plans. This builds upon nearly €60m already approved under the Fund.

In December 2019, Ministers Humphreys and McHugh announced €4.6m in government funding under the Enterprise Ireland Regional Technology Clustering Fund to establish 12 technology clusters in partnership with the Institutes of Technology across the country.

In 2019, the Local Enterprise Offices also worked successfully with their clients to assist 162 companies transfer to Enterprise Ireland to help them scale.

In 2019, there were 29,958 people employed in 701 EI supported companies in the South-West.

Recent EI announcements include:

- EDPAC International – 50 jobs in Cork
- Poppulo – 125 jobs in Cork
- Cosmetic Creation – 60 jobs in Cork

LEO Activities

In 2019, the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) continued to be the ‘first stop shop’ providing entrepreneurs with advice, guidance, financial assistance and other supports available to assist with starting or growing their own businesses, with 31 offices spread throughout the country the LEOs are truly operating at the coalface of job creation and regional development in Ireland, providing a ‘signposting’ service for all the relevant supports available through the state.

The LEOs offer grant aid to businesses employing less than 10 people in manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors which have the potential to develop into strong export entities. They approved 291 priming grants to new start-ups, 80% of the approvals were to companies regionally.

To assist in their remit of developing regional employment, the LEOs also offer ‘soft’ supports by way of training (85%) mentoring (75%) and targeted programmes such as LEAN for micro (90%)*. Participation in these has been successfully targeted by the LEO teams in each of the regions.

In particular, the LEO’s have awarded €2.5m in funding to 16 successful applicants through the LEO Competitive Fund, applications were open to individual LEOs; collaborative projects between two or more LEOs; and LEOs working with other local groups like Chambers, Community Enterprise Centres, Education or training bodies, Local Authorities or colleges. All projects are aligned with the strategic objectives in the Regional Enterprise Plans and the ambitions in Future Jobs Ireland.

The LEOs supported 38,535 jobs across 7,400 client companies in 2019 of which there was an additional 148 companies outside of the Dublin region. 3,149 net jobs were created during the year and 78% of these were produced outside of the Dublin region with an even distribution across the regions. This is the 6th year of continuous employment growth for the LEOs since their inception in 2014. LEOs saw increases across all supports in 2019 including training, mentoring and funding. The number of those trained in 2019 was up 6.4% last year with 37,306 availing of training through their Local Enterprise Office. There was also an 10.5% increase in mentoring assignments completed, with 10,756 clients benefitting from LEO mentoring.

Over €20million was invested in LEO clients and start-ups last year, up from €18.2million in 2018.

There were an additional 413 net jobs created in the South-West in LEO supported companies in 2019.

*Shows the regional percentage of the overall excluding Dublin.

IDA Activities

IDA Ireland is the State's inward investment promotion agency. The mission of the agency is to partner with multi-national companies to win and develop foreign direct investment, providing jobs for the economic and social benefit of Ireland. Regional development is a key pillar of IDA's strategy.

Supporting the execution of the Regional Enterprise Plans across the country through our Regional Manager network and through working with strategic FDI stakeholders, has helped support and drive collaborative Regional enterprise objectives.

IDA Ireland concluded strategy, 'Winning: Foreign Direct Investment' 2015-2019 in December 2019. The Strategy set out ambitious targets to support the delivery of its mission to win and develop Foreign Direct Investment in Ireland. These targets included a focus on;

- Winning 900 new investments for Ireland
- Supporting clients in creating 80,000 new jobs
- Growing market share and helping maximise the impact of FDI investments
- Driving greater balanced Regional Development

For the first time, ambitious investment targets were set for each region. IDA targeted a minimum 30% to 40% increase in the number of investments for each Region outside Dublin.

Following the conclusion of 'Winning: 2015 - 2019, the key highlights and impact for Regional Development in Ireland are as follows;

- 516 investments overall were won across Regions over the past five years
- 50% uplift in investments for Regions recorded over the course of the five-year strategy
- Every Region delivered the five-year Strategy target of a 30-40% uplift in investments on previous Strategy
- 54,868 jobs were created outside of Dublin over the past five years
- 33,118 additional direct jobs (net) on the ground in Regions
- 57% of total FDI employment is now located in Regional locations

To deliver on these ambitious targets IDA Ireland has;

- Worked with public bodies and the private sector on regional action plans
- Worked with existing clients to retain and strengthen their presence in each region
- Increased Global Business Services and High-Tech Manufacturing investments
- Aligned IDA business sectors with regional strengths to develop sectoral ecosystems
- Worked more closely with EI and its client companies to identify synergies, enhance clusters, participate in site visits and maximise benefits for the region through the Global Sourcing Program
- Delivered property solutions in designated regional locations
- Increased IDA Ireland's regional footprint to adequately support the regional strategy

In addition to direct employment and skills transfer, IDA Ireland's client companies have a hugely positive effect on the local economy with over eight jobs being created for every 10 jobs in an FDI company. 50% of the €5.7bn in annual capital expenditure by IDA client companies occurs outside of Dublin. These investments have been won despite the demographical challenges that exist and international trends of greater urbanisation.

IDA Ireland is committed to playing its part in the economic development of Ireland's regions. However, winning investments is a challenge and will require a continued collaborative effort by all national and regional stakeholders.

Regional locations must continuously demonstrate the capability to deliver on a number of exacting criteria which generally inform the location decisions of multinationals.

An assessment of investments delivered for regions since 2015, would confirm the strategic importance of the following key criteria in actually influencing the investment decision;

- Critical mass in population
- The ability to attract and develop appropriate skills
- The presence of Third Level Institutes
- The existence of clusters of companies in specific industry sectors
- Regional Infrastructure
- Regional Place Making Strategies
- Availability of high spec standard manufacturing and commercial office properties

To support the delivery of IDA's current strategy and the attraction of investments into different parts of the country, a €150m property investment plan was announced in 2015. IDA Ireland's approach of developing strategic sites and developing advanced buildings has proven to be hugely successful. In 2019, IDA Ireland continued its building programme with the design and construction underway of advanced buildings in Sligo, Dundalk, Athlone, Waterford, Galway, Monaghan and Limerick.

IDA Ireland is currently completing work on a new five-year strategy. This strategy will take account of the changing nature of work and the impact of technology on specific sectors. Profound changes are occurring in the world of work and this is already reflected in the jobs being created by the IDA Ireland client base.

We can see an increasing complexity in the roles being created, technology skills becoming ubiquitous across roles, increasing demand for business professionals and a fall in the number of low-skilled jobs including back office support and basic manufacturing. This transition is likely to impact the nature and type of roles across the regions of Ireland.

Building on the success achieved to date, IDA will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders and parties in the regions to realise the economic potential and ambition of Ireland's regions under the Regional Enterprise Plans to 2020.

In 2019, the South-West has 202 IDA supported companies employing 42,847 people, up 4.2% from 2018.

Recent IDA announcements include:

- DePuy - €36m investment in Cork
- Forcepoint - 100 jobs in Cork
- JRI - 100 jobs in Kerry
- Stryker - €200m investment in Cork
- Jacobs - 200 jobs in Cork
- Janssen Sciences Ireland - 200 jobs in Cork

3. South-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 – Progress Report

SOUTH-WEST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



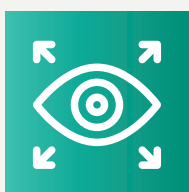
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

Build capability and resilience in the region's enterprise base.



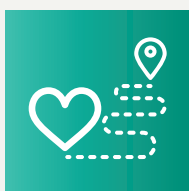
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Develop the region's enterprise hubs.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Leverage the opportunities offered through business clustering to drive enterprise performance and resilience in the South-West (including a focus on building internationalisation capability amongst indigenous companies).



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

Increase the capacity of the tourism sector through skills development and seasonal extension, and ensure that the region's natural heritage, culture and living landscapes are appropriately managed and protected.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5:

Support growth in the region's marine and maritime sector.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6:

Ensure the availability of skills and talent to underpin the region's economic growth potential.

2019 Highlights



A pilot remote working initiative between members of it@Cork and the Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen has made good progress and will continue to develop during 2020



The Action Learning Workshop on clustering development and practice which was held in CIT and was supported by the Interreg Europe ecoRIS3 project and raised awareness and built knowledge on clustering in the South-West



Developed two new Industry 4.0 upskilling programmes on Intelligent Manufacturing Systems and Industrial Internet-of-Things



New Visitor Experience Development Plans are being launched by Fáilte Ireland in 2020 in the following parts of the South-West:

- Dingle Peninsula
- West Cork's Haven Coast
- West Cork's Three Heads
- North Kerry/South Clare



The formation of the Marine/Maritime Working Group represents a strong first step towards the development of a broader stakeholder network for the sector in the South-West



Fexco opened the RDI Hub a €21m research and development centre in Killorglin, Co. Kerry with over 125 staff supported by funding of over €3.6 million from the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF)

Detailed Action Updates

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

1

Build capability and resilience in the region's enterprise base.



Action 1:

Design and deliver a pilot 'Hack-a-Team' initiative as an additional means to providing resources to early stage companies/ entrepreneurs. The initiative will be focused on building a team around potential projects and promoters with a view to funding the model, rather than funding the applicant, to assist the applicant for a defined period of time to develop, strengthen, and test their business idea. The pilot could be developed with focus on a particular sector.

Working Group Members:

IT Tralee, CIT, Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, LEO South Cork, LEO North & West Cork, LEO Kerry, LEO Cork City, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Commence the planning and design of a new, novel initiative called "Hack-a-Team".
- Submit a joint application for funding from the four LEOs in the region to support the initiative.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

A joint application was submitted to the LEO Competitive Fund. However, this application was not successful in securing funding on this occasion. Efforts will be made in 2020 to re-examine the application to see what improvements can be made and whether there are opportunities to find new areas of focus.

The Working Group agreed to undertake a mapping exercise of the funding and supports available to start-ups/SMEs in the region and look to see where greater synergies can be found.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Work with the four LEOs to reshape LEO competitive fund application to prepare for future funding rounds (Timing dependent on funding calls).
- Complete mapping exercise of existing start-up supports in the region (Q1 2020)

Action 2:

'Showcase' advanced technologies, including the establishment of 'Smart City/Village/Town' pilot sites, in the region. This 'showcase' of advanced technologies and their industry applications will be delivered in the South- West, targeted at relevant sector(s) for the region.

Working Group Members:

IT Tralee, CIT, Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, Cork Smart Gateway, Enterprise Ireland, the Dingle Hub

Timeframe for delivery:

Q2 2020

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Provide further clarity around the scope of the action and to decide on the type of initiatives to be pursued as well as to define a 'showcase'.
- Examine the wording of the action to ensure that urban and city-based locations are included, in addition to towns and villages.
- Bring together the range of practitioners, academics and policy makers in the field to ensure greater collaboration.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

Working Group 1 of the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan agreed that a smaller group should be convened to discuss how to move forward with Strategic Objective 1, Action 2 on "Smart Initiatives".

A meeting of the Local Authorities and the HEIs was convened to explore, at the regional level: whether there are more synergies; where gaps exist; and how greater engagement with industry can be achieved.

A Hackathon type event in 2020 could be pursued in order to showcase the gaps/challenges and invite solutions.

For the purposes of the Action, it was agreed that the main focus should be on challenges around services within the Local Authority areas (Cork City, Cork County, Kerry).

The South-West has to date demonstrated a strong ability to progress and innovate in this area. Work will continue to see how greater linkages across the region can be harnessed to ultimately identify challenges and offer opportunities for industry to find solutions to these.

Collaboration within this action will also support the development of digital strategies in the three Local Authority areas.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Each organisation within the sub-group will submit a summary document (1 – 2 pages) of their current activities/research areas so as to establish a baseline in the region.
- Each individual Local Authority will continue to develop their digital strategies into 2020.
- In this regard, a specific briefing from DBEI/the Department of the Taoiseach would be very beneficial to the South-West region in order to support and provide guidance to the Local Authorities in their drafting of digital strategies.
- The sharing around individual digital strategies and greater collaboration around smart initiatives will also contribute to and inform activities around Just Transition.
- Organise regional hack-a-thon to engage with industry as part of a challenge-based approach to solutions for municipal services/competencies (Q2 2020)

Action 3:

Assess upskilling needs and knowledge transfer/strengthening opportunities in relevant sector(s) to support the adoption of advanced and disruptive technologies in the South-West, in particular those pertaining to the transition to a low carbon economy. As part of the work of the South-West Regional Skills Forum (Strategic Objective 6), companies in sectors undergoing, or with the potential to be disrupted by, technological transformation, will be given priority in order to understand emerging skills needs and the ability of current services/training programmes to meet these.

Working Group Members:

The Regional Skills Forum, HEIs, EI, Local Authorities, IDA, ETBs

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Working in conjunction with the South-West Regional Skills Forum, identify the skills and training needs that will be required to support changes and the adoption of advanced/disruptive technologies.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

- Under the Regional Skills Forum (RSF) an Industry 4.0 Skills Requirements Planning Group was established.
- This Group was comprised of companies from the RSF manufacturing/engineering and pharma/biopharma groups in summer 2018.
- These companies had requirements in advanced/disruptive space to capture the skills capabilities and needs and the RSF have, as a result of this, developed two new Industry 4.0 upskilling programmes.
- These programmes are: a Level 8 Intelligent Manufacturing Systems programme in CIT and, a Level 8 Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things in IT Tralee.
- Many of the medtech, pharma, automotive, computer and electrical manufacturing companies in the region have signed staff up to these programmes.
- CIT's programme started in September 2019 and IT Tralee's will start in 2020.
- The RSF had good input from a range of company experts across relevant industry sectors throughout the process.
- IT Tralee have also submitted and secured funding for a new Level 9 PG Diploma in Bioeconomy with Business.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

As it is still a relatively new area, and the specific skills requirements and capabilities of companies, is under ongoing review as technology and subsequent requirements advance so the RSF expect further uptake of these in the future.

Following on from the requirement for the Regional Steering Committee to include Just Transition as a standing item on its agenda, there will be further engagement with the RSF on this topic.

Action 4:

Support the development of key strategic sites within the region so as to ensure capacity for enterprise development and growth, in particular the targeting of brown field sites in urban areas.

Working Group Members:

IDA Ireland, Local Authorities, EI, industry

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Ensure that there was continued good collaboration between the Local Authorities, IDA Ireland and industry around the development of key strategic sites in the region.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

- IDA Ireland has continued its close engagement with the Local Authorities in the relation to the identification of key strategic sites in the region during 2019.
- IDA Ireland and the three Local Authorities undertook to continue their good engagement around strategic sites in the region, in particular around the brownfield sites.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- IDA Ireland will continue to closely engage with the three Local Authorities on needs, progress and developments.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

2

Develop the region's enterprise hubs.

**Action 1:**

Establish a network among the South-West's Tech and Enterprise Hubs. Hubs in the region to be invited to join a learning network that will facilitate innovation, best practice learning and development of services.

Working Group Members:

Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, KerrySciTech, it@Cork, RDI Hub, CIT, UCC, ITT, Dingle Hub, Ludgate Hub, Department of Rural and Community Development, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Timeframe for delivery:

Q2 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Scope the interest and willingness of enterprise/innovation/digital hubs in the South-West to form a learning network to support collaboration and improve best practice.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

- A Working Group was formed to further develop the practicalities required to form a learning network.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) have been invited to further engage with the South-West region so that there is alignment and coordination across different initiatives around hubs that are being undertaken.
- The work of the existing network of hubs in Kerry will be built on to establish a regional learning network.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- The terms of reference of a learning network will be completed.
- Working with the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) Hub Strategy project, the South-West will complete a comprehensive exercise in identifying and classifying the hubs in the region. This will in turn support the establishment of the network as well as inform the scope of its work.
- These terms of reference will consider how best both the public and privately-operated hubs can work together within the learning network.
- A programme of work/thematic areas will be developed for the learning network.
- A briefing from DBEI on the results of their remote working in Ireland research project will be requested.
- Work with incoming Cork County Digital Innovation Officer to integrate Cork hubs into network (Q1 2020).

Action 2:
Best practice sharing among Tech and Enterprise Hubs in the region. Examples of best practice activity and service provision to be highlighted and shared among network members.
Working Group Members:
Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, KerrySciTech, it@Cork, RDI Hub, CIT, UCC, ITT, Dingle Hub, Ludgate Hub, Department of Rural and Community Development, Údarás na Gaeltachta
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Status:
Delayed
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress under this action will be more substantial in 2020 following the establishment of the learning network.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress under this action will be more substantial in 2020 following the establishment of the learning network.
What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workplan for this action will be based on the needs of the learning network and will also be informed by working with the new Digital Innovation Officer for Cork County as well as other possible regionally appointed/funded initiatives.
Action 3:
Showcase best practices locally and internationally to Tech and Enterprise Hubs and provide a conduit for connecting member firms across these entities.
Working Group Members:
Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, KerrySciTech, it@Cork, RDI Hub, CIT, UCC, ITT, Dingle Hub, Ludgate Hub, Department of Rural and Community Development, Údarás na Gaeltachta
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019

Status:
Delayed
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress under this action will be more substantial in 2020 following the establishment of the learning network.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress under this action will be more substantial in 2020 following the establishment of the learning network.
What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workplan for this action will be based on the needs of the learning network and will also be informed by working with the new Digital Innovation Officer for Cork County as well as other possible regionally appointed/funded initiatives.
Action 4:
Assess the potential for a remote working initiative targeting particular sectors/companies.
Working Group Members:
Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, KerrySciTech, it@Cork, RDI Hub, CIT, UCC, ITT, Dingle Hub, Ludgate Hub, Department of Rural and Community Development, Údarás na Gaeltachta
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Status:
Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope interest and feasibility of introducing a remote working pilot initiative amongst a particular sector or company.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good progress has been made in piloting a remote working initiative between members of it@Cork and the Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen.
What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work on the it@Cork and Ludgate Hub pilot initiative will be developed. Opportunities for other pilot initiatives with other sectors and other parts of the region will be explored.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

3

Leverage the opportunities offered through business clustering to drive enterprise performance and resilience in the South-West (including a focus on building internationalisation capability amongst indigenous companies).

**Action 1:**

Action Learning Workshop on clustering development and practice.

Working Group Members:

HEIs, Cyber Ireland, ecoRIS3, Chambers, Local Authorities, other regional stakeholders

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work commenced & was completed in 2019

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Action Learning Workshop on clustering development and practice to be delivered, bringing together policymakers, practitioners, academics and industry.
- Foster greater understanding on clustering and cluster organization in the South-West.
- Use the outcomes of the Action Learning Workshop to inform cluster policy development at the national level.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

- The Action Learning Workshop was delivered on 15th May 2019 by Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) on behalf of the SWREP and DBEI, and with the support of the Interreg Europe ecoRIS3 project.
- A full report on the Action Learning Workshop is contained in Annex I of this Progress Report.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- The Action Learning Workshop was an important step in contributing to raising awareness and knowledge of clustering, cluster initiatives and cluster organisations in the South-West.
- These learnings will contribute to the work plan and steps required under Action 2 below.

Action 2:

Develop cross sectoral collaboration and market access strategies amongst the emerging clusters both regionally and nationally.

Working Group Members:

HEIs, Cyber Ireland, ecoRIS3, Chambers, Local Authorities, other regional stakeholders, DBEI

Timeframe for delivery:
Q1 2020
Status:
Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster greater understanding on clustering and cluster organisation in the South-West. • Use the outcomes of the Action Learning Workshop to inform cluster policy development at the national level.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SWREP Programme Manager, CIT, and DBEI representatives took part in ecoRIS3 Study Visit to the Piedmont region in Northern Italy to gain deeper knowledge of some of the institutions and initiatives specifically regarding clustering supports. • The learnings from this study visit will be used to help the South-West inform and contribute to the development of a National Clustering Policy.
What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Q1 2020 a meeting of cluster managers will be convened. This meeting will include cluster managers not only from the South-West but also the other regions. • DBEI and the enterprise agencies will be invited to participate in the meeting so that it can be used to support and inform the formulation of a National Cluster Policy – as part of Future Jobs 2020.
Action 3:
Undertake an examination of the current suite of supports and advice available to businesses in the South-West who want to grow their international reach and convene an industry focus group to explore opportunities to strengthen the offering so as to increase the performance of the region's indigenous businesses.
Working Group Members:
Rep Steering Committee members
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Status:
Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a mapping exercise of the international supports available to businesses (in particular for start-ups and SMEs) in the South-West.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

Progress under this action concerning the supports and advice available to businesses wanting to grow their international reach will be closely aligned with the efforts being undertaken by Enterprise Ireland to increase the proportion of Irish companies that are exporting. These efforts form part of the work that was recommended by an OECD Review of SME and Entrepreneurship Policy in Ireland and an accompanying roadmap with priority areas for implementation.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Support the organisation of events under the “Joining the Dots” initiative which aims to grow the links between the South-West and the UK.
- Map the international connections and relationships that are developed by the three Local Authorities in the region.
- Support the work of the LEOs, Enterprise Ireland and Chambers of Commerce in the region in promoting firms to expand and grow their international reach.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

4

Increase the capacity of the tourism sector through skills development and seasonal extension, and ensure that the region's natural heritage, culture and living landscapes are appropriately managed and protected.

**Action 1:**

Investigate potential for a tourism/hospitality training Centre of Excellence in the region. This action will be explored by the REP Steering Committee in the context of the planned merger of ITT and CIT.

Working Group Members:

Kerry County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, CIT, ITT, Fáilte Ireland, Kerry ETB, Cork ETB

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Delayed

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Undertake a comprehensive examination of the potential for a tourism/hospitality Centre of Excellence in the region.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

A funding application for feasibility study was not submitted in 2019, though an application will be prepared for future funding calls.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- CIT and IT Tralee will continue to scope out the practicalities and design of tourism/hospitality Centre of Excellence.
- There will also be continued consultation between CIT, ITT and relevant stakeholders on the tourism potential presented by the Transatlantic Cable Station in Valentia.

Action 2:

Work with Cork (City and County) and Kerry County to unlock the economic growth potential of the area by progressing a range of key initiatives that will motivate and facilitate potential tourists to visit and stay in the local area through the implementation of the Visitor Experience Development Plans (VEDPs).

Working Group Members:

Kerry County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, CIT, ITT, Fáilte Ireland, Kerry ETB, Cork ETB

Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2020
Status:
Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of KPIs and the work of tourism officers across the region in their delivery.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress has been reported by Fáilte Ireland on the existing Visitor Experience Development Plans (VEDPs) in the region as well as those due for development in the coming months into 2020 (Skelligs, Dingle, Three Heads, Haven Coast, East Cork/City, Killarney Gateway).
What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?
<p>New VEDPs due to be launched or come on stream in 2020 in the region include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dingle Peninsula • West Cork's Three Heads • West Cork's Haven Coast • North Kerry/South Clare
Action 3:
Build capability and resilience in the region's tourism enterprise base.
Working Group Members:
Kerry County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, CIT, ITT, Fáilte Ireland, Kerry ETB, Cork ETB
Timeframe for delivery:
2020
Status:
Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<p>Build capability and resilience in the region's tourism enterprise base through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Operations Excellence • Sales Skills and Marketing Excellence • Brexit Response Programme • New Emerging Markets Readiness • Fáilte Ireland Accredited Service Excellence

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

Fáilte Ireland continued to provide business and enterprise supports including individual Brexit business mentoring projects, online sales training, database training, service excellence and programmes focusing on market diversification, including targeting the Chinese market were delivered.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Continue to support the work of Fáilte Ireland and the Local Authorities in building resilience and capability.
- The Tourism Working Group agreed that a shared a South-West Regional Risk Register should be developed in order map ongoing and emerging risks and explore possible mitigation measures.

Action 4:

Reduce seasonal 'underemployment' in the tourism sector.

Working Group Members:

Kerry County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, CIT, ITT, Fáilte Ireland, Kerry ETB, Cork ETB

Timeframe for delivery:

2020

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Extend the tourism season in the South-West and examine initiatives to support alternative employment opportunities along with upskilling opportunities.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

- The Working Group agreed that an initial piece of research should be carried out to examine the current levels of unemployment in the sector and various data sets will be collated.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Students from CIT will undertake a piece of quantitative and qualitative research to examine the data available around the issue of underemployment and in turn to help policy makers take informed actions to address the issue.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

5

Support growth in the region's marine and maritime sector.

**Action 1:**

Undertake an audit of the marine and maritime economy, in the South-West.

Working Group Members:

Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, BIM, FLAG South, FLAG South-West, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEO Kerry, LEO Cork North & West, LEO Cork South, Enterprise Ireland, ITT, UCC, National Maritime College of Ireland

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Given the scope and size of the Strategic Objective, the milestone for 2019 was to provide focus and clarity in order to form a solid and achievable workplan.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

A specific working Group was formed, tasked with focusing the scope of the Strategic Objective and its associated actions. The Working Group has met on two occasions.

In order to avoid duplication, it was agreed by the Working Group that a separate audit of the marine and maritime sector in the South-West was not necessary as there is a large body of work already completed by the FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group) for both the South (Cork) and the South-West (Kerry and Limerick). The Working Group engaged with Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the Chairs of the two FLAGs to learn more about their work and to see how the SWREP can support them and add value.

Following these consultations, it was agreed by the Working Group that an audit would be undertaken to examine the current activities that are taking place in certain sectors outside of the scope of the existing FLAGs. These sectors include marine tourism; marine bio-economy; renewable energy; and smart initiatives/internet-of-things. This audit will build on the existing FLAGs and will employ a similar methodology. Ultimately the audit will present a picture of the existing work in these fields as well as the opportunities. Significantly, the scope of the audit will go beyond the original geographic scope of the FLAGs and will cover the whole of the South-West area.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Audit methodology finalised
- Sectors agreed
- Contacts identified to support the audit
- Audit commenced

Action 2:

Feasibility Study: potential of the marine and maritime economy for job creation in the two pilot areas.

Working Group Members:

Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, BIM, FLAG South, FLAG South-West, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEO Kerry, LEO Cork North & West, LEO Cork South, Enterprise Ireland, ITT, UCC, National Maritime College of Ireland

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Given the scope and size of the Strategic Objective, the milestone for 2019 was to provide focus and clarity in order to form a solid and achievable workplan.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

The marine/maritime Working Group agreed that a focused scoping exercise of two locations the South-West (one in each county) will be undertaken. This exercise will take a more detailed look at the marine and maritime activities and opportunities in two coastal areas through the lens of the audit model completed in Action 1 and also building on the work of the FLAGs. The exercise will assess the strengths/weaknesses of these two pilot areas to provide evidence-based recommendations of future opportunities that will complement and support their traditional activities around marine/maritime.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Final agreement on the two pilot areas
- Finalise the methodology of the scoping exercise
- Commence the scoping exercise

Action 3:

Promote networking and collaboration in the South-West's marine and maritime sector. Develop a network/collaborative forum or event to bring together diverse strands of the sector, to support collaboration, highlight supports and resources, and showcase best practice.

Working Group Members:

Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, BIM, FLAG South, FLAG South-West, Údarás na Gaeltachta, LEO Kerry, LEO Cork North & West, LEO Cork South, Enterprise Ireland, ITT, UCC, National Maritime College of Ireland

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Given the scope and size of the Strategic Objective, the milestone for 2019 was to provide focus and clarity in order to form a solid and achievable workplan.
- The formation of the Marine/Maritime Working Group represents a strong first step towards the development of a broader stakeholder network for the sector in the South-West

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

The Marine/Maritime Working Group agreed that an event would be organised in 2020 to present the findings of both the audit and the pilot scoping exercises. This event will present an opportunity to increase collaboration and bring together diverse strands of the broader sector.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Event concept agreed and finalized
- Audit and pilot exercise completed to inform event
- Event to be held before end of 2020

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

6

Ensure the availability of skills and talent to underpin the region's economic growth potential.

**Action 1:**

As part of the Skills for Growth initiative the Regional Skills Forum will assist local enterprises identify their skills' needs through a variety of audit tools to ensure that the Region has the effective use of skills to support economic and social prosperity.

Working Group Members:

Regional Skills Forum and partners

Timeframe for delivery:

Q4 2019

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- The South-West Regional Skills Forum will continue to support the work of the South-West Regional Skills Forum (RSF) with the Skills for Growth initiative.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

The Regional Skills Forum continues to work with Enterprise Ireland (EI) on the Skills for Growth Initiative, auditing skills needs of companies signing up for RSF support following EI hosted workshops in the region.

A pilot initiative was completed with Údarás na Gaeltacta, completing skills needs audits with 20 Údarás client companies. The RSF will continue to engage with and support all companies in addressing skills requirements.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- In 2020, the RSF would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with IDA Ireland client companies and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection regarding skills audits.

Action 2:

Double the number of participants on the DES EXPLORE programme over the 2018 figure. The EXPLORE programme is designed to address the need for enhanced digital skills among older workers in manufacturing sectors within the region.

Working Group Members:

RSF, HEIs

Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Status:
Work commenced & was completed in 2019
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South-West Regional Skills Forum will continue to support the work of the South-West Regional Skills Forum (RSF) with the Explore programme.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
A total of six Explore (digital upskilling) programmes took place in 2019 across Cork (four) and Kerry (two). This represents a doubling of the number of programmes delivered in both counties and a doubling of the number of overall participants from 2018.
What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?
The SWREP will work with the RSF in support of their goals and targets for 2020.
Action 3:
Support education and training providers in preparing applications under Springboard+ 2019 in collaboration with local enterprise in order to increase provision of programmes for upskilling and reskilling within the region.
Working Group Members:
RSF, HEIs
Timeframe for delivery:
Q4 2019
Status:
Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020
What were the milestone(s) for 2019?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South-West Regional Skills Forum will continue to support the work of the South-West Regional Skills Forum (RSF) with the Springboard+ initiative.
What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?
The Regional Skills Forum worked with all three South-West HEIs (UCC, CIT, ITT) in supporting proposal developments across the region aligned to key upskilling and reskilling needs identified by industry. These needs were articulated through forum hosted round-tables, one-to-one skills needs audits and wider ongoing engagement with industry through the RSF structures and regional HEI direct collaborations with companies.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

The SWREP will work with the RSF in support of their goals and targets for 2020.

Action 4:

Pilot an initiative targeted at rural and urban (CSO) 'Unemployment Blackspots' in the South-West region.

Working Group Members:

Local Authorities, ETBs, LEOs, Local Development Companies

Timeframe for delivery:

Q2 2020

Status:

Delayed

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Examine the specific details how can pilot initiative can be delivered and what it can achieve.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

Further work will be required to examine how best this action can be achieved and how it can add value to work that is already underway in the region.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

A Working Group will be formed

Action 5:

Examine opportunities for further regional applications of the Pilot 'Smart Living in West Kerry' Project, with a focus on upskilling and re-training.

Working Group Members:

Local Authorities, Kerry ETB, RSF, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Timeframe for delivery:

Q2 2020

Status:

Work started in 2019 & is continuing in 2020

What were the milestone(s) for 2019?

- Explore how the model used in Dingle can be replicated in other parts of the region.

What progress was made in reaching the milestone(s) in 2019?

Under the Climate Action Plan, the South-West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee is required to include “Just Transition” as a standing item on its agenda. The Steering Committee meeting on 20th November 2019 agreed that current activities around climate change and digital adaption need to be captured in the region. The current work underway in Dingle and Transition Dingle 2030 will be a useful example in this regard.

What will the Workplan for 2020 contain?

- Following on from the November Steering Committee meeting examine where the vulnerabilities exist in the region around climate change and digital adaption.
- Work with existing academic research on the impacts of automation in the region and look to highlight the possible vulnerabilities that exist.
- Work to capture overall Just Transition activity in the South-West.
- Ensure full engagement with relevant stakeholders in the region on Just Transition.

Appendix 1: Regional Funding approved for the South-West supported by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF)

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

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

Over the three calls under the REDF, the South-West Region secured funding of over €17.5 million across fifteen projects:

REDF Call	Project	Location	Description	Grant amount
1	Agritech Centre of Excellence	Kerry	Global Agritech Centre of Excellence	€1,499,486
1	Cork Urban Enterprises	North Cork City	Centre for enterprise growth	€669,064
1	IT@cork CLG	Cork	Cluster development initiative for the ICT sector	€209,844
1	KerrySciTech	Kerry	Enterprise cluster to support the growth of science and technology	€236,500
1	MOL TEIC CLG	Kerry	Community Enterprise job creation initiative	€189,144
1	RDI HUB CLG	Kerry	Digital Innovation Hub	€3,614,669
1	Sneem Innovation & Tech Services	Kerry	Digital Hub	€250,000
2	CIT Consortium Projects DAC	Cork, Kerry	Build start-ups from undergraduates	€336,360
2	Ludgate Operations CLG	Cork	Establishment of a Ludgate Innovation Centre	€1,990,392
2	Vista Agri 4.0 Hub CLG	Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Tipperary	Agri-Innovation Hub	€1,865,215
3	Firies Business Hub DAC	Kerry	Food production facilities	€1,151,960
3	Seirbhísí Forbartha Gnó (SFG) Designated Activity Company	Cork	Regional Development Hub	€2,700,000
3	SynBioHub Designated Activity Company	Cork	Develop Ireland's first Life Sciences 'BioHub'	€3,063,000
3	Benchspace Cork CLG	Cork	Grow new enterprise	€342,256
3	KerrySciTech	Kerry	Cluster for the growth of the science, technology and engineering sector	€120,000
			Call 1 Total	€6,668,707
			Call 2 Total	€4,191,966
			Call 3 Total	€7,377,216
			Grand Total	€18,237,889

Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) successful Call announcement dates:
 REDF Call 1: 4th December 2017
 REDF Call 2: 3rd December 2018
 REDF Call 3: 8th January 2020

Regional Technology Clustering Fund

Under Project Ireland 2040 Government identified an ambition to build sectoral clusters of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at regional level. This ambition will be delivered through initiatives supporting the development of business-led clustering of competitive advantage.

As one of the Government initiatives in this area, a multi-annual fund for Regional Technology Clustering was announced in Budget 2019.

An initial €2.75 million budget will be administered by Enterprise Ireland on behalf of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation to support this initiative. This will be in the form of a competitive fund open to the Institutes of Technology (IoT) / Technological Universities (TU).

Applicant Name (Correct Legal Entity Name)	Stream	Project Summary	Fund awarded (€)
Cork IT	2	The proposed Cyber Security SME Cluster will drive the development of indigenous cyber security SMEs and digitally-dependent SMEs with a need for cyber security solutions. It will include a start-up ecosystem, and will foster productivity, drive competitiveness and support internationalisation. It will leverage the connections with industry through the national cyber security cluster organisation, Cyber Ireland.	€406,340
Tralee IT (A)	1	The AgriTech Cluster aims to build, develop and maintain a cluster of companies from across Ireland to drive AgriTech SME productivity, competitiveness and internationalisation.	€290,364
Tralee IT (B)	1	Circular BioEconomy Cluster South-West will work to enhance the knowledge, technology, skills, networking and innovation to help deliver the transition to a low carbon economy.	€290,774
Total			€987,478

Regional Technology Clustering Fund successful announcement date:
4th October 2019

Funding under LEO Competitive Fund

The LEO Competitive Fund is to encourage LEO projects aligned with the pillars of Future Jobs Strategy and the Regional-Enterprise-Plans. It supports LEOs to collaborate within the network and enterprise eco-system.

Project & Summary	Lead Local Enterprise Office	Partners collaborating in the project	Funding
This project supports a cluster of 40 engineering firms in North Cork East/ West Limerick working together to support best practice sharing, develop linkages, improve productivity, develop international markets.	Cork North & West	Limerick IT, Cork IT, Regional Skills Forums, University of Limerick.	€100,000
The South-West Food Experience project targets support of the food sector. It will review food megatrends, map supports both high level research and practical supports, identification of export opportunities and added value, product innovation and research, green and environmental packaging, waste management and capacity building.	Kerry	South Kerry Development Partnership North and East Kerry Development, IRD Duhallow Kerry/Cork LAG and LCDC, IT Tralee, University College Cork, Cork IT.	€80,000
Total			€180,000

LEO Competitive Fund successful announcement date:
4th October 2019

Appendix 2: Other Funding approved for the South-West

Project Ireland 2040 Funds

In 2018, the Government launched Project Ireland 2040 and committed €4 billion in funding under the Rural regeneration and Development Fund, Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund and the Climate Action Fund.

The four funds are a major innovation in Project Ireland 2040 and rather than allocating funding in a 'business as usual' way to Government Departments, money was allocated competitively to the best projects, which leverage investment from other sources thereby ensuring that the impact of this investment goes further.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

As part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) over the period 2019 to 2027. Initial funding of €315 million is being allocated to the Fund on a phased basis over the period 2019 to 2022. The Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. It will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The new Fund provides an unprecedented opportunity to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland, to make a significant and sustainable impact on rural communities, and to address de-population in small rural towns, villages and rural areas. It will be a key instrument to support the objectives of the National Planning Framework, and in particular to achieve Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities – one of the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF.

Call	Project	Location	Grant amount
RRDF Call 1	Kinsale Library relocation	Cork	€2,157,375
	Valentia Trans-Atlantic Cable Station	Kerry	€1,270,000
	Banteer Amenity Project	Cork	€1,128,000
	Rathcormac Strategy for Development	Cork	€122,025
	Ballydesmond Project	Cork	€56,250
	Digital Innovation Hub Strategy	Cork	€206,128
	Anne's Grove	Cork	€375,000
	Coláiste Íosagáin, Baile Bhuirne	Cork	€180,000
	Ceann Mara Net Factory	Kerry	€275,000
	Dingle Workhouse Masterplan	Kerry	€415,000
	Ballyferriter Development	Kerry	€292,500
	Gaeltacht Uibh Rathach	Kerry	€174,351
	RRDF Call 2	Kanturk Regeneration – Phase 1	Cork
Briery Gap Theatre and Library		Cork	€2,000,000
Listowel Food Hub		Kerry	€1,365,226
Total Call 1			€6,651,629
Total Call 2			€3,984,726
Total			€10,636,355
Shared RRDF	National Parks Interpretive Masterplan	Kerry, Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Wicklow	€1,466,250
	National Parks Upgrade	Kerry, Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Wicklow	€3,915,000
	Wild Atlantic Way	Kerry, Clare	€666,300
Total Shared RRDF			€6,047,550
Grand Total RRDF (including shared)			€16,683,905

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) successful Call announcement dates:
RRDF Call 1: 14th February 2019
RRDF Call 2: 6th November 2019

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

The €2 billion Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) is intended to drive regeneration and rejuvenation of strategic and under-utilised areas within Ireland's five cities, key regional drivers and other large towns.

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has responsibility for implementing the fund, which has €100m available for expenditure in 2019 and an overall allocation of €550 million allocated to the fund up to the end of 2022. The fund will operate on a competitive, bid-based Exchequer grant basis, with proposals being required to demonstrate that they will be:

Innovative and transformational urban regeneration projects;

- Public-sector led and with the option of community and/or private sector partners;
- Matched by at least 25 percent direct funding from other public and/or private sources;
- A minimum bid of €2m;
- A catalyst for development that would not otherwise occur; and
- Likely to leverage significant further public and private sector investment.

Call	Project	Location	Grant amount
URDF Cat A	Carrigaline Western Relief Road	Cork	€750,000
	Midleton Main Street Public Realm improvements	Cork	€915,000
	Passage West	Cork	€1,875,000
	Mallow Town regeneration	Cork	€470,000
	Tralee Town Centre	Kerry	€289,000
	Smarter Travel Killarney (link and public realm)	Kerry	€1,000,000
Total			€5,299,000

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) successful Call announcement date: URDF Call: 26th November 2018

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is an initiative under the Action Plan for Rural Development and is part of a package of national and local support measures to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland through the Government's Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme.

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Authorities.

Local Authorities will be required to advertise for expressions of interest from towns/villages in their area and can select up to 12 proposals for development into detailed applications to be submitted to the Department by the end of June. Selection of projects will be by means of a competitive process, with the final project selection being made by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Project & Summary	Town	County	Funding
The renewal and upgrade of the public realm area of Ballydesmond Village.	Ballydesmond	Cork	€150,000
Improvement of the amenities in and around the Clogheenmicon Fen Bog.	Blarney	Cork	€164,800
Public realm works, improve village centre amenities, provide public Wi-Fi and tackle dereliction.	Doneraile	Cork	€145,000
Public realm works and village enhancements.	Dromahane	Cork	€142,500
Public realm improvements in Durras Village.	Durras	Cork	€60,000
Installation of bike racks and lockers across east Cork	East Cork	Cork	€40,000
Installing a new riverside walk, eradicating invasive species while planting native ones, and upgrading existing walks	Glengarriff	Cork	€100,000
Restoration of the Community Hall.	Ringaskiddy	Cork	€100,000
Public realm improvements to the village, carry out a Heath Check and draw up a Village Renewal Plan.	Tower Town	Cork	€100,000
Cork Total			€1,002,300
Provide additional car parking spaces, lighting and signage in the village	Caherdaniel	Kerry	€60,000
Upgrade of the historic St James' Graveyard which adjoins St James Church	Dingle	Kerry	€94,486
Renovation of the historic Courthouse Building to enhance the village centre.	Kenmare	Kerry	€56,000
To provide underground electricity services, additional lighting and a new footpath connecting a housing estate to the village.	Kilcummin	Kerry	€100,000
Upgrade of the town entrance to Listowel including extension of cycling ways, visual and safety enhancements	Listowel	Kerry	€200,000
Develop an audit of enterprise space and housing stock, and develop a marketing plan.	Uibh Rathaigh	Kerry	€100,000
Improvement of the Waterville promenade by extending and upgrading the existing carpark and establishing low-level lighting at the seafront.	Waterville	Kerry	€200,000
Kerry Total			€810,486
South-West Grand Total			€1,812,786

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme successful announcement date:
1st November 2019

Appendix 3: Brief profile and statistical snapshot – South-West

Constituent counties	Cork and Kerry	
Regional Population & change (1996-2016)	546,640 (1996): 690,575 (2016) increase of 143,935*	
Total in employment	338,300 ¹	
Labour Force Participation rate	61.9% ²	
Unemployment rate	3.7% ³	
Unemployment blackspots ⁴	6*	
Percentage employed in Manufacturing: Services: Public sector	17%: 22%: 22% ⁵	
Educated to third level in South-West: State	46%: 45%*	
Third Level Students (full-time & part-time)	33,4082*	
Number of enterprises ⁶ (micro: small: medium: large) (2016)	32,981: 2,364: 392: 58*	
Number of Enterprise Ireland High Potential Start-Ups ⁷ (HPSUs) South-West: State (2019)	5: 91	
EI supported employment & no. client Companies (2018 – 2019)	2018	2019
	Jobs: 29,498	Jobs: 29,958
	Companies: 1,050	Companies: 701
IDA supported employment & no. client companies (2018 - 2019)	2018	2019
	Jobs: 41,494	Jobs: 42,847
	Companies: 204	Companies: 202
LEO supported employment & no. client companies (2018 - 2019)	2018	2019
	Jobs: 380	Jobs: 413
	Companies: 909	Companies: 942
Number of LEO Priming Grants ⁸ South-West: State (2019)	60: 291	

1. CSO Labour Force Survey Quarterly Series Q4 2019

2. CSO Labour Force Survey Quarterly Series Q4 2019

3. CSO Labour Force Survey Quarterly Series Q4 2019

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

5. CSO Labour Force Survey Quarterly Series Q4 2019

6. A Small Enterprise is defined as: an enterprise that has fewer than 50 employees and has either an annual turnover and/or an annual Balance Sheet total not exceeding €10m: A Medium Sized Enterprise is defined as: an enterprise that has between 50 employees and 249 employees and has either an annual turnover not exceeding €50m or an annual Balance Sheet total not exceeding €43m: A large Enterprise is defined as: an enterprise that employs greater than 250 employees, has either an annual turnover of greater than €50m or an annual balance sheet of greater than €43m.

7. HPSUs are start-up businesses with the potential to develop an innovative product or service for sale on international markets and the potential to create 10 jobs and €1m in sales within 3 years of starting up.

8. A Priming Grant is a business start-up grant, available to micro enterprises within the first 18 months of start-up.

* Latest available update

Appendix 4: Employment creation and unemployment - Progress against targets set to 2020

Targets for South-West Region to 2020

Since the launch of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs (RAPJ) there has been an increase of 346,800 people in employment across the State since Q1 2015 to Q4 2019, with 222,600 people in the regions outside of Dublin entering employment in that period.

The RAPJ initiative was a central pillar of the Government's ambition to create 200,000 new jobs by 2020, 135,000 of which are outside of Dublin.

The new Regional Enterprise Plans to 2020 continue the focus on delivery to these targets:

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

Utilising data from the CSO Labour Force Survey (LFS), the rate of growth and unemployment rates achieved for the South-West region during the period Q1 2015 up to Q4 2019 are as follows:

	Numbers Employed				Unemployment Rate	
	Q1 2015	Q4 2019	Change Q1 2015 to Q4 2019	Growth Q1 2015 to Q4 2019	Q1 2015	Q4 2019
South-West	295,000	338,300	43,300	14.6%	10.5%	3.7%
State	2,014,400	2,361,200	346,800	17.2%	10.5%	4.5%

Source: CSO Labour Force Survey, Q4 2019

The South-West is currently performing ahead of the targets to end of 2020.

An Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

23 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 TD30
23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 TD30

T +353 (0)1 631 2121, 1890 220 222

www.dbei.gov.ie

www.gov.ie

info@dbei.gov.ie

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