



**An Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Nuálaíochta**  
**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation**

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**REPORT ON IRISH SUCCESS**  
**IN THE**  
**SEVENTH EUROPEAN UNION FRAMEWORK**  
**FOR**  
**RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (FP7)**

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**23 Kildare Street**  
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# IRISH SUCCESS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

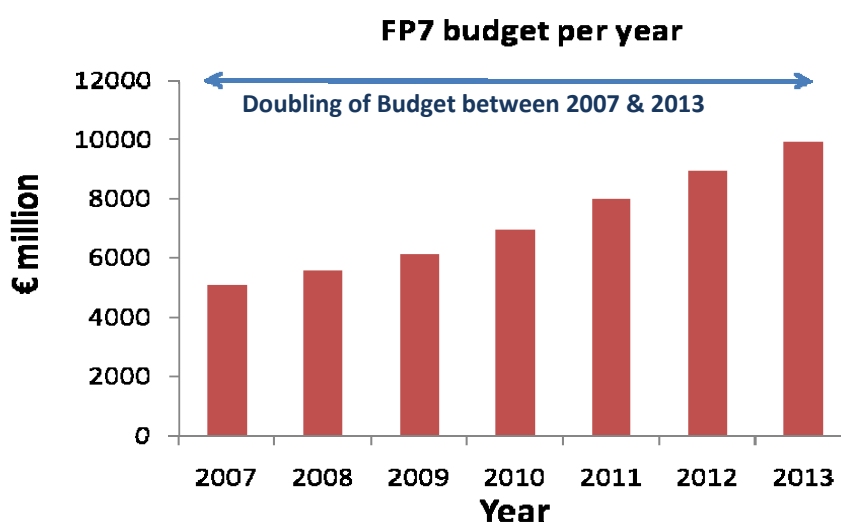
## Introduction

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development has always been an important element in the internationalisation of Irish research. Ireland participated actively in the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), which spanned the period 2003 to 2006 with a budget of approx €17 billion, and Irish researchers and companies were successful in securing approximately €200 million from the programme.

The EU research agenda continues to complement our national priorities with an emphasis on moving new discoveries from the research stage to the marketplace, allowing Ireland to play our part in building a low-carbon economy and tackling diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's.

The current Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) offers Ireland's SMEs, multinationals, and research institutions valuable opportunities to participate in high-calibre research collaborations with our European counterparts.

With a budget of approximately €50 billion over seven years (2007 to 2013), FP7 is the most ambitious programme to date in terms of scale and scope. Moreover, as economic conditions have deteriorated nationally (and internationally), FP7 comes into its own as a non-exchequer funding source. Budget stability is guaranteed to 2013; and it is growing year on year, 2007: €5bn; 2008: €5.5bn; 2009: €6bn; 2010: €7bn; 2011: €8bn, 2012: €9bn; 2013: €10bn.



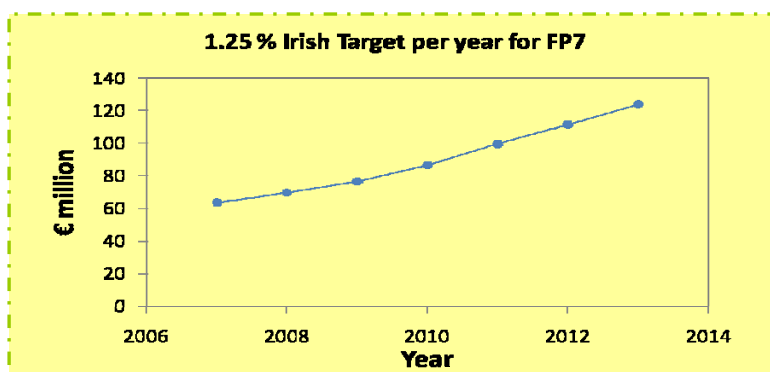
FP7 is built largely around collaborative research (Cooperation) and mobility of researchers (People). However, it also contains a number of new elements, the most important of which is "Ideas" which provides the funding for the new European Research Council (see Annex 1 for the overall structure of the programme).

## Ireland is well positioned for FP7

Based on recent national investment in research, Ireland is participating in the Framework Programme from a far stronger position than ever before. A critical mass of research activity has developed in both the public and private sectors and the design of the current programme (FP7) suits the needs of Irish researchers in many ways. It has been adapted to encourage industry participation, the application process has been simplified, industry-specific targets have been set and higher funding rates have been agreed.

The FP7 National Support Office ([www.fp7ireland.com](http://www.fp7ireland.com)), led by the National Director for FP7 (based in Enterprise Ireland), is charged with optimising Irish involvement in the programme and a target of €600 million in research funding to Irish researchers and enterprises has been set for the

period 2007 to 2013. Our national target reflects the year on year growth in the FP7 budget and it equates to 1.25% of the total budget available.



The National Support Office provides a range of incentives for FP7 participation including travel support for academics, proposal preparation support for academic coordinators and feasibility study support for companies (as participants or coordinators). The Office coordinates the national support network for FP7 which has 11 member organisations; the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Enterprise Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Higher Education Authority, the Health Research Board, the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology, the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Irish Universities Association, Sustainable Energy Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland.

### Ireland's Performance To Date in FP7

In the period from commencement of FP7 in January 2007 to April 2010, 2965 applicants from Irish-based organisations took part in proposal submissions requesting European funding. From these proposals, 720 applicants were successful receiving €213m, giving an overall Irish success rate of 24.28%, above the European Member State average of 22.28%. The high level of activity of Irish researchers (academic and industry) and the Irish success rate ahead of the overall EU average are very positive indications of the prospects for Irish participation in FP7 and are broadly in line with our national targets.

### Ireland's Participation in FP7 by Number of Applicants, Funding Requested and Success Rate

	Applicants in Submitted Proposals	Applicants in Successful Proposals	Success Rate %
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>24.28%</b>
<i>EU Average</i>			<i>22.28%</i>

	Funding Requested by Applicants (€)	Funding Granted to Applicants (€)	Success Rate %
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>971,498,274</b>	<b>213,424,674</b>	<b>21.97%</b>
<i>EU Average</i>			<i>20.56%</i>

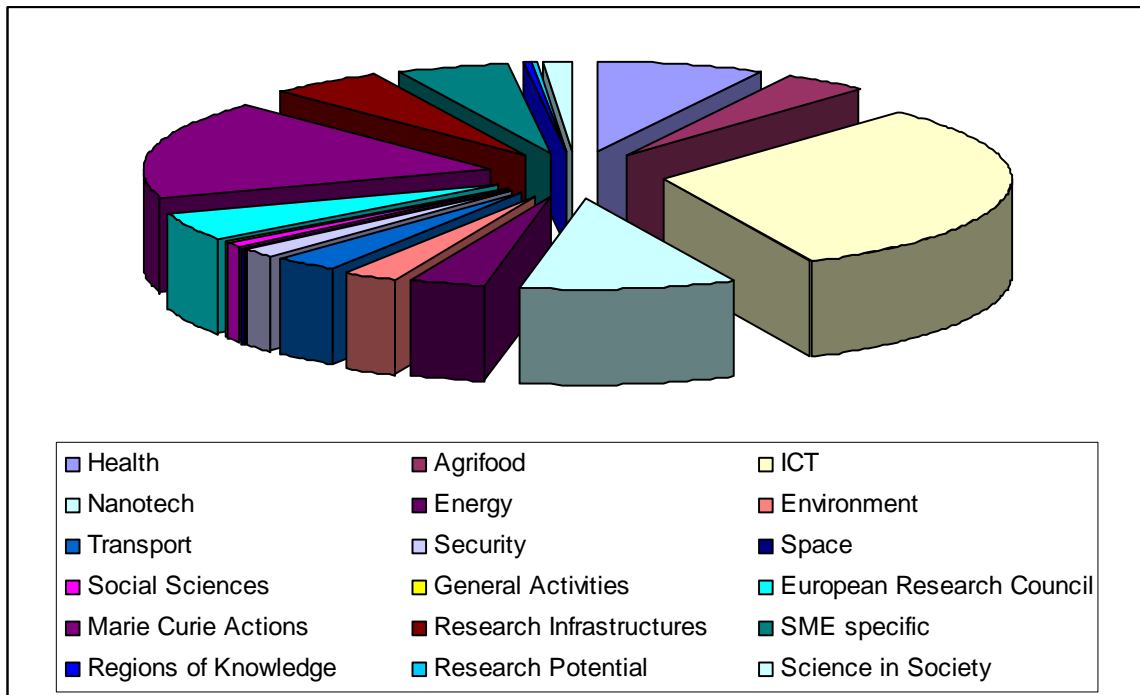
### Drawdown by Thematic Area

Ireland's drawdown in each Thematic Area is illustrated below. Four thematic areas account for 66.5% of the funding. These are:

1. Information & Communication Technologies (€66,737,287);
2. Marie Curie (€37,552,442);
3. Nanoscience, Nanotechnology, Materials & Production Processes (€21,288,951); and,
4. Health (€16,387,087).

The drawdown across the full range of FP7 sub-programmes is presented in the graphic below.

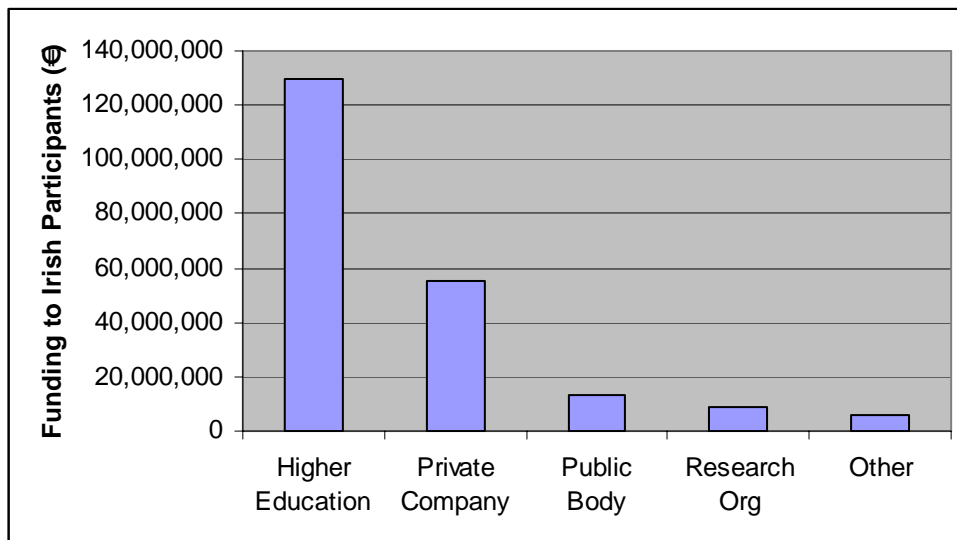
### FP7 funding by Thematic Area in Ireland 2007- 2010



### Sectoral Breakdown

The table below illustrates the sectoral breakdown by higher education, private company, public body, research organisation or other.

### Funding to Irish Participants by Sector



The higher education institutions have secured 61% or almost €130 million of the funding and another 13% has gone to public bodies and research performing organisations like the Marine Institute and Teagasc. Industry participation is substantially higher than that seen at the end stages of FP6. Companies have secured €55.5 million of the funding to date. SMEs account for over 69% of the funding to private industry, funding that is enabling Irish SMEs to collaborate with world-class research teams across Europe.

Examples of successful Irish participation in FP7 are provided in Annex II

## Structure and Budgets for FP7

FP7 is organised in four programmes corresponding to four basic components of European research:

- **Cooperation**  
Support is given to the whole range of research activities carried out in trans-national cooperation, from collaborative projects and networks to the coordination of national research programmes. International cooperation between the EU and third countries is an integral part of this action.  
This action is industry-driven and organised in four sub-programmes:
  - **Collaborative research** will constitute the bulk and the core of EU research funding
  - **Joint Technology Initiatives** will mainly be created on the basis of the work undertaken by the European Technology Platforms
  - **Coordination of non-Community research programmes**
  - **International Cooperation**
- **Ideas**  
This programme enhances the dynamism, creativity and excellence of European research at the frontier of knowledge in all scientific and technological fields, including engineering, socio-economic sciences and the humanities. This action will be overseen by a European Research Council
- **People**  
Quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human resources in research and technology in Europe by putting into place a coherent set of [Marie Curie actions](#).
- **Capacities**  
The objective of this action is to support research infrastructures, research for the benefit of SMEs and the research potential of European regions (Regions of Knowledge) as well as to stimulate the realisation of the full research potential (Convergence Regions) of the enlarged Union and build an effective and democratic European Knowledge society.

COOPERATION €32.4bn	Health	IDEAS €7.5bn	European Research Council
	Food, agriculture and biotechnology	PEOPLE €4.7bn	Initial training
	Information and communication technologies		Life-long training
	Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies		Industry-academia
	Energy		International dimension
	Environment (including climate change)		Specific actions
	Transport (including aeronautics)	CAPACITIES €4.1bn	Research infrastructures
	Socio-economic sciences and the humanities		Research for the benefit of SMEs
	Security and Space		Regions of Knowledge
			Research potential
	Science in society		
	Non-nuclear actions by the Joint Research Centre €1.8bn	Coherent development of research policies	
		International co-operation	

## Examples of successful Irish participation in FP7

- In keeping with Ireland's interests in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Ireland has demonstrated substantial success in the latest Call with 57 successful participations accounting for almost 4% of the available budget (€29.3 million). Fifteen of Ireland's participants will co-ordinate their projects i.e. act as pan-European project leaders (these include 7 at the Tyndall National Institute, 5 at Waterford Institute of Technology, 2 at the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (NUIG) and 1 at Dublin City University).
- Twenty new research jobs will be created in the Tyndall National Institute in University College Cork following the award of €3 million in funding. The projects awarded to Tyndall are at the cutting-edge of telecommunications, nanoelectronics, medical devices and environmental monitoring - all are areas key to the development of a "smart" economy and involve new opportunities to further develop commercially exciting technologies with leading European industry and academic partners.
- The Telecommunications Software & Systems Group (TSSG) at Waterford Institute of Technology will lead five research projects accounting for a total of €3.8m research funding. The projects focus on improving and shaping the 'Future Internet'; investigating ICT security; social networking and systems architecture. Drawing on the expertise of European industry partners in the ICT sector such as NEC; IBM; Thales Group; ATOS Origin; SAP and Lake Communications will enable TSSG to turn a wealth of research knowledge into value products and services that benefit the Irish economy and support economic recovery.
- Italian car manufacturing giant, Fiat has entered into a partnership with University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and Solar Print, a Dublin based SME, to develop solar panels that can be incorporated into automotives roof surface, as a means of generating alternative sources of energy for vehicles by converting light to power. The 'SMARTOP' project is a €3 million European Commission funded research project under the FP7.
- University College Dublin will lead two cancer research projects worth €18 million under the latest round of FP7. One of the projects, awarded €6 million by the EU, will investigate possible treatments for difficult-to-treat types of breast cancer. The second project, awarded €12 million by the EU, will explore genetic mutations that lead to the development of cancer cells. This project will focus on understanding childhood cancers.