



An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030: Clustering

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White Paper on Enterprise – Overview



- White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030 published in December 2022
- Sets out Ireland`s industrial policy for the medium- to long-term; building on Ireland`s economic strengths of an open economy with strong trade and foreign direct investment, a vibrant innovation hub, and a resilient labour market
- Motivated by multiple factors; geopolitical developments, changes in international trading environment, a need to strengthen domestic sector and commitments towards the twin climate and digital transitions
- Articulates what needs to be done differently, while remaining true to what currently works well for enterprise in Ireland
- Seven priority enterprise policy objectives identified

White Paper Priorities and Targets for Enterprise Policy



1. Integrating decarbonisation and net zero commitments
2. Placing digital transformation at the heart of enterprise policy
3. Advancing Ireland's FDI and trade value proposition
4. Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector
5. Enabling locally trading sectors to thrive
6. Stepping up enterprise innovation
7. **Building on strengths and opportunities**
 - **Enhanced role for Clustering** as a part of enterprise policy toolkit, centrally coordinated and cross-Government approach

Clustering (1 of 2)



- Building on existing capabilities and strengths
- Coordinated national approach:
 - Accelerate decarbonisation
 - Drive Productivity; operate at technology frontiers
 - Improved capacity to respond to opportunities and challenges
- Maximise scale, impact and international visibility of Irish clusters and cluster organisations
- Building collaborative cross-border linkages through a shared island approach
- Platform to facilitate greater engagement with EU industrial eco-systems, industrial alliances, Strategic Value Chains and Important Projects of Common European Interest

Clustering (2 of 2)



- Develop a National Clustering Programme
 - Encourage formation and strengthening of cluster organisations
 - Medium to long term funding view for established clusters; time and confidence to build relationships and maximise performance of cluster and associated ecosystem
- Delivery through a central coordination mechanism; cross government engagement and involvement of enterprise agencies
- Responsible for administration of National Programme, developing and supporting a focused portfolio of cluster organisations including provision of advice, technical support and facilitating training
- Enable strategic dialogue between stakeholders, strengthen and develop ecosystem, ensure cross government coordination, action to maximise potential and impact of clustering
- Five National Cluster Organisations funded under new National Clustering Programme by 2025

Clustering - International Case Studies



- DETE commissioned research to support the development of a National Clustering Policy and Framework
- International case studies identified in consultation with key stakeholder groups
- Criteria to determine relevance to Irish context; scale, policy context and level of international recognition
- Six chosen: Upper Austria; The Basque Country; Catalonia; Denmark; Flanders; and Norway

International Case Studies: Points for Consideration (1 of 3)



Upper Austria (1998)

- National Cluster Policy funded by Federal Government; funding for Austrian clusters by different agencies and at different levels incl. EU
- Dept. for Cluster Cooperation; trends, partner database, workshops

Basque (Early 1990s)

- Supporting SME development through links with larger companies
- Policy evolved; European Smart Specialisation Strategy
- More stringent conditions; ex-ante evaluation of action plans

International Case Studies: Points for Consideration (2 of 3)



Catalonia (1992)

- Requirement for public-private partnerships
- Policy lever; complement national priorities, incl. green and digital
- Initially focussed on 8 cluster orgs; now 25 in Cluster Programme
- Flexible, multi-layer programme; accommodate greater diversity

Denmark (Early 2000s)

- 2010: Cluster Excellence Denmark established as national co-ordination body
- 2016 – 2018: Launched Cluster Strategy 2.0 which included a focus on emerging growth areas
- 2018 onwards: Further significant reform

International Case Studies: Points for Consideration (3 of 3)



Flanders

- Supporting research and innovation key priorities
- Smart Specialisation: 10 priority investment domains, aligned with 4 Flanders' Strategic Research Centres and 6 Specialisation Clusters
- Cluster orgs channel public funding for RDI to industry
- 6 Spearhead Clusters, 20 Innovative Business Networks

Norway (Early 2000s)

- 2002 Report by Ministry Trade and Industry; public contribution towards development of clusters
- Cluster programmes central pillar of innovation policy
- Global Centres of Excellence targets well established cluster orgs with a global value chain

Next Steps

- There is no one size fits all approach; tailor to national circumstances
- White Paper on Enterprise Implementation Plan; consecutive 2 year programmes of cross-Government activity



Timelines

- Q3 2023 Devise National Clustering Programme
- Q4 2023: Commence implementation with the target to fund five National Cluster organisations under the new Programme by 2025