Entrepreneurship Policy and Initiatives

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Purpose of the policy statement is “to identify the framework needed to make Ireland one of the most entrepreneurial nations in the world, acknowledged as a world-class environment in which to start and grow a business”

Sets out the Government’s strategic objectives in its role as a facilitator within the Irish entrepreneurship ecosystem

Signposts the focus of public policy in coming years

Specific actions delivered through Action Plan for Jobs
Ireland can double the jobs impact of startups on our economy (over the next five years) if we:

1. Increase the number of startups by 25% (3,000 more startups per annum)

2. Increase the survival rate in the first five years by 25% (1,800 more survivors per annum)

3. Improve the capacity of startups to grow to scale by 25%.
National Policy Statement on Entrepreneurship in Ireland 2014

Strategic Objectives

1. Culture, human capital and education
2. Business environment and supports
3. Innovation
4. Access to finance
5. Entrepreneurial networks and mentoring
6. Access to markets
Education and education institutions are identified as having three very specific roles to play in this new National Policy:

- embedding the development of entrepreneurship in our education system;
- increasing the number of ICT professionals domestically; and
- the development of the best infrastructure to support technology transfer into commercialisation as a new business opportunity (Knowledge Transfer Ireland, Campus Incubators, Commercialisation Fund, Technology Centres).
Develop guidance for schools to enhance entrepreneurship

Work with education stakeholders across the education system to identify best practice and to mainstream successful programmes wherever feasible

Develop a programme engaging entrepreneurs in exposing students to the excitement and opportunity of entrepreneurship, starting with a pilot across LEOs (in conjunction with EI, LEOs and ÚnaG)

Map relevant entrepreneurship activities in higher education institutions as part of the overall strategy for higher education engagement with enterprise and embed entrepreneurship support within the HEI System Performance Framework
National Policy Statement on Entrepreneurship in Ireland 2014

Education related actions

- Set out performance indicators and measures to benchmark entrepreneurial education in Irish Higher Education
- Ensure that entrepreneurship is recognised as a career option in the roll out of the new apprenticeships scheme
- Deliver the ambitious plan to increase the availability of ICT skills from Irish Education Institutes
- Increase the attractiveness of STEM subjects to a larger cohort of Leaving Certificate Students
Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Survey 2014

- Suggests that all forms of education (formal, informal and non-formal) are important in developing entrepreneurial competences
- In terms of primary and second level education Ireland achieved a score of 2.09 compared to the EU average of 2.12
- Irish post-second level education scored 2.95 which is above the EU average of 2.8
- Within the EU, Denmark scored the highest for both primary & second level and post second level with scores of 3.10 and 3.43 respectively
Other relevant developments

- National Skills Strategy
- Rollout of Action Plan for Jobs Regional
- Enterprise Policy 2025
- Development of Regional Skills Fora
- HEA Employer Engagement Strategy
- Work underway in FET sector
Developments in Higher Education
An independent review to identify key barriers and enablers, challenges and opportunities.

The review will provide independent assessments of areas for improvement in the national framework and at the level of individual HEIs, together with a set of recommendations for policy action by HEI and government stakeholders.

"Learning models" will be proposed.
EU Commission – Higher Education Reform Agenda

Challenges & Opportunities

1. Changing nature of the HEI
2. Reorganising education, relevance of education
3. Dealing with unemployment and underemployment of graduates
4. From why to how in promoting entrepreneurship through and in education
5. Transitioning from knowledge transfer to knowledge exchange and knowledge co-creation
6. Internationalisation as a strategy
7. From passive interdependence to active stakeholder engagement
• Leadership and Governance

• Organisational Capacity, People and Incentives

• Entrepreneurship Development in Teaching and Learning

• Pathways for Entrepreneurs

• University – Business / External Relationships for Knowledge Exchange

• The Entrepreneurial HEI as an Internationalised Institution

• Measuring the Impact
Teaching methods in entrepreneurship education

Source: Leader Survey Bulgaria (2014); EE07 (n=17); Student survey, C002 (n=198); “Influenced me positively”
Thank you for listening

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