Technology Ireland Plan

The technology sector in Ireland has undoubtedly been one the keystones of Ireland’s economic and social growth in the past thirty years. Companies that didn’t exist just a few years ago now employ tens of thousands of people in Ireland and continue to drive growth and development.

Ireland has become the natural choice to many international companies seeking a home for their European HQs and has also fostered a thriving indigenous technology sector. This success has not happened by accident. It is a result of a sustained and consistent recognition by successive governments, state agencies and corporate bodies of the central importance of the technology sector and the need to create a financial, educational and legal environment, which can sustain a thriving technology ecosystem. Ireland is now the envy of many countries, but our current achievements are no guarantee of future success.

Technology Ireland is ready to assist and advise policy makers and to take a leading role in the development of progressive, evidence-based policy. I look forward to hearing your views and to continuing our efforts together to support and grow the tech sector in Ireland.

Action Plan

ICT Skills Action Plan The digital economy transcends all aspects of Irish and international life. It is vital that it is not treated in a piecemeal way and that a strong focus is maintained ensuring that Ireland retains its position as a digital hub. Technology Ireland recommends

* Support the expansion of provision in higher education for technology programmes in existing Universities and Institutes of Technology and expedite the provision of new regional Technology Universities.
* Provide alternative pathways to ICT, including the resourcing of more ICT apprenticeships from level 6 to level 9.
* Encourage upskilling and CPD through ongoing support for Technology Ireland’s ICT Skillnet and Software Skillnet.

STEM education

Government and academia must do even more to promote STEM subjects right from primary level. The STEM Education Review Policy Statement (2017-2026) must be fully implemented and go beyond good intentions. Technology Ireland recommends

* Develop robust framework for greater industry involvement in STEM promotion. The framework currently proposed is not sufficient. A new framework should provide clear unambiguous outcomes and tools for companies to engage with schools.
* The new Computer Science curriculum at Leaving Certificate is a positive development but needs a much more ambitious rollout programme, including significant teacher training, to deploy beyond the pilot schools. Also the Computer Science examination should be computer based. A paper-based exam is not sufficient.