The Irish Experience

Smart Specialisation for innovation-led territorial development

STI roadmaps for SDGs: Smart Specialisation for territorial and industrial development in Rwanda. International Workshop

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Disclaimer

• The views expressed in this session are of the author’s, and do not represent those of the regional assemblies nor the government of the Republic of Ireland beyond to what is in public domain.
1988 – Poorest of the Rich

1997 – Europe’s shining light
MAP 6.1  GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN CENTRES BY SIZE

Settlement Size

Source: Data for Ireland are from the CSO Census of Population, 2016 and the data for Northern Ireland are from the NISRA NINPS website and are for 2015.

(Morgenroth 2017)
Economic approach

• Role of City regions ➢ Gain critical mass to deliver high-value services

• Urban-Rural Dynamics ➢ Core-periphery: Spread - Backwash

• Key Economic Sectors ➢ S3S and a healthy innovation system.

• Strategic Locations ➢ SDZs and “Health place check list”

Place making: Effective functionality, Attractiveness, Embeddedness
What enterprises look for in a location

• Urbanisation
• Connectivity
• Talent and Innovation
• Co-location or dynamic clustering (agglomeration)
• Policy co-ordination helping firms to identify benefit from the specific co-location advantages

“Health Place Audit”:
Ensuring coherence: Aligning all policies

NATIONAL
- National Planning Framework

REGIONAL
- Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies

LOCAL
- Development Plans (including Core Strategy)
- Local Area Plans

Establishes Policy Context for...

Top-Down

Bottom-up

EU, National Legislation and Policy
- EU Directives
- Planning Legislation
- Ministerial Guidelines
- Government Policy
- Capital Programmes

Local Authority
- Housing Strategies
- Retail Strategies
- Local Economic and Community Plans
- Capital Programme
Embedding Smart Specialisation into RSES

- Innovation Policy - Research prioritisation
- Regional Enterprise Plans Committees
- Competitive Funds
Figure 1. Dublin Knowledge Space, 1981-85 & 2001-05
## Refreshed priority areas 2018 - 2023

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Priority Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Future Networks, communications and Internet of Things</td>
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<td>Data Analytics, Management, Security, Privacy, Robotics and Artificial</td>
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<td>Intelligence (including Machine Learning)</td>
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<td>Digital Platforms, Content and Applications, and Augmented Reality and</td>
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<td>Health and Wellbeing</td>
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<td>Smart and Sustainable Food Production and Processing</td>
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<td>Energy, climate action and</td>
<td>Decarbonising the Energy System</td>
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<td>Sustainability</td>
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<td>Manufacturing and Materials</td>
<td>Advanced and Smart Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Manufacturing and Novel Materials</td>
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<td>Services and Business Processes</td>
<td>Innovation in Services and Business Processes</td>
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Embedding Smart Specialisation into RSES

- Innovation Policy - Research prioritisation
- Regional Enterprise Plans Committees
- Competitive Funds
Inventory of Economic and Innovation Assets

Investment Tracker
Gran Canal Innovation District
Conclusions

- Ireland was able to grasp opportunities from globalisation in the 90s. But highly exposed to external crises.
- Serious approach to long-term plan: Sustainability and evidence-based
- Given current challenges, current policy is to build better places.
  - Making places attractive to work, live and invest.
  - Embracing Innovation and Smart Solutions.
  - Forthcoming policy: “Future Jobs” (from the work of OECD, WB on “the future of work”)
Learning lessons

- Evidence Base!
- Stakeholders buy-in.
- Play to your strengths.
- Be aware of “the revenge of the places that do not matter”!
Thank you

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