

Digital matters to Ireland



Our digitally intensive sectors

- + 212,000 employees
- + €30 Bn GVA
- + 26% our exports

Our digital frontrunner status

- + #7 in EU, a D9 country



Our digital opportunity

- + Smarter services
- + €27Bn and
- + 140,000 net jobs

But more to do on our:

- + Level and Pace of digital development



Digital leadership matters

Ibec wants Ireland to succeed and lead in a new digital era – for quality jobs and improved living standards. To do this, Government must further develop its national digital agenda and intensify work with our EU and OECD partners to shape and lead the evolving governance of digital transformation. This document outlines Ibec's national digital policy priorities for the period 2019-2024.



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Don't stop thinking about tomorrow

Ibec priorities for our National Digital Agenda, 2019-2024

01 Digital Leadership



Ireland needs high level political commitment and a meaningful platform that enables government, businesses and citizens to work together and succeed in a digital era.

- + Ensure Ireland's digital transformation is a key commitment of the next programme for government.
- + Government must deliver and implement a new National Digital Strategy (NDS). This approach should include:
 - A co-ordinated interdepartmental structure. Co-ordination could be led by a dedicated Minister of State, co-ordinating with the Taoiseach and colleagues.
 - A clear structure for public-private engagement to further Ireland's development as a digitalised economy.
 - A robust roadmap with a clear vision, structure, responsibilities and metrics to measure success and enable corrective measures. Regular public progress updates to maintain momentum.
 - Position Ireland as a leader and as a desired location for mobile digital talent and further investment.
 - Provide a platform to develop and co-ordinate further complementary digital policy initiatives.
- + Intensify work with our EU and OECD partners to shape international digital policy conditions that enhance growth.
- + Lead on online Government services and the digitalisation of public service delivery for organisations and citizens.



02 Enhance connectivity

Enable further investment in digital and data infrastructure to enable access to further opportunity.

- + Deliver the ambition of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) intervention and implement the recommendations of the Government taskforce on Mobile and Broadband to unlock commercial investment and alleviate service deficits.
- + Address administrative, planning and other barriers to digital infrastructure.
- + Create a supportive regulatory environment for the rollout of 5G.
- + Build trust in the use of Cloud Computing e.g. through joint projects with industry.

03 Protect business and citizens online



Enhancing our digital security protects our people, our reputation and encourages further innovation and investment.

- + Update and implement the National Cyber Security Strategy (NCSS), engage business and encourage Ireland's cybersecurity ecosystem.
- + Ensure national cyber security and data protection capabilities are adequately resourced, and that Ireland is seen internationally to be playing a strong role in managing cyber risks.



04 Attract and foster talent for a digital era

Enable everyone to reach their potential in an era of digital transformation.

- + Identify and address relevant skill gaps.
- + Invest in the knowledge and employability skills for a digital age. We need initiatives in education, apprenticeships and alternative pathways to gain digital skills.
- + Empower educators to prepare individuals for life in a digital era.
- + Address under-funding of tertiary education and develop a sustainable model based on contributions from the state, individuals and business.

- + Embed an inclusive and lifelong approach to the development of skills for a digital age.
- + Work with employers to manage digital transformation in the workplace.
- + Promote Ireland as the location for mobile digital talent – Reform planning to enhance our quality of life. Continue reform of visa and work permit processes.

05 Enable every business to realise its potential in a digital era



Engage businesses, both large and small. Support enterprise adoption of digital transformation.

- + Deliver and resource a national action plan for the digitalisation of our enterprise sectors. Ensure strong collaboration between government, industry and the research ecosystem. Provide targeted advice and skills to support the deployment of digital applications across sectors.
- + Nurture digital innovation:
 - Reduce the complexity of our R&D tax credit administration.
 - Introduce accelerated capital allowances for several areas of advanced manufacturing e.g. robotics.
 - Ensure national R&D capabilities in digital innovation are adequately resourced.
 - Take a collaborative approach to digital standards development.
- + Enable digital entrepreneurship
 - Extend Capital Gains Tax relief for entrepreneurs.
 - Improve tax relief on share options.
 - Support SMEs and micro-businesses in their digital transformation.
 - Ensure Ireland's corporate tax offering remains more competitive than competitor jurisdictions.



**Our
Priorities**