BIOECONOMY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Growing the Irish Bioeconomy Together
Note: The compilation of funding opportunities and supports available is non-exhaustive and subject to ongoing change.
The Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) is the bioeconomy association and innovation cluster covering the Island of Ireland. We support our members and the overall Irish innovation ecosystem by providing: 1) bioprocess design 2) public funding 3) private finance 4) outreach 5) advocacy support services. Within the context of our "access to public funding" support service we have compiled, together with our partners the present executive overview of the main funding opportunities suitable for supporting Irish inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs to cross the "financial valley of death". We hope you will enjoy the reading and the same will prove useful for mapping and aiding organisation strategic decision-making processes. Shall you have any questions or suggestions or remarks, do not hesitate to get in contact with us at: filippo@bioeconomyfoundation.com.

FILIPPO GIANCARLO MARTINELLI – European Ambassador
The National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy outlines the Government’s ambition to be a global leader in the bioeconomy. It sets out a policy framework to underpin the successful development of the bioeconomy in Ireland. It also established the Bioeconomy Implementation Group co-chaired by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The implementation group, consists of eleven Departments and eight agencies. The Bioeconomy Implementation Group was mandated to advance actions and challenges identified to further develop the bioeconomy in Ireland including clearly identifying relevant funding and finance opportunities.

Renewing and strengthening the industrial base through adoption, scaling up and commercialisation of small, pilot and large-scale biorefineries has the potential to lead to the creation of high quality green jobs in rural, coastal and urban areas. This can be achieved through developing sustainable biobased products, value chains and business models using resources from agriculture, forestry, and marine, biowaste including wastewater and novel bio-resources for biorefining purposes.

Bioeconomy development will have a high focus on: the development of carbon neutral land use; providing for modernised primary production incorporating digitalisation and circularity; furthering the protection of the environment and regenerating and restoring healthy ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity; and also the development of urban circular bioeconomy activities.

Bioeconomy Implementation Group
1. Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation (DBEI)

Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)

The DTIF is a €500m fund established under Project Ireland 2040 for collaborative enterprise-driven partnerships that will develop, deploy and commercialize disruptive technologies to transform business.

Contact: DTIF@enterprise-ireland.com

DBEI works with, and funds in whole or in part, a number of agencies and programmes including Enterprise Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland:

- **Enterprise Ireland (EI)**
  EI provides hands-on support to companies of all sizes, promotes awareness of the benefits of innovation and provides important funding support in the form of both grants and equity.

- **Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)**
  SFI funding invests in academic researchers and research teams, leading edge technologies and competitive enterprises. The expansion of SFI’s new remit under the Industrial Development Act 2013 has allowed SFI to fund activities in the applied research arena, as well as continuing to provide key supports for oriented basic research.
**Technology Centres**
Industry-led research in emerging technology sectors

**Technology Gateway Programme**
Delivering technology solutions for industry through collaborative industrial projects

**Small Business Innovation Research**
Engagement of public sector with technology rich companies and organisations.

**High Potential Start-Up Feasibility Study Grant (HPSU)**
Assist an early stage company or individual entrepreneur to investigate the viability of a new export orientated business or proposition.

**RD&I Funding supports for Irish businesses**
Grants for in-house R&D

**Exploring Innovation**
Support for better planning of R&D, Innovation or international collaboration projects

**Innovation Vouchers**
€5k to get innovative solutions to technical and business challenges

**Innovation Partnership Programme (ERDF Co-Funded)**
Up to €250k for collaborative projects between companies and research teams in Higher Education

Contact: client.service@enterprise-ireland.com
Enterprise Ireland (ii)
Grants for Company by Stage of Development

**Have a Start-Up Idea**
New business ideas

**High Potential Start-Up (HPSU) Funding**
Start-up businesses with potential to develop innovative product or service for sale on international markets

**Established SME Funding** (>10 employees)
SME’s in the Manufacturing and internationally traded services sector

**Large Company Funding** (>250 employees)
Large companies in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sector

Contact: client.service@enterprise-ireland.com
BiOrbic, Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre

BiOrbic is Ireland’s national Bioeconomy Research Centre, funded by SFI and co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund. Through Researcher-led ‘platform’ projects and industry partnered ‘targeted’ projects, BiOrbic works to develop a sustainable Irish bioeconomy that seeks to increase resource efficiency by using food processing and marine residues and side streams, and produce value-added materials and products that can be used in chemicals, materials, and nutrition.

Contact: kevin.oconnor@biorbic.com
derek.obrien@biorbic.com

Science Foundation Ireland

SFI – Programme for Industry

Supporting outstanding research that will underpin economic development and assist international and indigenous industry to grow and flourish in Ireland. Contact: oisling.mcevoy@sfi.ie

- SFI Research Centres

Linking scientists and engineers in partnerships across academia and industry in making important scientific advances, enhancing enterprise and industry, supporting regional development.

- SFI - Spokes

Enabling the addition of new industrial and academic partners and projects to a SFI Research Centre to facilitate its expansion and development.

- SFI Strategic Partnerships

Aims to support standalone initiatives of scale with strong potential for delivering economic and societal impact to Ireland that are not otherwise served by other national funding programmes.

IRISH PUBLIC FUNDING

focus on: RESEARCH / INNOVATION / SCALE UP
As one of the cross-border bodies, InterTradeIreland, the Cross-Border Trade and Business Development Body, is funded by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland (DBEI) and the Department for the Economy (DFE) in Northern Ireland. InterTradeIreland provide practical cross-border business funding, business intelligence and meaningful contacts to SMEs across the island, North and South, looking to grow their businesses.

Funding for cross-border collaboration on European Research activities is also available.

Contact: grainne.lennon@intertradeireland.com

Supports offered by ITI include:
- Cross-Border Sales Growth
- Innovation
- Funding Supports
- Brexit Advisory Service
- Business Insights

Contact: info@intertradeireland.com
**2. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)**

**DAFM - National Competitive Calls**
DAFM operates a ‘public good’ competitive national research funding programme for agriculture, food and forestry to support innovation and economic success across the bioeconomy.

**Contact:** research@agriculture.gov.ie

**DAFM - Transnational Funding**
Opportunities to participate in transnational competitive research calls operated by relevant European Research Area Network co-funds (EraNets), EU Joint Programme Initiatives (JPI & EJP), and the US-Ireland Research & Development Partnership.

**Contact:** research@agriculture.gov.ie

**Funding bodies under the aegis of DAFM include Teagasc, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and the Marine Institute (MI):**

- **Teagasc**
  Teagasc offers state-of-the-art scientific expertise and research services for industry, using world-class facilities and equipment. **Contact:** info@teagasc.ie

- **Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)**
  BIM provide a range of supports across the seafood industry co-funded by the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF). **Contact:** info@bim.ie

- **Marine Institute (MI)**
  MI manages competitive marine research funding programmes and provide information on marine research funding opportunities from national and EU programmes. **Contact:** institute.mail@marine.ie

**IRISH PUBLIC FUNDING**

**focus on: RESEARCH / INNOVATION / SCALE UP**
Climate Action Fund

The CAF established under **Project Ireland 2040**, aims to support initiatives that contribute to the achievement of Ireland’s climate and energy targets in a cost-effective manner.

**Contact:** ClimateActionFund@dccae.gov.ie

**Funding bodies under the aegis of DCCAE include The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI):**

- **Environmental Protection Agency**
  EPA research provides funding under three pillars – **Sustainability, Climate and Water** and is targeted to address the needs of key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and also encourages the research community to engage with these stakeholders.
  **Contact:** research@epa.ie

- **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**
  SEAI coordinates and funds a range of research, development and demonstration (RD&D) activities relating to the production, supply & use of energy.
  **Contact:** EnergyResearch@seai.ie
Rural Policy
Rural and regional economic development is a key part of improving the quality of life in rural areas, small towns and villages. Relevant funding opportunities offered by DRCD to deliver enhanced regional progress include:

- **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund**
  The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund established under Project Ireland 2040, is a commitment of €1 billion by government to be invested in rural Ireland over the period 2019 to 2027. **Contact: rrdf@drd.gov.ie**

- **LEADER Programme**
  LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas. The programme is administered at a local level by 29 local action groups, which contain local representatives from the community, public and private sector. Each group is responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects within their geographical area.
  A project must be aligned with the priorities of the local development strategy. The total funding available under the LEADER 2014-2020 Programme is €250 million. **Contact: rdp1420@drd.gov.ie**
Cluster Initiatives
An ambition under Project Ireland 2040, to build sectoral clusters of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) at regional level to be delivered through initiatives supporting the development of business-led clustering of competitive advantage.

- **Regional Technology Cluster Fund**
  The RTCF will facilitate connectivity with, and engagement between, enterprise and regionally based knowledge providers such as IoTs/Tus, drive productivity and competitiveness in and across regions.
  
  **Contact:** harriet.cotter@enterprise-ireland.com

- **Regional Enterprise Development Fund**
  The REDF will support major new collaborative and innovative initiatives that can make a significant impact on enterprise development in the region/across regions or nationally to build the unique USP capabilities to grow the regions.
  
  **Contact:** client.service@enterprise-ireland.com

Mobility / Human Resources

- **Career-Fit Programme** (EU Research & Innovation co-funded)
  A postdoctoral fellowship programme for experienced researchers worldwide to develop their careers in market-focused applied research in Ireland’s Technology Centre’s.
  
  **Contact:** careerfit@enterprise-ireland.com

IRISH PUBLIC FUNDING
focus on: CLUSTER SUPPORT / MOBILITY / HUMAN RESOURCES
IRISH PUBLIC FUNDING
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Relevant Cluster & Network Initiatives in Ireland

- **Irish Bioeconomy Foundation**
  The Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF) is the bioeconomy association and innovation cluster covering the island of Ireland. IBF was founded in mid-2017 to establish a fora of industry, academia and policy leaders around Ireland’s emerging bioeconomy.
  
  **Contact:** info@bioeconomyfoundation.com

- **BioConnect Innovation Centre – Monaghan**
  BioConnect was established to create a biotechnology centre of excellence through the provision of research and laboratory services and a regional cluster to accelerate development of Bioeconomy opportunities.

- **Pairc na Mara**
  A collaborative project between Údarás na Gaeltachta, NUIG and GMIT will receive funding of €2m to develop a state of the art, low carbon, market-focused marine innovation and development centre as part of the Pairc na Mara Marine Innovation Campus in Cill Chiaráin, Co. Galway. **Contact:** m.nieinniu@udaras.ie

- **CIRCULÉIRE – the National Platform for Circular Manufacturing**
  CIRCULÉIRE is the first cross-sectoral industry-led innovation network dedicated to accelerating the zero-carbon circular economy in Ireland. This public-private partnership will engage in collaboration with actors from across the Irish innovation ecosystem.

  **Contact:** circuleire@imr.ie, geraldine.brennan@imr.ie

- **Irish Nutrient Sustainability Platform**
  Supported by the EPA, this All-Island platform (facilitated by NUI-Galway and Queen’s University Belfast) seeks to enhance economic prosperity whilst safeguarding the environment by supporting the implementation of a nutrient circular society.

  **Contact:** nutrientsustainability@qub.ac.uk, E.Doherty@qub.ac.uk
IRISH PUBLIC FUNDING
focus on: CLUSTER SUPPORT / MOBILITY / HUMAN RESOURCES

**Irish Research Council**
The IRC manage a suite of interlinked programmes for funding researchers across all career stages and disciplines.

Contact: info@research.ie

**SOLAS – An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna**
SOLAS is the state agency tasked with building a world class Further Education and Training (FET) sector to fuel Ireland’s future by funding, supporting and coordinating programmes focused on the needs of learners, employers and society.

Contact: info@solas.ie

**Higher Education Authority**
Springboard+
The springboard+ upskilling initiative in higher education offers free courses at certificate, degree and masters level leading to qualifications in areas where there are employment opportunities in the economy.

Contact: support@springboardscourses.ie

**Skillnet Ireland**
A business support agency of the Government of Ireland to advance the competitiveness, productivity and innovation of Irish businesses through enterprise-led workforce development.

Contact: info@skillnetireland.ie
Horizon Europe (2021-2027) is an ambitious €100 billion Research & Innovation programme to succeed Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) and aims to:

- strengthen the EU’s scientific and technological bases
- boost Europe’s innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs
- deliver on citizens’ priorities and sustain our socio-economic model and values

Horizon Europe represents the largest multinational collaborative research and innovation investment in Europe and is open to participants worldwide.

The national support network for EU R&I is made up of 32 European Advisors drawn from 10 Irish research and industry departments and agencies.

Contact: h2020support@enterprise-ireland.com

1. Horizon Europe

2. The European Green Deal

Resetting the EU Commission’s commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges facing this generation. Research and innovation will play a significant role in the European Green Deal by investing through Horizon Europe, its green missions and partnerships, and EU-funded projects.

Contact: Agri-food NCP
Matthew.Clarke@agriculture.gov.ie

EU support for all areas of R&I adds value by encouraging cooperation between research teams across countries and disciplines that is vital in making breakthrough discoveries. It allows the EU to deliver on priorities such as the Paris Agreement on climate change. EU research and innovation activities are managed, through a number of EU departments, agencies and bodies.
2. Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU)

A €3.7 billion Public-Private Partnership between the EU and the Bio-Based Industries Consortium to develop new biorefinery technologies to sustainably transform renewable natural resources into bio-based products, materials and fuels. To achieve this the BBI-JU places a focus on:

- **Feedstock**: foster a sustainable supply with increased productivity and building new supply chains
- **Biorefineries**: optimize efficient processing through R&D and demonstrate their efficiency and economic viability at large-scale demo/flagship biorefineries
- **Markets, products and policies**: develop markets for bio-based products and optimize policy frameworks

Operating under Horizon 2020, this EU body is driven by the Vision and Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SIRA) developed by the industry.

**Contact** - Patrick.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie

- All stakeholders (large industries, SMEs, technology providers, academia, RTOs) are encouraged to participate
- Ireland’s Industry and Academia have been successfully engaging in the BBI-JU in a number of funded projects as coordinators and/or partners.
3. **LIFE Programme**

LIFE is the EU’s financial instrument supporting environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects throughout the EU. The LIFE programme is divided into two sub-programmes, one for environment (representing 75% of the overall financial envelope) and one for climate action (representing 25% of the envelope). **Contact** - LIFE@dccae.gov.ie

4. **EU Innovation Fund**

One of the world’s largest funding programmes (circa €10bn) for demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies. **The EU aims to launch the first call in 2020, followed by regular calls until 2030. Contact** - Margaret.McCarthy@DCCAE.gov.ie

5. **EU Structural Funds**

Interreg Europe aims to tackle common challenges together and find shared solutions in the areas of health, research and education, transport or sustainable energy. Ireland is included in 5 Interreg programmes.

- North-West Europe (srudden@southernassembly.ie)
- Ireland Wales Programme (bcurran@southernassembly.ie)
- Northern Ireland – Ireland – Scotland (info@seupb.eu)
- Northern Periphery and Artic Programme (nationalcontact@nwra.ie)
- Atlantic Area (nationalcontact@nwra.ie)

**EUROPEAN UNION PUBLIC FUNDING**

Focus on: RESEARCH / INNOVATION / SCALE UP
6. **European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot**
The enhanced EIC pilot supports top-class innovators, entrepreneurs, small companies and scientists with bright ideas and the ambition to scale up internationally.

- **Fast Track to Innovation (FTI)**
A central part of the EIC pilot, targeting radically new, breakthrough products, services, processes or business models that open up new markets.

- **EIC Pathfinder Pilot**
Promotes collaborative, interdisciplinary R&I on science-inspired and radically new future technologies.

- **EIC Horizon Prizes**
Each EIC Horizon Prize has an ambitious goal to solve a major challenge facing society, without detailing how this should be achieved or who should achieve it.

7. **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
The EIT brings together leading universities, research labs and companies to form pan-European partnerships called ‘Knowledge and Innovation Communities’ (KICs).

- **EIT Food**
EIT Food is Europe’s leading food innovation initiative, working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted by consumers

  Contact – info@eitfood.eu

- **EIT Climate-KIC**
Supporting innovation that helps society mitigate and adapt to climate change and accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy. ([EIT Climate-KIC UK & Ireland](#))
H2020 INNOSUP
Funding opportunities for clusters, innovation agencies and other SME Intermediaries for the creation of new industrial value chains that foster the development of emerging industries in Europe.

H2020 SME Innovation Associate
EU funding for recruitment of post-doctoral research associates from other countries to explore an innovation business idea in European SMEs and start-ups.

European Research Council (ERC)
ERC grants, aim to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields of research on the basis of scientific excellence. erc@sfi.ie

Erasmus+
EU programme to support education, training, growth, jobs and inclusion in Europe providing opportunities for Individuals and Organisations. Contact national agencies: info@hea.ie or info@leargas.ie

AESTE
IAESTE is a source of high-quality trainees for companies and institutions in more than 80 countries worldwide. ireland@iaeste.org
1. **Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI)**

A new strategic SME funding company with a goal of ensuring access to flexible funding for Irish SMEs offering longer term lower cost finance under a range of schemes including:

- **Future Growth Loan Scheme (FGLS)**
  
  The FGLS benefits from a guarantee from the European Union under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

- **Brexit Loan Scheme (BLS)**
  
  The BLS is offered in partnership with DBEI, DAFM and is supported by the InnovFin SME Guarantee Facility with the financial backing of the EU under H2020 financial instruments.

- **SME Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS)**
  
  The CGS aims to assist viable SMEs, which under normal lending criteria are unable to borrow from their bank, in accessing credit.
2. National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA)

The NTMA is a state body which operates with a commercial remit to provide asset and liability management services to Government.

- **Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF)**

The ISIF is a sovereign development fund managed by the NTMA to invest on a commercial basis in a manner designed to support economic activity and employment in Ireland (ISIF investments to date).

Contact: info@isif.ie

- **Agri-Tech Fund**

ISIF has partnered with Finistere Ventures to invest a total of €40m in a Finistere-managed AgTech venture fund - €20m in the Ireland AgTech Fund (IAF) and €20m in a global AgTech Fund.

Contact: info@finistere.com
1. **EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME)**

**COSME** runs from 2014 – 2020 with a planned budget of circa €2.3bn. The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) manages COSME on behalf of the European Commission. COSME will support SMEs in the following areas:

- Facilitating access to finance
- Supporting internationalisation and access to markets
- Creating an environment favourable to competitiveness
- Encouraging an entrepreneurial culture

COSME is a programme implementing the **Small Business Act (SBA)** which reflects the Commission’s political will to recognise the central role of SMEs in the EU economy.

**Note:** In IRELAND, the **European Investment Fund (EIF)** and the SBCI have signed the first **COSME agreement in Ireland**. This transaction is guaranteed by the **European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)**.
2. European Investment Bank (EIB)

The lending arm of the EU and the biggest multilateral financial institution in the world as well as one of the largest providers of climate finance.

- **EIB Products**
  The EIB offers a range of products under Loans, Equity, Guarantees, Advisory Services, and Blending.

- **Agriculture and Bioeconomy Programme Loan**
  Loan size of €7.5m - €50m for up to 12 years, available to smaller agri-cooperatives with <3000 direct employees, innovative SMEs and midcap companies and any private sector enterprises investing in:
  - Environmental Protection & Natural Resource Efficiency
  - Renewable Energy
  - Cohesion
  - Innovation & Competitiveness
  - Energy Efficiency
  **Contact** - info@eib.org

3. European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)

The EU matchmaking portal for:
- EU based Project Promoters who want to boost visibility to a large network of investors international investors
- Investors looking for investment opportunities in areas such as energy efficiency, transport, healthcare, renewable energy, broadband infrastructure or in financing SMEs.

**Contact** - info@eib.org
4. EIB Circular Bioeconomy Fund (ECBF)
A €100m investment by the EIB and a project fund of €250m to contribute to filling the gaps faced by innovative Bioeconomy projects by providing access to finance in the form of debt, equity or quasi-equity to innovative circular bioeconomy companies and projects of various sizes. *ECBF Fund managers

The ECBF has five transformational investment fields in focus:

1. Circular Economy / Business Model
   Reduction, resource efficiency, re-use, re-cycle, waste stream utilisation, supply chain, digitalization

2. Enabling Process Technologies
   Biorefineries & conversion technologies

3. Biomass Production
   Increase output & decrease footprint: agro, farming, forestry, blue economy

4. Bio-based Materials
   Building blocks, polymers, fibers, composites

5. Performance Biologicals
   Personal care, nutrition, specialities
ACCELERATORS & EQUITY INVESTORS

- **Climate**
  - EIT Climate-KIC Accelerator – The only EU acceleration programme focused on climate impact by cleantech commercialization. Tangent, Trinity’s Ideas Workspace is running the **Irish Accelerator Programme** for Climate-KIC.

- **SMEs**
  - EIC Accelerator – (Previously **SME Instrument**) The EIC Accelerator is part of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot that supports top-class innovators, entrepreneurs, small companies and scientists with opportunities and acceleration services.

- **Aquaculture**
  - Hatch Blue – World’s first sustainable aquaculture accelerator program seeking to find, develop and scale disruptive aquaculture startups.

- **Agri-Technology**
  - Pearse Lyons Accelerator – Aims to support technology leaders in agricultural innovation offering expertise, networking, funding, mentoring.
  - The Yield Lab Accelerator – The Yield Lab Europe Accelerator (based in Dublin) invests into early stage agri-food technology companies that revolutionise agriculture and food systems to sustainably feed the world.

- **Equity Investors**
  - Sure Valley Ventures – An entrepreneur-led venture capital fund; **Primary focus** to invest in high-growth, private software start-ups in the Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) space; **Secondary focus** on FinTech and Internet of Things start-ups.
  - RoundTable Partners – A consolidated services platform with targeted equity investment for the bioeconomy.
New frontiers – is the national programme designed to develop entrepreneurs, delivered on behalf of Enterprise Ireland by Institutes of Technology and Universities.

NDRC – sources and builds digital startups to invest in and work with, providing them with an integrated offering of knowledge, experience, expertise and a modest amount of capital to enable them to become investor-ready faster, more successfully and more efficiently than otherwise.

SOSV is a global venture capital firm providing multi-stage investment to develop and scale their founders' big ideas for positive change. They invest in 150 companies every year through their world class vertical accelerator programs.

THRIVE is a global AgriFood innovation platform in Silicon Valley that accelerates, invests, and works with entrepreneurs, investors and Fortune 500 corporations to advance the future of food and agriculture through innovation.

THRIVE Accelerator supports seed stage startups from all areas of the value chain whose technologies drive us towards a more efficient, sustainable, and secure agriculture future.
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<th>1. Local Enterprise Office (LEO)</th>
<th>2. Údarás Na Gaeltachta (UnaG)</th>
<th>3. Revenue</th>
<th>4. Business Innovation Centres (BICs)</th>
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| Information & support on starting or growing a business in Ireland including an SME Online Tool to help navigate the range of Government and financial supports available. | Supporting businesses in developing new markets, technologies, products and strategic alliances through research and development, offering qualifying businesses and companies from various sectors a range of incentives to start up, develop, expand or locate in a Gaeltacht region. | The Knowledge Development Box enables companies carrying out research and development (R&D) activities in Ireland a favourable tax rate of 6.25%.  
- **Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit**  
  If a company spends money on research and development activities, these activities may qualify for the R&D Tax Credit. | BICs are regionally and locally based organisations involved in identification, selection and specialist support for new and existing enterprises (e.g. Westbic, Corkbic, South East BIC, Dublin Bic). Irish BICs have strong international connections, particularly in Europe, through its membership of the European BIC Network (EBN). |
1. Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)
   The world’s largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions helps businesses innovate and grow on an international scale.

2. EUREKA Programme
   For companies interested in new product development in collaboration with international companies.

3. Eurostars Programme
   For SMEs looking to partner on close-to-market R&D projects with another company or companies in Europe.

4. Small Business Portal
   Hosting a range of websites to help SMEs involved in innovation, research and technology, access funding, providing information on: EU market rules; loans and financial investments; business partnerships; Innovation, Research and Technology; Language and translation help.
To be eligible for specific grants, labels or certification may be needed. IBF can support its members in obtaining the following certification from the relevant Irish and European Commission stakeholders:

- **SME status**: needed to qualify as Small / Medium Enterprise for specific EU programs
- **RPO status**: needed for eligibility in several Irish grants such as some EI, SFI and DAFM
- **SBCI QUALITY LABEL**: needed to be eligible beneficiary of the SBCI Future Growth Scheme
GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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