



## **Rethinking the European Innovation Scoreboard: Recommendations for further improvements**

Input paper for the workshop on

"Improving the European Innovation Scoreboard methodology"

Brussels, 16 June 2008

[Feedback & Comments from Ireland, Dr Jos Evertsen, IPEG delegate. 20Jun08](#)

### General Comments:

Ireland welcomes the consultation process undertaken by the Commission to review the indicators presented and used in the annual EIS and thematic papers. In view of the developments in national economies and intensity of innovation, such a review is very timely.

Ireland also wishes to acknowledge the positive developments that have been made during the lifetime of the EIS. In Ireland, the EIS has been used extensively in developing and mobilising innovation policy by a wide range of policy makers and implementers (Government, Chief Scientific Advisor, and Agencies), enterprise representative bodies and enterprise.

### Technical Comments:

1. Split and develop the EIS into an Industry EIS and a Services EIS.
2. Run satellite analyses for large, medium and small SMEs categories. Grouping all SMEs regardless of size, may mask the performance of the medium and small SMEs. The latter two are of particular interest in regard to start-ups, services, and regional innovation.

### EIS2007 Indicators Comments:

Indicator	Comment
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current indicator is for S&amp;E graduates. Create indicator for HSS graduates (humanities and social sciences). This is relevant to services and future T-shaped graduates required in the labour market.</li><li>• Differentiate degree and non-degree (diploma &amp; certificate) levels. Currently all graduates are combined.</li></ul>
1.2	Differentiate degree and non-degree (diploma & certificate) levels. Currently all graduates are combined.
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep this indicator and increase the lower limit Kbit base. In Ireland we are attempting to drive the ICT infrastructure to the next generation broadband. Upping the ante through this indicator would be important for benchmarking against other economies.</li><li>• High speed and next generation broadband infrastructure is key to the development of services. Perhaps this indicator could be used in a Services EIS.</li></ul>
1.4	Life-long learning is assessed by "..... participation in any type of education or training course during the four weeks prior to the survey.....". Life-long learning courses are very seasonal, i.e. most is done during the autumn and winter months rather than spring and summer months. If the survey is completed during the latter two periods, no true reflection will be obtained.
3.4 & 3.5 and any other and new indicators	Add GNP expressions to the current GDP validations. Objective: to reflect the performance by indigenous enterprises. The new economies are increasingly open economies, as in Ireland, and the performance/ influence of foreign owned companies (which are quite mobile) distorts the performance by indigenous enterprises which is a more true economic measure.
NEW	Business volatility; Measuring enterprise births and deaths is a good idea but may need some filtering to avoid recording companies of no consequence, i.e brass-plate companies and a local single trader. Possible filters could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a minimum number of persons in the company ex. 5 or 10.</li><li>• In existence for at least 12 months.</li></ul>
NEW	When measuring the effect of innovation on productivity, can cultural influences be adequately avoided? Benchmarking would otherwise be difficult.