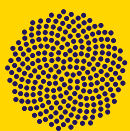


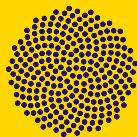
Ireland Where Digital Health Thrives



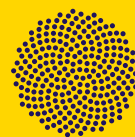
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Supporting Irish competitiveness

Paul Healy, Chief Executive and Tracey Donnery, Executive Director at Skillnet Ireland talk about Ireland's innovative digital health sector and how Skillnet Ireland helps with upskilling Ireland's workforce.

“The extent to which any country is competitive is based on the workforce itself,” says Paul Healy, Chief Executive of Skillnet Ireland, a government enterprise support agency. “We have an incredibly talented and capable workforce. However, we have to constantly work on upskilling to keep up-to-date with the biggest trends, whether that's digitalisation or the green economy, which are both critical issues today.”

Skillnet Ireland advances the competitiveness, productivity, and innovation of Irish businesses through enterprise-led workforce development. Working with over 50 industry representative groups, they support over 18,000 businesses and 70,000 workers annually.

Skillnet Ireland funds enterprise-led business networks that provide subsidised upskilling to all areas of Irish business, from animation to biopharma, from construction to agri-food, making many business sectors more competitive and more productive.



“We have a strong presence across all key industries. We have partners in retail, in hospitality, in tech, and so many more. The impact of Covid-19 shows just how vital it is to be ready for any change. And that’s what our work at Skillnet Ireland is focused on. We want to ensure that Irish businesses and the workforce has the skills it needs to adapt to the next wave of challenges and opportunities.”

Connected Health

Connected health refers to a model for healthcare which uses technology to provide healthcare services remotely. Skillnet Ireland supports the vision and strategic objectives of the Connected Health Skillnet, promoted by IBEC.

“We are constantly scanning for the next major trend in business or the next major innovation across all sectors,” says Paul. “We realised that the emerging field of connected health was gaining momentum and important to support for Ireland to become a global leader in connected health development. We can positively leverage the strengths of enterprise to deliver innovation into this new growth areas. We look at the trends that are shaping industry, and what the talent responses are needed to stay ahead of the curve.”

The Connected Health Skillnet network supports companies involved in connected activity by providing them with industry insights, upskilling and networking opportunities. These companies can either be adding connectivity to current products and services, or developing new connected health/smart products and services.

“Skillnet Ireland facilitates strategic partnerships with higher education institutes and industry bodies to develop new programmes that address future business needs. Our model

enables enterprise groups and trade associations to entirely control this process so that innovative solutions are built with industry backing from the ground up. The Connected Health Skillnet can help produce the type of talent to facilitate Ireland making the next major shift in connected health in this country.” outlines Tracey Donnery, Executive Director at Skillnet Ireland.

Ireland is already globally recognised for its technology, medtech and pharma industries. Tracey says Skillnet Ireland’s aim is to enhance Ireland as a location of choice for connected health companies who want to develop solutions. “The potential innovation in this sector is really exciting, as there are so many beneficial health outcomes as a result of connected health.”

Leading the way

Paul says Ireland is one of the biggest hubs for medtech on the planet. This means that Ireland can easily become a leader in the development of digital health solutions.

“In order to have a big presence in this global industry, Ireland must maximise the talent we already have as this creates opportunities for an even stronger medtech presence in this country. We need to further collaborate with universities and ensure that we continue to invest in people. We should also continue to have more investment in R&D.

“There is so much good work already underway to ensure Ireland’s position. Not just from industry, but also from agencies such as Science Foundation Ireland, Skillnet Ireland, IDA Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland which are all supporting the whole ecosystem around medtech. This is what will develop and keep this industry prospering in Ireland for the long-term.”

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We have a strong presence across all key industries. We have partners in retail, in hospitality, in tech, and so many more. The impact of Covid-19 shows just how vital it is to be ready for any change. And that’s what our work at Skillnet Ireland is focused on. We want to ensure that Irish businesses and the workforce has the skills it needs to adapt to the next wave of challenges and opportunities.

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