Ireland’s Knowledge Economy Policy: Beliefs and Drivers

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Belief System

• Policy core beliefs
  – Move up the value chain
  – Knowledge economy is a selling point for attracting foreign investment
  – No alternative

• Secondary beliefs
  – Importance of science and technology
  – Research prioritisation
Who is Driving the Knowledge Economy Policy?

• Politicians
  – Mary Harney; Micheál Martin
• Bureaucrats
  – Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
  – Industrial Development Agency, Enterprise Ireland, Forfás and Science Foundation Ireland
• Corporate sector
  – Primarily multinationals (eg. Craig Barrett, retired CEO of Intel)
  – Irish Business and Employers Confederation and American Chamber of Commerce
• Education
  – University presidents
  – Irish Universities Association and Higher Education Authority
• Public opinion
  – Top-down policy
• Media
Ireland’s Knowledge Economy Policy

Information Society (1990s)

Knowledge Economy (2004)

Smart Economy (2008)

Innovation Ireland/Island (2010)
Ireland’s Knowledge Economy Policy

R&D

Knowledge

Innovation

Competitiveness
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