

Engaging the Business Community in the URDF

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About Ibec

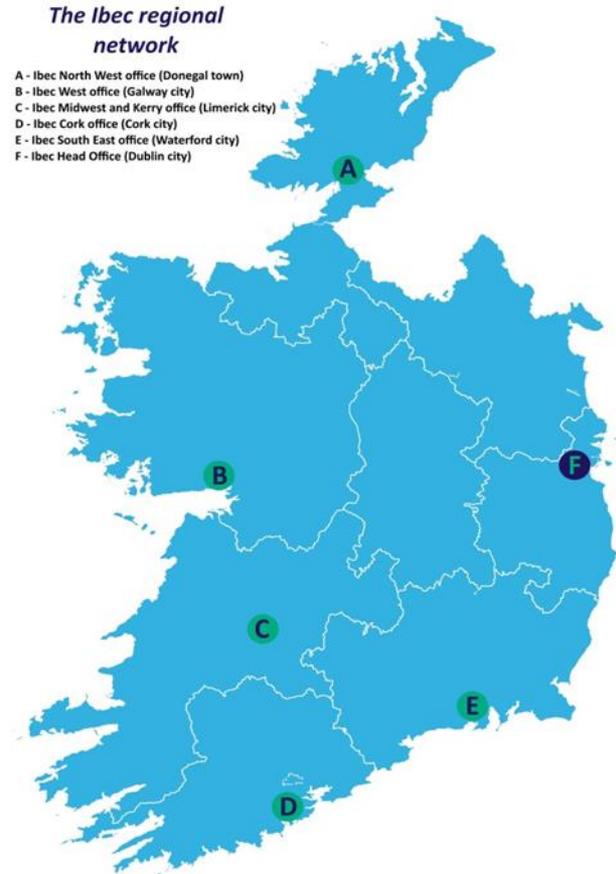
Ibec is Ireland's largest business organisation representing Irish business both domestically and internationally.

Our membership is home grown, multinational, big and small, spanning every sector of the economy.

We work to shape business conditions and drive economic growth.

It has over 240 professional services staff in seven locations including Brussels.

We have 42 different trade associations in the group.



Making Ireland a better place to live and work

Better Lives, Better Business aims to make Ireland a better place to live and work so business can more effectively attract and retain talent.

Four pillars of Better Lives, Better Business:

- 1. Housing*
- 2. Infrastructure*
- 3. Planning*
- 4. Sustainability*



www.ibec.ie/betterlives

Better housing: affordability and supply



Findings:

- A dysfunctional housing market is damaging the quality of life of many people.
- Future housing demand to average 36,000 new households a year.
- Household size will fall over coming decades.
- The high cost of development land is the most important factor driving the unaffordability of new housing.
- Over 80,000 additional workers are needed in the construction sector.
- Ireland has some of the lowest density cities in the world.

Policy actions:

- Introduce government interventions to drive down the cost of development land.
- Introduce a new site value tax, overhauling property related incentives & taxes.
- Boost supply and provide greater value for money by building more social housing and reducing government spend on housing assistances.
- Ease height and density restrictions by reforming Ireland's planning system to speed up development.
- Create a sustainable long-term rental market, including an increased focus on developing the new build to rent sector.
- Convene the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs to review the construction sector's skills base.

Engaging business in the URDF

Placemaking a key pillar of Enterprise 2025; business community engaged in development of the NPF

Competitive funding model can deliver effective regional development & opportunity to embed local economic development remit of local authorities

Projects should be based on local partnerships; opportunity to develop ongoing relationships & potentially accessing additional funding sources to deliver objectives

Leveraging the URDF should be considered during the drafting of the RSES & local development plan reviews

Collaboration and new business models should be encouraged

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