

Impact Evaluation of the Innovation Partnership Programme

What our client wanted

The Enterprise Ireland wanted to examine the impact generated by Innovation Partnerships undertaken over 2004-2006 with the purpose of:

- ensuring that the objectives of the Innovation Partnership Programme (IPP) are being met
- answering if IPP is proving to be effective and if it represents value for money
- finding how Ireland's approach to research compares with international best practice

Enterprise Ireland wanted to understand the impact and value for money of this investment to date, and what key process improvements would ensure the programme remains fit for purpose and deliver economic benefit for Ireland.

What Frontline did

We designed a logic model that outlined the chain of benefits amongst the institutes and companies, and how realising those benefits have led to economic impact for Ireland. The work included interviews with 54 companies and 31 principal investigators from HEI's along with 20 stakeholder interviews. An e-survey was undertaken that delivered a 49% return from participating companies. A full impact assessment was completed in line with European Union best practice, including adjustments for additionality and optimism, as well as a full cost benefit analysis of the Programme between 2004 and 2006. This design allowed and interviews to gain both quantitative and qualitative information. This information supported the summative and formative evaluation that was required.

What difference we made

Our work provided a robust evaluation of the Innovation Partnership Programme and an assessment of the economic and wider benefits generated from technology transfer through people transfer. direct investment in university research and its translation into the company base. This provided Enterprise Ireland with evidence and recommendations to validate the changes that they were making to the Programme, in light of current policy priorities.

What our client said

"The breadth of capabilities across the Frontline team was impressive. We dealt with a number of individuals and all were very capable, professional and responsive. We had a very good working relationship. Their support continued after completion of the final reports and we continue to contact Frontline when any matters relating to the impact assessments arise."

Jenny Melia, Manager Research & Technology Programmes Enterprise Ireland