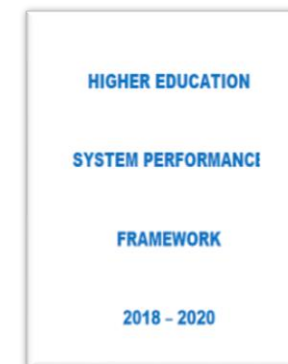
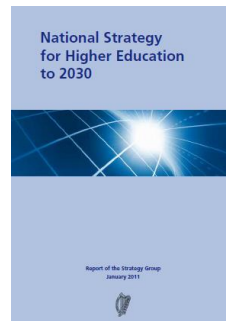


Higher Education Authority: The Role of a Buffer Agency

Presentation outline

- Some context
 - (Ireland, HEIs, size, scale, mission)
- The role of higher education in Ireland's economic recovery
 - (Skills needs, Labour market activation)
- A responsive and accountable higher education sector
 - (Strategy, Compacts, Governance, Performance Funding)
- Ireland's position in international education
 - (Internationalisation)
- HEC Legislation, reform of HEA, higher education system
- Questions and Answers



Higher education in Ireland

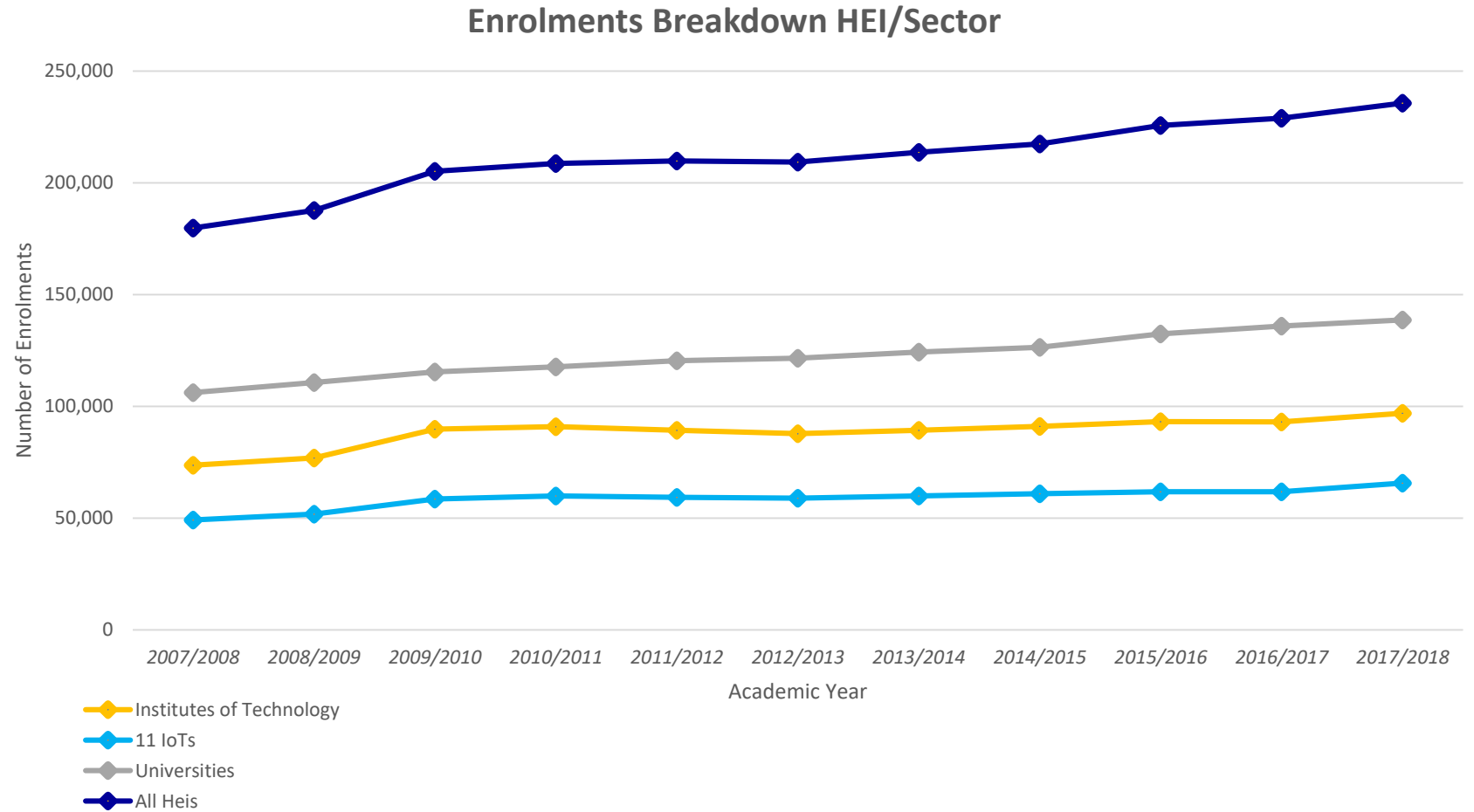
- 7 Universities & 2 Technological Unis
- 09 Institutes of Technology (TUs - 5 = 09)
- 6 Colleges of Education (some merged)
- A number of (partly) publicly-funded small colleges and private third-level colleges.



Higher education – the HEA

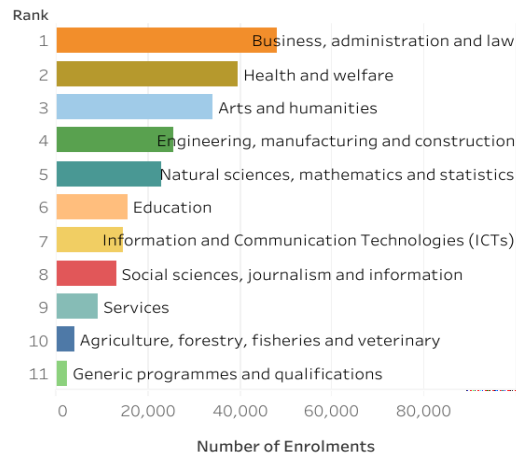
- Funder and regulator of higher education and training
- Allocation of funding
 - Core grant (RFAM)
 - Strategic initiatives
 - Springboard (LMA)
 - Performance funding (+/-)
 - Technological University Transformation Fund (TUTF)
 - Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
 - Gender equality (SALI)
- Policy advice
 - Governance and oversight
 - Recurrent grant allocation (RFAM)
 - Strategic dialogue and performance funding
 - Thematic reviews
- Reform of the higher education landscape
 - e.g. institutional consolidation & mergers, technological universities, teacher education, etc.

Student numbers (Ireland)

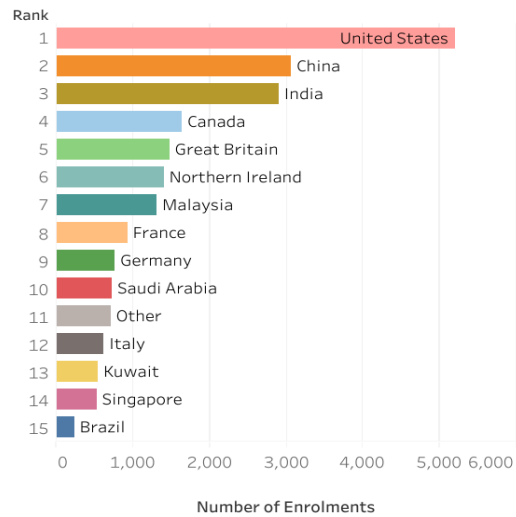


Student numbers (Ireland)

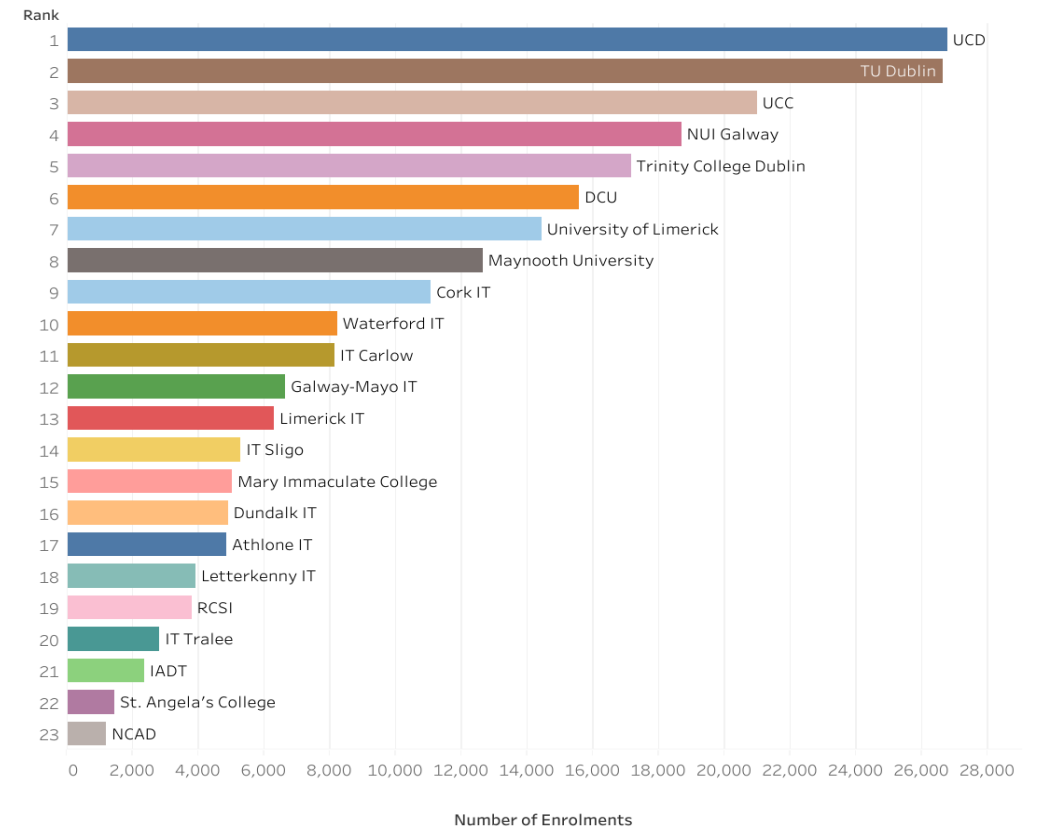
Enrolments by Field of Study - 2018/2019



International Enrolments - 2018/2019



Enrolments by HEI - 2018/2019

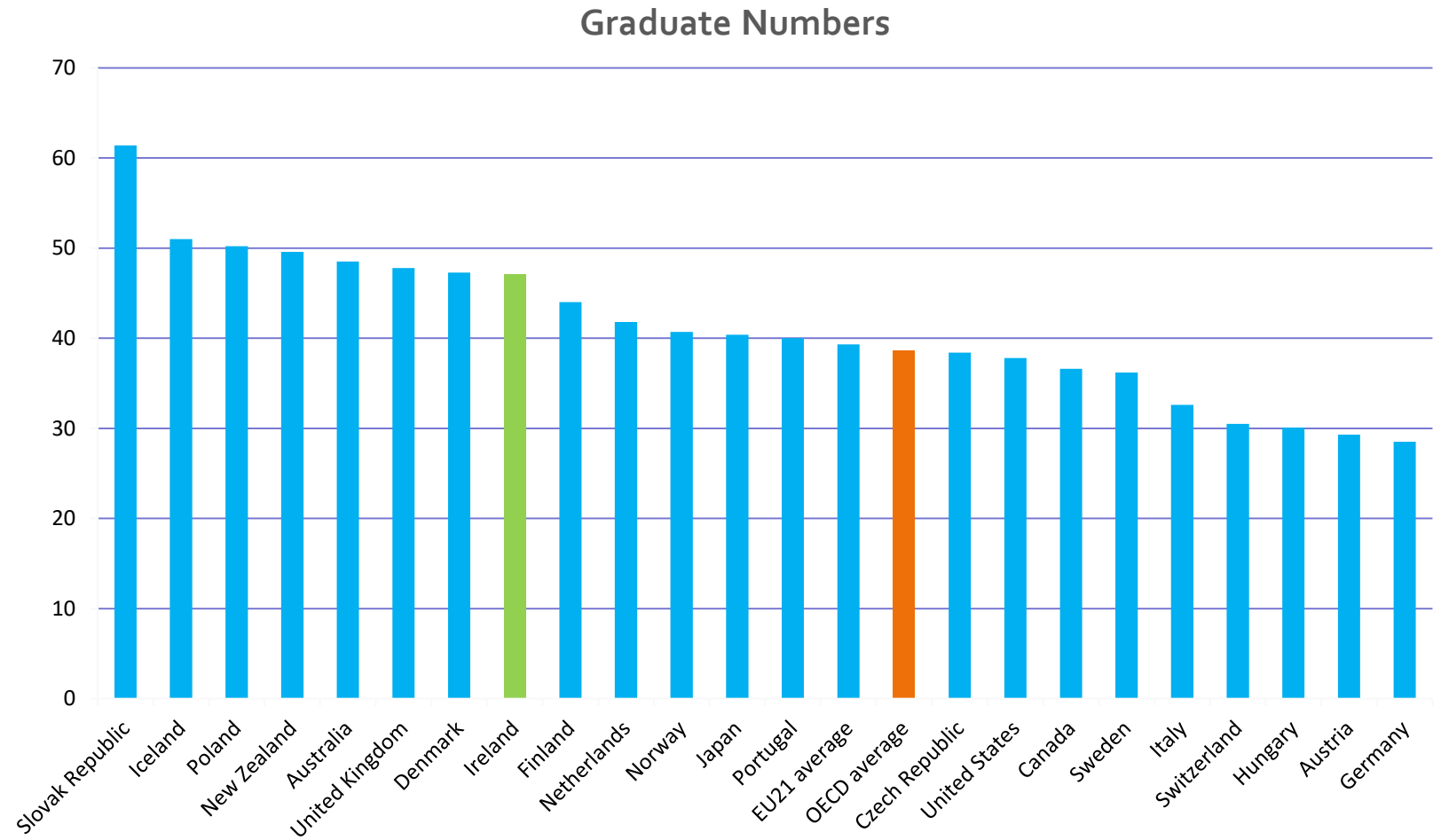


Academic Year
2018/2019
 Show history

Mode
All
New Entrant?
All

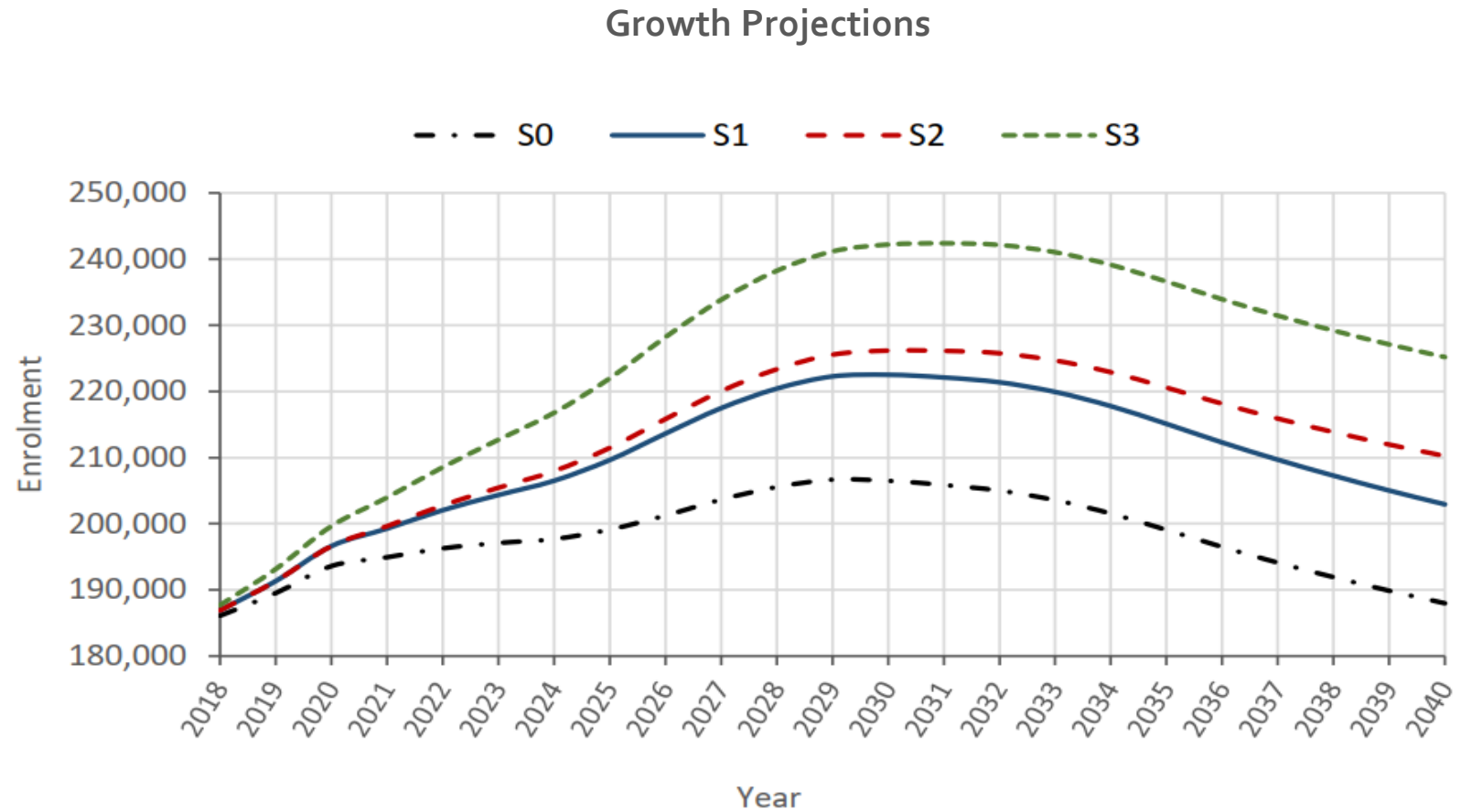
Only top 15 Countries based on enrolments shown in domicile chart. Mater Dei and St Pats are included in DCU. TU Dublin is shown across all years - previously DIT, ITB and ITTa. Tipperary Institute included in Limerick IT numbers in earlier years.

Graduate numbers (int'l benchmark)



Tertiary Type A Graduates (Honours Bachelor Degree and Masters) to the Population at Typical Age of Graduation 2009 for Selected OECD Countries.

Student numbers (Projected)

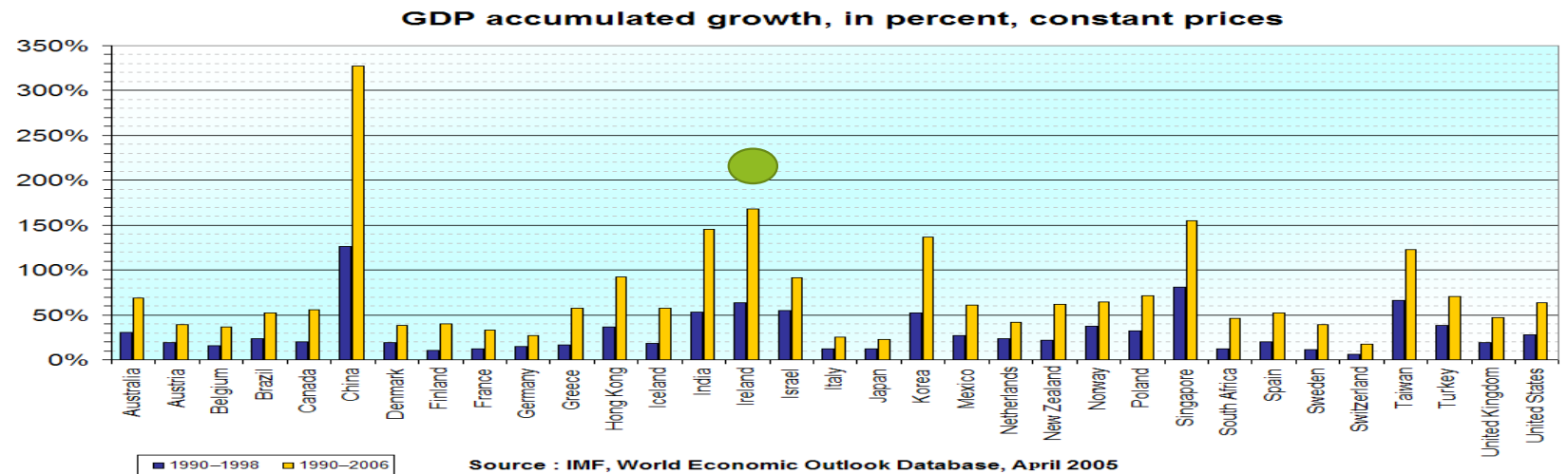


Source: Projections of demand for **full-time** third level education, 2018 to 2040

Economic cycles ↑↑

Strong economic growth from mid-1990s to 2007

- Ireland was the fastest growing OECD economy since the mid-1990s
- GDP per capita growth averaged close to 5% from 1995 to 2007
- Over a decade, living standards increased by one-third
- Employment growth was very strong and drew in large numbers of foreign-born workers. Workers from the then EU accession countries rose to 8% of the labour force.



GDP Accumulated Growth 1990-1998 & 1990-2006

Economic

cycles ↓ ↓ ↑

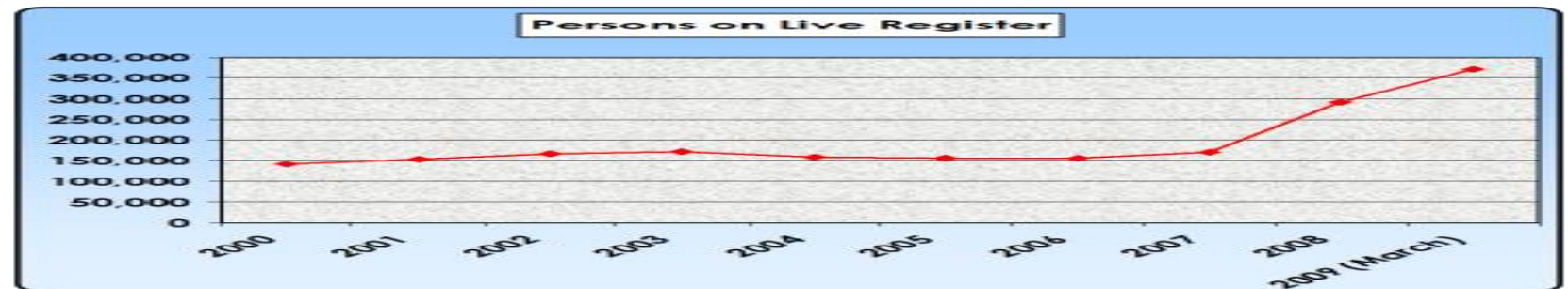
Economic stall post 2007,
recovery towards 2018

Impact of global crisis of 2008 particularly hard for Ireland – property boom, over-leveraged financial sector, Government revenues dependent on taxes arising from property boom, etc.

- The peak-to-trough fall in GNP was close to 13% according to OECD data.
- Unemployment went from 4% to 13% in less than two years (2007-2009)

Export-led economic recovery from 2012/13

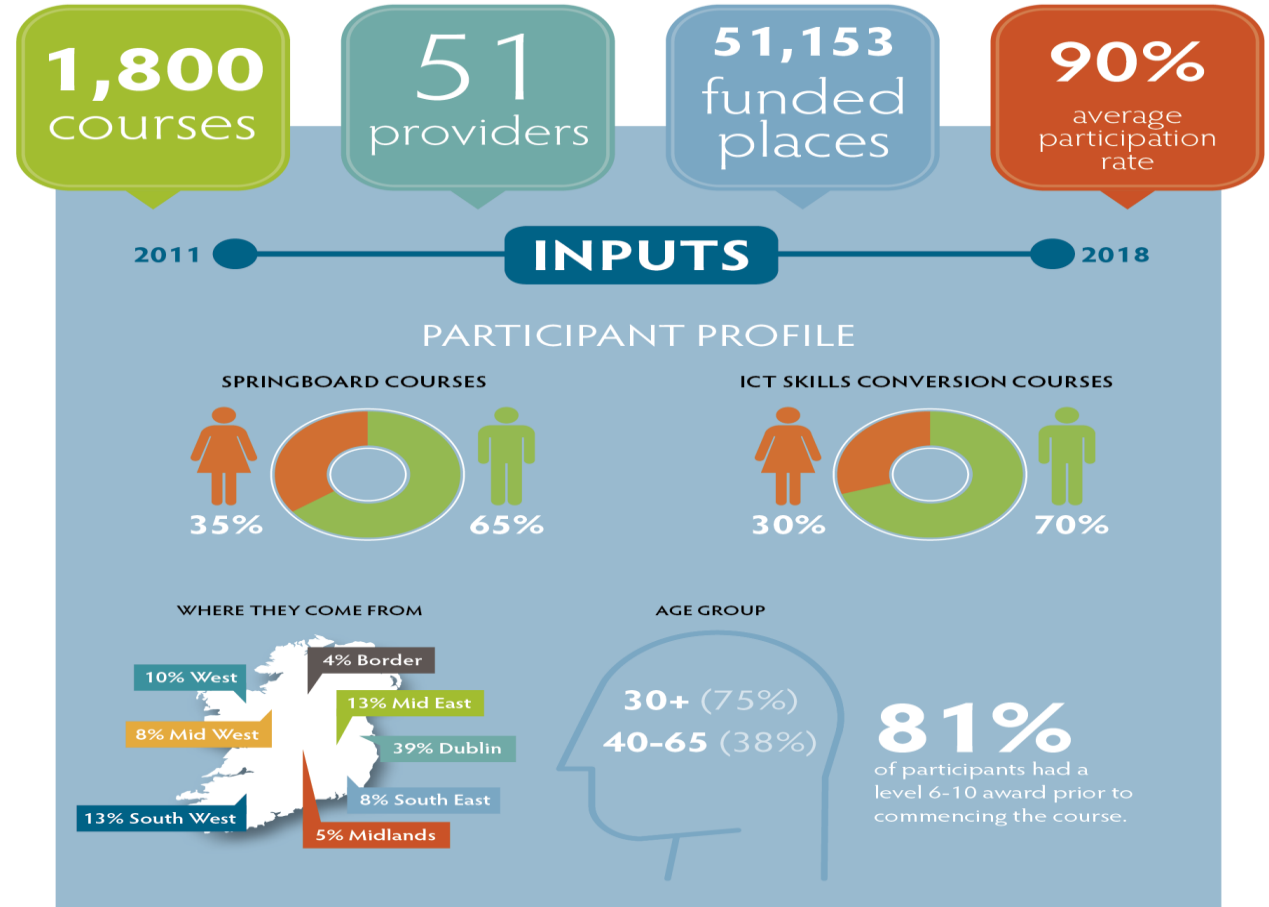
- Unemployment down to 5.3% by January 2019
- Significant increases in demand for higher education and skills
- Evidenced role of responsive and strategic higher education system.





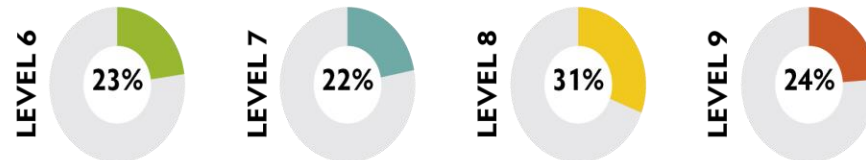
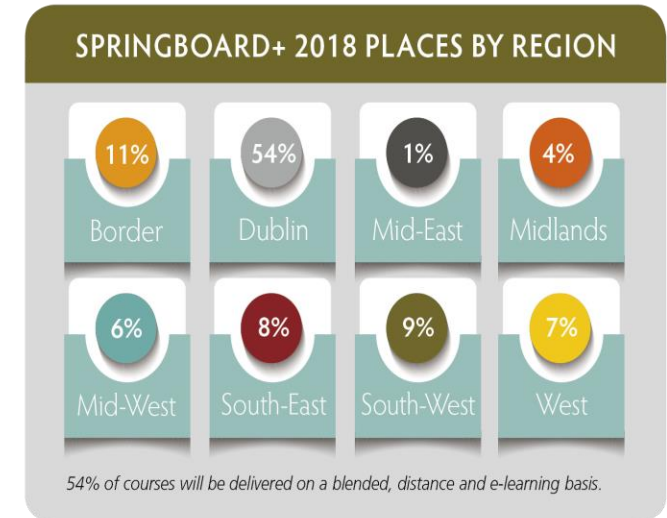
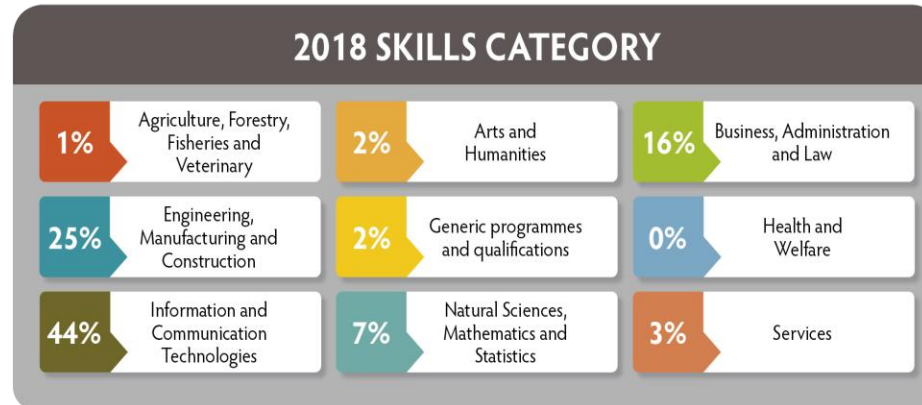
The role of higher education in Ireland's economic recovery

(Skills needs, Labour market activation)

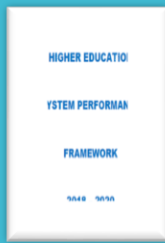
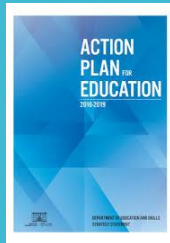
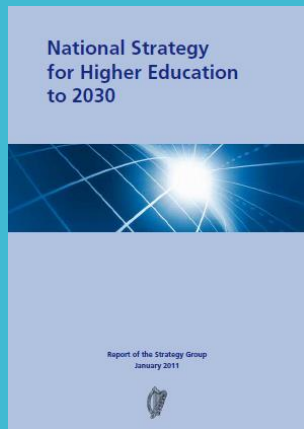


The role of higher education in Ireland's economic recovery

(Skills needs, Labour market activation)



Why a National Strategy?



Context

- Changing Higher Education for changing society
- Future demand (demographics)
- (Skills needs, employability, economic recovery)

Mission

- Teaching
- Research, Development & Innovation
- Wider Society
- Internationalisation

Governance, Structures, Funding

- Coherent Policy and Performance Framework
- System Governance (Accountability / Autonomy)
- Collaboration (clusters, consolidation, re-designation)
 - Institute of Technology evolution
- Funding the system

A responsive and accountable higher education sector

(Strategy, Compacts, Governance, Performance Funding)

The National Strategy offered higher education institutions (HEIs) and the State:

- Improved system performance and accountability through a system governed & funded to support improved performance:
 - A Landscape of HEIs optimally configured
 - Autonomy, Coherence, Mission Clarity, Complementarity, Collaboration, Consolidation, Evolution

Via:

- Strategic Dialogue & Performance Funding
- Annual Published Report on Performance & System Outputs.



Why Change

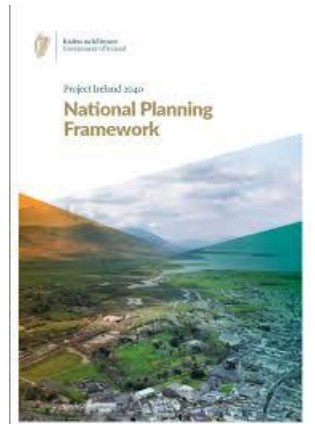
An example of evolution of funding/planning systems:

- Historically had centralised funding for HEIs
 - specific, line item budgets
 - an illusion of control and accountability
- Direction setting didn't always succeed
 - limited responsibility = limited responsiveness, limited innovation
 - some suggestions of gaming the system
- Expensive in terms of time and effort negotiating budgets
- While individual HEIs performed well, the system didn't drive efficiency or effectiveness.



More National strategy.....

- National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 (Landscape reform, Sahlberg, TUs)
- The Action Plan for Education 2016 – 2019
- National Skills Strategy 2025
- Innovation 2020 (National research strategy)
- Investing in National Ambition: A Strategy for Funding Higher Education
- National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-19
- Action Plan to Expand Apprenticeship and Traineeship in Ireland
- Irish Educated, Globally Connected (International education)
- Enterprise 2025 (National employment strategy)
- National Policy Statement on Entrepreneurship
 - OECD Review of Entrepreneurship in Higher Education / HEI Innovate
- Foreign Languages Strategy
- National Review of Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions
- Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework
- National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
- Evolving policy / strategy – e.g., Teacher supply, Regional Development



National Access Plan

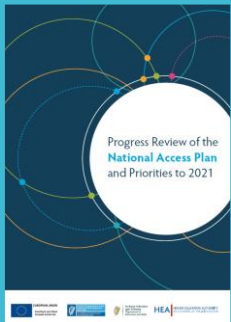


The vision of the National Access Plan is to ensure that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels reflects the diversity and social mix of Ireland's population.

The five goals are as follows:

- To mainstream the delivery of equity of access in HEIs.
- To assess the impact of current initiatives to support access.
- To gather accurate data on access and participation and to base policy on what that data tells us.
- To build coherent pathways from further education and to foster other entry routes to higher education.
- To develop regional and community partnership strategies for increasing access, with a particular focus on mentoring.

National Access Plan



The groups being targeted include:

- entrants from under-represented socio-economic groups and communities;
 - entrants with disabilities;
 - mature entrants;
 - members of the Irish Traveller community;
 - students entering on the basis of a further education award;
 - part-time flexible learners;
 - socio-economically disadvantaged lone parents and ethnic minorities
- From 2012/13 to 2016/17
 - students from disadvantaged backgrounds rose from 23% to 27%
 - students with a disability rose from 6% to 10%

Gender Equality



The under-representation of women among staff in higher education, particularly at senior levels, is an intractable problem internationally.

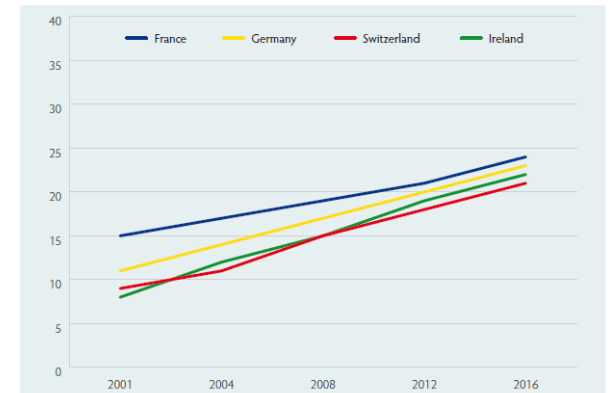
Athena SWAN Charter:

- Effect cultural and systemic change in higher education institutions to support gender equality and the career-progression of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (STEMM) disciplines.
- Funders will require higher education institutions to have attained a bronze institutional Athena SWAN award by the end of 2019 and a silver institutional Athena SWAN by the end of 2023 in order to be eligible for research-funding.

- SALI

- 45 women-only senior academic positions in Higher Education Institutions.

Figure 1: Trends in the number of women at professor level in France, Germany, Switzerland and Ireland.

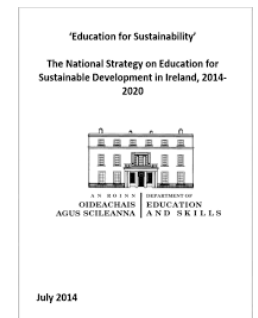


Ireland's position in international education



The *System Performance Framework 2018-2020* sets out a range of objectives to which the system is required to respond.

- Irish Educated, Globally Connected (International education)
- Foreign Languages Strategy
- National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development



Higher education achievements

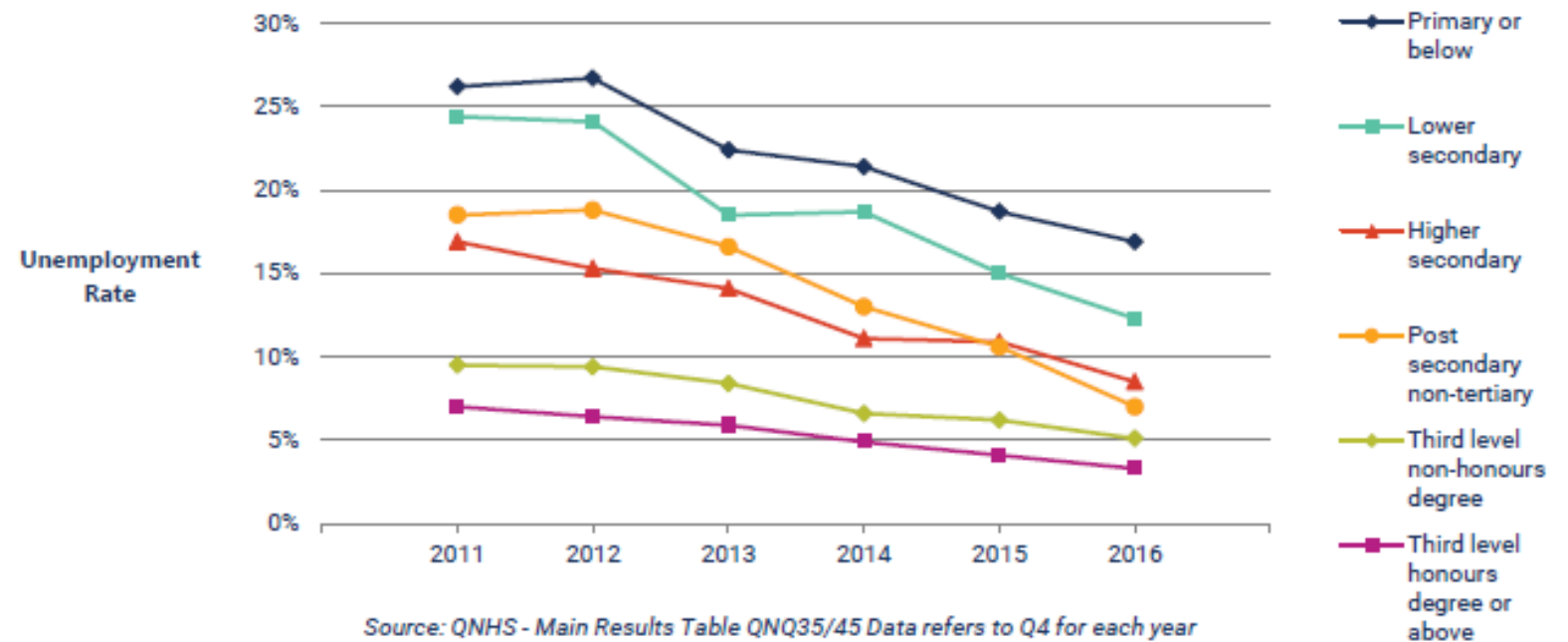
Over the past five decades 1970s to 2021:

- Significant improvements in the educational profile of the Irish population
- Free second level education introduced in September 1967
- Greatly enhanced opportunities for high educational attainment
- Free* Higher Education from 1997
- Strong public support for (higher) education
- Definite progress in the promotion of greater equality
- Significant capital and research investment.

A responsive system – evidence...



Unemployment Rate by Level of Educational Attainment (QNHS)

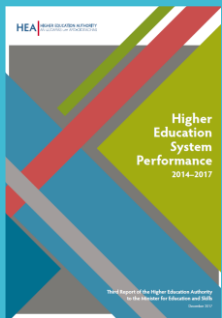


Higher education challenges

As of 2021:

- Accommodate increasing student demand
 - Increasing demand / Decreasing resources / Sustainability
 - Digital Transformation
- Inequalities in access to higher education persist
 - Substantial sections of population have low levels of qualification and skills
 - Limited success in lifelong learning
- Economic recovery & skills crunch
 - Technical skills vs life skills
 - COVID-19 Pandemic
- Fitness for purpose (intensifying global competitiveness)
 - Need to expand postgraduate provision and continue to improve the quality and impact of research / prioritisation

Higher education institution issues 2019



As of 2021:

- Underfunded system growth - 'do more with less'
- High fixed costs, lack of flexibility
- Increasing demand for HE, Increasing demand for (greater) skills
- Massification of HE, broader set of student needs
- Matching work force planning, industry needs, student demand
- Flexibility of provision, flexibility of practice
- 'Strong Research Performance, high TRL, but €€ ≠ €€€€'
- Strategic' Internationalisation - value, quality, risk
- Governance, Oversight (e.g. procurement)
- HEC Legislation = Governance / Autonomy / Regulatory Role

Thank You!

Any questions?

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