



An Roinn Gnó,
Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Business,
Enterprise and Innovation

Experience of STI Agreements

Mary Twomey

16 September 2019

International R&I policy development and implementation



Innovation 2020
Implementation
Group



An Roinn Gnó,
Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Business,
Enterprise and Innovation



Science
Foundation
Ireland **sfi**
For what's next



**ENTERPRISE
IRELAND**
where innovation means business



IDA Ireland

EU R&I Framework
Programmes

Innovation 2020



Phase 3
2016 -2020

Innovation
2020

Refresh of
Research
Prioritisation

- Launched in December 2015
- Strategy has a whole-of-Government focus
- Complementary suite of strategies – Enterprise 2025, Future Jobs Initiative, sectoral strategies (health, blue economy)
- Vision for Ireland – become a Global Innovation Leader driving a strong sustainable economy and a better society
- Continue to build on success of previous policy and strategies
- Focus on excellence, talent, impact
- Increasing international collaboration – one of main pillars



Increasing international R&I collaboration



- Ireland is a small open economy – we rely on external demand and international markets for sustainable and continued growth
- Increasing international R&I collaboration is a key pillar of our national strategy – in particular by:
 - *Increasing participation in the EU framework programmes;*
 - *Engaging in bilateral cooperation with a small number of countries - including China, India and Japan; and*
 - *membership of the key International Research Organisations*



Ireland and R&I agreements - overview



- We have a small number of bilateral agreements
 - *Intergovernmental umbrella agreements*
 - *Ministry to Ministry MoUs*
 - *Also bilateral agency to agency arrangements*
- Overarching objective is to strengthen R&I collaboration between the countries.
- Delegate responsibility for implementation to agencies of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
- Mixed experience

Key learnings



- Importance of existing collaborative activity – e.g. under the framework programmes
- As a small country, focus on thematic areas of common interest – informed by Ireland’s research priority areas; SFI Research Centres
- Implementation – political/ministry/agency/R&I community levels
- Resources – we do not have a dedicated budget
- Cultural differences should not be underestimated – for the R&I community but also at an official level