



# Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim Regional Industry Briefing

Radisson Hotel, Sligo

21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2023 10.30am





National & Local Context Paul Keeley & Miriam Kennedy	
<ul> <li>Product &amp; Enterprise Development</li> <li>Fiona Monaghan &amp; Joan Crawford</li> </ul>	
Panel Discussion	
Marketing & Commercial Development Deirdre O'Brien & Martin Donnelly	
Q&A	



DRIVING SUSTAINABLE Recovery





1. National Highlights – 2022

2. 2023 Outlook & Supply side challenges to overcome

3. Regional Outcomes & Perspectives – 2022 and 2023

#### Section 1:

## 2022 Review

#### Overseas

#### Domestic



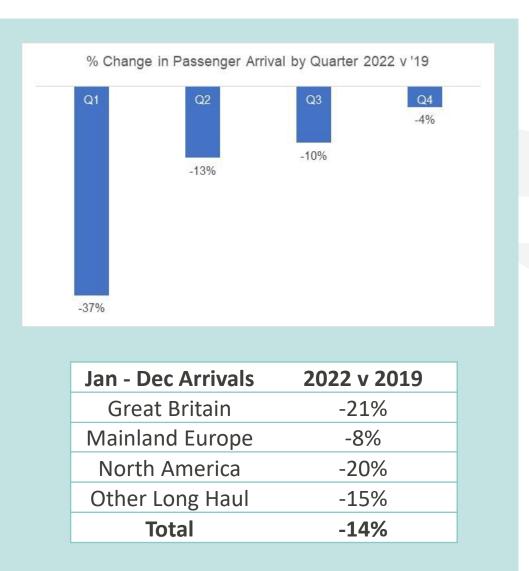
\* ILD ATLANTIC WAY



### **Overseas Market - Fast Recovery**



- Progressive recovery in total inbound arrivals
- Continental Europe led the recovery
- Q3/4 good return of North American visitors.
- Great Britain was more challenged





#### January to September 2022 vs 2019:

#### **10.2** million total trips +14%



#### Holiday trips + 19%



Holiday nights + 21%.

Domestic holidays increased share of total trips by Irish residents to

51% in 2019 57% in 2022

#### Section 2

# 2023 Outlook

- Demand side opportunities
- Supply side challenges
- Sustainability targets





### **Demand Side Opportunities**



#### **Opportunities in Overseas Market:** Air Access Forecast 2023

Changes in Seat Capacity	Summer 2023 vs. 2019
Great Britain	+2%
Mainland Europe	+4%
North America	-2%
Rest of World	+8%
All Markets	+3%

### **1. Demand Side Opportunities**



#### **Positive Domestic 2023 Outlook**

- Consideration for taking a domestic trip in 2023 is 82% on par with 2019
- 23% intend to take a break in the next 3 months
- Visitor satisfaction high at 79%
- Value for money critical for domestic

# Supply Side Challenges







### **Supply Side Challenges**



- 1. Rising Operating Costs
- 2. Accommodation Capacity
- 3. Staffing
- 4. Car Hire
- 5. Value for Money

Pressure on margins
 Price pressure/lost business
 Pressure to maintain standards
 Regional mobility impacted
 Long-term reputational risk

### Combined IP and BOTP contracted beds in all Fáilte Ireland registered accommodation

IF	and BOTP of	contracted %	6 of Registere	d Accommodation		
	Registered Beds Overall					
Leitrim	794	650	81.85%		a with the	
Longford	312	202	64.74%		1-54	
Donegal	9,009	4,511	50.07%	Done	egal: 50.07%	
Meath	3,577	1,635	45.71%	and the second	5	
Cavan	2,543	1,069	42.04%		your	the second
Sligo	3,653	1,521	41.64%			
Clare	8,435	3,323	39.40%	Leitrim:	81.86%	
Monaghan	1,155	431	37.32%	Sligo: 41.64%	Monaghan	:: 37.32%
Louth	2,153	801	37.20%	Siguratory	Cavan: 42.04%	
Kerry	18,433	6,780	36.78%	Mayo: 35.04%		Louth: 37.2%
Мауо	7,537	2,641	35.04%	Roscommon:	25.84% Longford: 64.74%	
Westmeath	2,758	935	33.90%		congroup. de. ray	Meath: 45.71%
Offaly	1,031	319	30.94%		Westmeath: 33.90%	
Wexford	4,995	1,544	30.91%	Galway: 21.04%	Service of the servic	Dublin: 13.699
Tipperary	2,594	769	29.65%		Offaly: 30,94% K	ildare: 9.78%
Carlow	1.687	472	27.98%		Laois: 26.86%	Wicklow: 24.36
Laois	1,508	405	25.85%		See 1	
Roscommon	894	231	25.84%	Clare: 39.4%	Ca	now: 27.98%
Cork	15,223	3,903	25.64%		Kilkenny: 18.	7%
Wicklow	4,159	1,013	24.36%	Limerick: 22.08%	Tipperary: 29.65%	
Limerick	6.009	1,327	22.08%			Wexford: 30.91%
Galway	14,593	3,071	21.04%		Waterford: 17.	31%
Kilkenny	3,958	740	18.70%	Kerry: 36.78%		
Waterford	4,216	730	17.31%	Cork: 25.64%		
County Dublin, Ireland	55,763	7,635	13.69%			
Kildare	3,425	335	9.78%			
Total Average Contracted beds across all counties	180,414	46,993	26.05%			
Total Average Contracted beds across all counties Excluding Du	124,651	39,358	31.57%			

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige | Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

- The Graphic here details the percentage of IP and BOTP contacted beds in Fáilte Ireland registered accommodation.
- For comparison purposes, the relative positions this month and last month are as follows:
- Total average contracted beds across all counties: 26.05% (25.19% in December)
- Total average contracted beds across all counties excluding Dublin: **31.57%** (30.12% in December)





# Sustainability Targets











Government Commitment to carbon neutrality no later than 2050

Sector target is a 35% reduction in emissions by 2030

Collective effort from every business and stakeholder

#### Section 3

# A Closer Look At Regional Performance







### **VICE Framework**



• Visitor: Destination Attitude Survey

- Industry: Barometer, Occupancy and Rate
- Community: Tourism Approval Rating

Environment: SEA/Environmental Monitoring



# Destination Attitude Survey





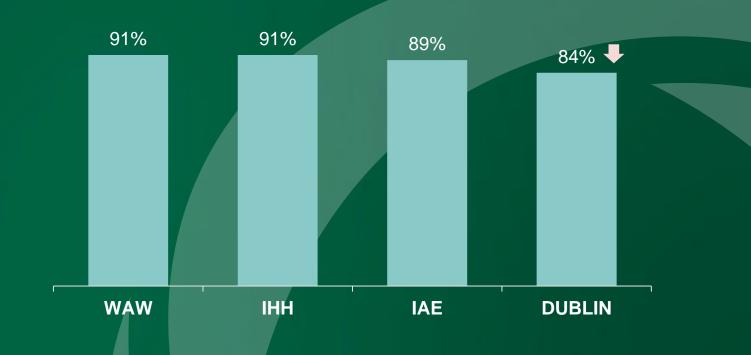


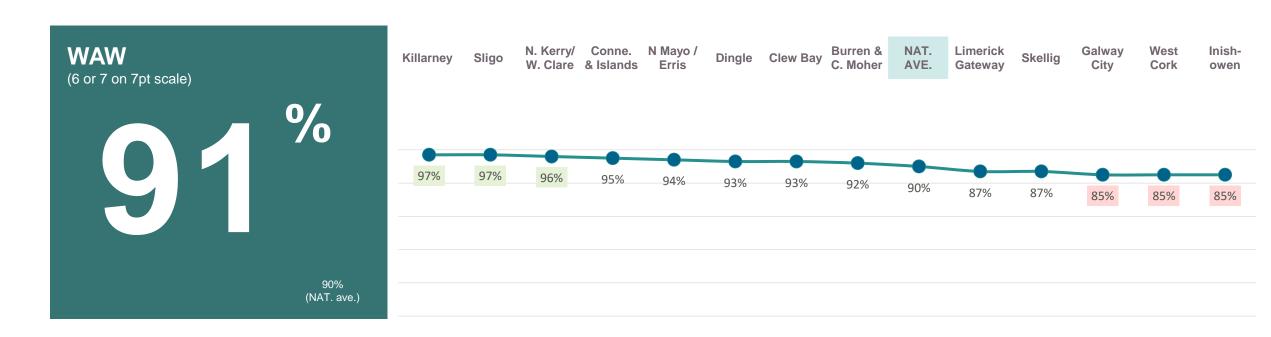
### **Visitor Destination Attitudes Survey**



- 8,283 interviews across 56 locations between July and September 2022
- Visitor satisfaction is exceptionally high, indicating experiences are delivering against expectations.







The majority of WAW DEDPs deliver high quality experiences. Galway, West Cork and Inishowen require improvement in look an feel elements, as well as food and activity offerings.

**TRIP SATISFACTION - "VERY SATISFIED"** 



Fáilte





- Wild Atlantic Way is the template for retaining visitor movement within its brand area and is also the most 'connected' brand – with the highest incidence of awareness and visitation to nearby attractions.
- While trip satisfaction is consistently high, there is wide variation in the VFM ratings across DEDPs, with Galway city a clear concern.
- WAW leads the national ratings on 'look & feel' and excels on outdoor activities and sightseeing. The evaluation of food offering and ease of travel does however vary significantly across the brand's DEDPs.



### INDUSTRY

# Industry Sentiment







**Good Optimism within Wild Atlantic Way** 





# **66%**

Stated 2022 volume of business was ahead of 2021



Stated 2022 volumes were up or at least equal to 2019 **78%** 

2023 volume will surpass or match 2022

**85%** Costs are key concern

# Occupancy and Rates









	Ос	cupan	су	Ave	rage Da Rate	aily	RevPAR		
	2022	2019	Variance 2022 vs 2019	2022	2019	Variance 2022 vs 2019	2022	2019	Variance 2022 vs 2019
National	73	77	- 4 ppts	160	128	25%	117	98	19%
Donegal	64	69	-5 ppts	131	94	39%	84	65	29%
Sligo*	69	72	-3 ppts	118	85	38%	81	61	32%

\*Small sample size

#### COMMUNITY

Tourism Approval Rating

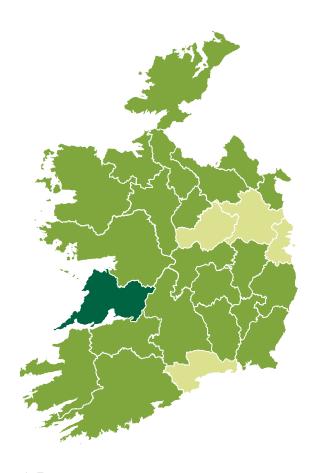






### **International Tourism**





Shows change from Apr - Sep 2021

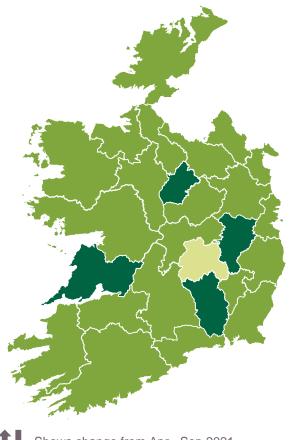
(Base: Apr 2022 - Sep 2022 - Irish residents n=1,771)

Caution: all counties except Cork, Donegal, Dublin and Galway have a low sample size

Ireland Internation 65		Int	ustralia ernational TAR 8 121		<b>W Zealand</b> Inational TAR <b>4</b> 16
			ł		ļ
Region	TAR Score	County	TAR Score	County	TAR Score
Mid-West	73	Clare	80	Roscommon	67
Border	71	Kildare	77	Kerry	67
South-West	67	Longford	75	Wexford	67
Mid-East	67	Kilkennv	74	Galway	66
West	67	Donegal	72	Carlow	65
South East	66	Monaghan	72	Louth	61
Midlands	63	Tipperarv	72	Laois	60
Dublin	59	Leitrim	72	Dublin	59
		Limerick	70	Meath	59
Advocacy		Cavan	70	Waterford	57
Approval		Sligo	68	Westmeath	57
		Мауо	68	None	
Acceptance		Offaly	68	None	
Limited Acceptance		Wicklow	68	None	
Threatened Acceptar	nce	Cork	67		
Disapproval					

### **Domestic Tourism**





Shows change from Apr - Sep 2021

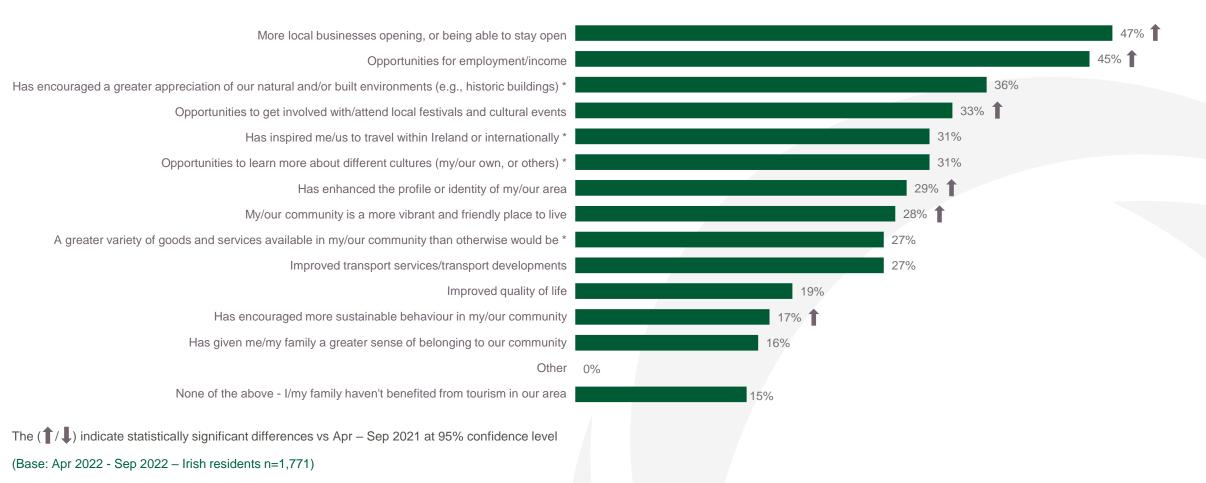
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Ireland Domestic TA		Dor	ustralia mestic TAR	Don	ew Zealand
69	<b>1</b> 6	5	8 1 7	6	3 <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>
					ļ
Region	TAR Score	County	TAR Score	County	TAR Score
Mid-West	76	Longford	83	Sligo	70
Border	73	Kilkenny	81	Offaly	70
Mid-East	72	Clare	81	Galway	68
South-West	71	Kildare	80	Waterford	67
West	70	Leitrim	78	Carlow	67
South East	69	Tipperarv	75	Louth	67
Midlands	67	Donegal	74	Meath	67
Dublin	64	Limerick	74	Westmeath	67
		Мауо	74	Wexford	65
Advocacy		Kerry	73	Dublin	64
Approval		Roscommon	73	Laois	58
		Cavan	73	None	
Acceptance		Wicklow	72	None	
Limited Acceptance		Monaghan	71	None	
Threatened Acceptance	е	Cork	71		
Disapproval					



#### In which of the following ways, if any, would you say you/your family benefit from tourism activity in your local area?



\* Answer added in Q4 2021 - significant difference test not possible

### Ensuring tourism benefits Irish communities Fáilte

#### What more, if anything, do you think could be done to ensure tourism benefits communities in Ireland?

Growing Tourism	35%
Increase promotion of individual Irish counties	13%
Create new attractions and activities	8%
Greater investment/funding for county development	7%
More events and festivals	4%

	Community Focused	35%
	Reduce costs of living (including domestic travel)	15%
	Increase provision of local facilities	7%
<b>ATANA STATA</b>	Community beautification	5%
	Greater celebration of Irish culture, language and heritage	3%
	Encouraging residents (and tourists) to support local	3%

	Infrastructure	23%
	More public transport	9%
	Infrastructure development (generally)	7%
	Better overall transport solutions	5%
	More roading	3%



Managing Tourism	7%
Public consultation and collaboration	3%

Tourism Accommodation	11%
Cheaper accommodation options	8%
More/greater diversity of accommodation options	4%

### ENVIRONMENT

# Environmental Sustainability









- Environmental Monitoring Plan all regions
- SEAs Regional Strategies & DEDPs
- Reducing Businesses' Carbon Footprint
  - Climate Action Roadmap
  - Business Capability Toolkits
  - Carbon Calculator

# Industry Recovery Strategy







### 7 Areas of Transformational Change



Sustainable Business Recovery

**W** Supporting Tourism Careers

Accelerate Domestic Tourism



Industry Digitalisation

Destination Development and Distribution







# Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy

**Miriam Kennedy** 

#### What you had to say ...



"Appropriate and sustainable facilities and infrastructure are needed to "open up" the outdoors"

"The importance of protecting the "wildness" of the west coast" "The volume and value of tourism to the Wild Atlantic Way is uneven leading to cold spots and hot spots



#### **Our Strategic Challenges**



6/14/21 | PRESENTATION NAME | <#>



# Grow year round appeal of WAW, Attract & disperse high value visitor.

- Create a more differentiated approach to marketing the WAW
- Improve the online presence & bookability
- Invest in the route to ensure a consistent and quality experience.
- Improve public transport





Raise the international profile of the Northern half of the Wild Atlantic Way to increase visitation and revenue.

- Address need for iconic attractors in the northern half.
- Drive incremental tourism revenue through sustained promotion domestically and internationally.
- Create a more sustained partnership and focus with TNI and TI to better partner on Wild Atlantic Way and Causeway Coast.







Increase tourism revenue, visitor dispersion and season extension across the Southern half of the Wild Atlantic Way

- Develop new, refreshed offerings in established destinations to maintain competitiveness.
- Address the need for strong supporting all weather attractions to retain the visitor and extend the season
- Enhance and improve the visitor experience at a range of existing signature and iconic visitor attractions
- Provide strong visitor management plans



# Protect the cultural authenticity and "wildness" of the Wild Atlantic Way

- Provide more appropriate visitor facilities
- Build and substantiate the reputation of the region as a sustainable tourism destination.
- Protect and share cultural authenticity of west
- Ensure that "wildness" remains at the core of the Wild Atlantic Way







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#### Enable and assist the industry to grow

• Provide appropriate supports and interventions to enable businesses to thrive

# Create flourishing destinations and thriving communities.

- Implement DEDPs
- Build strong tourism networks
- Involve local communities in decisions



# DEDP Development







#### **DEDPs on the Wild Atlantic Way**

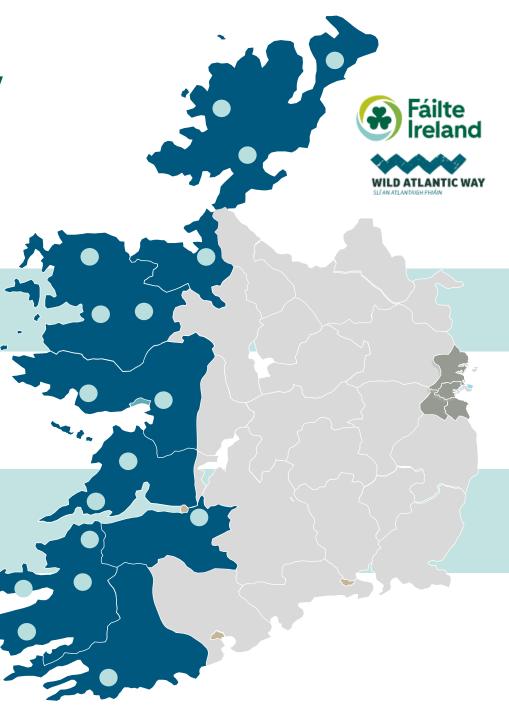
#### 16 DEDPs

Launched or in development across the Wild Atlantic Way

# 600+

Industry and stakeholder champions engaged with across the WAW

- 1. Inishowen Peninsula
- 2. West Donegal & Islands
- 3. South Donegal
- 4. Sligo
- 5. North Mayo/Erris
- 6. Clew Bay
- 7. East Mayo
- 8. Connemara & Islands
- 9. Galway City
- 10. Burren and Cliffs of Moher
- 11. Limerick
- 12. Cliff Coast (North Kerry/West Clare)
- 13. Dingle Peninsula
- 14. Skellig Coast
- 15. Killarney
- 16. West Cork, Three Peninsulas & Kenmare



## Inishowen







#### Why the plan was needed ...







Very uneven distribution of visitors across the destination and highly seasonal/low length of stay There is an apparent Lack of indoor product that is motivational for visitors and in turn there is a clear gap supporting the evening economy Relatively high proportion of day trippers – need to generate more overnights.

3

#### **Catalyst Projects**













## Co. Sligo DEDP









#### Why the plan was needed ...









No standout reason to visit or overnight in Sligo Low level of international visitors

Fragmented approach to tourism

#### **Catalyst Projects**















## West Donegal & the Islands

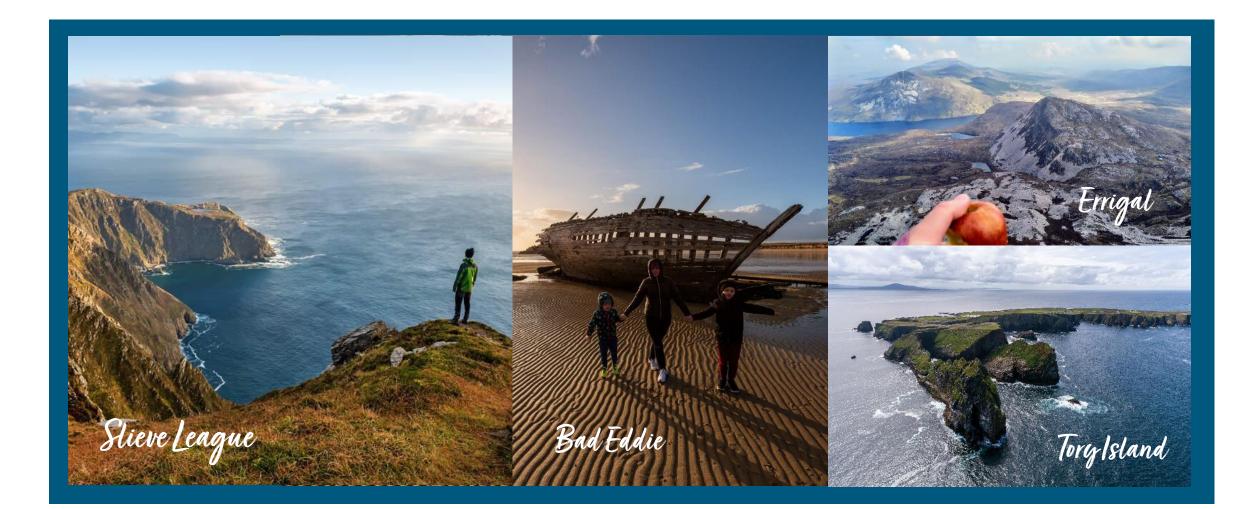






#### Plan to launch in 2024





### Shared **Islands Fund**







#### **Shared Islands Fund**



# €7.6m

The vision is to connect the Causeway Coast and the Wild Atlantic Way in such a way that the visitor is motivated to stay longer and spend more thereby bringing greater economic benefit to the region

#### **Cross – Border Collaboration**

The partners for this project will be Tourism Northern Ireland, Fáilte Ireland & Tourism Ireland

2023 - 2025

Discovery Point Development

Common digital strategy

Cross border online booking experience

#### Product Development Investment Pipeline







#### **National Surf Centre, Strandhill**





Fáilte Ireland Funding: €1,363,639

Total Project Costs: €2,838,287

Expected Opening Date: Summer 2023



#### **National Surf Centre, Strandhill**







# Queen Maeve Square & Garavogue River Walk





Fáilte Ireland Funding: €2,583,256

Total Project Costs: €3,605,342

Expected Opening Date: 2023



# Queen Maeve Square & Garavogue River Walk





#### **Platforms for Growth 1 - Fort Dunree**





Fáilte Ireland Funding: €9,251,000

Total Project Costs: **€12,400,000** 

Expected Opening Date: 2025/2026



# 1%

#### **Donegal & Mayo**

Fáilte Ireland Funding: € 3,4000,000 Expected Opening Date: 2024 / 2025



#### **Mountain Bike Trail Centre - Coolaney**





Joint RRDF Project with Coillte

Total Project Costs: €13.68 million

Expected Opening Date: 2024 - 2025



#### Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery





#### Co. Sligo

Fáilte Ireland Funding: €262,500Total Project Costs: €350,000Expected Opening Date: 2024



#### **Glenveagh National Park New Branding & Website**



RRDF Partnership Project

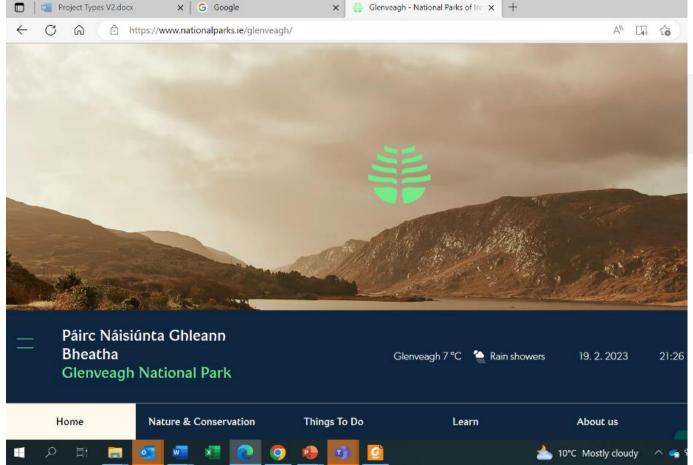
Total Project Costs: €3,350,000 Fáilte Ireland Funding: €418,750



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra National Parks and Wildlife Service







#### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme



- Collaboration between the Department of Rural and Community Development & Fáilte Ireland 2018 - 2021
- Provides funding for a range of outdoor infrastructure projects such as; walking trails, greenways and blueways
- 224 projects completed across 25 counties totalling
   14.6 Million (2019- 2022)
- 2022: Upgrade works at Knocknarea, Sligo (144K Investment)

2023: Hazelwood Forest Trail (123K Investment)

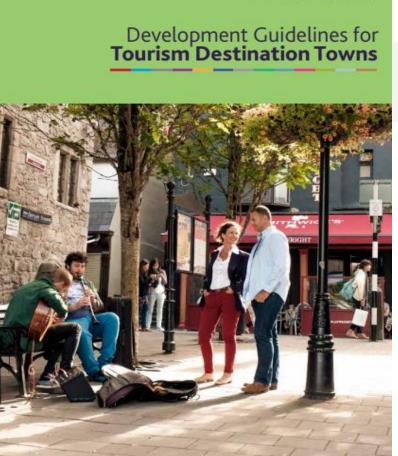


#### **Destination Towns**





Co. Sligo & Co. Donegal Fáilte Ireland Funding: €1m **Expected Opening Date: Q3, 2023** 



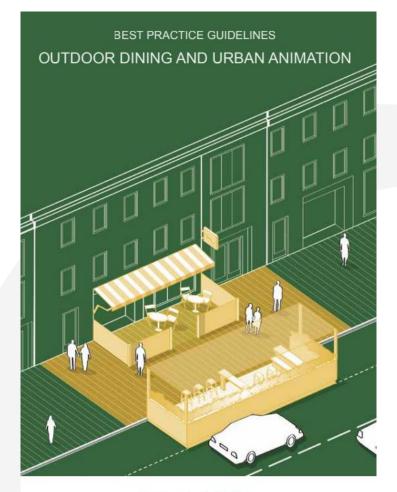


#### **Outdoor Dining Investments**



**Tobergall Lane & Enniscrone – Sligo** 

Letterkenny & Bundoran - Donegal



S Failte Ireland BDP.

# Enterprise Supports

Martina Bromley – Head of Enterprise Development





#### **2022 Supports**



852 Businesses &
1928 Employees from
Wild Atlantic Way businesses
attended Fáilte Ireland
training workshops and
webinars in 2022

#### Most popular Programme Areas:

- Energy Management
   Climate Action Supports
- Saleable Experience Development
- Sales & Marketing
- **O Digital Supports**

#### Challenges









## Competitiveness





## **2023 Strategic Priorities**





## Reduction of Operational Costs

- To reduce Costs
- To drive Efficiencies
- To deliver VFM and great customer experiences



#### Digitalisation

- Shop window is user friendly and easy to navigate for your customers
- Byte sized digital enhancements deliver big impacts with small investments
- Your website as a sales engine to drive more revenues.

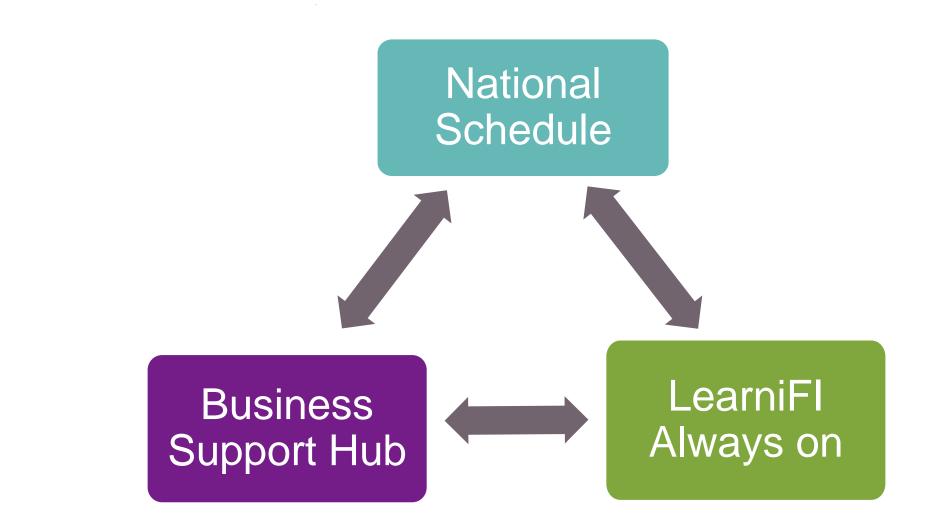
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#### **Climate Action**

- Measuring your carbon Footprint
- Practical supports to develop your Action plan
- Supported by case studies and expert guides

## **Engaging with Supports**





## National Schedule & Support Hub





## learniFl





150+ Modules available Accessible anytime, anywhere and on any device







- Help your Business grow Speak to your local contact for further information on the programmes best suited to support your business grow in 2023.
- **2. Focus in on developing your business** commercially through Fáilte Ireland's National Calendar of supports and the Business Support Hub
- 3. Encourage your staff to **upskill and engage** with the New learniFI always on learning **to support your teams**

## Panel Discussion

**Eleanor Hanna** Hanna Hats Mick McEnroe National Surf Centre **Gerry Moore** Sligo Park Hotel Eimear Ní Mhathúna Fanad Lighthouse







# Marketing Overview

Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE Recovery







## **Communications Journey**







)))

**AUDIO** 





AV-VOD & BROADCAST WEATHER INTEGRATION SPONSORSHIP PRINT



#### PUBLISHER PARTNERSHIPS

HIGH REACH, HIGH FREQUENCY MULTI-CHANNEL CAMPAIGN



SUPPORTED BY BUSINESS & MARKETING TOOLKIT

## **Inspiring the nation through TV**



National TV across ROI & NI

PLUS

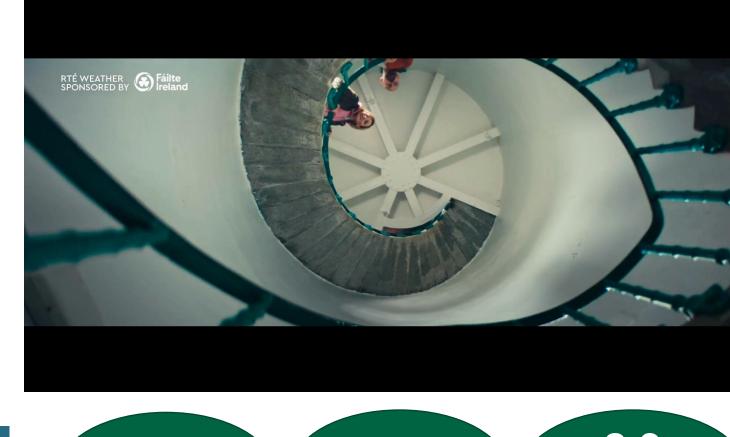
On-

Demand

Reaching 55% of adults weekly



## Building salience through Ireland's largest Fáilte broadcast sponsorship



 RTÊ
 120

 Stings per week
 1.6 Million

 Average
 Average

 Weekly Reach
 8.3

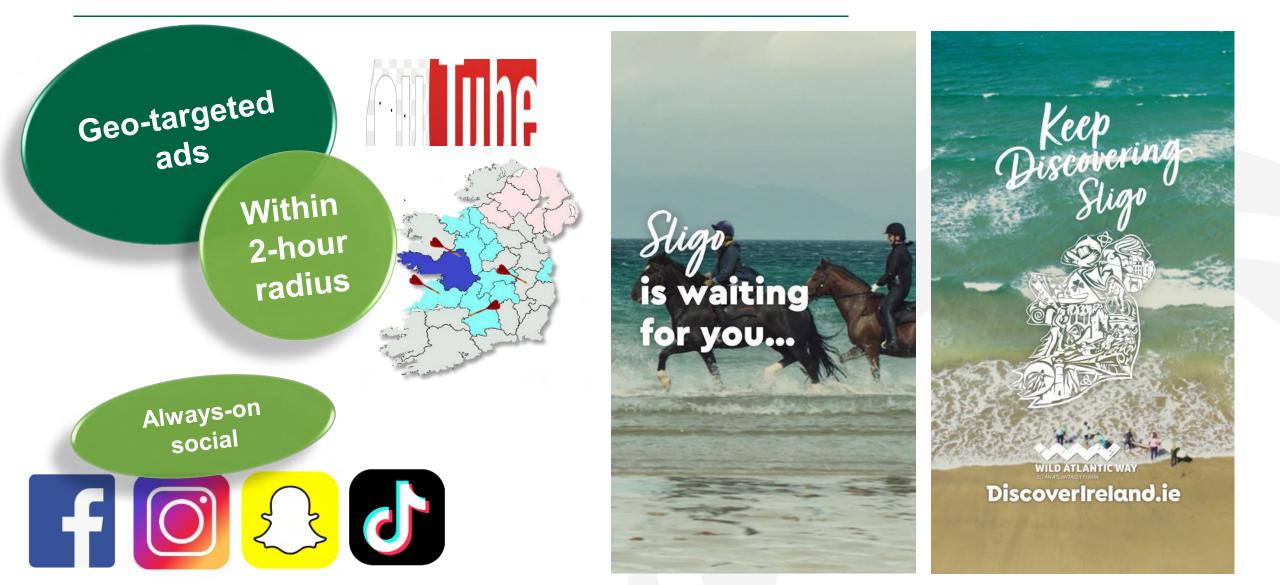
 Frequency

### Driving national reach via audio & press





## Driving relevancy through digital & social





## ...and Digital Partnerships



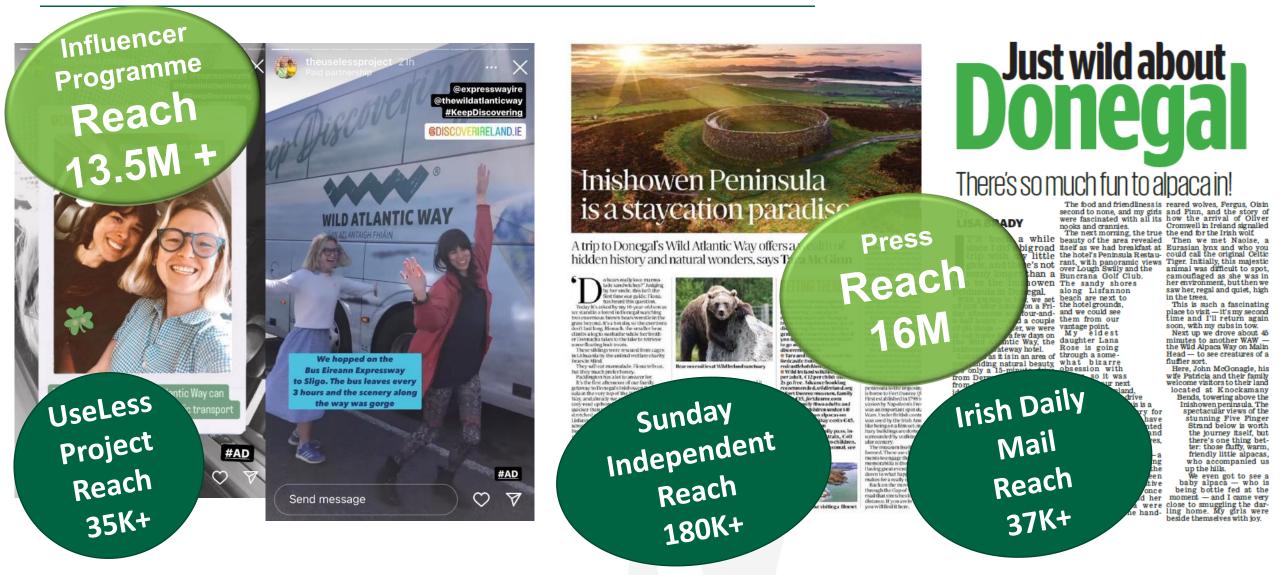




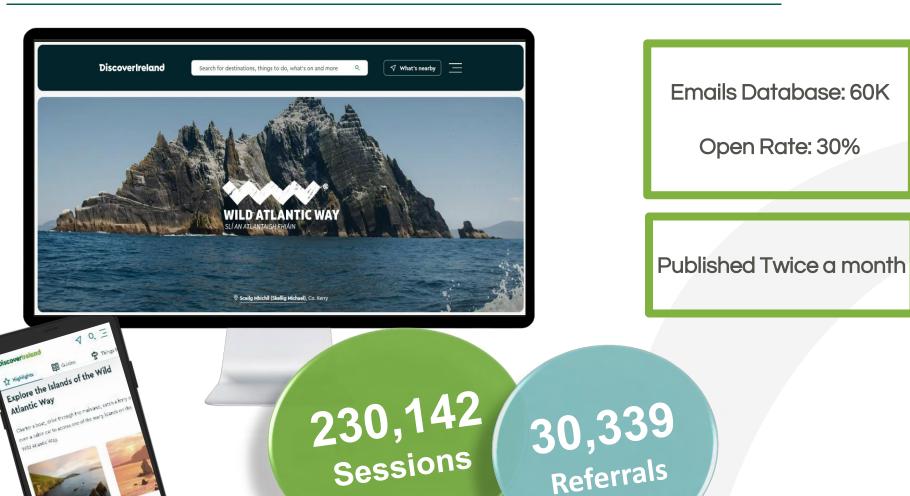
# Building positive word-of-mouth through influencers & PR







# Showcasing the best things to Discover lite lineland.ie See and Do via website & email



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Keep Discovering

## Building communities on Social Media







# How you can get involved

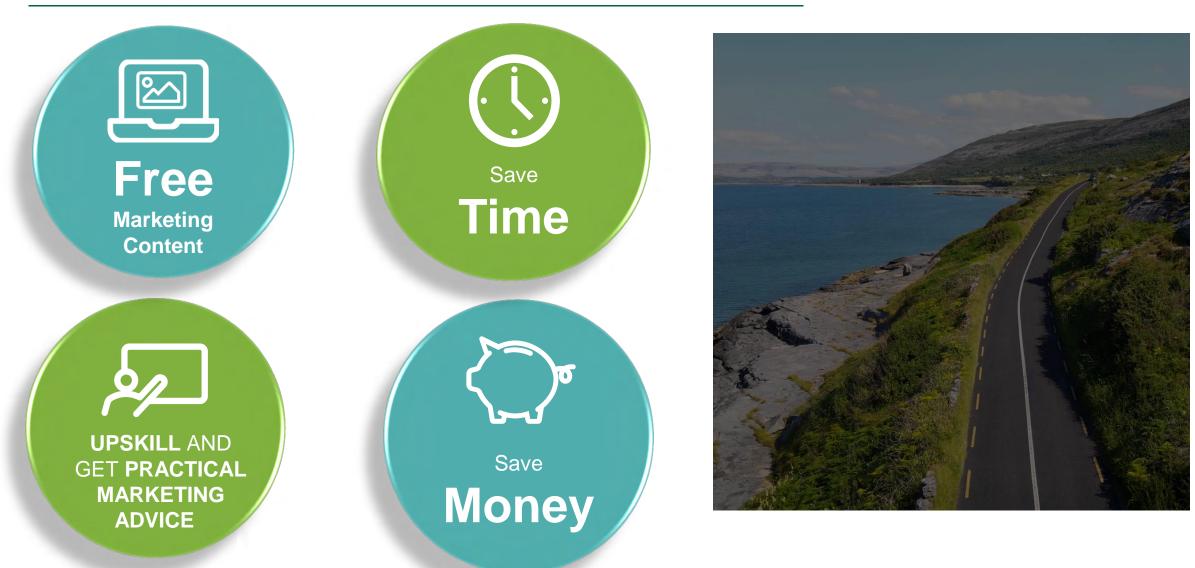






## **Keep Discovering Industry Toolkit**





## 50,000 images and videos FREE to use on Ireland's Content Pool







# Commercial Development



 WILD ATLANTIC WAY

 sLían atlantaigh fhláin



## **Commercial Development**





#### **Leisure Tourism**

- Destination Development
- B2B Routes to market
- Itinerary Development
- Buyer programming
- Golf & Luxury



#### **Trade Team**

- In Ireland Platforms Meitheal
- Buyer FAM trips
- Recruitment for overseas
   leisure events
- Management of trade portal

#### **Business Tourism**

- Generate Business Event Leads
- Lead conversion & distribution
- Pipeline management
- Supporting industry conversions
- Regional Convention Bureaux

## Impact in 2022





#### **Leisure Tourism**

- €36.5m Incremental Revenue, In Year
- Bed nights delivered across 26 Counties
- 6,000 Overseas Golf Travel Trade Campaign With Regional Messaging



#### **Trade Team**

- 11 In Ireland Platforms providing
   12,500+ contracting opportunities
- **900+** Industry recruited for In Ireland platforms
- Recruited 670+ Industry for 80 Overseas Platforms



#### **Business Tourism**

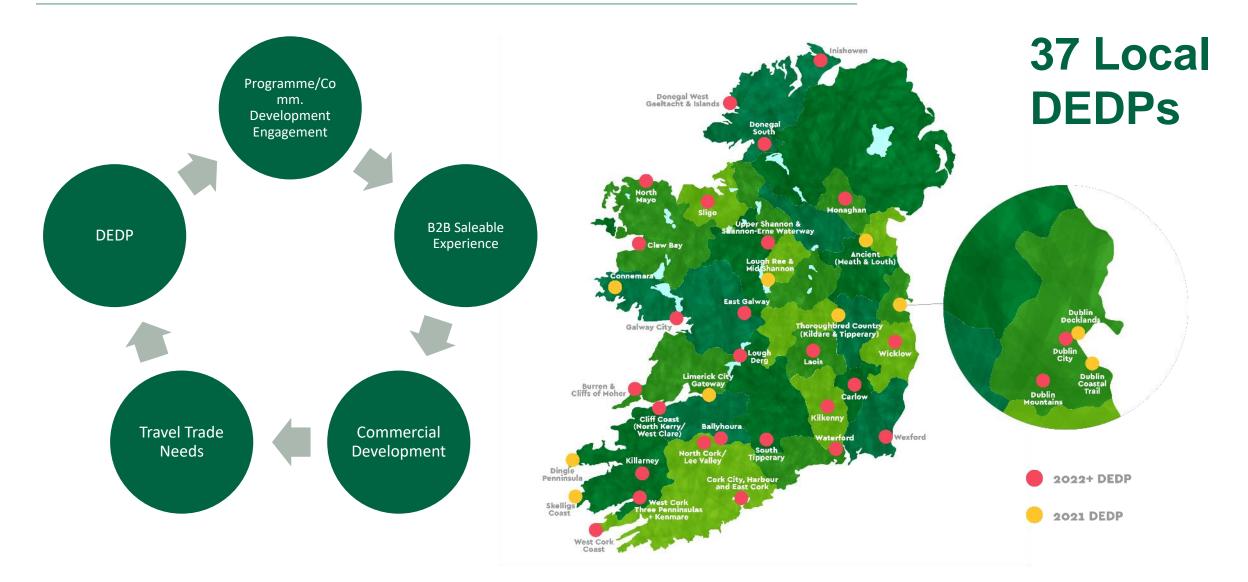
- €202m of Events Took Place
- €271m of Leads Generated
- €183m of Leads Converted
- €660m of Leads Added to Pipeline



### **B2B Saleable Experiences**

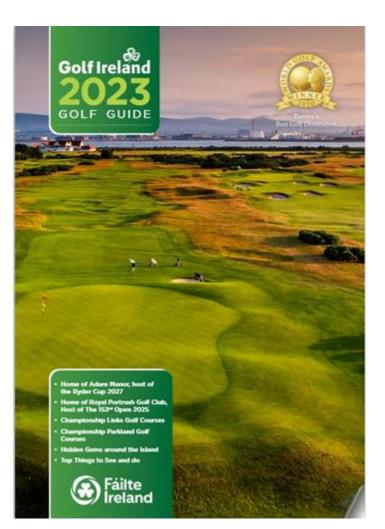


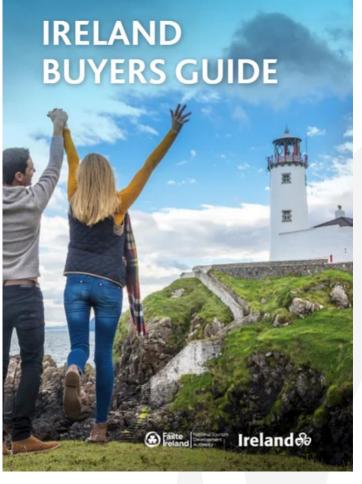




## **Buyer Guides and Presentations**









#### IRELAND YOUTH AND ADVENTURE BUYERS GUIDE

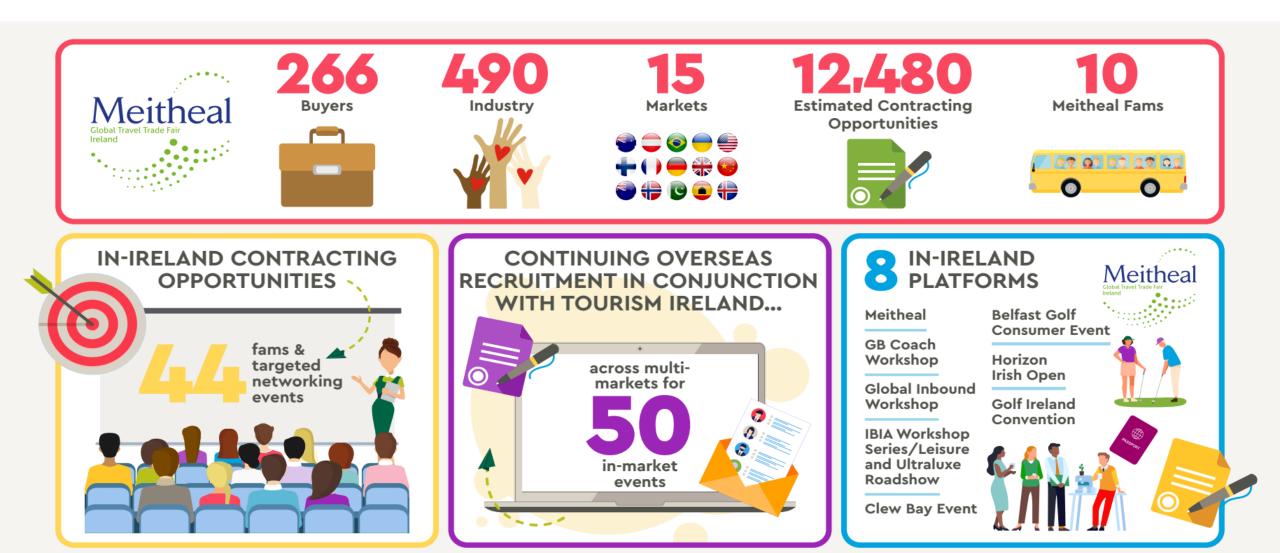
## **Buyer Portal**





## **Platforms and FAM's**





## Golf, Luxury & Business Tourism













**IGTOA Fam Trip** 



**DP World Tour Events** 

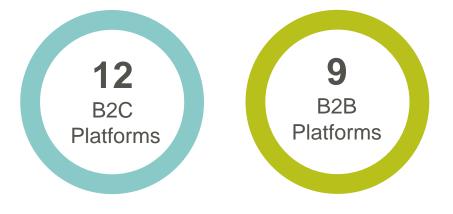


**Caddie Programme** 



**Golf Tourism Development Strategy** 

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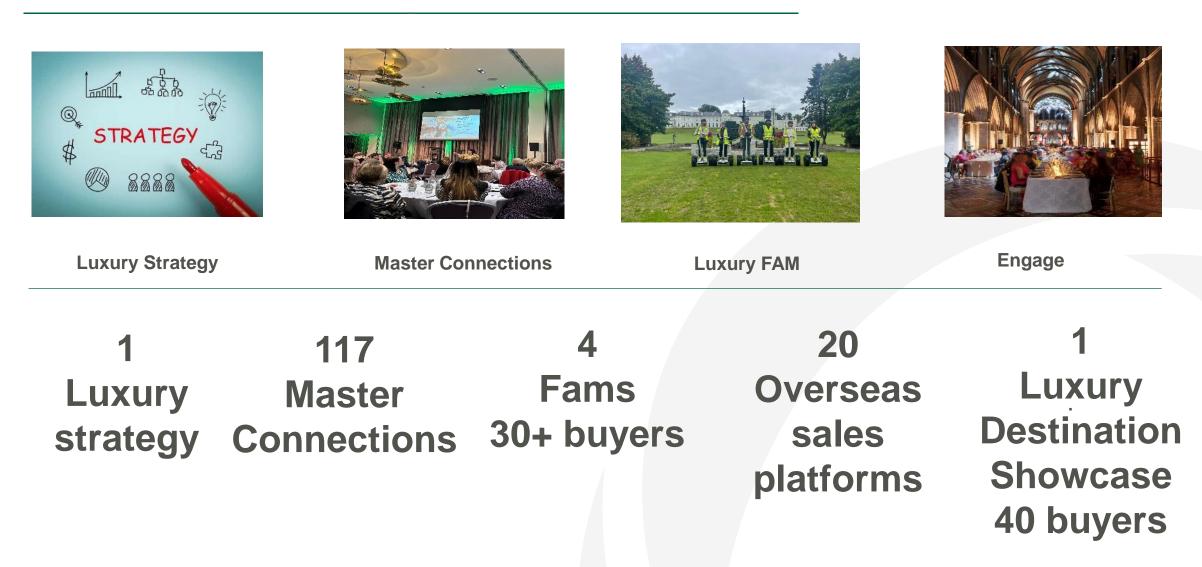
300+

Industry places will be available to participate in these platforms across 2023



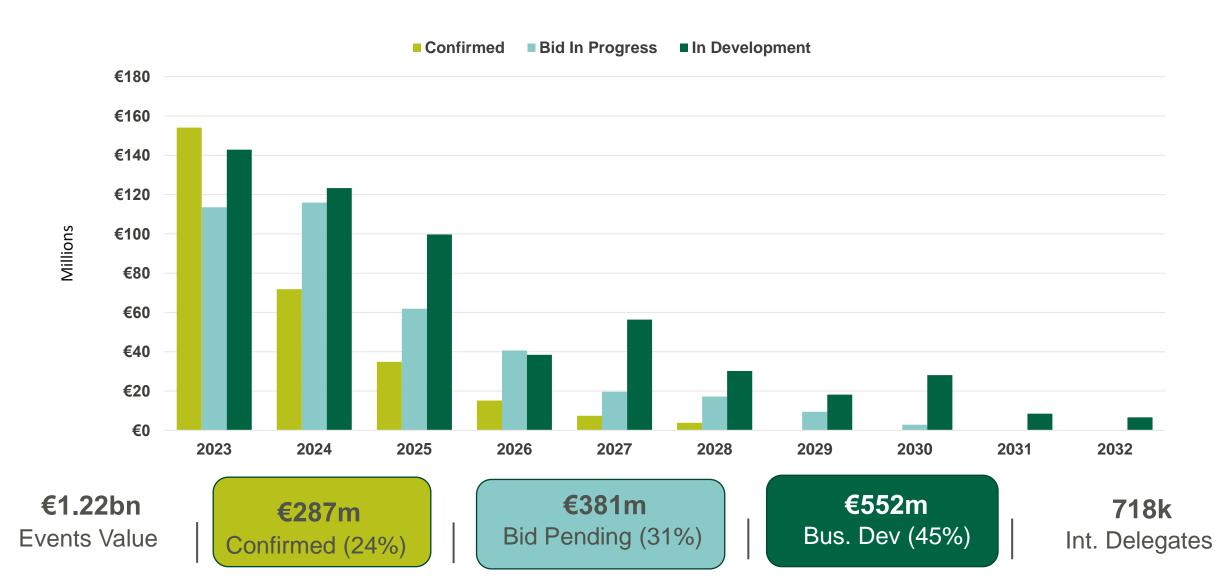






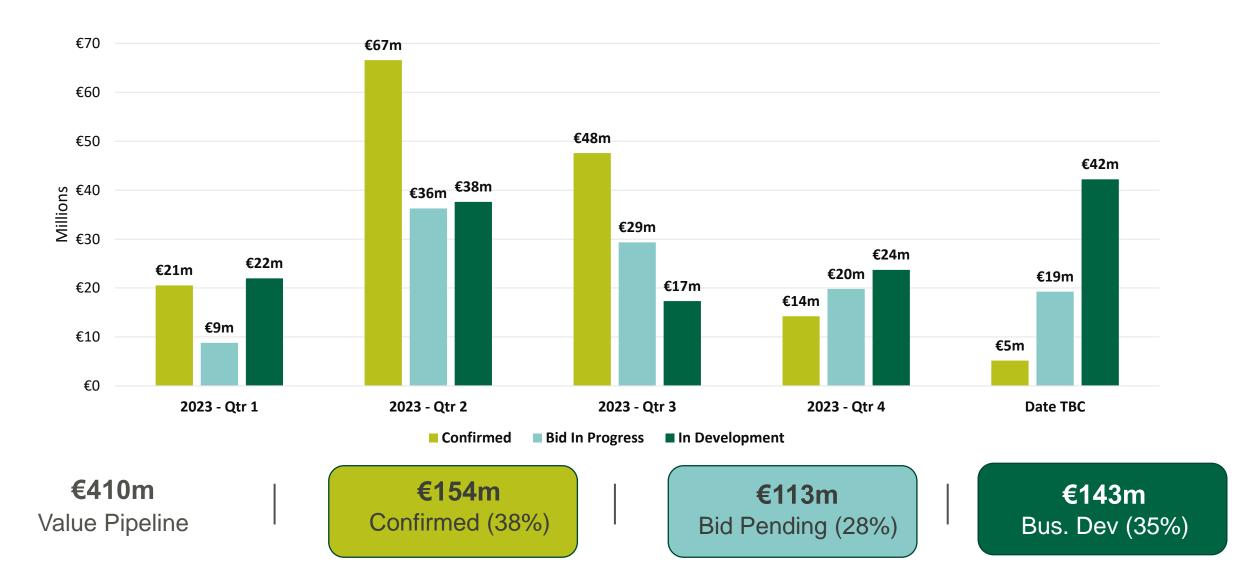
### **Business Events Pipeline 2023 - 2032**





## **Business Events: Event Year 2023**





### **Business Events Value**





## **Commercial Development 2023**





#### **Leisure Tourism**

- Providing distribution opportunities for saleable experiences from 37 DEDPs
- Routes to market via 96 IBIA
- Presenting B2B experiences at 48 overseas platforms
- New Golf & Luxury Strategies



#### Trade Team

- 8 In Ireland Platforms providing 15,500 contracting opportunities
- 900+ Industry recruited for In Ireland platforms
- 400+ to be recruited for Industry for 50 Overseas Platforms

#### **Business Tourism**

- €274m Leads Generated
- €192m Leads Converted
- €700m Added to Pipeline
- €211m of Events Taking Place
- New Business Tourism Strategy

## **Digital that Delivers**

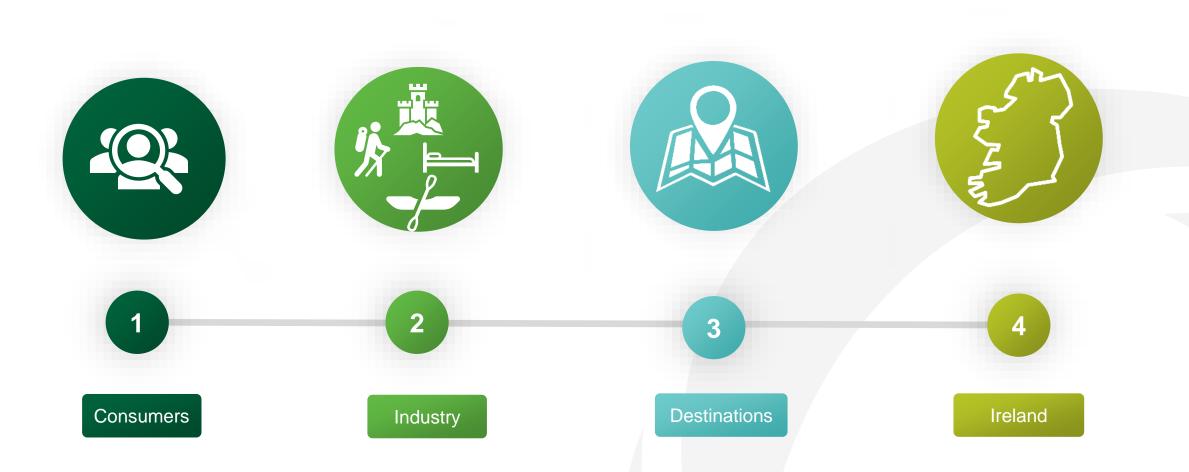


Scale, investment & economic impact:



## **Positioning Ireland for Success**





## Go Raibh Maith Agaibh





## **Industry Day Enquiry form**





Scan the QR code to set up a 1:1 call with one of our team to discuss any of our content from the Regional Industry Briefing