



Kevin Sherry, Interim CEO, Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland is proud to sponsor Going for Growth and its early-stage initiative, Starting Strong, which plays a vital role in accelerating the success of ambitious women entrepreneurs with global aspirations.

As the Irish Government's enterprise development agency, Enterprise Ireland works to empower Irish companies to start, compete and scale in order to succeed internationally. Through targeted investment and expert support, Enterprise Ireland helps entrepreneurs to build globally competitive businesses that drive innovation, create jobs, and deliver economic impact.

A key priority of Enterprise Ireland's 2025–2029 strategy, *Delivering for Ireland, Leading Globally*, is to ensure more inclusive participation in entrepreneurship, particularly by addressing the gender gap in business leadership and a targeted approach to encourage greater participation by women in entrepreneurship and leadership teams.

Enterprise Ireland is proud to support this community of founders, who are transforming ambition into action and placing Irish innovation on the global stage. We congratulate this year's participants and look forward to supporting your continued growth.

In 2024, Enterprise Ireland approved investment in 45 women-led start-up companies through its High Potential Start-Up and Pre-Seed Start Fund programmes—part of a total €27.6 million investment in 157 start-ups. That same year, Irish women-led early stage companies secured €200.1 million in venture capital investment, marking a 39% increase from the previous year. Ireland now ranks second in Europe per capita for investment in women-led start-ups, underlining the growing ambition and investor confidence in women entrepreneurship.

"With companies supported by Enterprise Ireland now employing more than 234,000 people and generating over €34 billion in exports, our new strategy sets ambitious targets to accelerate sustainable Irish business. That includes backing women-led companies to scale internationally and drive long-term economic success." - Kevin Sherry, Interim CEO, Enterprise Ireland

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STARTING STRONG SUPPORTER 2025

