## **Ireland (SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Innovation)**

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Creating a leading innovative economy has been identified as a key priority of the Irish government. EUR 8.2 billion has been allocated in the National Development Plan to the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI) 2006-2013. SSTI interlinks all policy areas for supporting and sustaining innovation. The strategy takes a holistic approach and combines education in science and engineering; social and economic development; policy in agriculture, health, environment, marine and natural resources; foreign direct investment; increasing output; tech transfer; and the development of a fourth level in the higher education sector into an integrated framework, in order to develop a world-class research and development capacity in Ireland.

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