

Irish university landscape

Introduction & context setting

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About the IUA

Representative and Support Organisation for 7 Universities

Interface between state and Irish Universities on matters
of sectoral concern

A wide-angle photograph of a university courtyard. In the foreground, a circular path made of grey cobblestones is laid out in a spiral pattern. The path is surrounded by green grass. Two large, mature weeping trees with yellow-green foliage stand on either side of the path. In the background, a low hedge runs across the courtyard, and behind it, a brick building with many windows is visible. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

**Standing groups across key functions
Of the University**

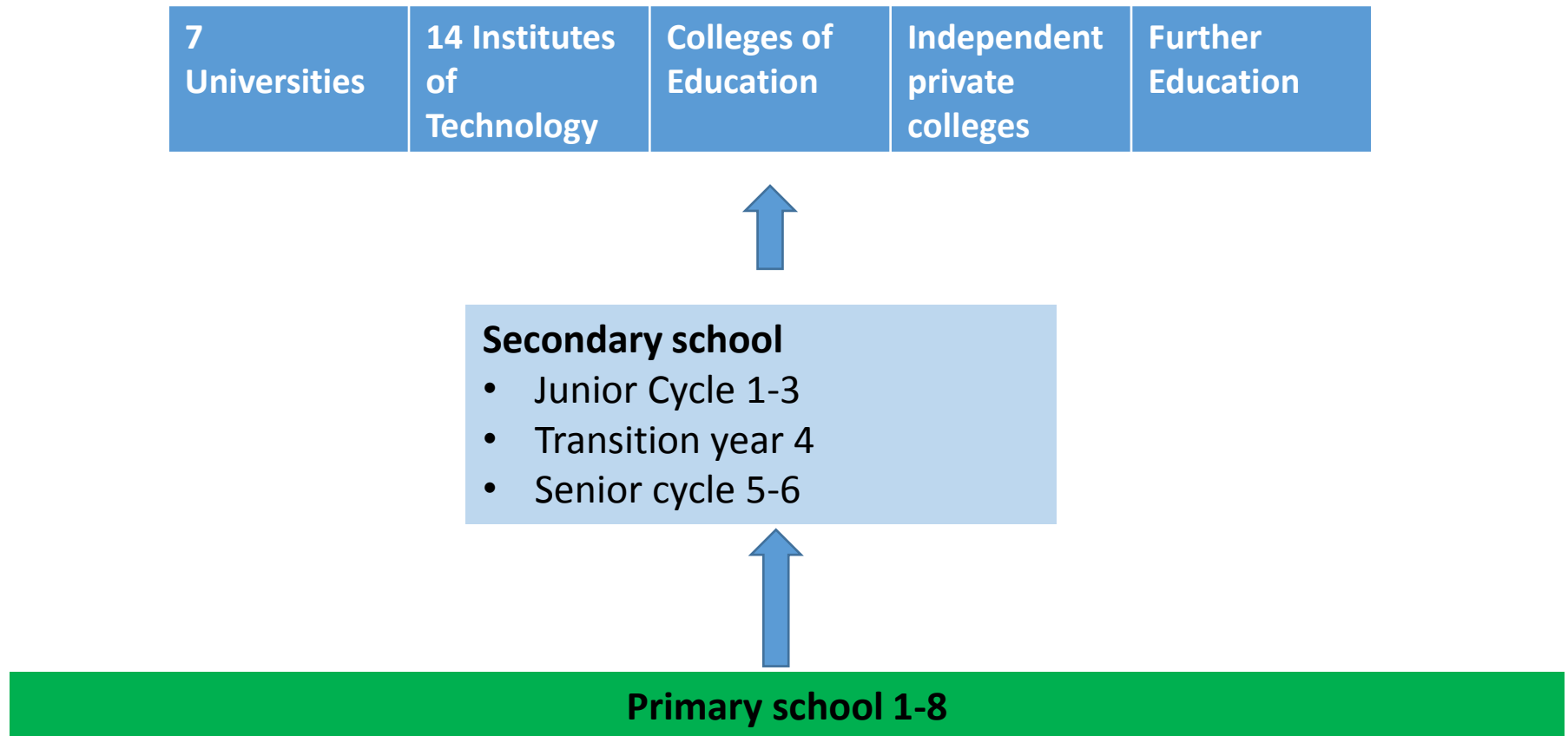
Consensus based decision making

Strategy, Finance, Academic Affairs, Research and
Innovation, Human Resources, Legal and Governance and
International

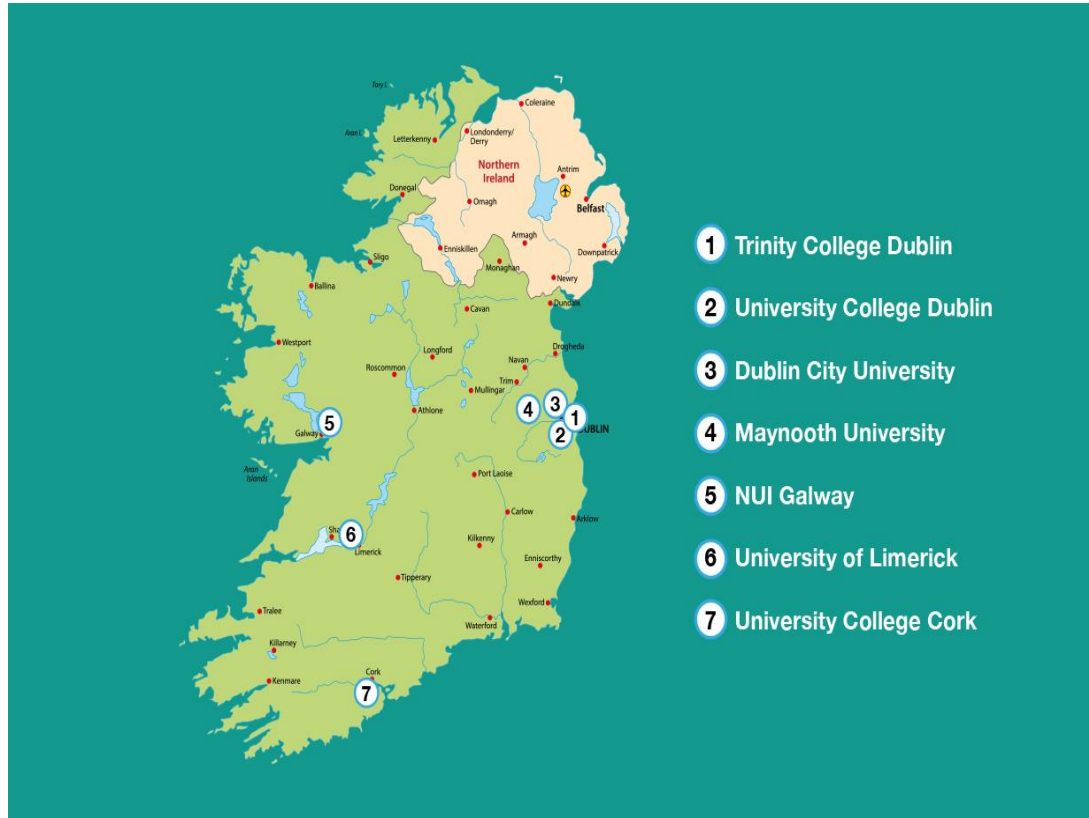


Scale and Shape

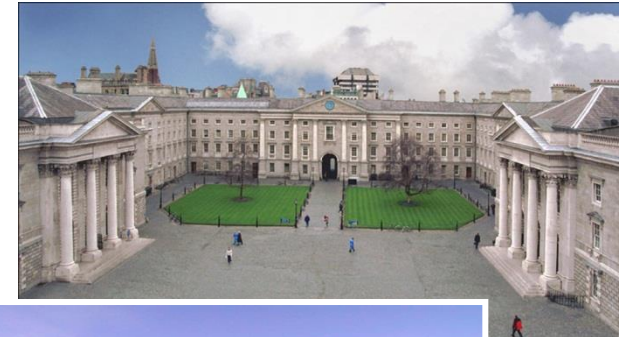
Ireland's Education system



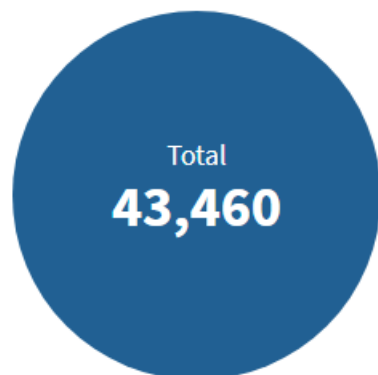
Irish Universities



- 1 Trinity College Dublin
- 2 University College Dublin
- 3 Dublin City University
- 4 Maynooth University
- 5 NUI Galway
- 6 University of Limerick
- 7 University College Cork



New Entrants



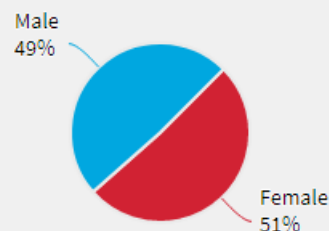
94% of New Entrants are Irish

- 55% of new entrants are in the University Sector.
- 45% are in the Institute of Technology Sector.

Enrolments

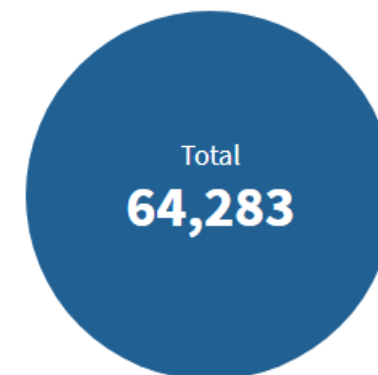


Enrolment Gender



- 80% of students enrolled in full-time programmes.
- Full-time undergraduates increased by 11% in the last five years.

Graduates

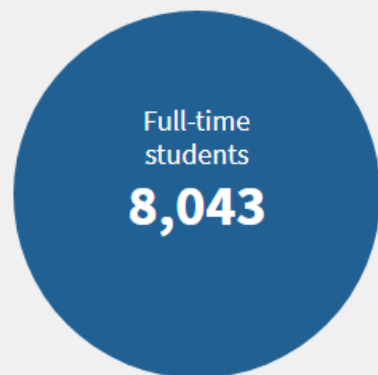


One in four graduates came from Natural Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, Information & Communication Technologies and Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction.

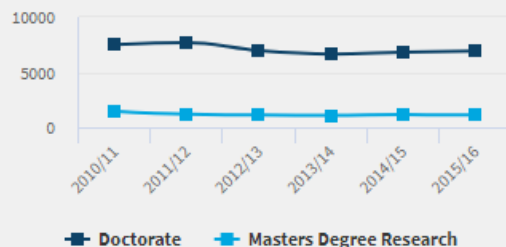
- 45,206 undergraduates and 19,077 postgraduates.
- 17% of Honours Bachelor Degree graduates got a first class qualification.

Key Facts and Figures – 2015-2016

Research

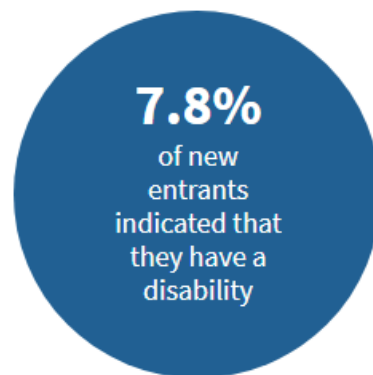


Full-time Postgraduate Research Enrolment Trends 2010/11 to 2015/16

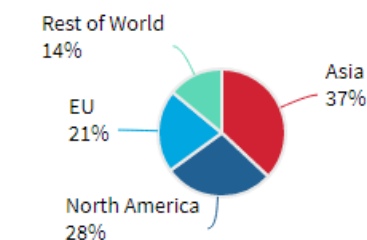


- There are **1,730** part-time research students, an increase of **16%** over the last five years.
- Almost **9 in 10** research students are studying in universities.

Participation



International Participation

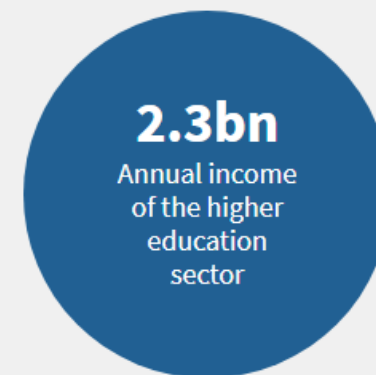


Percentage of full-time international students

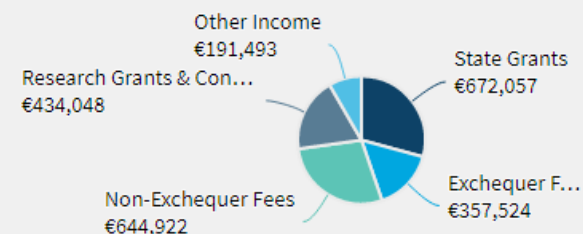
- **10%** of full-time undergraduate new entrants were mature.
- **85%** of part-time undergraduate new entrants were mature.

Source HEA

Finances



HEA Income 2012/13



Figures in €000

- **€1.6bn** spent every year on pay costs.
- Over **14,000** (or **6%** of) students pay a non-EU fee every year.

Ireland's International Education Strategy

4 strategic priorities

1. A supportive national framework
2. Internationally oriented globally competitive Higher Education Institutions
3. Sustainable growth in the English Language Training sector
4. Succeeding abroad

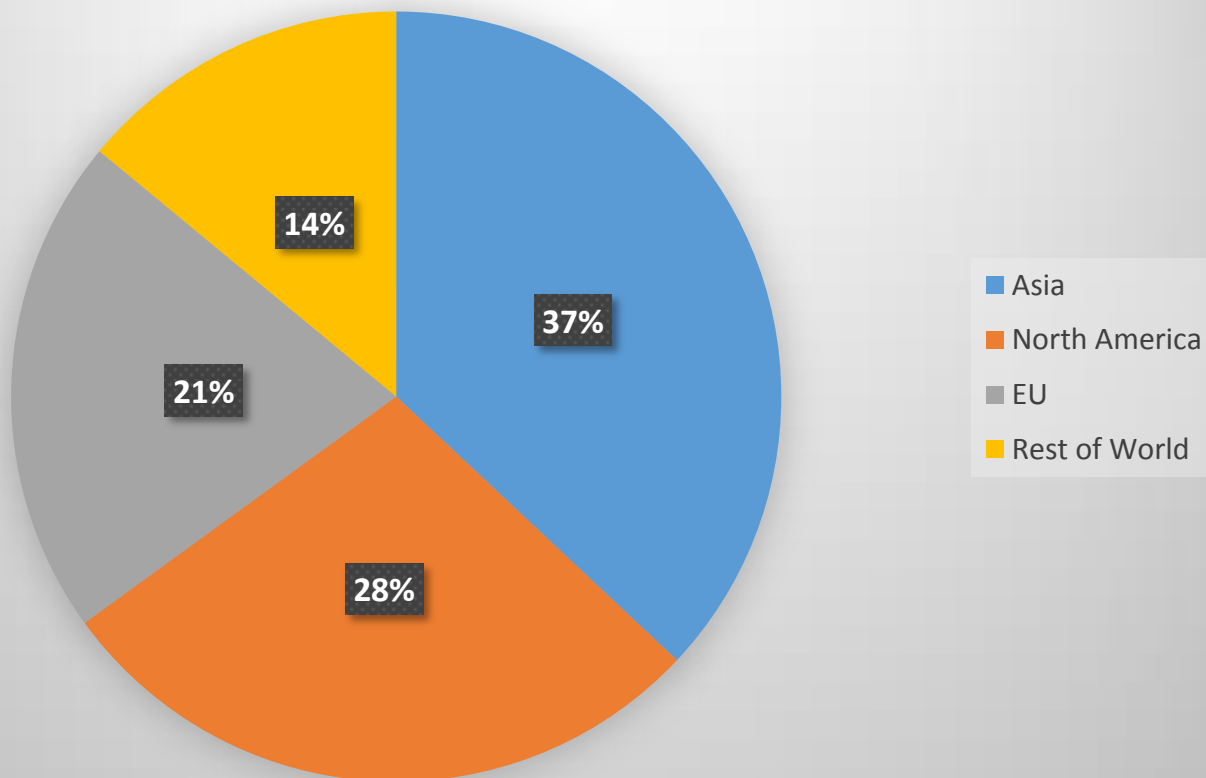
Issue - **Brexit**



International student participation

Over 32,000 international students studying in Ireland

Distribution of international students



The changing landscape of HE

Restructuring

- Mergers
- Clusters
- Technological Universities

Research and Development

iuA IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION

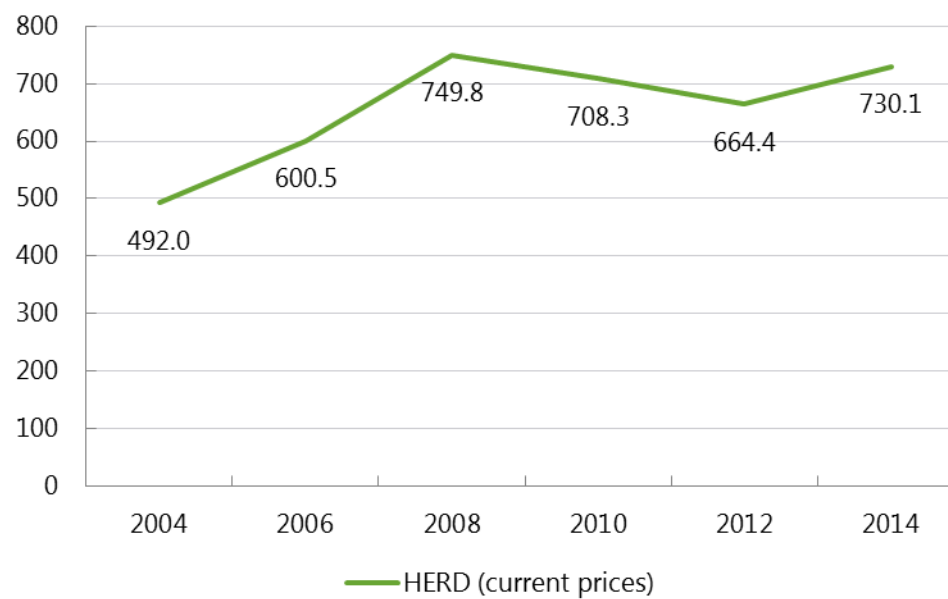
IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn



**MARIE
SKŁODOWSKA
CURIE
ACTIONS**

FUNDING RESEARCH
SUCCESS IN IRELAND
SINCE 1996

- Higher Education expenditure on R&D



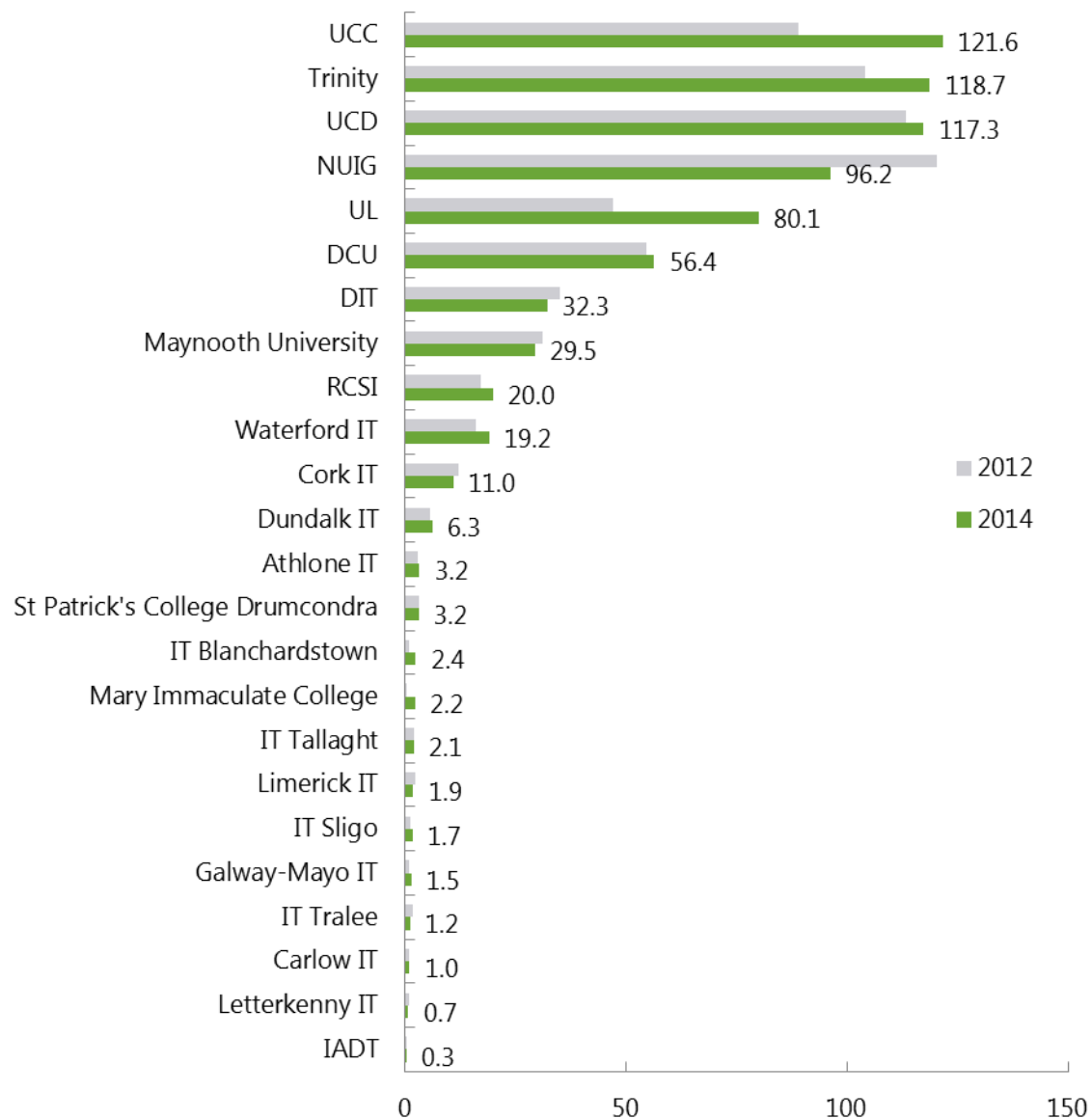
Overview of the Irish HE System

Research System (cont'd)

- Higher Education expenditure on R&D

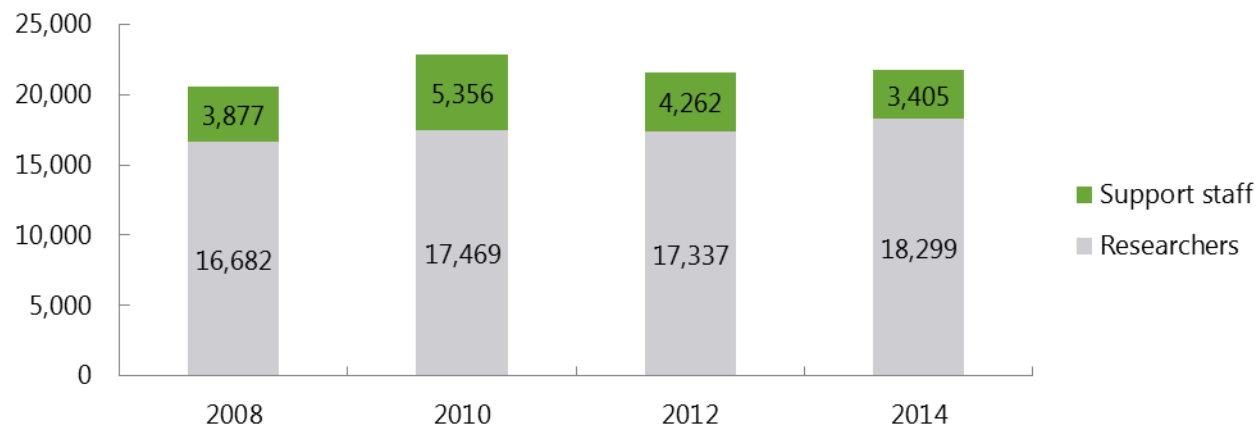
	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Higher education expenditure on R&D (HERD)	492.0	600.5	749.8	708.3	664.4	730.1
HERD as a % of GNP	0.37	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.47	0.45
Ireland's rank out of 42 countries	19	22	20	19	18	21
Total researchers in HE sector (FTE)	7,899	7,353	11,246	12,140	12,117	12,836
Researchers (HC) per 1000 labour force - Ireland's rank out of 37 countries	6	8	5	7	8	6

Distribution of HERD



Overview of the Irish HE System

Staffing



Employment controls have impacted on support staff numbers

Horizon 2020 – research funding

IRELAND



Total number of participants, total EU financial contribution € million	988 participants receiving € 423,35 m in H2020
Total number of SME participants, total EC financial contribution € million	243 SMEs receiving € 97,63 m in H2020
Number of ERC Principal Investigators, total EC financial contribution € million	41 ERC grantees receiving € 55,11 m in H2020
Number of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Participations, total EC financial contribution € million	203 MSCA Fellows receiving € 75,35 m in H2020
Number of applicants	6.684 (1,80% of EU-28)
Success rate (EU-28 = 13,3%)	14,7%
Rank in number of participants signed contracts (EU-28)	14
Rank in budget share (EU-28)	13
Top collaborative links	1. DE - Germany (1.363) 2. UK - United Kingdom (1.298) 3. ES - Spain (1.202) 4. FR - France (985) 5. IT - Italy (916)
Total population & EU 28 population share (source: Eurostat)	4.591.087 (0.9% of EU-28)

Established 2014
IUA EI Partnership

Goals – simplicity, transparency, accessibility

- Achievements
- IP Protocol
- AKTS
- Awards
- Stakeholder Engagement – PRO and Industry

Challenge – Managed Consultancy



Business Expenditure On Research And Development

2015-2016

Business Expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) 2009-2016¹

€'000

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2016 ¹
Current Expenditure	1,542,843	1,606,911	1,874,663	2,075,955	2,090,611
Capital Expenditure	325,613	150,314	147,200	157,102	202,214
Total Expenditure	1,868,456	1,757,225	2,021,863	2,233,057	2,292,825
of which					
Irish Spend	563,217	536,868	703,121	809,662	926,004
Foreign Spend	1,305,239	1,220,357	1,318,742	1,423,395	1,366,821

¹Expenditure for 2016 is estimated

- National Policy Coordination
- System Stalled?
- Indirect Cost Recovery- 20% v 50%?
- Concentration/Prioritisation v Broad Base – ERC Competitiveness
- Balance between Centres and Individual Grants
- TRL Levels – Stuck in the Middle?
- Industrial Competitiveness
- Tax Credits v Incentives and overall strength of ecosystem
- State Aid

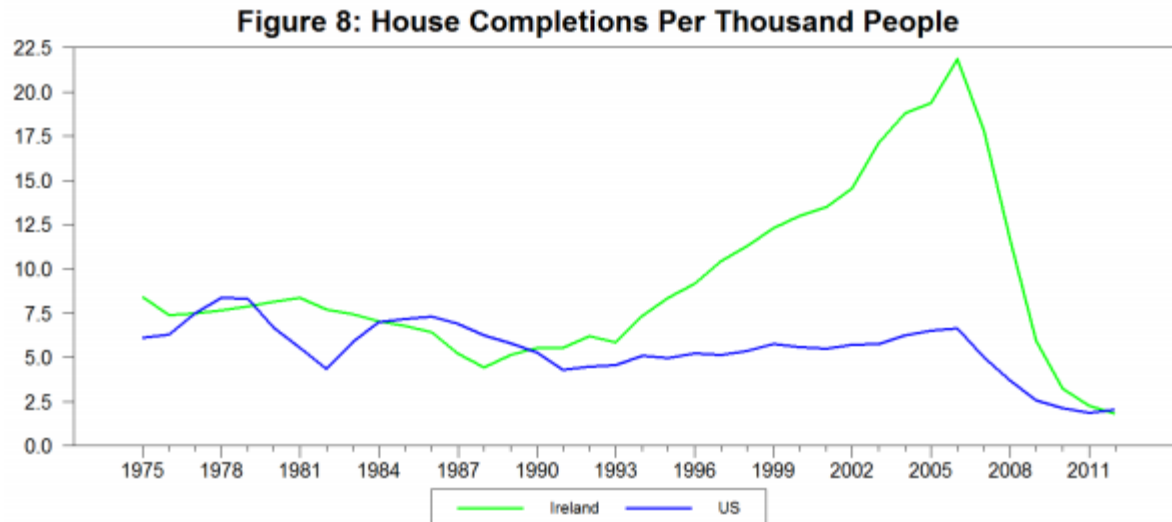
Economic Context



Dominated by the Financial Crisis

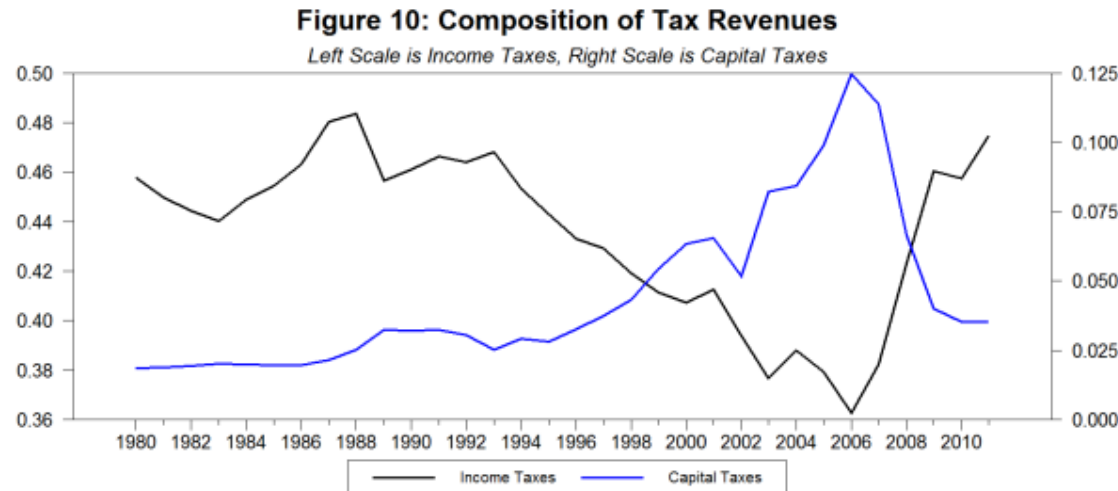
Celtic Tiger

- From 1987 to 2007 economic growth averaged 6.3% p.a.
- Allowed a sustained period of increased public spending
- By 2007:-
 - Gross Government Debt to GDP was only 25%
 - A sovereign wealth fund had grown to about 20% of GDP
- Ireland had experienced a major property boom during the noughties



The Economic Crash

- The property boom had led to an over-reliance on capital taxes



- These capital taxes effectively disappeared overnight
- Compounded by the International Financial crisis and collapse of the banking sector

The Economic Crash (cont'd)

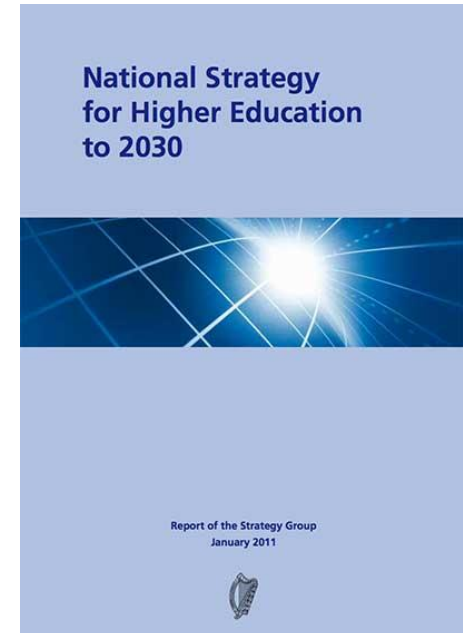
- Irish GDP declined by 10% over 2008 and 2009
- Without fiscal adjustment Ireland was facing annual budgetary deficits of 20% of GDP
- 2008 saw the first in a series of contractionary budgets resulting in a total budgetary adjustment of €28.8bn (18% of 2012 GDP or €6,270 per person)
 - Public sector pay cuts
 - Income tax and VAT rates raised
 - Non-welfare spending cuts
 - Capital spending slashed
- The largest budgetary adjustment in the advanced economic world in modern history

System oversight and steering



National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030

- Published in 2011
- Long term vision for HE in Ireland
- Three core roles for HE
 - Teaching & learning
 - Research
 - Engagement with wider society
- Key points include:-
 - Need to meet evolving human capital needs
 - Built on excellence
 - Globally competitive & internationally oriented
 - Landscape restructured from fragmented institutions to coherent system
 - Introduction of new concept of Technological University
 - Focus on performance and outcomes



Oversight of HE System

- Higher Education Authority
 - Statutory responsibility for the effective governance & regulation of the HE system
 - Due regard for institutional autonomy & academic freedom
 - Institutional strategies aligned with national strategic objectives
 - Agreed objectives are delivered
- Responsible for the allocation of funding to HEI's
- HEA accountable to the Minister for Education & Skills
- Increasingly positioned by DES as system regulator

- System Performance Framework
- Strategic Dialogue
- Review of Funding Allocation Model
- - Performance Funding



Legislation & Autonomy (cont'd)

- EUA autonomy scorecard for Ireland
 - Organisational autonomy – medium high (Ranked 11th)
 - Autonomy to select, appoint & dismiss executive head
 - Financial autonomy – medium high (Ranked 13th)
 - Block grant but increasing restrictions on use
 - Can borrow but limited capacity
 - Can own real estate
 - Restrictions on the setting of domestic fees
 - Academic autonomy – high (Ranked 3rd)
 - Freedom to decide student numbers and mix
 - Ability to introduce new programmes & design content
 - Staffing autonomy – medium low (Ranked 27th)
 - Control over 'core' staff numbers
 - Reduced capacity to decide on salaries & dismissals

Human Resources



- Financial crisis significantly increased focus on HR Issues.
- National agreements were reshaped from the previous tripartite structure (Public/Private/Community and Voluntary Pillars) to purely public service agreements: Croke Park – Haddington Road – Lansdowne Road.

Key Features

- No compulsory redundancy in exchange for concessions;
- Enhanced voluntary redundancy scheme – three weeks ex gratia plus two statutory;
- Revised Academic Contract;
- Wage reductions (Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest)

Human Resources

- Numbers controls (Employment Control Frameworks)
- Dispute resolution mechanism decisions binding.
- Penalties for repudiation of agreements.

Key impacts

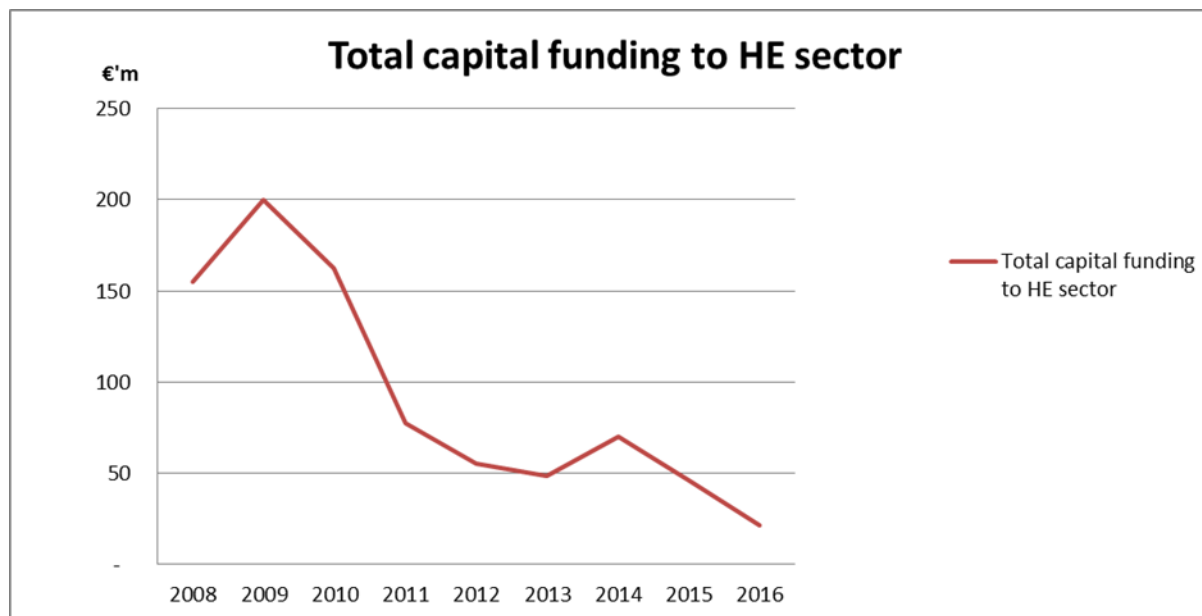
- Fundamental change in relationship between universities and state in relation to employment matters.
- Balance between contributions to efficiency and restrictions on innovation not necessarily positive.

Challenges



Funding

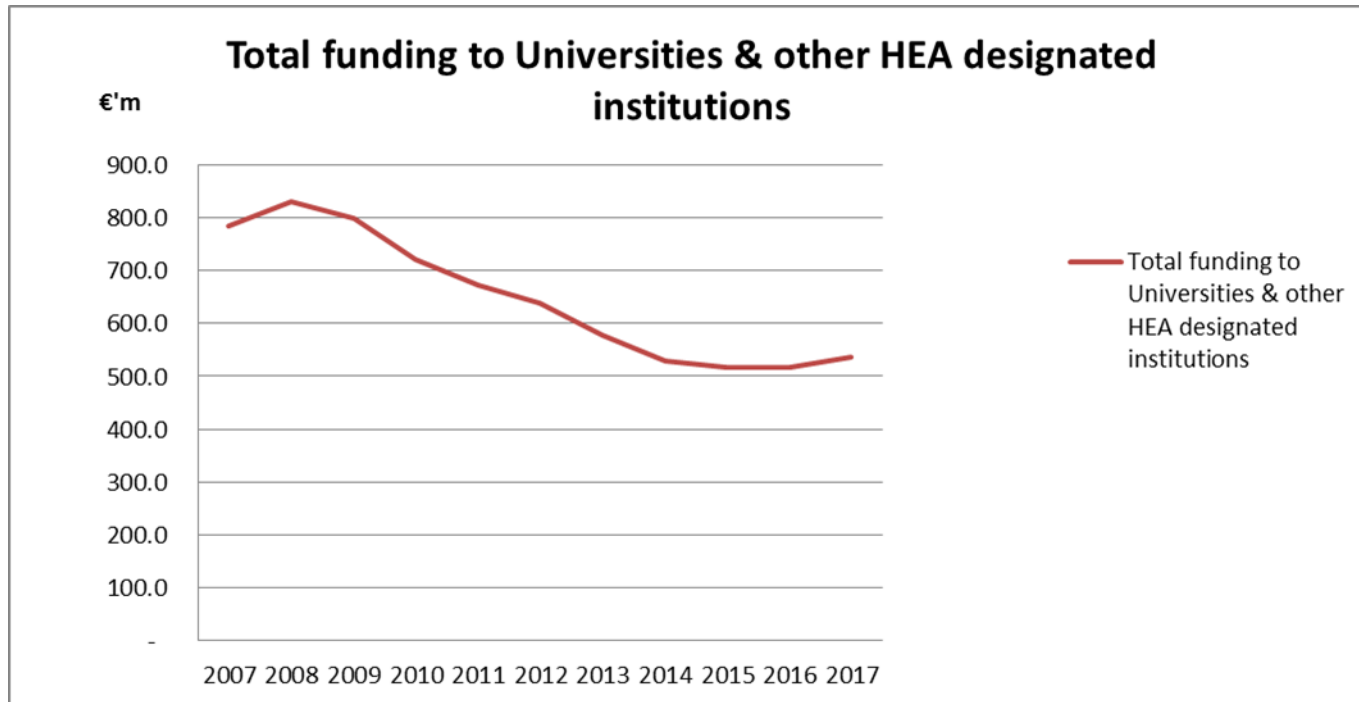
HE Funding



Challenges - Funding

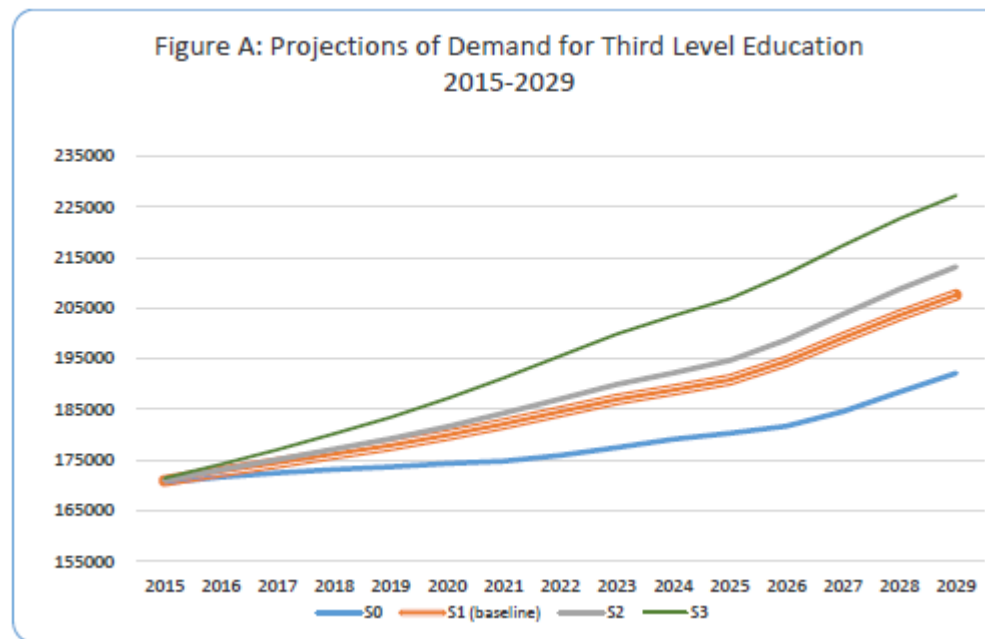
HE Funding

- Recurrent funding



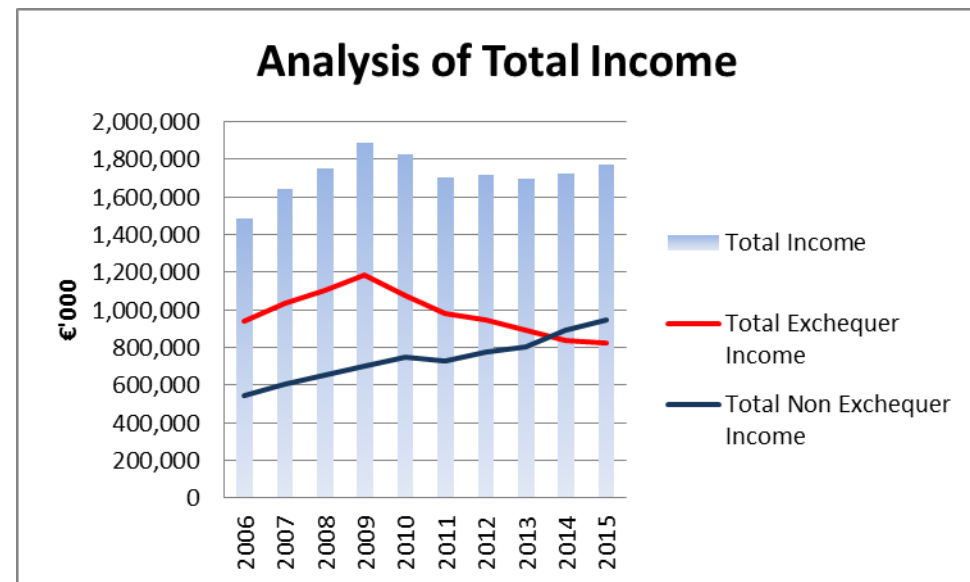
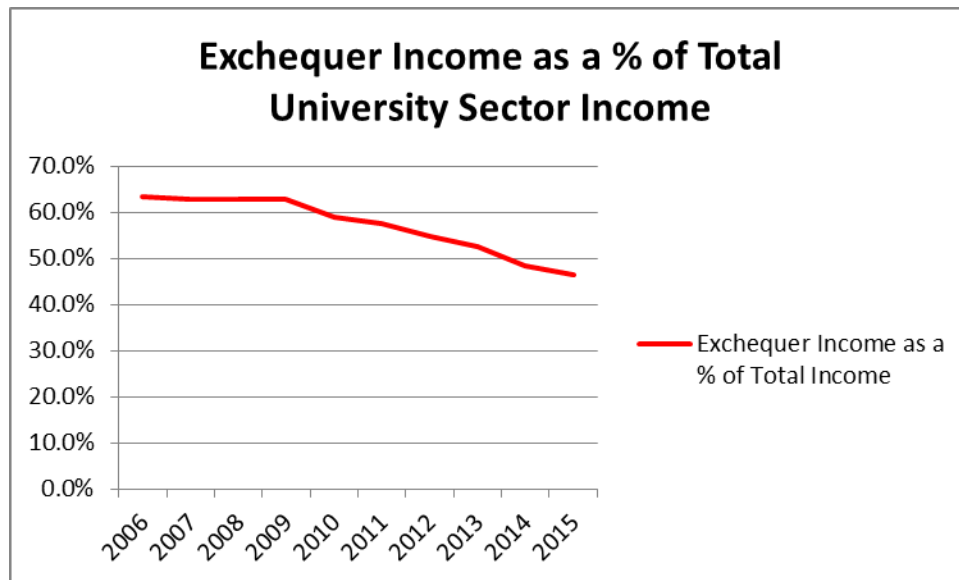
Growth in Student Numbers

- 37,000 additional students to be accommodated by 2029
- More than currently attend Ireland's two biggest universities.



Funding – changing role of the State

Public - Private Funding



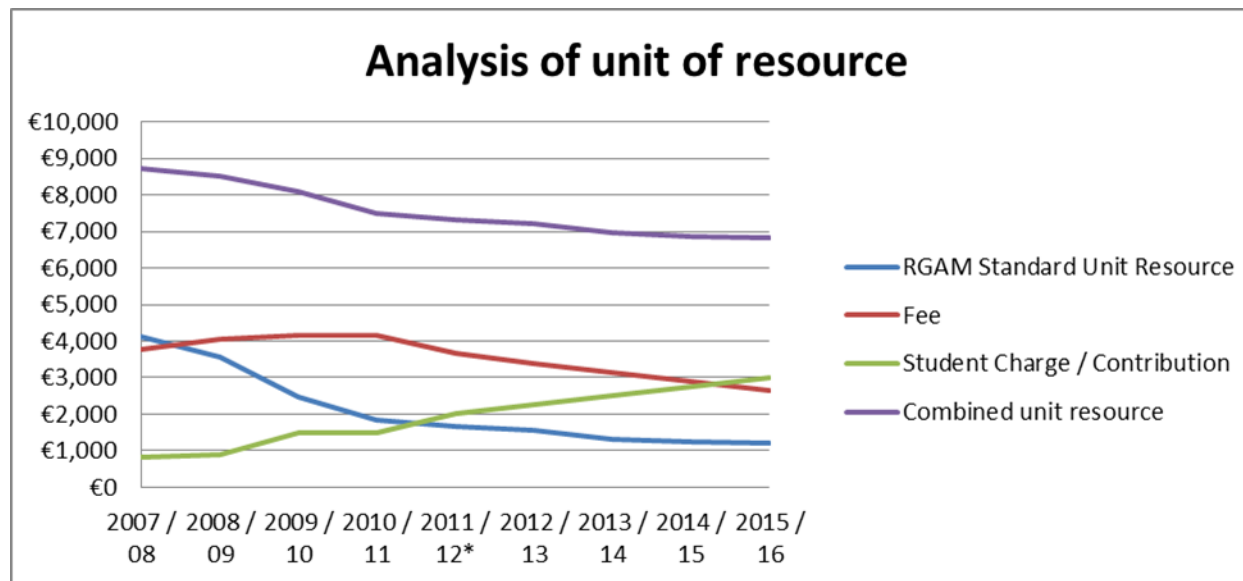
Future Funding of Higher Education

- Investing in National Ambition
 - A strategy for the future funding of HE
 - Published in 2016
 - Future sustainability of the sector in question
 - Significant increase in investment required
 - Additional €1bn p.a. in recurrent funding required by 2030
 - Capital investment programme of €5.5bn required
 - 3 Funding Options presented
 - Predominantly state funded system
 - Increased state funding with continuing student fees
 - Increased state funding with deferred payment of fees through income contingent loan system
 - All options to include an increased Employer contribution – Budget 2016

Challenges Funding

HE Funding

- Recurrent funding – unit of funding per student



The Efficiency Agenda

The Result

- A perfect storm?



The Efficiency Agenda

The Expectation

- Do more with less



Summing Up – the Issues

- Demographics
- Brexit
- Institutional Structures
- Governance and Regulation
- Role of HE research nationally – strategy for the ecosystem
- Efficiency - Quality - Sustainability Nexus
- Funding systems and structures!

Do more with less but also do more with more?!

