



Policy Planning for Careers of Researchers

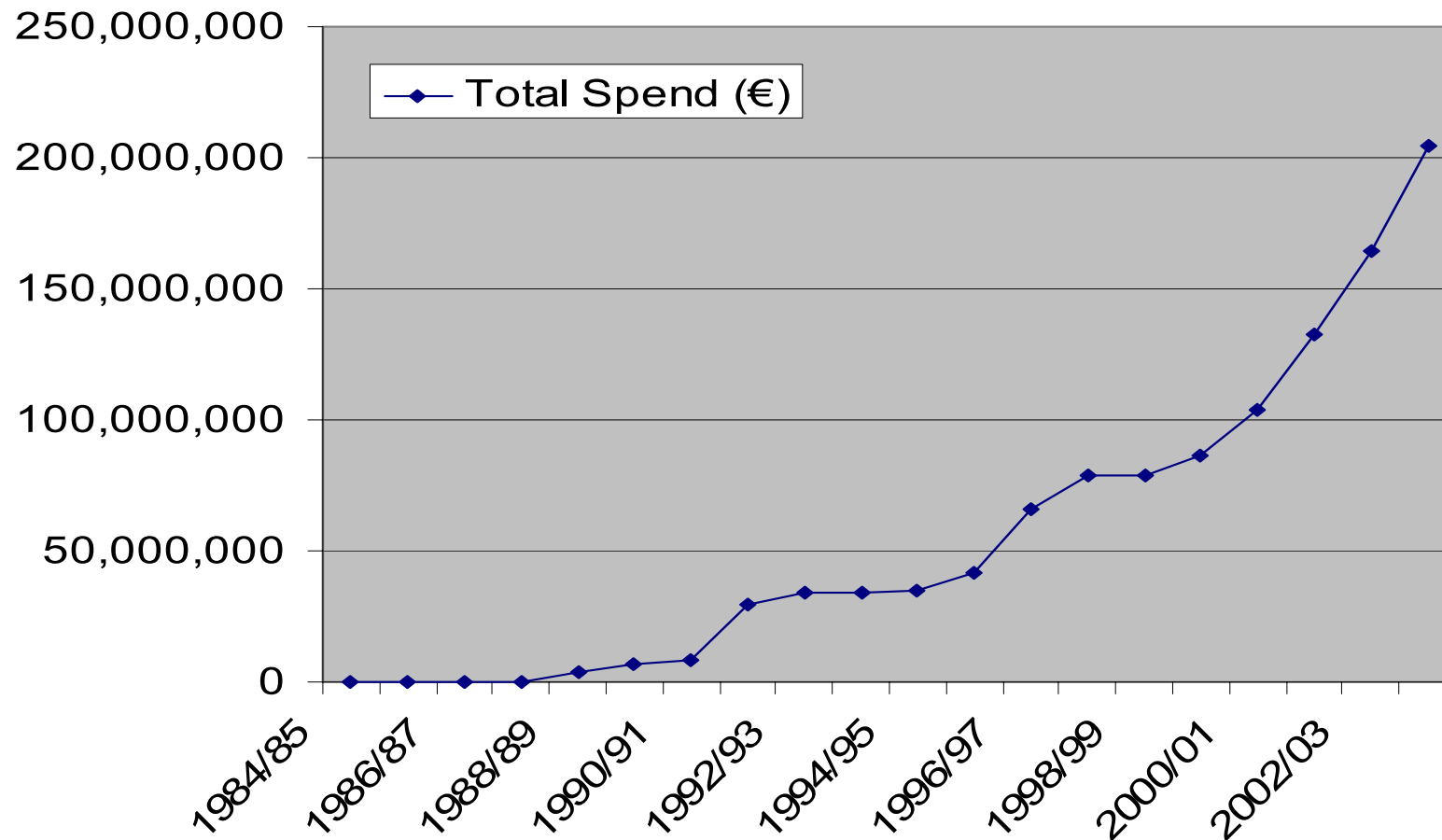
Presentation by: Dr. Conor O'Carroll

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Presentation Overview

- **Irish R&D Policy and Funding**
- **A New Europe for Researchers?**

Total Research Spend by Irish Universities



Key Policy initiatives...

- **Bike Report - Building Ireland's Knowledge Economy (2004)**
 - National Action Plan on R&D
 - spend on R&D as percentage of GDP to rise from 1.4% to 2.5% by 2014
 - double numbers of researchers in Ireland by 2010
- **OECD Review of Higher Education**
 - Increase ranking of Irish Universities
 - Double PhD Output (now target for 2013 relative to 2003 levels)
- **Reform of 3rd Level and Creation of 4th Level Ireland**



*Reform of 3rd Level and
Creation of 4th Level Ireland*

*Securing Competitive Advantage
in the 21st Century*

*A framework proposal submitted by the
Irish Universities Association*

October 2005



Irish Universities Association
Cumann Ollscoileanna Éireann

Key points:

- **Core Masters and PhD programmes**
- **National Framework for these Programmes**
- **Move from apprenticeship to structured research training, especially at 1st year**
- **Branch points linking Masters/PhD**
- **Lifelong learning and skills development**
- **Strong links to external stakeholders**
- **Investment in arts, humanities and social sciences to complement science and technology advances**

Policy consequences...

- **Strategy for Science Technology and Innovation (SSTI) 2006-2013**
 - National Action Plan on R&D
 - spend on R&D as percentage of GDP to rise from 1.4% to 2.5% by 2014
 - double numbers of researchers in Ireland by 2010
- **HEA Strategic Innovation Fund**
 - €300m over 5 years
 - support changes at 3rd & 4th level in HE

Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation



2006 ~ 2013

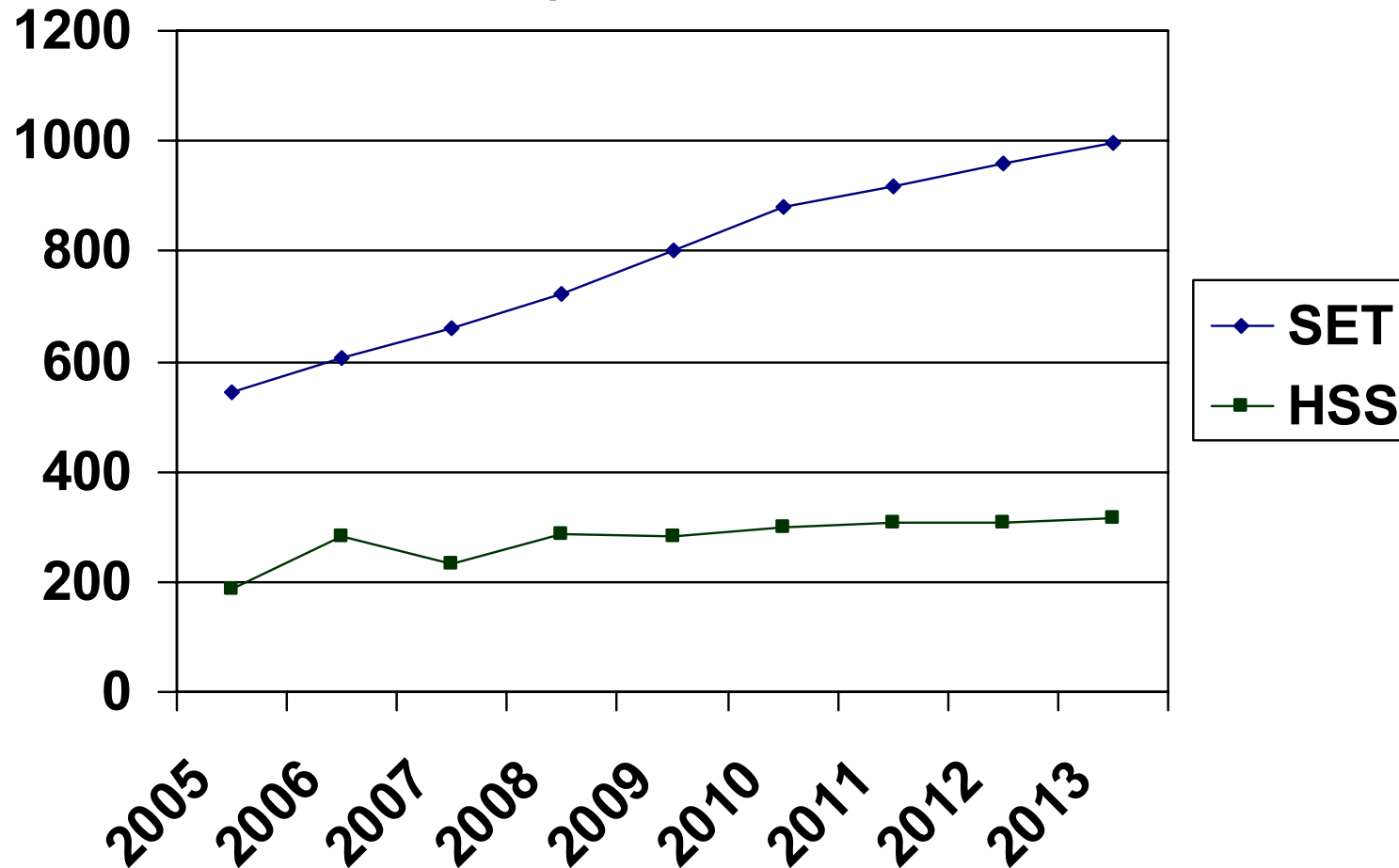


Key points:

Irish Universities Association
Cumann Ollscoileanna Éireann

- o Relatively under-developed STI sector in Ireland
- o Need for dramatic leap forward
- o Strategic decision to develop world-class research system in Ireland
- o Increase research capacity, quality and output
- o Develop 4th Level Ireland
- o Double PhD output, structure training, develop careers, encourage mobility
- o Estimated additional cost of €1.88 billion to 2013
- o Spending predicted of €2.7 billion to 2008 to implement strategy
- o Provision for:
 - 350 PI's
 - 1050 Postdocs
 - 3500 PhD Students

Growth in PhD graduates predicted in SSTI



Note: HSS numbers include post-docs

SSTI 2006-2013

“It will be noted that it is proposed to upscale research across all disciplines: both the physical sciences and the humanities and social sciences. This approach is founded in a belief in the intrinsic value of scholarship, both to democratic society and to the effective functioning of universities as communities of knowledge and discourse. It underscores the importance of scholarship and research in the formation of postgraduates, but also in its impact on the quality of undergraduate teaching”

Higher Education Authority

Strategic Innovation Fund

€300 million over 3 calls

First call: €40 million, Summer 2006

Target: inter-institutional, strategic, innovative projects

Measures Funded:

- **4th Level: development of national ‘hub and spoke’ support network**
 - Development of generic training programmes
 - National credit transfer system
 - International marketing of ‘PhD in Ireland’
- **International PhD Pilot Programme**
- **Student/Researcher Feedback**
 - Extensive internet survey of PhD/Postdoc researchers



SSTI 2006-2013 Research Careers

- Enhance postgraduate skills through a graduate schools mechanism
- Develop sustainable career paths for researchers
- Enhance the mobility of researchers

To implement fully SSTI Ireland needs:

- ~7000 PhD students (3500)
- ~4000 Postdoctoral Researchers (3000)
- ~1650 Principal Investigators (1300)

External Factors

- European Fixed Term Workers Act
 - All contract researchers have same rights as permanent staff (pensions, redundancy, maternity etc.)
 - Greater opportunity for permanent employment
- Need to attract researchers from abroad
 - SFI Experience
 - IUA Irish Mobility Office

Quo Vadis

- Charles Parsons Awards (DCMNR)
 - 7 years of funding for engineering research teams in energy
 - Market competitive salaries (min €55k for postdocs)
 - Have funded 7 (2 in Northern Ireland)
- This sets a precedent for all of the funding agencies (not always welcome!!)
- Implementation Group for SSTI - HERG

A New Europe for Researchers?

- Framework Seven 2007-2014, €48bn
- European Research Council (€7.5bn)
 - Starting Investigator Grants
 - Guarantee independence of researcher
- People Programme (Marie Curie) (€4.73bn)
 - Initial Training of Researchers
 - Lifelong Training / Career Development

EC Policy

- Lisbon / Barcelona Targets
 - 3% GDP on R&D by 2014?
 - ERA Policy Unit
 - OMC Open Method of Coordination

EC Policy

- Research Career and Universities
 - European Researchers Charter and Code of Conduct for their Recruitment
 - Third Country Directive
 - Pensions
 - Taxation
 - “Researcher” as a professional category