



Ceannairde Contae
Dúnaí na n-Éireann
Donegal County Council



Atlantic Technological
University



Donegal City & Strabane
District Council

Catalyst

REGULATION SUPERCLUSTER

Driving World-Class Innovation In Regulation | Ireland's North West City Region

INTRODUCTION

The North West City Region of Ireland is proposing to establish the world's first multi-sector regulatory supercluster as an exciting and ambitious opportunity for the region, Ireland, UK and internationally. It will establish global thought leadership in regulatory theory to address the pressing need for regulatory innovation. The Supercluster will bring together industry, academics and public bodies to drive world-class research and innovation – working across sectors, regulators and borders to become a recognised world leader in regulatory technology.

A focus on ESG and AI will address key global challenges around climate sustainability and emerging technologies - building on the region's unique location straddling the EU-UK border and its cross-jurisdictional pool of talent, expertise and knowledge across multiple regulated sectors. By leveraging and building on this strong ecosystem, the Supercluster will drive innovation and be a magnet for further economic growth of the region.

WHAT



Regulatory Technology (or RegTech) refers to the use of technology to streamline and automate regulatory compliance processes. It encompasses a wide range of tools and services to help comply with regulations efficiently, including for regulatory monitoring and reporting. The RegTech market has witnessed significant growth in recent years, with demand for improved risk management and data analysis capabilities as key factors driving this growth.

WHY



Regulatory innovation is crucial in today's rapidly changing landscape. With advancements in technology and globalisation, regulations need to keep pace to ensure fair competition, protect consumers, society and the planet. However, the process of compliance can be burdensome and costly, compounded by the frequency of regulatory change – with **ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulations** to have a significant impact. This has presented a global market opportunity for RegTech to provide innovative and cost effective solutions.

WHO



The project is being led by founding partners **Donegal County Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council, Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and Catalyst** - working closely with other key stakeholders across industry, academia and public investment agencies. The Supercluster will target the needs of three key segments – regulated entities, regulators and RegTech providers.

There is strong local and regional support for the project which has also generated significant interest on a global scale due to its innovative nature and cross-jurisdictional location.

HOW



The Supercluster aims to position stakeholders at the forefront of addressing complex international regulatory challenges by creating the **required infrastructure, programmes, training and support to facilitate research, development and commercialisation of innovative regulatory solutions** and with access to data and innovation hubs/regulatory sandboxes to test new technology or solutions.

The project will establish a Supercluster that will be both digital (to reach a global audience) and physical – with proposed campuses in **Letterkenny and Derry/Londonderry** to provide state-of-the-art facilities and create an international centre of excellence.

WHERE



The **North West City Region** is the compelling location for the world's first regulation supercluster, given its unique multi-jurisdictional border location straddling the EU and UK, with ready access to all-Island, EU, UK and international markets. The project will further build on competitive advantages provided through the Windsor Framework /post-Brexit trade deal for Northern Ireland.

Characterised by strong political, social, academic and economic cross-border collaboration, the region is uniquely placed to tap into huge market opportunities to solve global regulatory challenges.

WHEN



Feasibility assessment supported by **Shared Island** demonstrated a compelling case for establishing the Supercluster in the North West City Region, endorsed through regional, national and international engagement.

Partners are now working towards securing funding to realise the full ambition of the project and to develop pilot initiatives and build on momentum in the interim.



You can view our international conference '[Navigating the Future of Regulation](#)' which explored the future of regulation and the potential role of the proposed Supercluster.

For further details contact Deirdre Harte at dharte@donegalcoco.ie