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Title: Can Dublin Be Europe's Silicon Valley?

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Abstract

This research focuses on the city of Dublin, Ireland, and its growth as a high-technology business start-up in Europe. This research draws on theories of innovation and start-up ecosystems that shed light on how particular places become and sustain their position as leading-edge locations in a particular sector of the economy.

The research draws on secondary information and data to evaluate the position of Dublin as an ecosystem which promotes and helps sustain indigenous high-tech business creation. This case study approach uses the leading-edge exemplar of Silicon Valley in order to make direct comparisons between the two locations. This is done to shed light on how Dublin operates and highlights its strengths and weaknesses in terms of becoming a major start-up hub for high-tech businesses in Europe.

The research demonstrates that Dublin is very different to Silicon Valley in the operation of its high-tech cluster. In fact, this direct comparison shows that, whilst being a location that has a high number of high-tech start-ups annually, there remain some significant barriers to Dublin achieving its ambition to be Europe's Silicon valley and thus the number one. Dublin has unique strengths and weaknesses and the research finds that there are a number of policy options which will enable Dublin to enhance its position as a destination for high technology start-ups and help it take further steps in realising its ambition to be Europe's first choice for high technology business germination.