



CONNACHT-ULSTER ALLIANCE



**Mr Michael Carmody
Mr Paul Hannigan
Professor Terri Scott**

19th September 2012



Background

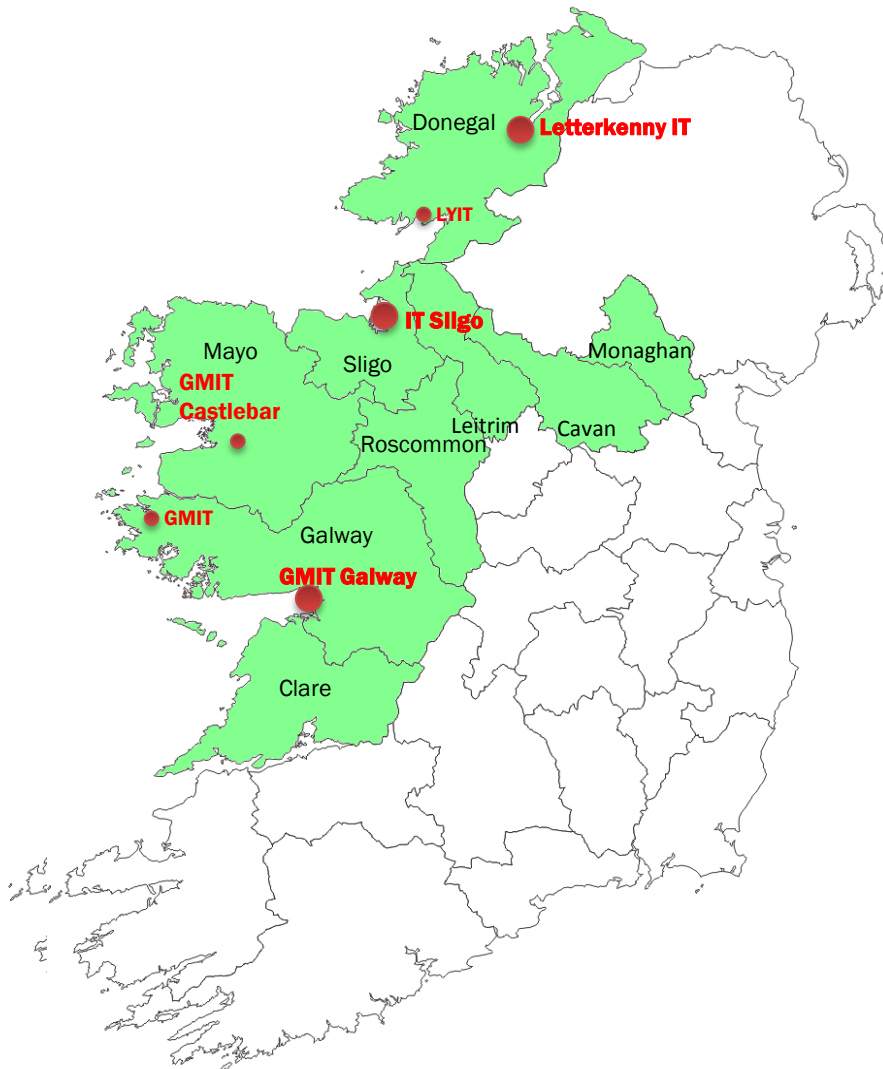
- Hunt Report (2011), National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030.
- Wide ranging recommendations, accepted by Coalition Government.
- Imperative on HEIs to collaborate in regional clusters, including cross border collaborations.
- Included opportunity for IoTs to merge to achieve re-designation as Technological Universities
- Criteria to be met.

www.heai.ie/files/files/DES_Higher_Ed_Main_Report.pdf



Connacht –Ulster Alliance

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- Launch attended by An Taoiseach.
- GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo signed the Connacht-Ulster Alliance with the aim of merging to bring a Technological University to our region as it will be an engine for economic and social development.
- HEA has been informed of the Alliance's strategic intention.



- An Taoiseach: “I know that this alliance will reflect the needs of students, enterprise and the wider community in the Connacht-Ulster region.”



“A Technological University will have a systematic focus on the preparation of graduates for complex professional roles in a changing technological world”.

Higher Education Authority

T.U. will be an engine for economic and social development, supporting industry, jobs and investment.

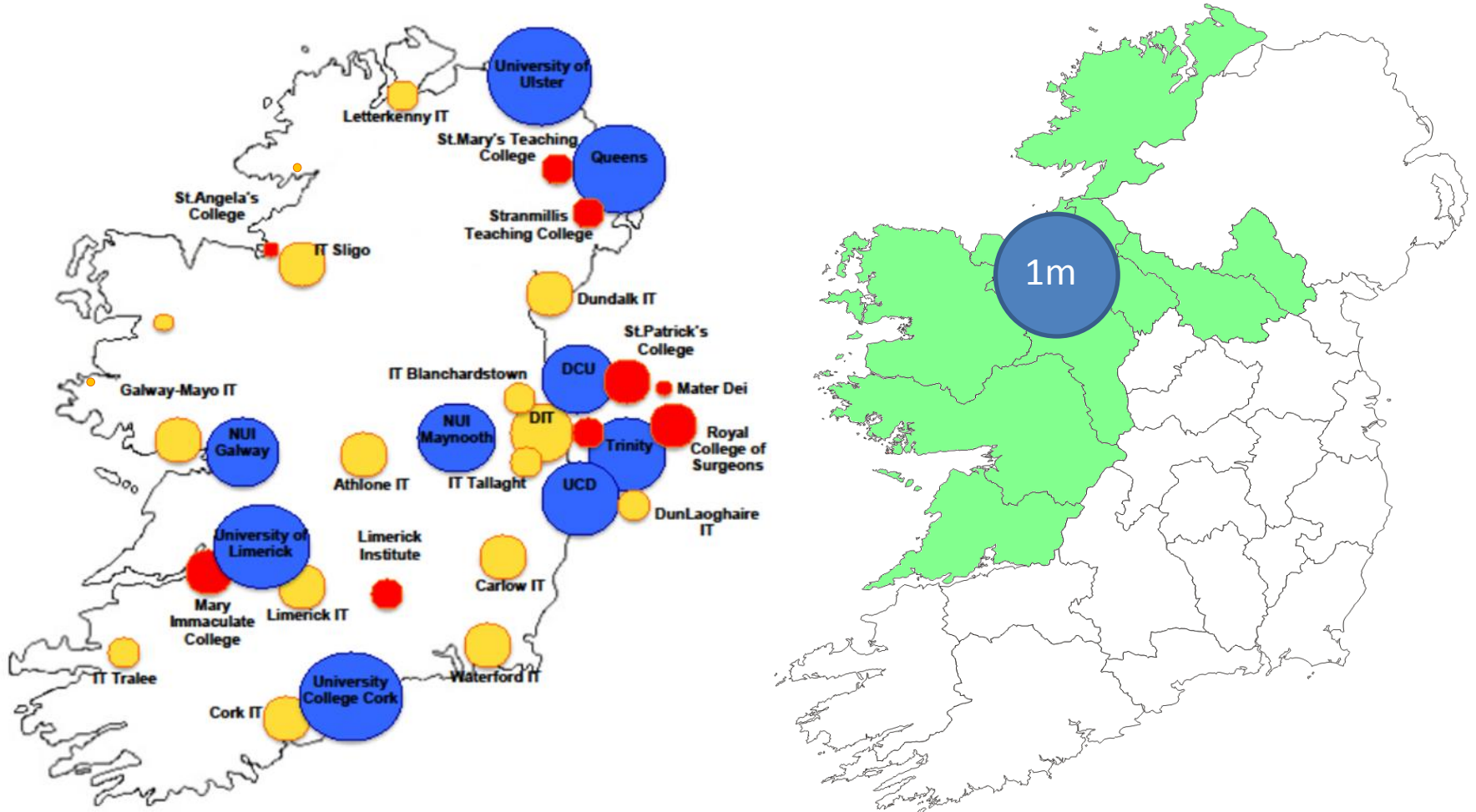


- For students and graduates TU designation will bring enhanced recognition and value of their qualification from an internationally known brand.
- Enhance international profile of Institutes, attracting international students and assisting in attraction of FDI to Connacht-Ulster.
- Businesses in the region support the case for re-designation.



HE Landscape in Ireland

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Comparative data

	Total students	Full time students	Part time students	Staff
CU Alliance	16,162	11,940	4,222	1,443
South East	12,946	9,946	3,000	1,249
Dublin	21,987	15,463	5,524	2,433
NUIG	16,479	13,700	2,746	2,003
UL	11,103	10,200	900	1,436

- Economic impact of CU Alliance €500m



Next Steps

- Report from an International Panel to the HEA on future HE landscape (24th September).
- HEA meeting each HEI (early October).
- HEA to make recommendations to Minister shortly thereafter on the future HE landscape, including **which IoTs can apply for re-designation as Technological Universities.**
- Decisions are to be criteria based, although view that Dublin and the South East are already “assured”.



What can you do?

- The Connacht-Ulster region must not be excluded from the **opportunity** to achieve Technological University status.
- Lobby Ministers, raise in the Dáil, Seanad and in committees.
- **Act Now.** Decisions will be made in the next month. Don't allow the Connacht-Ulster Region to be **disadvantaged.**



Further information

If you require any further information or support to write speeches/PQs or press releases, please do not hesitate to get in contact:

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