

# Funding support for SMEs innovation projects in Healthy Food

## Call & Programmes

*This project has been co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Atlantic Area Programme, under the subsidy contract EAPA\_1071\_/2018 AHFES.  
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# Overview of funding addressed: United Kingdom / Wales & Northern Ireland



**United Kingdom**



**Regions**

Wales

Northern  
Ireland

# Who are the organisations in charge ?

## United Kingdom



**Innovate  
UK**

Innovate UK is the UK's Innovation Agency and is part of UK Research & Innovation. The agency offers funding through competitive calls and covering a variety of sectors including food and drink.

## Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government offers a range of financial & non-financial innovation support through Smart Cymru

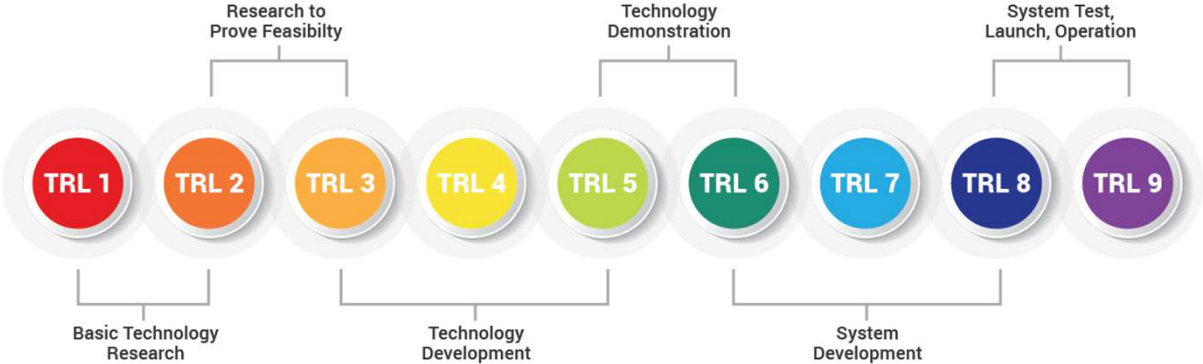
## Northern Ireland



Invest NI are part of the Department for the Economy and provide government support for business to complete internationally

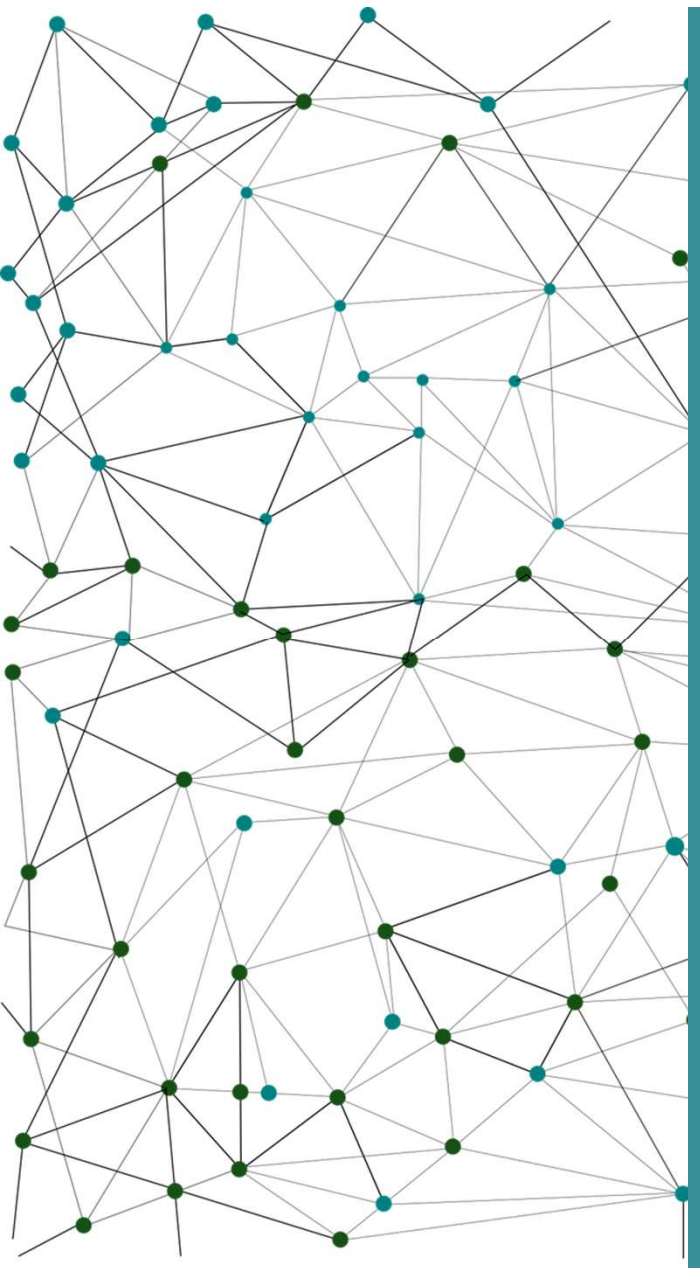
# Legend

Understanding the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the project



Single or collaborative project





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## Call & Programmes in United Kingdom

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## Name of the Call: Recovery Loan Scheme

**Open:** New rules implemented 1st January 2022 **Close:** 30th June 2022

- **Beneficiaries:** UK registered SME
- **Consortium (or not):** No
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** The [Recovery Loan Scheme](#) is currently open to SME's to support them to access loans and other kinds of finance so they can recover after the pandemic and transition period. Loans are available through a network of accredited lenders, listed on the [British Business Bank's website](#).
- **Thematic:** The Recovery Loan Scheme supports access to finance for UK businesses as they grow and recover from the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Type of support:** Loan
- **Budget and funding conditions:** Businesses must be able to prove that their business
  1. would be viable were it not for the pandemic,
  2. has been adversely impacted by the pandemic
  3. is not in collective insolvency proceedings

Term loans or overdrafts of between £25,001 and £2 million per business and invoice or asset finance of between £1,000 and £10 million per business.

The actual amount offered, and the terms are at the discretion of participating lenders. The government guarantees 70% of the finance to the lender. The borrower, is always 100% liable for the debt.

**Length expected of the project:** The maximum length of the facility depends on the type of finance businesses are eligible to apply for and will be up to 3 years for overdrafts and invoice finance facilities and up to 6 years for loans and asset finance facilities

- **Time to grant:** Applications must be made before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.







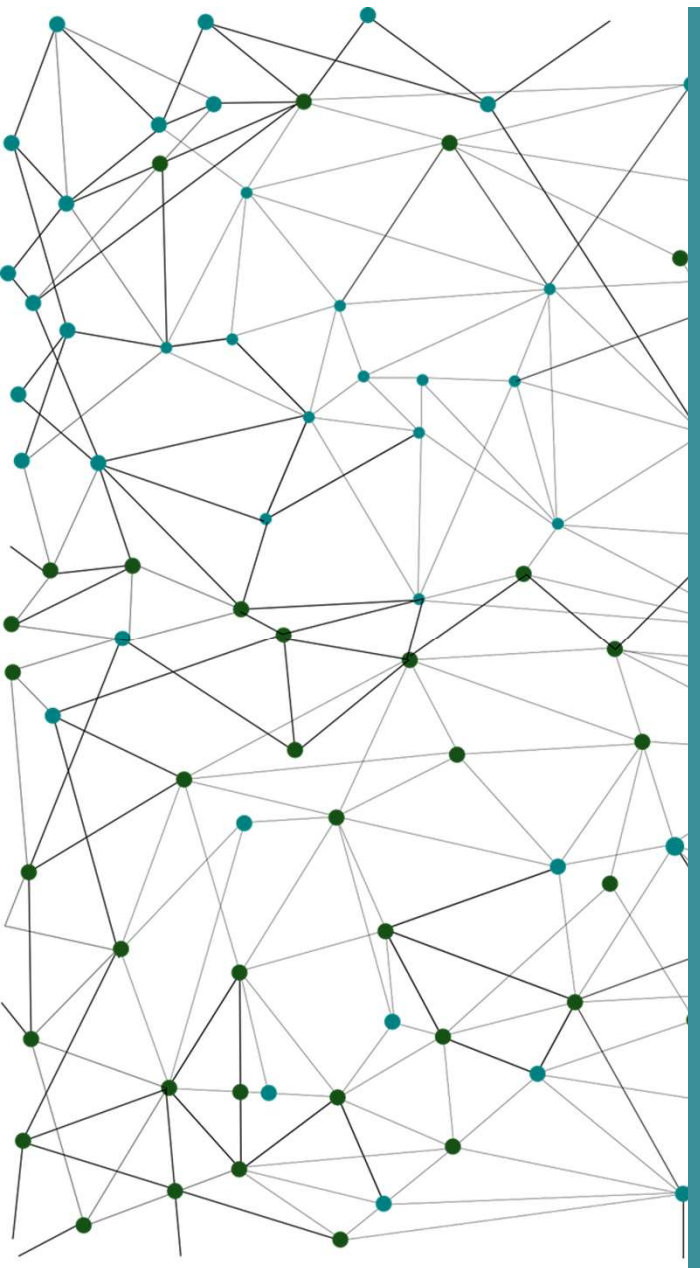
**Name of the Call:** Business Funding for British Businesses

**Open:** Ongoing **Close:** Ongoing

- **Beneficiaries:** UK registered smaller businesses
- **Consortium (or not):** n/a

**Aim of funding (expected results):** The British Business Bank is a government-owned business development bank dedicated to making finance markets work better for smaller businesses across the UK. They aim to “help businesses overcome challenges, make the most of opportunities and keep their business moving in the right direction”.

- **Thematic:** Offer guidance for start-up, growth, managing business debt and post-pandemic funding
- **Type of support:** Various
- **Budget and funding conditions:** Various
- **Length expected of the project:** Various – from start up to growth.
- **Time to grant:** Various



 **Interreg**  
Atlantic Area  
European Regional Development Fund



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## Call & Programmes in Wales

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



## Name of the Call SMARTCymru – Innovation Vouchers

**Open:** Continuous **Close:** Continuous

- **Beneficiaries:** No restrictions on size of business, must be based in Wales
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to bring in external expertise or equipment to develop, implement or exploit new or improved products or processes
- **Thematic:** any sector
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** up to 50% (de minimis); maximum funding: £10k revenue funding; £25k capital funding
- **Project expected duration:** up to 6 months
- **Time to grant:** paid against defrayed costs at project end



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



## Name of the Call SMARTCymru – Innovation Vouchers Plus

**Open:** Continuous **Close:** Continuous

- **Beneficiaries:** No restrictions on size of business, must be based in Wales
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to implement a new or improved method of production, process or service delivery
- **Thematic:** any sector
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** up to 50% (de minimis); maximum funding: £100k
- **Project expected duration:** up to 6 months
- **Time to grant:** paid against defrayed costs at project end



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



## Name of the Call SMARTCymru – Feasibility

**Open:** Continuous **Close:** Continuous

- **Beneficiaries:** Small, medium or large businesses
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to investigate the viability of transforming innovative ideas into new products, processes or services
- **Thematic:** any sector
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** up to 70% for small businesses, up to 60% for medium businesses, up to 50% for large businesses. Maximum £30k
- **Project expected duration:** 3-6 months
- **Time to grant:** paid against defrayed cost, typically on a quarterly basis

Arloesi Bwyd  
Cymru  
Food Innovation  
Wales



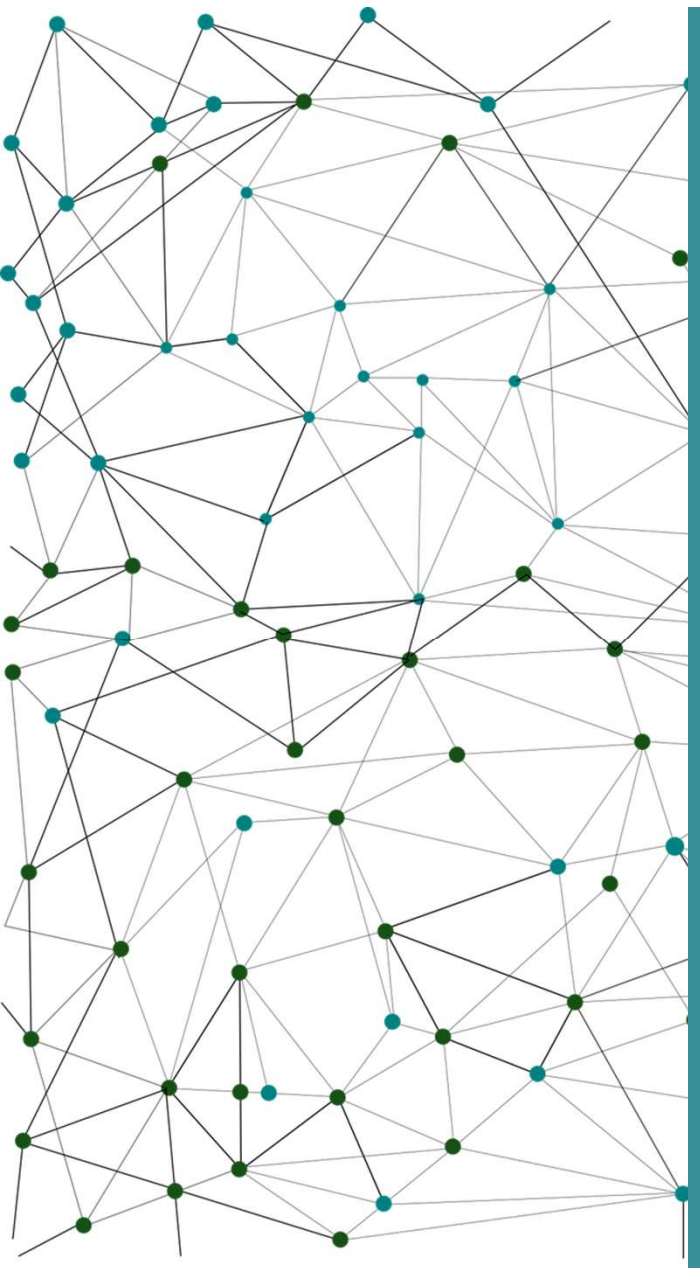
HELIX



## Name of the Call HELIX Knowledge Transfer Programme, Food Innovation Wales

**Open:** by discussion with Food Innovation Wales **Close:** By discussion with Food Innovation Wales

- **Beneficiaries:** Food or drink manufacturing or processing SMEs in Wales
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to transfer knowledge to Welsh food and drink businesses
- **Thematic:** Technical Affiliate or Sales & Marketing Affiliate
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** typically up to £50k, with £40k grant aid, and £10k company contribution
- **Project expected duration:** typically 12 months
- **Time to grant:** applicant contacted within 30 days of submission



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## Call & Programmes in Northern Ireland

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**Name of the Call** Knowledge Transfer Programme, [Invest NI](#)

**Open:** by discussion with Invest NI **Close:** By discussion with Invest NI

- **Beneficiaries:** Food or drink manufacturing or processing SMEs in Northern Ireland
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to transfer knowledge to Northern Ireland food and drink businesses
- **Thematic:** Technical Affiliate or Sales & Marketing Affiliate
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** typically up to £50k, with £40k grant aid, and £10k company contribution
- **Project expected duration:** typically 12 months
- **Time to grant:** applicant contacted within 30 days of submission
- [Video Link](#)





**Name of the Call** Innovation Vouchers, [Invest NI](#)

**Open:** by discussion with Invest NI **Close:** By discussion with Invest NI

- **Beneficiaries:** Food or drink manufacturing or processing SMEs in Northern Ireland
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to transfer knowledge to Northern Ireland food and drink businesses
- **Thematic:** Helping to create or improve products, services or processes. Access to specialist research and scientific expertise
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** £5k
- **Project expected duration:** typically 36 months
- **Time to grant:** applicant contacted within 30 days of submission
- [Video Link](#)



Name of the Call Collaborative Growth Programme, [Invest NI](#)

**Open:** by discussion with Invest NI **Close:** By discussion with Invest NI

- **Beneficiaries:** Food or drink manufacturing or processing SMEs in Northern Ireland
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** SME-led networks requiring facilitation support to scope out innovative collaborative projects with the potential to increase business competitiveness.
- **Thematic:** Helping to increase collaborative working within industry sectors. Contributing to the economic performance of NI
- **Type of support:** Grant
- **Budget :** Phase one project £25k Phase two project £170K
- **Project expected duration:** typically 36 months
- **Time to grant:** applicant contacted within 30 days of submission
- [Video Link](#)



Name of the Call, Capability Development [Invest NI](#)

**Open:** by discussion with Invest NI **Close:** By discussion with Invest NI

- **Beneficiaries:** SMEs in Northern Ireland
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim of funding (expected results):** to transfer knowledge to Northern Ireland food and drink businesses
- **Thematic:** Helping to create or improve products, services or processes. Access to specialist research and scientific expertise
- **Type of support:** **Mentoring**
- **Budget and % of co-funding:** **No**
- **Project expected duration:** typically 12 months
- **Time to grant:** applicant contacted within 30 days of submission
- **May be subject to some eligibility criteria**



Name of the Call, EU Exit Business Support Grant [Invest NI](#)

**Open:** by discussion with Invest NI **Close:** By discussion with Invest NI

The EU Exit Business Support Grant can be used to strengthen your capacity to react and adapt to changes.

Business areas covered by the grant include:

Business strategy – Operations - People and Management – Innovation - Sales & Marketing - Legal & Regulatory impact - Finance

The grant will offer customers financial support up to a maximum of £50,000 at a rate of up to 50%.

Eligible support includes:

Grant assistance up to 50% of one year's salary or £20,000 (whichever is lowest) per employee to engage a new or re-deploy an existing member of staff on an EU Exit related project

Businesses can avail of grant assistance for a maximum of two (or full time equivalent) employees

Assistance up to £10,000 for a maximum period of 12 months, for office rental located outside the UK, for market research purposes

Up to a maximum £25,000 for specialist consultancy fees for EU Exit related activities



[Name of the Call](#), Funding for start-ups with export potential [Invest NI](#)



INI start-up financial support is focused on those businesses that intend to sell outside Northern Ireland. We have five funds, part of our Access to Finance initiative, totalling circa £170 million to help SMEs with high growth potential.

These provide debt and equity investment and include:

NI Small Business Loan Fund: £8m fund that provides unsecured loans to individuals, private companies and social enterprises in the small, medium and micro enterprise size range. Visit the NI Small Business Loan Fund website for more information

Growth Loan Fund (ERDF): £30m fund that provides unsecured loan finance to SMEs that can demonstrate strong growth and export potential. Visit the Growth Loan Fund website for more information

Growth Finance Fund: £30m loan fund designed to support export focused Northern Ireland SMEs demonstrating growth or strong growth potential. Visit the Growth Finance Fund website for more information

techstart NI (ERDF): £30m integrated suite of funds and support for entrepreneurs, seed and early stage SMEs and university spin-outs. Visit the techstart NI (ERDF) website for more information

CoFund NI II (ERDF): £70m venture capital fund that co-invests alongside business angels and other private investors.

Visit the CoFund NI II (ERDF) website for more information





**NIBUSINESS**  
**INFO.CO.UK**



Name of the Call Northern Ireland business support finder

**Open:** by discussion with NIBusiness Info **Close:** By discussion with NIBusiness Info

- **Beneficiaries:** Food or drink manufacturing or processing SMEs in Northern Ireland
- **Consortium (or not):** individual projects
- **Aim (expected results):** The business support finder is a searchable database that can help you find publicly-funded and not-for-profit sources of assistance you may be eligible to apply for.
- Support may be available in a number of forms, including financial assistance and free or subsidised advice services. There may also be specific initiatives to help with starting up, managing or growing a business.
- ME-led networks requiring facilitation support to scope out innovative collaborative projects with the potential to increase business competitiveness.
- [NI Business Info Link](#)





### About the Acumen Programme

Exporting businesses have proven to be more innovative, productive and resilient relative to their non-exporting counterparts and research undertaken by InterTradelreland (through its Business Monitor) indicates that cross-border trading serves as an important 'stepping stone' towards taking a wider journey to exporting into markets off the Island of Ireland.

The Acumen programme aims to enhance the capacity and capability of SMEs to take the first formal steps onto the export ladder by helping to fund an experienced and skilled sales resource to help businesses to identify new opportunities and win new sales in the cross-border market.



## [About the Acumen Programme](#)

### Acumen support options

There are two funding options available under the Acumen programme. The Acumen team will work closely with you to help you decide which option is most suitable for your business needs.

#### Full-time Sales Support

Acumen will fund up to 50% of the cost of a Full-time Sales resource for a 12 month period.

#### Part-time Sales Support

Acumen will fund up to 50% of the cost of a Part-time Sales resource for a 6-12 month period.



## About the Fusion Programme

support options

FUSION provides financial support to help you get the specialist skills your business needs. Funding is available up to £31,000/€41,100 for 12 month innovation projects and up to £44,250/€58,700 for 18 month innovation projects.

Product development and innovation is at the heart of growth but often needs costly technology support. Previously known as Fusion, Innovation Boost can provide that support by helping to fund a high calibre science, engineering or technology graduate and partnering you with a third level institution with specific expertise.

The graduate is employed by you and is based in your company throughout the project (12 – 18 months) with mentoring from the academic partner and InterTradelreland Innovation Boost consultant.



### About the Elevate Programme

For micro businesses, our Elevate programme can provide up to £5,000/€6,000 consultancy expertise to help you create a cross-border sales development plan.

If you are a Micro-Enterprise looking to identify cross-border markets and customers to win new business you're in the right place. There is £5k/€5.7k funding for specialist Sales and Marketing support to grow your business with the Elevate Programme. It's a simple application process and you will benefit from bespoke advice.

The Elevate Support is available for:

- Assessment of in-house sales capability and skills
- Export Readiness assessment of the business
- Identification of sales leads/prospects
- Development of a cross-border sales and marketing plan
- Advice and guidance on design of marketing materials





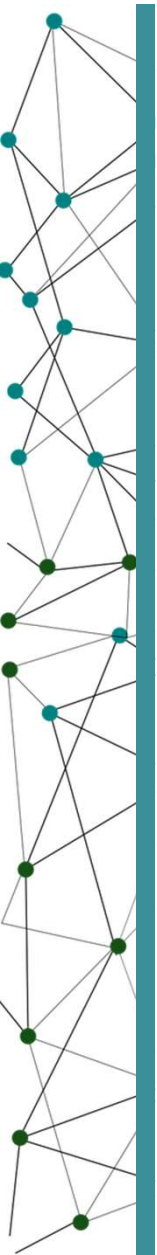
## [About the Brexit Voucher](#)

Voucher support is available to help you understand the implications of the new trading relationship and its impact on your cross-border business.

Our **['Brexit Voucher'](#)** – provides 100% financial support up to £2,000/€2,250 (inclusive of VAT) towards professional advice to help businesses to identify Brexit exposure and to plan.

The Voucher can be used by the cross-border trader to complete a supply chain analysis of the business, map trade flows, review suppliers and explore the impact of the future trading environment.

The Voucher can also be used to support other areas, for example customs training.



Video Links NI support

**Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme** <https://youtu.be/zGBkBXmPXcw>

**Innovation Vouchers** <https://youtu.be/nULKxkTeNig>

**Collaborative Growth Programme**

<https://youtu.be/3ewSkHxtB3A?list=PLRYcsY1cvoIRMujLkvSfsf6lrWP9uEU-N>

**Acumen** <https://intertradeireland.com/sales-growth/acumen>

**Fusion** <https://intertradeireland.com/innovation/innovation-boost>

**Elevate** <https://intertradeireland.com/sales-growth/elevate>

