

.IE announces towns shortlisted for Digital Town Awards 2021

30 projects have been recognised for their unique digital contribution to their town.

- **Shortlisted projects span 14 award categories, all of which are in with the chance of winning a share of the total prize fund of €100,000.**
- **Winners will be announced at a virtual awards event on 10 June.**
- **.IE spokesperson: *“The .IE Digital Town Awards want to recognise the good work and achievements of towns across Ireland who have utilised digital technologies to create new ways of doing things, promote innovation and to breathe new life into local communities.”***
- **15 counties have had one or more projects nominated, including Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Laois, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Offaly, Sligo, and Wexford.**

The .IE Digital Town Awards, established by .IE, the company that manages and maintains Ireland’s country domain name, were launched earlier this year to honour local town projects and people that have demonstrated how digital projects have contributed to enhancements or digital improvements in areas such as health, tourism, education, public services, employment opportunities, citizen empowerment, and social entrepreneurship.

Shortlisted projects cover the full spectrum of those who are early in their digital journey right up to very sophisticated projects and all are in with the chance of winning one of 14 awards and a share of the €100,000 total prize fund.

Eleven of the awards will be given directly to individual town projects, with a further three special awards recognising a Digital Changemaker, Digital Rising Star, and a Digital Hero.

Following a competitive selection process by an independent judging panel, the wide-ranging list of shortlisted towns includes projects in sustainability, automation, cultural diversity, social inclusion, and promoting local business.

To view the full shortlist, please visit: <https://www.weare.ie/ie-digital-town-awards-shortlist/>

The overall winners will be announced at the inaugural virtual Awards Ceremony which will take place on **10 June**.

Commenting on the announcement, Oonagh McCutcheon, Corporate Communications Manager at .IE said:

“We are proud to announce our shortlist of projects for this year’s inaugural .IE Digital Town Awards.

“The .IE Digital Town Awards want to recognise the good work and achievements of towns across Ireland who have utilised digital technologies to create new ways of doing things, promote innovation and to breathe new life into local communities.

“What is evident from the projects that were submitted for this year’s awards is that towns up and down the country have an extraordinary sense of resourcefulness and spirit. Those shortlisted in today’s announcement have demonstrated impressive digital improvements and enhancements in their local town, and the .IE Digital Town awards aims to ‘shine a light’ on these efforts.

“We look forward to celebrating these town and community achievements with all our finalists at the special virtual awards event next month.”

The .IE Digital Town Awards mark the first phase of a €1 million investment to be delivered over the next four years, with a particular focus on digital enhancement and adoption in Ireland’s towns as part of its overall .IE Digital Town programme.

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Notes to editor:

- For further information on the Digital Town Awards, and to register for the upcoming virtual awards event, please visit: <https://www.weare.ie/ie-digital-town-awards-registration-form/>

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About .IE

.IE is the national registry for .ie domain names and the trusted and progressive guardian of Ireland’s unique online .ie address. Our purpose is to enable and empower people, communities and businesses across Ireland to thrive online.

We operate the domain name system ([DNS](#)) for the .ie namespace, facilitate an [independent dispute resolution service](#), and operate a public [WHOIS](#) lookup service for .ie domains.

In cooperation with our Registrars, technical partners and stakeholders, we help advance Ireland’s internet ecosystem. Good governance is evidenced in our [policy development process](#) for the .ie namespace, which follows a bottom-up, consensus-driven approach through a multi-stakeholder Policy Advisory Committee.

At .IE we are committed to digital advocacy for SMEs and for local communities. Through stakeholder engagement initiatives such as [.IE Digital Town](#), we work with and support SMEs organisations to improve their members’ online presence and e-commerce capabilities so they can unlock the power of the internet to boost sales to local consumers.

We also produce fact-based research for the business community and policymakers, such as the [.IE Domain Profile Report](#) and the [.IE Tipping Point](#), charting the attitudes to digital of Irish SMEs and consumers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are over 323,000 .ie domain names registered. Since March 2018, it is easier and faster to register a .ie domain. As part of the domain registration process, every applicant must provide tangible evidence of a connection to Ireland.

www.weare.ie