

Final call for [INSERT COUNTY] applicants as deadline extended for ‘.IE Digital Town Awards’

Total prize fund of €100,000 up for grabs across 14 award categories including Digital Changemaker, Digital Rising Star and Digital Hero

- .IE Digital Town Awards to recognise local community projects and everyday champions that demonstrate digital thinking and innovation for the betterment of local people, towns, and communities
- The awards will now accept applications until Friday, 30 April at 5.00pm
- .IE comment: “Based on the positive reaction across the country, we have decided to extend the deadline by another week to ensure that all groups and projects have had the chance to make their entries.”

.IE, the company that manages and maintains Ireland’s country domain name, has issued a final call for [INSERT COUNTY] applicants in the inaugural .IE Digital Town Awards.

[INSERT COUNTY] community groups and projects are being invited to submit final entries for the .IE Digital Town Awards, following a decision to **extend the application deadline by a week to facilitate the recent demand in submissions.**

The awards, which opened for entries on 22 March, **will now accept applications until Friday, 30 April at 5.00pm** giving community groups and projects an additional week to submit their entries.

Commenting on the decision to extend the deadline, **Oonagh McCutcheon, Corporate Communications Manager at .IE** said, “we are delighted to announce an extension to the deadline for applications to the .IE Digital Town Awards this year.

“Since opening the application portal for the awards in March, we have received a wide variety of applications from community groups and local towns across Ireland.

“We have been really impressed with the responses so far and based on the positive reaction across the country, we have decided to extend the deadline by another week to ensure that all groups and projects have had the chance to submit their entries.

“For those who have already made an application, the online portal will remain open for any last-minute changes or additions that they might like to make to their submission. And for those who are just starting the process, we would encourage you to start your application early, so that it is ready and finalised ahead of the revised deadline.”

The .IE Digital Town Awards

The .IE Digital Town Awards **has a total prize fund of €100,000 across 14 categories**. Towns can enter digital projects that make a difference in areas like health, education, tourism, culture, community, and sport.

Eleven of the awards will be “shining a light” on digital projects, with a further three special awards recognising a Digital Changemaker, Digital Rising Star, and a Digital Hero – all of which will be decided on by independent judging panel.

For the Digital Changemaker, the judges want to see a town that demonstrates that they have taken creative digital action to create change and new ways of doing things to effect positive impacts for the community.

For the Digital Rising Star, the judges will be looking for a town that is an emerging talent in digital and will demonstrate the potential to be a future digital leader.

The Digital Hero, meanwhile, will be someone in the community who is an unsung hero, working tirelessly on initiatives to promote the digital enhancement of the town or a group in the town.

ENDS

Note to editors:

- Learn more about [applying for the .IE Digital Town Awards](#).

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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 315,000 .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.

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