
‘The future of work is flexible’

Are you tired of the long commute? The Hatch Lab in Gorey is to host an event to discuss the future of work and why remote working benefits businesses and their people.

- Event in Hatch Lab on 1st of February to explore the future of work
 - Remote working benefits businesses, people and local economies
 - 78% of businesses have implemented some form of remote working policy
 - Over 200,000 remote workers in Ireland
 - Roughly 2,500 people commute out of Wexford every day for work
 - Access to talent is the biggest challenge for Irish SMEs
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On February 1, Gorey will host a major flexible working event at the HatchLab. The event, sponsored by Bank of Ireland, will help businesses, big and small, understand how they can implement flexible working policies to benefit them and their staff, and thus support talent acquisition and retention.

Long and stressful daily commutes affect not just workers but also their employers. Business owners are increasingly willing to encourage remote working as it has a positive impact on productivity, profitability, staff morale, recruitment and talent retention.

“Flexible working also benefits the wider society and local communities,” says Emer Cooney, event organiser. “There are 200,000 remote workers in Ireland, and this number is growing rapidly. In Wexford alone, almost 2,500 people commute *out* of the county every day. Allowing even a proportion of these commuters to work within the county would reduce work-related stress, and benefit the local economy by redirecting spending towards local retailers and businesses. It would also alleviate traffic congestion on major routes, and reduce carbon emissions and air pollution, which are key state priorities.”

Isolation doesn't have to be an issue

For remote workers, the key challenge of working from home can be isolation. This has driven the emergence of a multitude of co-working spaces that act as ‘satellite’ offices and offer a structured and supportive remote working environment ‘without the commute’. [The Hatch Lab](#) in Gorey is one

such workspace. The Hatch Lab, a partnership between Wexford County Council and Bank of Ireland, offers an incubation space for startups, as well as a supportive co-working space and/ or a remote office for individuals and businesses.

According to a [report](#) from Blueface, 78% of businesses have implemented some form of remote working policy to-date. [It's projected](#) that by 2025, remote working will rival fixed office locations. Organisations that don't offer flexibility will lose talent. SMEs are struggling most, and for the first time, the SFA report that access to talent is the biggest challenge for Irish SMEs.

So why have *all* organisations not made this transition? Key barriers for employers include concerns over reduced productivity, uncertainty around how to measure remote work output, uncertainties around the benefits to the wider organisation, and data security issues.

Is your organisation ready for a flexible future?

The event at the HatchLab on February 1 will discuss the key barriers and benefits of flexible working and help large and small organisations understand how they can embrace a flexible future, and maximise the benefits for them and their organisation.

Find more information, and to register, go to: <https://events.bizzabo.com/growremote>