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Building Information Modelling in Ireland 2025: A Retrospective Review of the BIM in Ireland 2019 Report

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Abstract Summary

Study Purpose and Scope
The study evaluates BIM maturity in Ireland's AEC sector, updating the 2019 review and reflecting on the 2024 mandates.

Methodology and Models
Macro-BIM maturity models and recent literature are synthesised to assess BIM diffusion in five key areas.

Findings and Progress
Significant progress in BIM standards and practices driven by government and industry initiatives is observed.

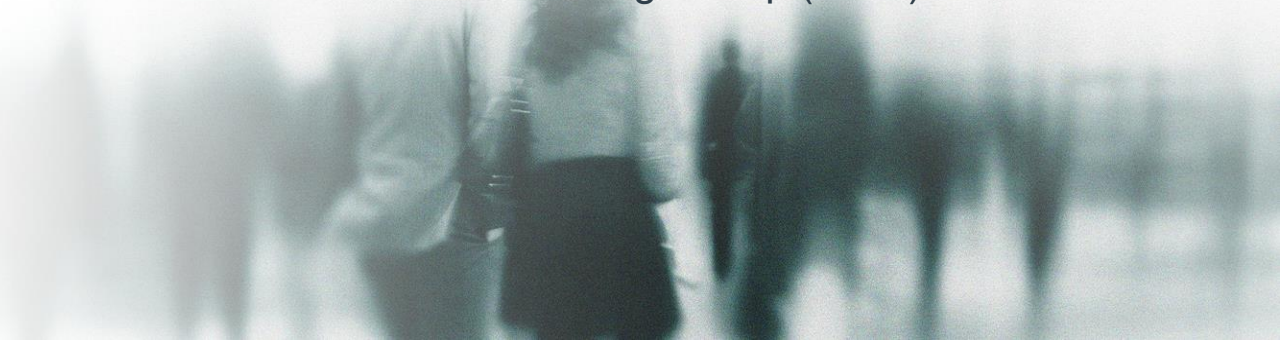
Challenges and Future Needs
Resource constraints and skills gaps remain challenges, highlighting the need for ongoing digital construction improvements.

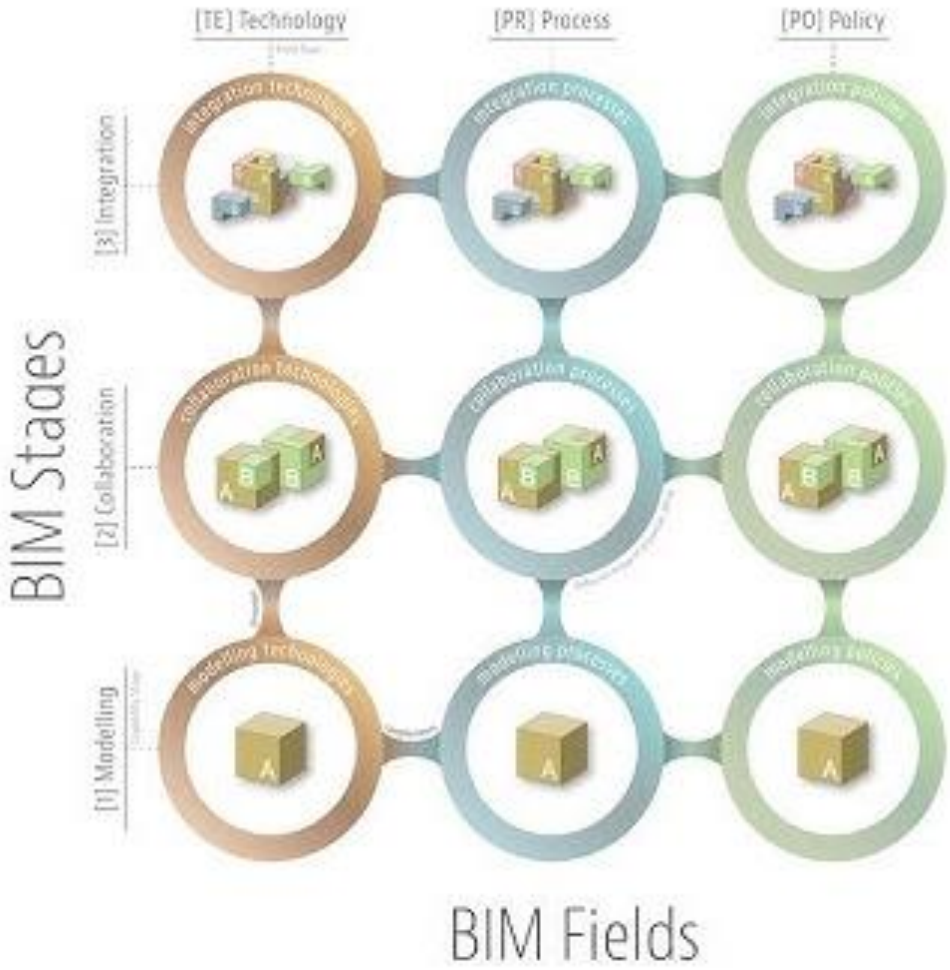
Introduction and Context

Historical BIM Adoption
Studies from 2017, 2019, and 2020 show gradual BIM adoption growth in Ireland's AEC sector.

2024 Public Sector Mandate
In 2019, the sector was still embracing the NBC Roadmap and the Government's digital strategy. Both failed to adequately propel the industry to the next stage due primarily to a lack of funding.

Project Ireland 2040
Project Ireland 2040 introduced a vehicle to ensure regular and open dialogue between the Government and the construction sector by the establishment of a Construction Sector Working Group (CSG).





BIM Maturity Models: BIM Diffusion Areas

BIM Diffusion Model
In 2019, Ireland was experiencing a consistent increase in collaboration and integration regarding BIM processes and policies. This progress could be partially linked to the NBC roadmap and the Government's digital strategy.

Advancement in Ireland
Ireland's BIM adoption grew through standards such as ISO 19650 and certification schemes from 2019 to 2024. As of the 1st of January 2025, a total of 21 organisations had achieved certification.

Current Challenges
Despite progress, skills gaps, financial constraints, and SME disparities remain challenges for BIM diffusion.

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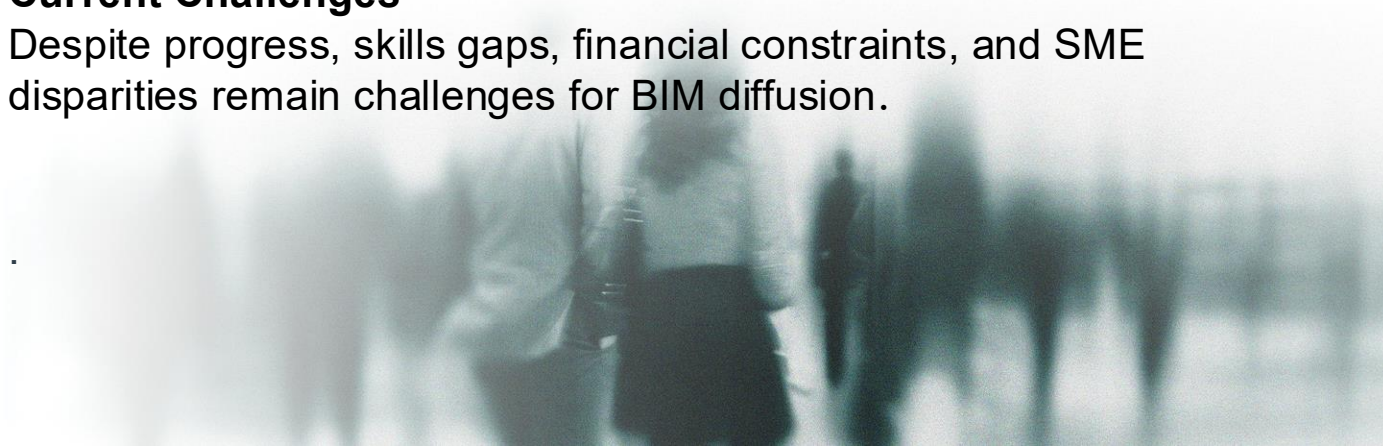


BIM Maturity Models: Macro Maturity Components

Digital Transformation Engagement
According to Build Digital National Survey 66% of respondents are actively engaged in their organisation's digital transformation journey.

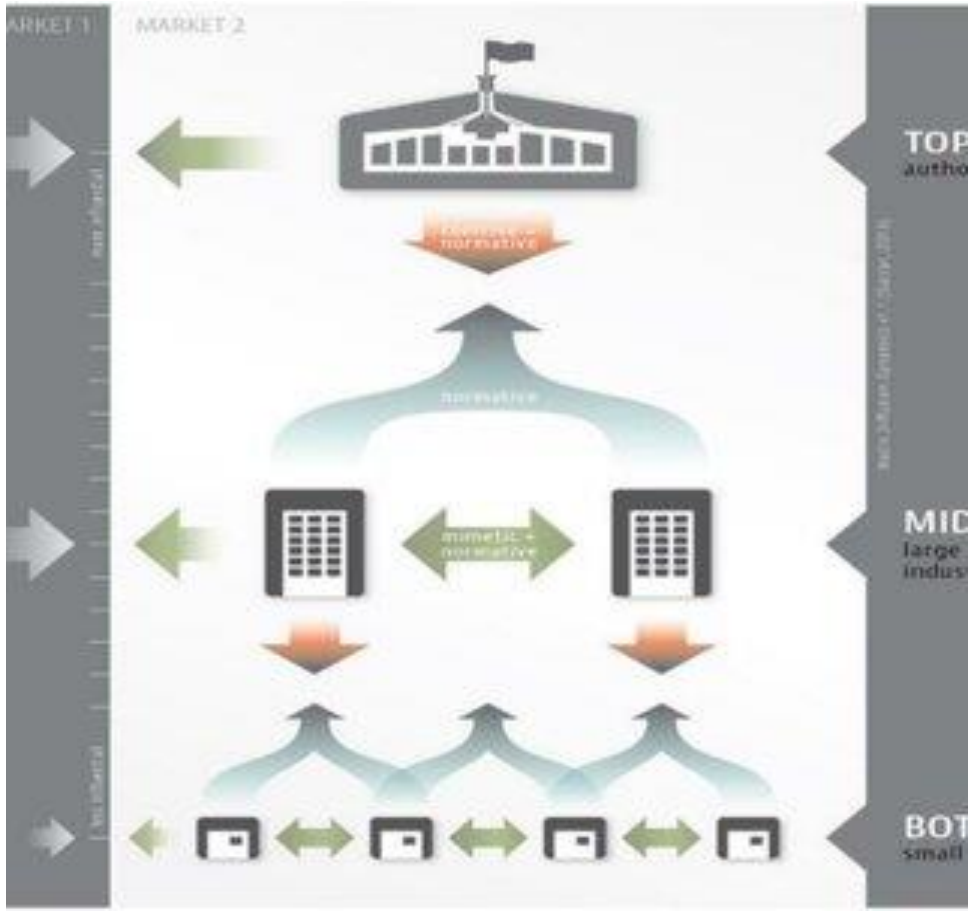
Strengthened Regulatory Frameworks
BIM mandate and ISO standards have reinforced regulatory frameworks in Ireland's construction sector.

Expanded Education Programs
Level 9 courses and funding initiatives support education growth despite ongoing critical skills gaps.

Emerging Innovation Champions
Organisations like Build Digital and Construct Innovate are promoting innovation and research in BIM.

Skills Gap
A critical skills gap in roles, such as the BIM Manager and BIM Coordinator/Technician, which have been added to the Critical Skills Occupation List.

Diffusion and Policy Dynamics:



Ireland's 2019 Middle-Out Diffusion
In 2019, Ireland's diffusion was middle-out, led by large organizations with limited government involvement.

Shift to Top-Down by 2025
By 2025, Ireland adopted a top-down diffusion with government mandates, resources, and funding programs supporting SMEs.

Build Digital
The Build Digital portal provides free access to gap analysis tools, templates, project information standards, assessor tools, CWMF process workflows, information management / BIM implementation guides, among other resources.

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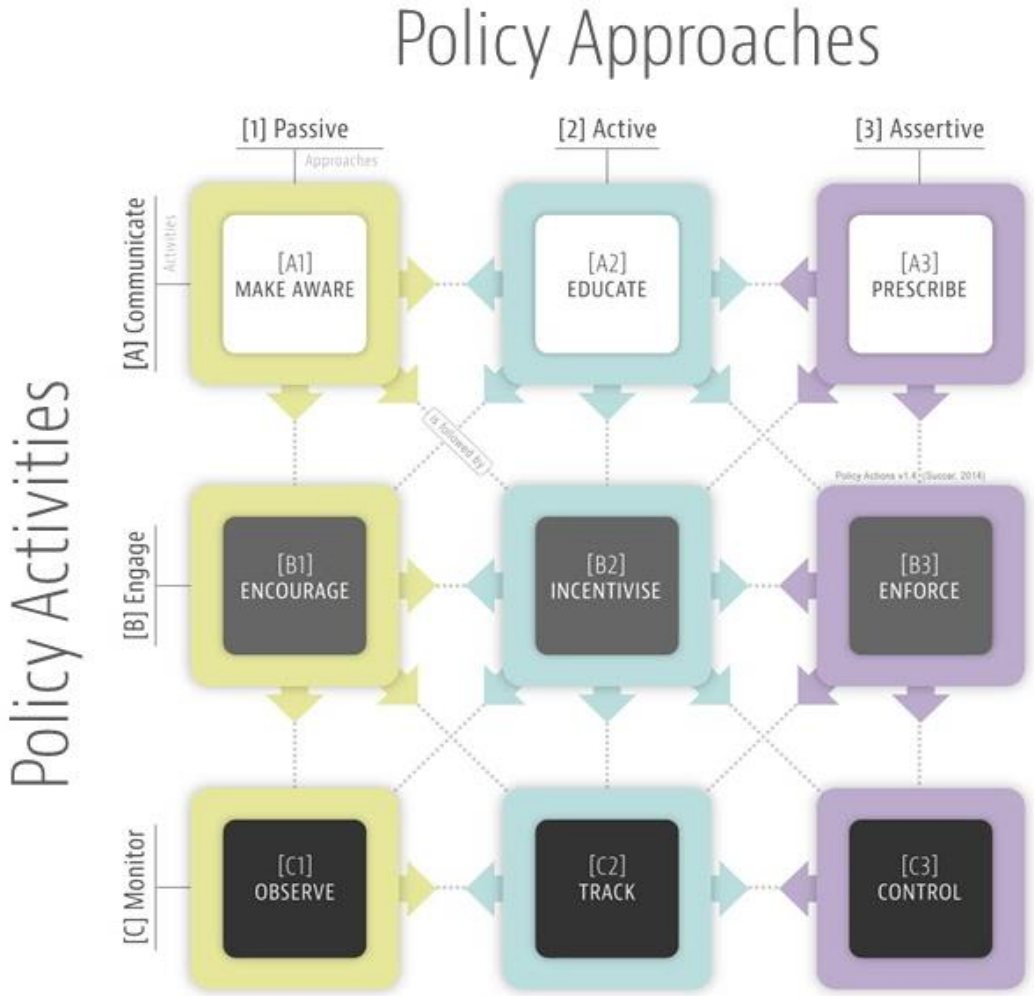
Diffusion and Policy Dynamics: Policy Actions and Assertiveness



Shift from Passive to Assertive
Ireland progressed from passive to assertive policy actions between 2019 and 2025, with stronger interventions in digital construction.

Focus on BIM and MMC
Assertive policies emphasize BIM and MMC adoption, aiming to improve collaboration, reduce errors, and enhance project outcomes i.e. Housing for All and MMC Action Plan.

Strategic Challenges and Commitment
Despite COVID-19 and inflation challenges, government commitment to digital transformation through strategic policies remains strong.

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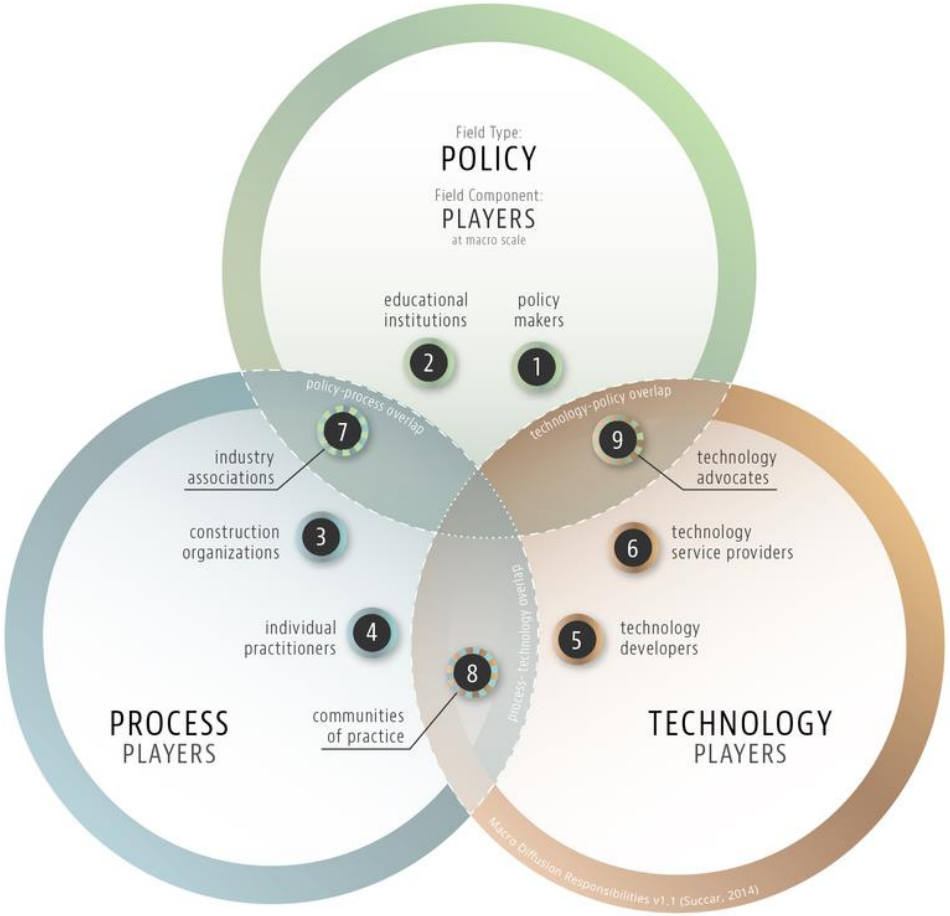
Stakeholder Engagement: Macro Diffusion Responsibilities



Stakeholder Growth and Roles
All stakeholder groups show growth in BIM diffusion, with universities expanding courses and research by 2025.

Industry and Policy Contributions
Industry associations have updated guides while policymakers and organisations are providing training and support for BIM adoption i.e. 2nd revision of the RIAI Ireland BIM Pack, SCSI BIM Information Guide, etc.

Evolution of Communities of Practice
Traditional BIM communities declined, but new groups like BIM Heroes and BIM Coordinators Summit have emerged.

Technology Developers' Influence
Technology developers remain influential with the BIM market expected to nearly double by 2030.

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Discussion and Challenges

Progress in BIM Maturity
Ireland has steadily improved BIM maturity over six years despite setbacks like COVID-19 and inflation.

Government and Industry Support
Government mandates, educational initiatives, and collaboration have accelerated BIM adoption in Ireland.

Challenges and Risks
Fragmented practices, limited behavioural change, BIM professional shortages, and SME digital exclusion remain concerns.

Need for Communities of Practice
Reinstating communities of practice is essential to share knowledge and foster holistic information exchange.

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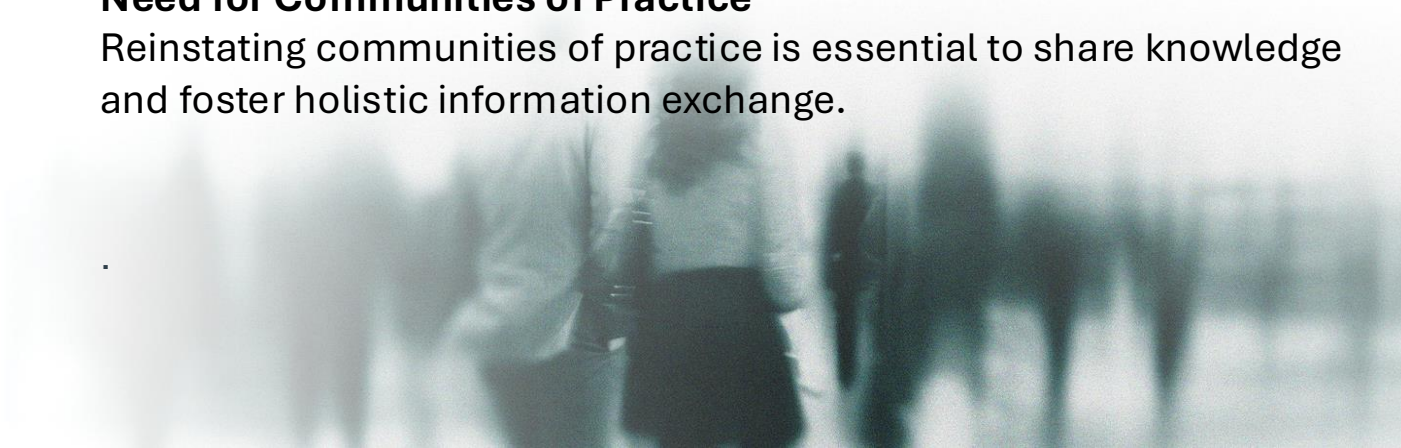

Final Conclusions

Advancements in BIM Maturity
Since 2019, Ireland has improved BIM maturity through enhanced policies, collaboration, and standardization efforts.

Workforce Development Importance
Investments in behavioural change, SME engagement, and workforce skills are critical for effective BIM implementation.

Collective Efforts for Success
Government, industry, academia, and communities must work together to build a skilled BIM workforce.

Strategic Initiatives for Leadership
Ongoing support and strategies will ensure Ireland's leadership in global digital construction markets.

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Thank you