

Foreword

A better world for everyone through the full adoption of GS1 standards



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Welcome to GS1 Ireland's review of 2020 and the second full year of delivering on our Strategic Plan 2019 to 2021.

As we write this report, we do so against the backdrop of the continuing impact that Covid-19 is having on society and business in Ireland and across the globe.

As the pandemic continued to spread during 2020, the commitment of our Team at GS1 Ireland and the agility of our business ensured our members and customers received the supply chain standards, services, and technology products they needed to keep their businesses operational.

Our organisational purpose of enabling a better world for everyone through the full adoption of GS1 standards was much in evidence across all GS1 Ireland's key sectors, and most noticeably in Healthcare and Retail CPG. We are proud of the commitment, dedication, and professionalism that GS1 Ireland demonstrated to our members during a difficult and uncertain period and would like to extend our thanks, and that of the Board, to all the Team.

The pandemic required our business to change the way we operated - and in fundamental ways - and, like all the companies and organisations we serve, we too had to embrace the new challenges and opportunities of remote working while ensuring the highest possible level of customer service.

Our ability to respond successfully was enabled by the core elements of our strategy: deepening engagement with our members, providing a virtual hub for community collaboration,

delivering new and innovative services and solutions, and enhancing our team, processes and technologies while remaining fully committed to our vision of delivering "value through standards" for all.

Engagement with our Members continues to be a critically important function in GS1, and never more so than in 2020. Through our Industry Engagement & Advisory Services Team, we reached out to existing and prospective members in our main sectors to explain how standards can help them to improve processes, reduce waste, control costs and plan. It is clear from our interaction with members that the focus on environment, circular economy, climate change and sustainability we have seen in recent years, has further accelerated. Members are increasingly aware of the affect that these issues are having on both their businesses and their personal lives.

Responding to this, in May 2020, we were delighted to launch the European "Lean & Green" programme in Ireland in cooperation with the Connekt Foundation. Lean & Green will assist Members across the transport, logistics and warehousing sectors to create meaningful, measured and independently verified action plans to cut carbon emissions.

While the focus on Sustainability increased substantially, Traceability continued to be an important business capability in many sectors as a mechanism to provide information on authentication, provenance and safety, to both trading partners and consumers. We are pleased to report our fTRACE event-based traceability solution continues to be actively used by all the main beef processors in Ireland.

Looking to Healthcare, the pandemic has underlined the fact that we need more efficient and safer healthcare systems that can adapt to new demands. It has also shown the need to maintain critical supplies, and with contact tracing and the rollout of the vaccination programme, the importance of traceability and tracking of people and locations, as well as medical and medicinal products. A major benefit of traceability in healthcare is the real-time, trusted data from barcode scanning that can be used to inform clinical and non-clinical decisions.

In the Construction Sector, GS1 Ireland continues to be an active participant in the GS1 Global Construction Centre of Excellence, in the Digital Supply Chain in Built Environment (DSCiBE) workgroup, the NSAI Building Information Modelling standards committee, and the Construction IT Alliance (CitA). The Board is also pleased to report our Platinum partnership with Integrated Facilities Solutions (IFS) has been very productive with much achieved in a short space of time. GS1 Ireland, in conjunction with its partners and collaborators, will continue to work with all stakeholders to make the Digital Building a reality.

It is evident that during 2020, the pandemic impacted all the sectors we interface with as an organisation, from sole traders to the large retailers, from start-up food producers to big brands, and most critically, across all areas of Ireland's healthcare service and hospitals.

In response, Governments, Regulators, and the European Commission coordinated a common European response to the pandemic, by reinforcing public health services, and by mitigating the socio-economic impact on businesses and their employees. GS1 Ireland remains fully committed to playing its part and to supporting all our members through the provision of innovative supply chain standards. Equally, GS1 Ireland will also continue to support Government and its healthcare agencies, such as the HSE, by offering traceability solutions for the planned national vaccination programme and other related areas.

Looking ahead to 2021 we will see the rollout of various new global registry platforms which can provide significant benefit for our members by enabling access to key entity, product, and asset data utilising GS1 Identifiers such

as Global Company Prefixes, Global Trade Item Numbers, Global Location Numbers, and Global Individual & Returnable Asset Identifiers. The GS1 Global Registry Platform will be live by the summer of 2021, and global services such as Verified by GS1 will begin to come to the fore in the coming months and years.

The Board and Executive are pleased with its return on investment for our members in 2020 and that the organisation's development targets for the four Critical Success Factors have been met. The 2020 Directors' Report and Financial Statements are included in the second half of this report and provides the independent auditors report, statement of income and retained earnings, and statement of financial position.

In conclusion, we continue to be conscious that the pandemic presents an unquantifiable strategic risk for many organisations. We will continue to monitor and survey the extent to which members are affected, to support them with services and to develop solutions to address the supply chain challenges and opportunities arising during this current period of uncertainty. We look forward to reporting our progress for the final year of our current strategy at the end of 2021.

