

## **Cullen Fellow: Port Performance Metrics (PhD award)**

### **Outline of Research**

Efficient ports have a positive impact on international trade, national competitiveness, and employment levels. Efficiency can be measured with a variety of metrics but extant literature and research does not prescribe how these metrics should be applied in the particular circumstances of individual ports. Incomplete understanding of port performance metrics undermines confidence in how our ports are actually functioning and in the contribution they make, or can potentially make, to the development of international trade and the creation of jobs in the Irish economy.

In the proposed study, relevant stakeholders, including state agencies, international shipping companies, port authorities and academic institutions will be invited to participate in developing solutions. The IMDO is uniquely positioned to facilitate the engagement of these stakeholders and to provide appropriate archival data on which much of the research can be based. The output of the research will be a contingency model of port performance measurements that will fit the suite of metrics described in the research to the operational circumstances of individual port.

### **Key Assumptions**

The principle assumptions of the proposed research project are:

1. The performance of ports has economic, environmental and social consequences.
2. The metrics that currently exist to gauge port performance are inadequate.
3. The IMDO is uniquely positioned to draw from archival data and use its access to industry stakeholders to bridge this research gap.
4. The solutions so derived will have a benefit across the ports sector, nationally and internationally.
5. The research will lead to the standardisation of port performance measurements and improvements in practice and policy.

### **Specific Requirements**

The fellow should have a background in economics or business, with strong analytical skills and experience in report writing. Superior skills in Excel (experience in SPSS would be an advantage) with strong numerate capability. Good people and communications skills would be advantageous in this fellowship given the span of engagement that is involved (Departmental officials, senior people in ports and shipping companies, personnel from other development agencies).