Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software, brings together leading software teams from universities across Ireland in a coordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus. Hosted by the University of Limerick its research teams comprising 300 researchers are also distributed throughout 11 other academic institutions in Ireland. Lero seeks to establish a software ecosystem in Ireland that can create wealth and jobs and aims to achieve this through providing thought leadership and excellence in software research, synergistic and innovative collaboration with industry and academic partners, and fostering critical skills and talent for the Irish software industry ecosystem.

Lero’s research programme comprises *systems* (what we build), *methods* (how we build) and *context* (for the world we want) in six key application domains all underpinned by Information and Communications Technology (ICT): Connected Autonomous Vehicles; Health, Wellbeing & Human Performance; Smart Communities and Cities; GovTech; FinTech; and AgriTech & Food.

Lero has a very active Education and Public Engagement programme which seeks to train future software practitioners through interventions at all levels of the educational system, and to engage with and open a dialogue with the public through Lero research domains. Lero researchers engage directly with more than 10,000 members of the public every year, and has introduced software and computer science programmes in the Irish education system from primary to graduate level.

Ireland is recognised internationally as a leading location for companies in the software sector and Lero is a key pillar of that. For example, 16 out of the top 20 global technology firmshave strategic operations in Ireland and have existing projects with Lero. Since it was founded in 2005, Lero has become one of the best-known, and most highly regarded, software research centres in the world.