

RESEARCH-FOR-POLICY CONFERENCE 2025

CO-CREATING A STRONGER RESEARCH-FOR-POLICY ECOSYSTEM IN IRELAND



An Roinn Breiseoideachais agus Ardóideachais,
Taighde, Nuaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth
Social Sciences Institute



UCD
University College Dublin

Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), Dublin, November 11

Part 1: The research-for-policy ecosystem – system leaders' perspectives

Chaired by Dr Ciara Leonard, Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, UCD

10.00am	Registration, coffee, networking
10.30am	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triona McCormack, Vice-President for Strategy and External Engagement, UCD
10.45am	Keynote presentation: Research-for-policy ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor David Budtz Pedersen, Professor of Science Communication and Impact Studies, Aalborg University
11.15am	Panel discussion: System leaders' perspectives on Ireland's research-for-policy ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Aoife McLysaght, Government Science Advisor (GSA) Dr Peter Clifford, Head of Strategy, Research Ireland Barry Vaughan, Principal Officer, Department of the Taoiseach Professor David Budtz Pedersen, Professor of Science Communication and Impact Studies, Aalborg University
12.10pm	Project presentation: Mapping Ireland's knowledge-brokering structures and supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Mark Boyle, Chair of Geography, Maynooth University Dr John O'Connor, Senior Post-Doctoral Researcher, Maynooth University
12.30pm	Lunch, networking

Part 2: Sectoral initiatives and multi-sectoral collaboration

Chaired by Seán Ó Foghlú, Senior Fellow in Public Policy, Maynooth University

1.30pm	5x5 spotlights: A snapshot of policy-engagement work across the sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Michelle Norris, Director, UCD Geary Institute Sinéad Mullen, Senior Planner of Research, Training and Public Awareness, Office of the Planning Regulator Teresa Maguire, Director of Research Strategy and Funding, Health Research Board Dr Inez Bailey, CEO, Centre for Effective Services Dr Claire Hickey, Head of Socio-Economic Research, Parliamentary Research Service
2.00pm	Keynote presentation: Policy-engagement mechanisms and coordination in the HEI sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Chaytor, Director of Research Strategy & Policy, UCL; Co-Chair, Universities Policy Engagement Network
2.30pm	Fireside chat and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Chaytor, Director of Research Strategy & Policy, UCL; Co-Chair, Universities Policy Engagement Network Seán Ó Foghlú, Senior Fellow in Public Policy, Maynooth University
3.10pm	Coffee, networking

Part 3: Joining the dots... building momentum for action

Chaired by Fiona O'Byrne, Assistant Secretary, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

3.30pm	Session introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiona O'Byrne, Assistant Secretary, DFHERIS
3.35pm	Ministerial address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Lawless, TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science
3.45pm	Project presentation: European Commission Technical Support Instrument (TSI) on Evidence-Informed Policymaking for the Green and Digital Transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Mair, Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
3.55pm	Panel discussion: DFHERIS-led research-for-policy initiatives and an EU lens on national developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Morrin, Assistant Director General, Central Statistics Office Professor Caroline McGregor, Director of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society, University of Galway Gerry Clabby, Principal Advisor, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, CEO, Research Ireland David Mair, Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
4.30pm	Reflections on the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Doyle Secretary for Policy and International Relations, Royal Irish Academy
4.45pm	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Eeva Leinonen, President, Maynooth University