



IRELAND'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN OPEN RESEARCH ROADMAP



Introduction

Open research can support the public good. When research is openly available, relevant and usable by people, it can strengthen the quality of research while also helping with societal challenges. This document sets out a shared ambition for public involvement in open research in Ireland, as articulated by people across a number of interactive workshops, delivered as part of the ENGAGED project, a partnership between Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University and supported by the National Open Research Forum (NORF).

Much progress has already been made. The last ten years has seen significant strides from academics, research professionals, civil society organisations, funders, civil and public servants, librarians and individual advocates to support and enhance public involvement in research. There have been advances in open access to research outputs and building enabling infrastructures. At the same time, global conditions have underscored the fragility of research systems and data, the limits of open research during times of conflict and the erosion of trust in expertise.

Meaningful public involvement from those who could be allies to research can strengthen the open research agenda. When stakeholder communities contribute to research and can see their priorities reflected within it, research gains legitimacy, energises defenders and presents the promise of real-world impact. Distributed, transparent and publicly engaged research systems are more resilient to capture, dismissal or manipulation. They create multiple points of access, can foster informed public debate and encourage shared ownership of knowledge.

This roadmap articulates the extensive collective intelligence work carried out by the ENGAGED team across Ireland during 2025. Through ten workshops involving more than 90 participants from research, community organisations, civil society, policy and the public sector, a shared picture emerged of what has already been achieved by multiple stakeholders, as well as the desire for greater access and involvement and the practical actions that could facilitate it.

The resulting roadmap is structured around five interconnected Destinations for 2030, which together describe a research system that is open in access, fair in partnership, reciprocal in knowledge exchange, usable in practice and shaped with and by communities rather than merely presented to them. These Destinations are mutually reinforcing conditions for a resilient open research ecosystem.

Unfortunately, much publicly funded research can still be difficult for people to find, to interpret or to use. Paywalls, technical language, fragmented repositories and systems designed primarily for academic users limit public reach. Researchers can often feel unsupported to communicate beyond academic audiences. Community expertise is frequently not considered or is discounted. Involvement can be tokenistic rather than influential. Meanwhile, previously gathered valuable data can go underused.



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NORF has developed an enabling infrastructure to address many of these challenges. Among its funded projects, it has created a data stewardship network, training on open research, development of Ireland’s open access publishing landscape, and drawing together open research repositories. Its funding of the development of the ENGAGED roadmap has provided an opportunity to consider who could benefit from open research and how greater ‘openness’ could assist with the wider challenges that Ireland faces, responding to the supportive partnership that many in society have been seeking from the research community.

The roadmap seeks to build coalitions that can lead to coordinated action in this area, creating the conditions for openness to be meaningful in practice. Importantly, many of the opportunities identified in this roadmap do not require major new investment. They depend instead on cooperation, clearer expectations, reuse of existing structures and a shift in how value is recognised within the research system.

The roadmap, which indicates a way towards the realising of each destination, is envisaged to roll out over the coming five years using a multi-stage approach:

- 2026/2027: Establishing, Coordinating and Aligning;
- 2028: Piloting, Learning and Capacity-Building;
- 2029: Embedding, Scaling and Normalising;
- 2030 and beyond: Consolidating, Optimising and Deepening.

No one body or institution can reach the destinations alone. As with any coalition-building endeavour such as ENGAGED, it is recognised that this approach simply indicates how such an approach can develop.

Many stakeholders, however, do wish to see this agenda progress and to see this roadmap come to fruition. It is proposed, therefore, that they will be invited to reconvene annually in order to discuss progress, to propose new partnerships and to learn from one another on what is happening in the area of public involvement in open research. It is also recognised that the context within which this work occurs is constantly changing. Advances in data processing and coding due to AI will bring both benefits and challenges to this agenda, as will the strength of competing voices who may wish to undermine the importance of research or the value of public involvement.

This roadmap has developed during a time of global uncertainty and political change. The context within which its destinations will be reached is unclear to many. For those, however, who believe in research playing a greater role in tackling societal challenges and widening the types of roles that can be played in knowledge creation and knowledge utilisation, this roadmap provides a way to come together in order to turn that into a reality.

Table of Contents

The Roadmap at a Glance	4
Destination 1: Research That Reaches Everyone	7
Destination 2: Fair Partnership	13
Destination 3: Knowledge as Exchange	19
Destination 4: Systems That Work and People Want to Use	25
Destination 5: Communities Shaping Research Priorities	31
Shaping the Roadmap	37
Conclusion	38
Glossary of Terms	39

2026/2027: Establishing

- Strengthening National Alignment
- Clarifying Shared Purpose
- Valuing Public Communication
- Mapping Existing Infrastructure
- Establishing Initial Standards
- Building Collaborative Mechanisms

2028: Piloting

- Developing Community-led Agendas
- Building Capacity through Initiatives
- Guiding Community Impact Assessment
- Building Research Literacy
- Shaping Public-Friendly Portals
- Modelling Collaborative Governance

2030 and Beyond: Consolidating

- Focusing on What Indicates Quality
- Enhancing Community Representation
- Deeper Power Sharing
- Bridging and Trust Building Roles
- Managing Levels of Openness
- Optimising Discovery Tools

1: Research That Reaches Everyone

2: Fair Partnership

3: Knowledge as Exchange

4: Systems That Work and People Want to Use

5: Communities Shaping Research Priorities

2029: Embedding

- Normalising Plain-Language Summaries
- Formalising Public Communication Support
- Enhancing Public-Facing Research Interfaces
- Standardising Partnership Plans
- Recognising Community Expertise
- Supporting Community-initiated Research

Destination 1: Research That Reaches Everyone

By 2030, Ireland can be a place where publicly funded research is open by default, understandable in practice and reachable by people who can benefit from it. Research outputs can be easier to find, interpret and use by people beyond the research community.

This Destination is about the ability to access research. It is also, however, about research being communicated clearly, supported by appropriate skills and infrastructure and embedded within trusted public institutions. By 2030, the Destination holds the prospect of an open research ecosystem which prioritises reach, usability and inclusion without compromising rigour and quality.

By 2030, Ireland will be a place where:

A. There is open access to publicly funded research

Open access outputs will be the default for publicly funded research in Ireland. Outputs will be available quickly, openly and with clear reuse rights. Ireland's approach will emphasise transparency, sustainability and international alignment. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Maintain and strengthen national alignment among funders**, ensuring that clear, consistent open access policies exist to make research as open as possible and as closed as necessary.
- **Support researchers to publish in compliant open access venues**, including through open access policies, institutional agreements and guidance on responsible publishing choices.
- **Monitor and report on open access activity and outcomes**, using evidence to promote practice and to refine policy over time.

B. Plain-language research summaries are publicly accessible

By 2030, plain-language summaries will be a routine and visible component of publicly funded research. These summaries will explain the purpose, methods, findings and relevance of research in clear, accessible terms, enabling non-specialist audiences to engage with and benefit from new knowledge. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Introduce expectations for plain-language summaries** as part of reporting requirements for publicly funded research, proportionate to project scale, including studies with negative results.
- **Ensure summaries are openly accessible and discoverable**, particularly by participants in studies, and are linked directly to open publications and datasets.



- **Encourage co-production and review of summaries** with intended users, such as communities, practitioners and policymakers, with a focus on the meaning and implications of findings rather than methodology used.

C. Researchers are supported in public communication

Effective public communication requires skill, time and institutional support. By 2030, researchers in Ireland will be better supported to communicate openly and responsibly with different communities, without this work being treated as an additional burden or optional extra task. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Recognise public communication as a recognised and rewarded research activity** within workload models, promotion criteria and assessment frameworks.
- **Provide researchers with sustained access to professional communication support**, including communications staff, editors, translators (depending on the community being served) and media training.
- **Require and resource dedicated time and resources** for high-quality public, two-way communication within funded research projects.
- **Develop communities of practice** where researchers and communities can share skills, tools and experiences in public involvement.
- **Highlight and promote roles that link researchers to other communities**, supporting accuracy, transparency and trust in public-facing research narratives.

D. Public-friendly search tools and research alerts provide visibility of new research

By 2030, members of the public will be able to discover and follow Irish research strands easily through intuitive search tools, alerts and early visibility mechanisms. Open research infrastructure will support timely awareness of new findings and emerging evidence. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Improve the usability of national and institutional research portals**, seeking to improve plain-language, relevant categorisation and mobile accessibility for non-specialist users.
- **Develop topic-based research alerts and evidence synthesis**, enabling users to follow areas of interest across disciplines and institutions.
- **Support early visibility of research**, including alternative outputs, preprints and accepted manuscripts, in line with responsible research practices.
- **Collaborate with media, libraries and civil society organisations** to improve dissemination and to amplify awareness of new open research.

E. There is greater support to and from public bodies for open research

Public bodies will play a central role in aligning policy, funding and regulatory support to enabling access to, and understanding of, open research. By 2030, there will be recognised, trusted, inclusive spaces where people can discover research, receive support and develop research literacy. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Strengthen partnerships between research institutions and public libraries**, supporting more effective research-to-policy pathways, shared access to datasets, literature, co-created outputs, programming and expertise.
- **Provide training and resources for public sector staff** to support skills in finding and interpreting open research relating to their work.
- **Integrate open research access points or spaces** within library digital platforms and physical spaces.
- **Recognise public bodies as key intermediaries** within national open research strategies and infrastructures.

Getting to Destination 1

2026/2027: Establishing, Coordinating and Aligning

Key actions will include **strengthening national alignment** on open access, with funders aligning expectations that publicly funded research outputs will be open by default and supported through sustainable publishing models, including diamond open access. Clear co-ordinated guidance will be provided to researchers and institutions on responsible publishing choices and compliance pathways.

Foundational work will begin on **plain-language communication**, with agreement across funders that plain-language summaries may form part of proportionate reporting requirements. Early guidance will set expectations for accessibility, discoverability and linkage to open publications and datasets.

Institutions will begin to consider how **public communication** can be valued more as a research activity, how it can be embedded into workloads and researcher training, into promotion criteria and into internal policies. Initial scoping of professional support needs, such as communications, editing, translation and facilitation, will be undertaken.

At the infrastructure level, 2026/2027 will focus on **mapping existing discovery tools**, portals, evidence synthesis and library services, identifying gaps in usability, accessibility and public relevance. Partnerships between research institutions, public bodies and civil society organisations will seek more formal ways to support future development.

2028: Piloting, Learning and Capacity-Building

Funders and institutions will pilot **plain-language summary requirements** across a range of disciplines and project types, including studies with null or negative results. These pilots will test co-production and review with intended users such as communities, practitioners and policymakers, focusing on meaning and implications.

Targeted supports will focus on **researcher capacity-building** in public communication, such as media training where necessary, editorial support and opportunities to learn from public involvement practitioners. Early communities of practice will emerge, enabling shared learning between researchers and external partners.

Institutions and national bodies will pilot **public-friendly discovery enhancements**, improving categorisation, navigation and plain-language labelling within selected research portals. Topic-based research alerts and evidence synthesis will be trialled in a small number of stakeholder communities, allowing users to follow areas of interest across institutions.

Public bodies will begin piloting **open research support duties and skills**, offering assistance in finding, interpreting and contextualising research for the public or for colleagues.

2029: Embedding, Scaling and Normalising

Plain-language summaries will become a normalised component of publicly funded research, integrated into reporting workflows and openly accessible through open platforms. Co-production with users will be encouraged as standard practice for research with clear societal relevance.

Institutions will formalise **time and resourcing for public communication**, including clear budget lines within research grants and clearer recognition within assessment frameworks. Professional support functions will be expanded strategically, particularly in institutions with high volumes of publicly funded research.

National and institutional portals will roll out appropriate **public-facing interfaces**, including mobile accessibility, topic-based alerts and early visibility of research outputs, aligned with responsible research practices.

Partnerships with public bodies will deepen, with **open research access points** integrated into library digital platforms and physical spaces, supported by training.

2030 and Beyond: Consolidating, Optimising and Deepening

Quality review for **plain-language communication** will be articulated, drawing on accumulated learning and existing work. This will support an expected standard while allowing flexibility across disciplines and contexts.

Discovery tools and alert systems will be optimised based on user feedback, with particular attention to accessibility, relevance and interoperability across platforms. Collaboration with media and civil society organisations will be strengthened to increase the visibility and uptake of new open research.

Public bodies will deepen their role as **active intermediaries**, using open research in service design and policy development and feeding back evidence needs to the research system.

Researcher communities of practice will mature, supporting peer learning and mentoring, while hybrid roles linking research, public communication and public service will become more formalised and made more visible.

Indications of Success for Destination 1

The following indicators can be used to show the level at which research is reaching everyone who has an interest in it:

- Proportion of publicly funded research outputs accompanied by a plain-language summary accessible to non-specialist audiences.
- Percentage of publicly funded research outputs indexed within nationally recognised open research platforms.
- Proportion of publicly funded research projects that include structured public involvement or communication activities.
- Share of national research funding schemes and institutional promotion criteria that formally recognise public communication and involvement as components of research excellence.
- Number or proportion of policy documents, public services, or programmes that explicitly reference or utilise openly accessible Irish research outputs.
- Publication of regular national reports tracking compliance with open access policies, public involvement activity and reuse of research outputs.



Destination 2: Fair Partnership

Ireland can be a place, by 2030, where partnerships between researchers and communities can be assured to be fair by design, to be properly resourced and to be grounded in mutual respect. Stakeholder community involvement in research has continued to become a core component of research. Partnerships already recognise that communities contribute expertise, labour, insights and can provide some level of legitimacy to the work and to the researcher. These contributions warrant recognition, deserve to influence the research cycle and, in many cases, should be appropriately remunerated.

This Destination reflects a commitment to equity within the research system. Responsible research practices need clarity, from the outset, about people's roles, expectations, the power dynamics involved and how to share the potential benefits of projects. This is true for both researchers and stakeholder communities.

By 2030, Ireland will be a place where:

A. Financial recognition for community expertise is available

Stakeholder community members and organisations bring lived experience, cultural knowledge, networks and time to research partnerships. By 2030, this expertise will be recognised as a legitimate cost of doing high-quality research, with clear pathways for remuneration and resourcing that are proportionate and transparent. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Develop national guidance on compensating community expertise**, outlining appropriate approaches to payment, reimbursement as well as non-financial recognition across different contexts.
- **Ensure public research funders explicitly permit and require consideration of budget lines** for community participation, expertise and preparation time.
- **Provide practical tools and examples** to support researchers and communities in preparing budgets, navigating payment, procurement and contractual arrangements.
- **Embed an expectation of shared learning on fair resourcing models**, drawing on existing practice across sectors and disciplines, such as paying 'living wage' rates at a minimum.

B. Partnership Plans are written at the start of a project

By 2030, expectations around partnership working will be explicit from the earliest stages of research design. Written Partnership Plans will set out roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes, communication approaches and arrangements for data, outputs and benefits for all involved. These plans will be living documents, revisited as projects evolve.



By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Introduce expectations for Partnership Plans** as a priority within public research funding guidance for projects with community involvement.
- **Ensure Partnership Plans are assessed by stakeholder community reviewers**, reinforcing accountability over the research lifecycle.
- **Share learning on effective partnership planning**, highlighting how early clarity supports trust and delivery.

C. Appropriate power-sharing exists between researchers and communities

By 2030, partnerships will reflect genuine sharing of power, not only in rhetoric but in practice. Communities will have meaningful influence over research priorities, methods, interpretation and dissemination as a way to incentivise research involvement. This will be reflected in governance arrangements, authorship practices and recognition of contribution. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Promote co-governance models** that involve stakeholder community partners in steering groups, advisory panels and key decision-making forums as a research incentive.
- **Develop guidance on co-authorship and acknowledgement**, recognising diverse contributions in line with disciplinary norms and ethical standards.
- **Encourage transparent decision-making processes**, clarifying where authority sits and how disagreements are resolved.

D. Researchers are trained on collaboration and power-sharing

High-quality partnerships depend on skills that are not always embedded in traditional research training. By 2030, researchers at all career stages will have access to training that supports ethical, inclusive, and reflexive partnership working. This does not mean ‘extra’ training but training that incorporates these skills. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Develop and promote training modules** on power dynamics, inclusive language and collaborative practice in research which will help researchers in many aspects of their career. This can be folded into existing early-career research training provided by universities.
- **Encourage peer learning and mentoring** between researchers experienced in stakeholder partnership and those new to this way of working.
- **Reframe work away from ‘volunteer’ activity into valuing community expertise** as a way to improve research.
- **Recognise collaboration and partnership competences** within researcher development and appraisal frameworks.

E. Stakeholder community researchers are supported

Researchers who have emerged from stakeholder communities already exist in the Irish research landscape. They may be termed peer researchers, community researchers or co-researchers, but their work is already contributing to the research portfolio. By 2030, stakeholder community researchers will have greater access to training and development supports, with clearer career pathways. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Establish mentorship programs** between experienced and new stakeholder community researchers to provide insights and development support.
- **Launch peer support networks** for stakeholder community researchers to consider issues that either support or may hinder effective research in communities.
- **Create community research career pathways** and a recognition system so that people working within these roles can develop their skills and be recognised for their contribution to research.
- **Establish an annual stakeholder community researcher event** that is led out by people from that community and is a chance for people to convene and network.

Getting to Destination 2

2026/2027: Establishing, Coordinating and Aligning

While many examples of good community-research partnership already exist in Ireland, practice is often reliant on individual commitment rather than support at a system level. The focus this year will be on setting shared standards and removing ambiguity around roles, power and resourcing.

While progress has been made on certain Social Protection issues and Public and Patient Involvement in Research, there is more to be done. Initial coordination work on developing **national guidance on fair partnerships**, articulating principles for remuneration, power-sharing, recognition and ethical involvement, will begin. This guidance will explicitly reinforce the position that community expertise is a legitimate and necessary cost of high-quality research.

Public research funders will continue to promote the need for **budget lines** for stakeholder community participation, preparation time and expertise.

Co-design by researchers and stakeholder representatives on templates for the development of **Partnership Plans** will begin and exemplars will be gathered, helping researchers and communities to articulate their respective roles, decision-making arrangements, communication practices and expected benefits from the outset.

At the same time, groundwork will begin on **academic researcher development**, including scoping training needs related to collaboration, power dynamics and inclusive language, and identifying existing provision that can be adapted or scaled. Proposed development work will consider the time restrictions researchers often work under. Simultaneously, it will be a time for **stakeholder community researchers** to register their interest in a network or convening event that will allow for sharing and support.

2028: Piloting, Learning and Capacity-Building

Public funders will pilot the **introduction of Partnership Plans** in selected funding calls involving community involvement, with assessment input from trained community reviewers. These pilots will generate insight into what works, where additional support is needed and how accountability can be maintained without undue burden.

Alongside this, practical tools will be drafted to support **budgeting, contracting and payment**, helping both researchers and community organisations navigate institutional procurement rules, taxation implications, reimbursement and non-financial recognition. Shared learning on fair resourcing models, including living wage benchmarks, will be actively promoted.

While conscious that training and capacity-building work must be factored into already busy workloads, **modular training on collaboration, power-sharing and appropriate language** will be piloted for academic researchers at different career stages, complemented by peer learning and mentoring between experienced and emerging practitioners. There will also be an opportunity to create some **initial training or guidance** for community researchers, based on a training needs analysis and a small number of mentorships.

Governance experiments will also begin, testing **co-governance models** that involve stakeholder community partners in steering groups and advisory structures, with transparent decision-making and escalation processes.

2029: Embedding, Scaling and Normalising

Partnership Plans will become a **standard expectation** in appropriate publicly funded research involving stakeholder involvement, with clearer criteria for quality, adaptability and accountability. Community review will be more consistently embedded, reinforcing shared responsibility over the research lifecycle.

Financial recognition of community expertise will be **normalised within research budgeting**, supported by funder guidance, institutional finance processes and shared templates.

Institutions will begin embedding **partnership competence** within researcher development frameworks, recognising skills in collaboration, reflexivity and ethical involvement alongside traditional research outputs.

An initial national **convening of community researchers** will talk place discuss skills development, infrastructure support and career progression.

Co-governance arrangements will be more widely adopted and guidance on **co-authorship, acknowledgement and contribution** will support fair recognition across disciplines, aligned with ethical standards and stakeholder expectations.

2030 and Beyond: Consolidating, Optimising and Deepening

Advanced training and specialist roles will support **deeper power-sharing**, including facilitation of difficult conversations, conflict resolution, working relationships between academic and community researchers and long-term partnership governance. Transparent decision-making processes will be reinforced, clarifying authority, accountability and routes for addressing disagreement.

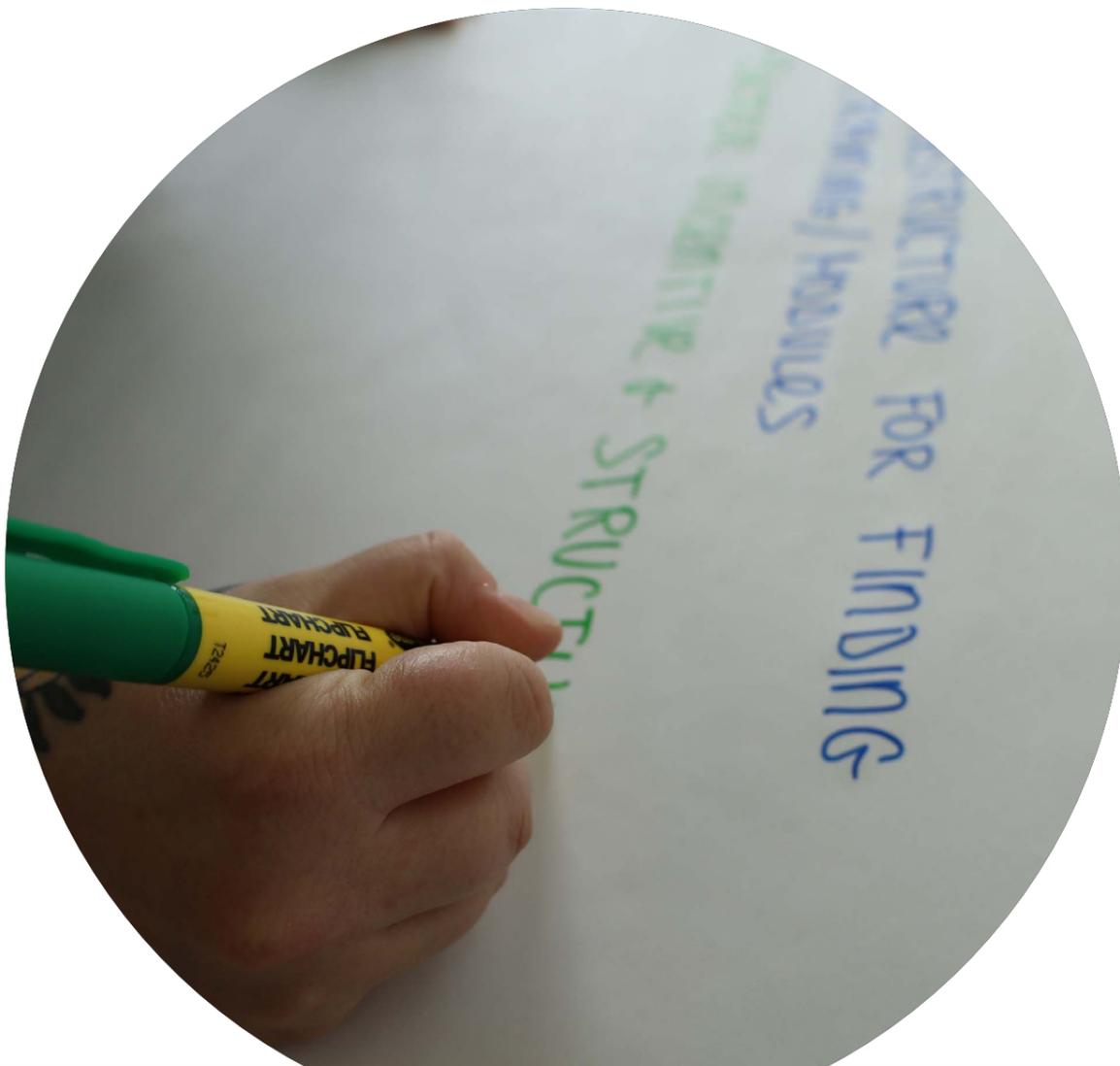
Shared learning will be prioritised, with **case studies and transferable models** documented across sectors, disciplines and communities. These narratives will emphasise how early clarity, fair resourcing and power-sharing contribute to better research outcomes.

Indications of Success for Destination 2

The following indicators can be used to show the level of fair partnership in research:

- Proportion of publicly funded research projects with an approved Partnership Plan in place from project establishment phase.
- Percentage of research budgets allocated to stakeholder participation and expertise, including remuneration and capacity-building supports.
- Share of projects with stakeholder representation in governance or advisory structures with documented decision-making influence.
- Proportion of research outputs that include stakeholder co-authorship or acknowledged intellectual contribution.
- Evidence of community researcher roles and contributions to projects, measured through reporting.
- Percentage of researchers completing training in ethical, inclusive and participatory research practice.





Destination 3: Knowledge as Exchange

Ireland can be a place where, by 2030, research knowledge and learning flows in multiple directions, such as between researchers and communities, between evidence and practice and across generations. Perceptions of research can be understood not as a one-way transfer of information, but as a process of exchange which is grounded in mutual learning, while respecting diverse forms of expertise and fostering a shared responsibility for societal outcomes.

This Destination reflects a shift from dissemination to dialogue. Openness is not only about removing paywalls; it is about enabling people to interpret, question, use and contribute to research in ways that are meaningful in their own contexts.

By 2030, Ireland will be a place where:

A. Mutual learning happens between researchers and stakeholder communities

Ireland's research system will support spaces, both physical and digital, where researchers and stakeholder communities can learn with and from one another. These spaces will enable dialogue, co-creation, reflection and feedback across the research lifecycle, moving beyond episodic consultation towards sustained involvement. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Support the development of shared learning spaces** (e.g. forums, community cafes, living labs, community hubs) where researchers and communities can explore issues of common concern.
- **Promote facilitation and mediation skills** within research teams and stakeholder community organisations to support effective dialogue and knowledge exchange. This may be through building skills among team members or through identifying facilitation partners for projects.
- **Embed feedback loops and research evaluation** that enable communities to reflect on research findings and influence subsequent research directions.
- **Document and share models of effective mutual learning and open source education resources**, highlighting transferable approaches across disciplines and regions.

B. Communities bring lived, cultural and local expertise to research

By 2030, lived experience, cultural knowledge and local expertise will be routinely recognised as essential inputs to research quality and relevance. Research agendas and methodologies will reflect the diversity of perspectives present in Irish society, including those historically under-represented in research processes. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Promote co-design approaches** that involve communities in shaping research questions, applying for ethics, considering methods and prioritising outcomes from the outset.
- **Develop guidance on recognising and valuing non-academic expertise**, including appropriate attribution, compensation and ethical involvement.
- **Encourage inclusive participation practices** that reduce barriers related to language, accessibility, time and trust.
- **Ensure stakeholder community contributions are visible** in research outputs, narratives of impact and public communication.

C. Research literacy and usage exist across Irish charities and NGOs

Charities and non-governmental organisations will be confident users and producers of research, able to access, interpret and apply evidence in advocacy, service design and organisational learning. Open research will strengthen civil society’s capacity to engage with policy and public debate. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Develop tailored research literacy and evaluation programmes** for charities and NGOs, focusing on finding, assessing and using open research.
- **Create partnerships between researchers and civil society organisations** to support evidence-informed practice and co-produced research.
- **Develop the capacity to evaluate the community gain of research** interpreting research findings, data and uncertainty in real-world contexts.
- **Support the bridging of gaps in understanding** through hiring staff with both NGO and research experience, and through peer learning.

D. Research literacy and usage exist among Irish civil and public servants

By 2030, civil and public servants will have the skills and confidence to engage critically with research, commission evidence where appropriate and integrate research findings into policy design, implementation and evaluation. Open research will support more transparent, accountable and effective public decision-making. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Embed research literacy and evaluation within professional development programmes** for civil and public servants at all levels.
- **Build capacity for commissioning and evaluating research** that will inform policy and practice development.
- **Strengthen links between research institutions and public bodies**, establishing regular exchange mechanisms on evidence needs and emerging findings and breaking down misconceptions.

- **Promote and normalise the use of open research outputs** in policy analysis and evaluation, supported by clear guidance and examples.
- **Bridge gaps in understanding** through hiring staff with both public sector and research experience, and through peer learning.

E. Critical thinking and research skills are part of education

Ireland’s wider education system will equip people with the critical thinking and research skills needed to navigate information, engage with evidence and participate in knowledge creation. By 2030 and in line with existing policy such as the Primary Curriculum Framework, these skills will be embedded across curricula and learning environments, supporting lifelong involvement with research. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Integrate age-appropriate research and inquiry skills** into primary, post-primary, higher and further education curricula and in informal learning environments.
- **Support teacher professional development** in critical thinking, research literacy and inquiry-based learning approaches.
- **Demonstrate the value of research and evaluation** as a mechanism for communities to counter disinformation or the undermining of democratic rights.
- **Promote open educational resources and practices as part of citizen research / citizen science initiatives** that draw on Irish research and demonstrate real-world applications.
- **Foster a culture of questioning and evidence-based reasoning**, supporting learners to evaluate sources, including AI-generated content, and to develop informed views.

Getting to Destination 3

2026/2027: Establishing, Coordinating and Aligning

Key activity will include the development of a **shared framework for mutual learning**, co-created with researchers, communities, NGOs, public servants and educators. This framework will articulate principles for dialogue, ethical involvement, co-design and the recognition of diverse forms of expertise. Alongside this, the coalition will **map existing engagement** spaces, research–community partnerships, citizen science/citizen research supports and research literacy initiatives, identifying strengths, gaps and opportunities for coherence.

Early investment will support **pilot shared learning spaces**, both physical and digital, such as community forums, living labs and civic research cafés. These pilots will prioritise sustained involvement over episodic consultation. Foundational capacity-building will be initiated, including introductory research literacy programmes for NGOs and charities, baseline research involvement training within civil and public service professional development and initial teacher professional development pilots focused on inquiry-based learning and critical thinking.

2028: Piloting, Learning and Capacity-Building

Shared learning spaces will be expanded and diversified, operating across regions, disciplines and community contexts. These spaces will test and refine approaches to dialogue, co-creation and feedback across the research lifecycle. Co-design will be actively promoted within selected funding calls and institutional processes, enabling communities to shape research questions, methods, ethics review and intended outcomes from the outset.

Targeted investment will build **facilitation and mediation skills** within research teams and stakeholder community organisations, recognising that effective dialogue requires specific competencies. Structured feedback loops will be introduced to ensure communities can reflect on findings, challenge interpretations and influence future research directions.

Research literacy efforts will deepen. NGOs and charities will participate in tailored programmes focused on accessing, assessing and using open research in advocacy and service design. Partnerships between researchers and civil society organisations will support co-produced research and embed evidence-informed practice. Within the civil and public service, research literacy and evaluation skills will be further embedded across professional learning pathways, while educators will continue to build confidence in inquiry-based and critical thinking approaches.

2029: Embedding, Scaling and Normalising

Mutual learning and stakeholder involvement expectations will be embedded within research funding criteria, evaluation processes and institutional strategies. Guidance on recognising and valuing lived, cultural and local expertise will be operationalised, establishing consistent standards for attribution, compensation and ethical involvement.

Research literacy programmes for NGOs and charities will be scaled nationally, supporting organisations of different sizes and capacities. Civil and public bodies will strengthen research-policy interfaces through regular evidence exchange forums and clearer guidance on commissioning and using open research in policy design and evaluation.

Within education, research and inquiry skills will become increasingly visible across curricula, supported by open educational resources drawing on Irish research and real-world applications. Across sectors, stakeholder contributions will be made more visible in research outputs, narratives of impact and public communication.

2030 and Beyond: Consolidating, Optimising and Deepening

Quality principles and indicators for effective mutual learning will be articulated, drawing on accumulated learning from pilots and scaled initiatives. Transferable models of involvement and co-production will be documented and shared across disciplines and regions, enabling peer learning and continuous improvement.

Advanced capacity-building will support **specialist bridging roles** that span research, policy and civil society. NGOs and public bodies will be supported to confidently commission, critique and apply open research, including evaluating community gain. Critical thinking and research literacy will be reinforced across formal and informal learning environments, with learners demonstrating increased confidence in evaluating sources, including AI-generated content.

Indications of Success for Destination 3

The following indicators can be used to show the level of knowledge as exchange and mutual learning in research:

- Proportion of publicly funded research projects that include structured community or civil society involvement activities.
- Case Studies of civil society organisations reporting use of openly accessible research in advocacy, service delivery or organisational learning.
- Case Studies of public policy proposals and evaluations that use open research evidence and document its application in decision-making.
- Proportion of research funding calls and assessment processes that formally recognise lived, cultural or local knowledge as criteria of quality and relevance.
- Number and geographic spread of recognised ‘trusted spaces’ or platforms enabling sustained mutual learning between researchers, communities and public services.
- Percentage of learners achieving defined competencies in critical thinking, research skills and evidence literacy within primary, post-primary and further and higher education.



Destination 4: Systems That Work and People Want to Use

Ireland can have digital infrastructures and processes for research, by 2030, that are coherent, interoperable, accessible and trusted. These systems can support policy goals and compliance requirements, while also being designed around the needs of the public audiences who could gain benefit from their use. The desire is for open research systems to be more intuitive rather than arcane, enabling participation and reuse by different communities, as well as impact across society.

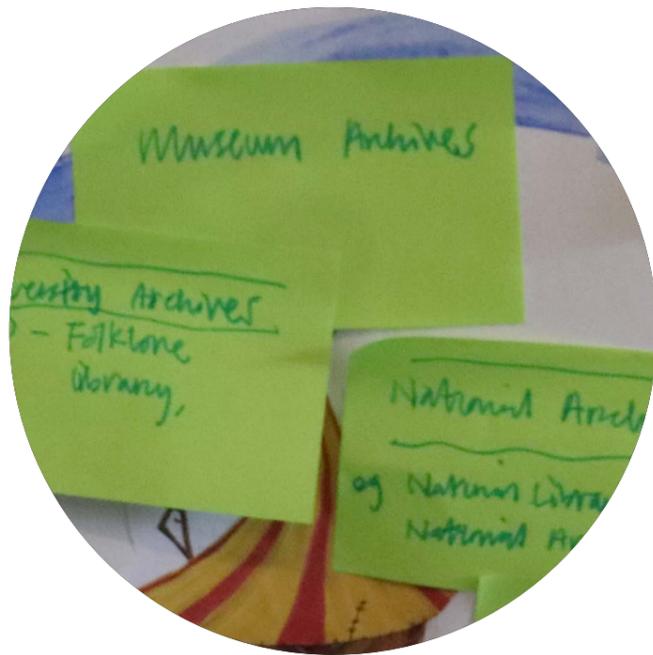
This Destination recognises that openness is not achieved through policy alone. It depends on systems that make open practices straightforward, effective and rewarding. Systems will be designed to support diversity in research outputs and audiences and to ensure that openness can be considered beyond the needs of the academic community.

By 2030, Ireland will be a place where:

A. Interoperability exists between open research platforms and repositories

Open research in Ireland will be underpinned by interoperable platforms and repositories that enable seamless discovery, access, reuse and reporting of research outputs. Fragmentation will be reduced through shared standards, persistent identifiers and coordinated infrastructure development, aligned with European and international initiatives. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Promote a common set of interoperability standards** for Irish open research infrastructures, including persistent identifiers (PIDs), metadata schemas and licensing information, aligned with international best practice.
- **Strengthen coordination between national and institutional repositories**, enabling exchange of metadata and outputs to reduce duplication and administrative burden.
- **Ensure consistent and sustainable resourcing of open research infrastructure** so that research can remain available in the long term.
- **Align Irish repositories with national, European and global initiatives**, including Irish public data sets, NGO-held data sets and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), to ensure compatibility and visibility of Irish research.
- **Support ongoing technical collaboration** between repository managers, infrastructure providers and standards bodies through communities of practice.



B. Systems are designed for use by non-researchers

By 2030, open research systems will be intelligible and usable by people beyond the research community, including policymakers, practitioners, educators, journalists, community organisations and the public. Design will prioritise clarity, navigability and relevance, recognising that non-research users are essential to achieving societal impact. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Adopt user-centred design approaches** in the development and upgrading of research platforms, involving non-research users in testing and feedback, including user testing.
- **Provide plain-language interfaces and summaries**, enabling users to understand the purpose, content and relevance of research outputs without specialist knowledge.
- **Improve and optimise search and discovery tools and alerts** to support topic-based, geographic and thematic exploration relevant to societal challenges and policy questions.
- **Develop guidance and training materials** tailored to non-research audiences on how to find, interpret and reuse open research outputs and integrate these materials directly into search interfaces.

C. Diverse research outputs complement research papers

The Irish research system will recognise that research papers alone are insufficient to maximise reach and impact. By 2030, a wider range of research outputs, such as datasets, software, protocols, visualisations or educational resources, will be routinely created, shared and valued. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Expand funder and institutional recognition of diverse research outputs**, ensuring they are eligible for reporting, for assessment and for career progression processes.
- **Encourage researchers to plan for multiple outputs** at the proposal stage, aligned with intended audiences and impact pathways.
- **Enable stakeholders to discover research activity that is underway or proposed** in their stakeholder's area of interest.
- **Support repository and platform development** to accommodate and showcase diverse output types alongside publications.
- **Promote examples of effective multi-output dissemination**, demonstrating how different formats can complement peer-reviewed papers.

D. Research is 'as open as possible and as closed as necessary'

Openness will be the default, but not an absolute. By 2030, Ireland will have a shared and well-understood approach to managing legitimate limits to openness, ensuring that restrictions are transparent, justified and proportionate. This will build trust among researchers, participants, partners and the public.

By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Develop national guidance on managing constraints to openness**, covering ethical, legal, security, cultural and commercial considerations.
- **Align openness requirements with ethics, data protection processes and intellectual property approaches**, reducing duplication and uncertainty for researchers, while also assuring that GDPR is not misapplied as a reason to restrict access to data.
- **Support training for researchers and research managers** on operationalising the principle of 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary' in practice.

E. Systems are designed with accessibility in mind

By 2030, accessibility will be embedded as a core design principle of Irish open research systems. Platforms, outputs and processes will be usable by people with diverse abilities, languages and access needs, ensuring that openness does not inadvertently exclude. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Adopt recognised accessibility standards** (e.g. WCAG) across national and institutional research platforms and repositories, in line with the European Accessibility Act.
- **Monitor and report on accessibility performance**, using feedback and metrics to drive continuous improvement.

Getting to Destination 4

2026/2027: Establishing, Coordinating and Aligning

Key activity will centre on **establishing shared foundations**. A nationally agreed set of interoperability principles, emerging from Open Repositories Ireland, will be articulated and widely understood, covering persistent identifiers, metadata standards and licensing information. These principles will provide a common reference point for funders, institutions, infrastructure providers and, where appropriate, vendors. National coordination mechanisms will be strengthened through working groups and communities of practice, bringing together repository managers, technical experts, policymakers and user representatives.

Alongside technical alignment, 2026/2027 will prioritise **clarity of purpose**. The coalition will explicitly position open research infrastructures as public-facing systems, not solely academic tools. Early engagement with stakeholders, such as policymakers, educators, journalists, NGOs and community organisations, will inform a shared understanding of usability, accessibility and relevance.

2028: *Piloting, Learning and Capacity-Building*

Open Repositories Ireland will consider mechanisms on **exchanging metadata and outputs** between national and institutional repositories in order to improve discovery. These considerations will be explicitly aligned with European and global initiatives, including the European Open Science Cloud, to ensure compatibility and visibility of Irish research.

User-centred design will become a demonstrable commitment. Any platforms undergoing development or upgrade will seek **structured user testing with non-research audiences**, generating evidence on how different communities search for, interpret and reuse research. Plain-language summaries, improved search and alert tools and thematic or geographic discovery features will be trialled and refined.

Capacity-building will be a central feature of 2028. Training and guidance, in line with TROPIC, will be developed for researchers, research managers and infrastructure staff the implications of interoperability standards, diverse outputs, accessibility requirements and the application of ‘as open as possible, as closed as necessary’. Early guidance on managing ethical, legal and commercial constraints to openness will be tested in practice, with lessons fed back into national approaches.

2029: *Embedding, Scaling and Normalising*

Any interoperability standards or practice testing from 2028 will be shared and, where possible, **scaled across repositories and platforms**, supported by sustained resourcing commitments. Coordination between national and institutional infrastructures will become routine, with automated reporting and discovery reducing friction for researchers and administrators alike.

Recognition of **diverse research outputs** will be embedded in funder requirements and institutional processes. Datasets, software, protocols, visualisations and educational resources will be routinely considered at proposal stage and supported by repositories capable of hosting and showcasing them alongside publications. Examples of effective multi-output dissemination will be actively promoted to demonstrate value and feasibility.

User-centred design and accessibility will be valued as fundamental **design principles**. Platforms will increasingly offer plain-language interfaces, clearer navigation and features designed around societal challenges. Accessibility performance will be monitored, with feedback loops driving continuous improvement.

2030 and Beyond: *Consolidating, Optimising and Deepening*

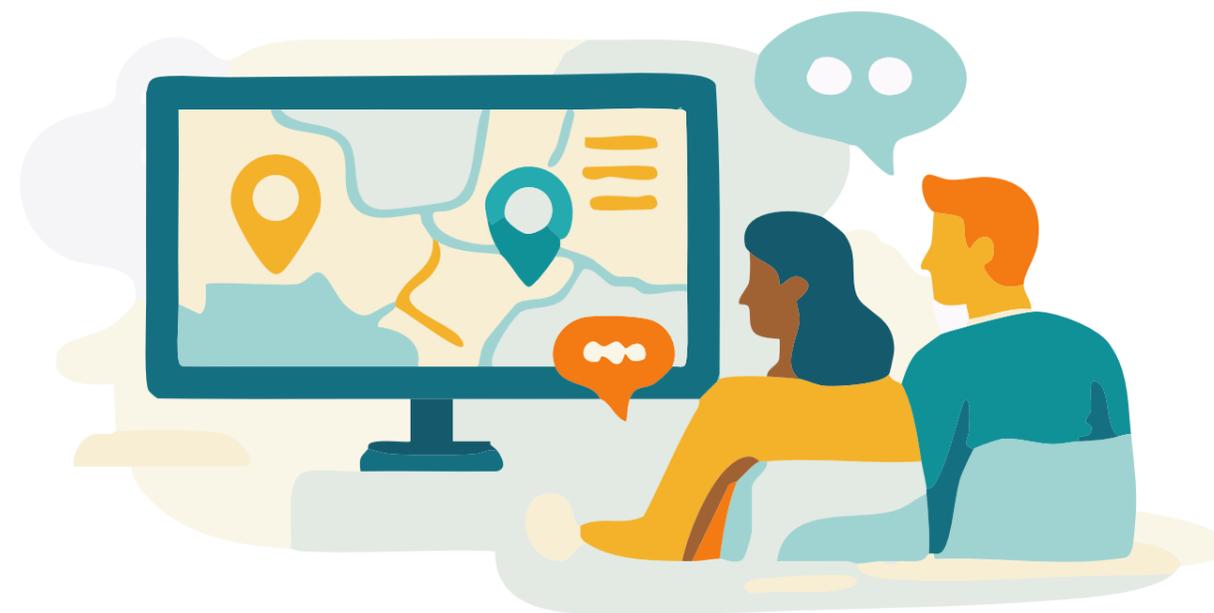
National guidance on managing limits to openness will be consolidated, providing clarity on ethical, legal, security, cultural and commercial considerations. Improved levels of alignment between openness requirements, ethics processes, data protection and intellectual property approaches will reduce uncertainty and duplication for researchers and institutions.

The coalition will **deepen collaboration between technical, policy and stakeholder communities**, using evidence from system usage to refine design and governance. Discovery tools will be optimised to support policy-relevant, thematic and place-based exploration, enabling non-research stakeholders to more easily identify research relevant to their needs.

Indications of Success for Destination 4

The following indicators can be used to show systems that work and that people want to use in public involvement in open research:

- Numbers and user satisfaction scores from researchers, policymakers and other public stakeholders regarding accessibility, navigation and functionality of open research systems.
- Proportion of funded projects making available a range of outputs (e.g., publications, datasets, software, policy briefs, multimedia, community resources).
- Proportion of institutions that have explicit recognition of diverse research outputs in processes such as consideration for academic promotion.
- Documented case studies of funded research projects demonstrably applying the principle “as open as possible, as closed as necessary,” including clear justification for restrictions where they applied.
- Degree to which national open research platforms meet recognised accessibility standards (e.g., WCAG compliance) and support users with diverse needs.



Destination 5: Communities Shaping Research Priorities

By 2030, Ireland can be a place where communities can actively shape aspects of the research system by co-defining priorities, contributing knowledge, guiding governance and advocating for the value of research in society. Research will be designed by communities, as well as with them.

By communities, it is meant that these may be geographical, but they can also be communities of patients, migrant communities, farming communities, or they may be cross-sectoral communities of practice, tackling issues around housing, transport or climate change. This Destination realises the desire for these communities to be legitimate actors within the national research ecosystem, alongside researchers, higher education institutions, research funders and research policymakers.

This Destination reflects the conviction that excellent research is strengthened when it is grounded in lived experience, responsive to societal needs and accountable to the people it ultimately serves.

By 2030, Ireland will be a place where:

A. Community Advisory Panels engage with research

Community Advisory Panels (CAPs) will be a common feature of research projects, programmes and infrastructures with significant societal interfaces. These panels will provide structured spaces for dialogue, advice and accountability throughout the research lifecycle.

While these CAPs already exist for certain sectors, by 2030, there is the prospect to:

- **Develop national principles and good-practice guidance** for establishing and operating Community Advisory Panels across disciplines and sectors, including responsibilities and power-sharing.
- **Ensure CAPs are resourced appropriately**, including administrative support, facilitation and, where appropriate, compensation for participants.
- **Promote early, ongoing and documented engagement** with existing CAPs by publicly funded researchers.
- **Create research agenda setting opportunities for CAPs** to feed into the national research portfolio.



B. Community Impact Assessment accompanies research

By 2030, consideration of community impact will be a notable element of research design, assessment and evaluation. Impact may be understood not only in economic or academic terms, but also in relation to social, cultural, environmental and civic outcomes that are articulated by communities themselves. By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Develop national guidance on community impact assessment** for research, aligned with existing impact, ethics and responsible research frameworks.
- **Integrate community impact assessment requirements** into funding applications and final reporting for publicly funded research, appropriate to project scale, subject and context.
- **Create mechanisms for communities to provide feedback** on research outcomes and impacts after the completion of a project, contributing to wider systemic learnings and strengthening accountability regarding whether research has met identified community needs.

C. Interaction between universities and communities improves

By 2030, the interface that already exists between universities and communities will be clearer, more accessible and more responsive. Universities' civic role will be recognised with a responsibility to engage openly with the different types of communities with whom they work.

By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Establish or strengthen dedicated civic involvement roles** within universities and umbrella bodies, acting as clear points of contact for communities seeking to engage with research.
- **Develop research centres that are community-based rather than university-based**, where appropriate, in order to assure an appropriate context for the research.
- **Support clear partnership agreements** between universities and their communities.

D. Community-led research can access sustainable financial support

Community-led research will be a recognised and supported component of the national research portfolio. Funding mechanisms will be designed to accommodate diverse forms of knowledge production, including participatory, action-oriented and place-based research.

By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Establish dedicated funding streams** within national research programmes for community-led and community-initiated research, with proportionate application, reporting and governance requirements.

- **Develop eligibility and assessment criteria** that recognise stakeholder community organisations as lead applicants or co-leads.
- **Provide capacity-building and training supports** (e.g. seed funding, proposal development grants) to enable communities to engage confidently with research funding processes.
- **Pilot long-term, flexible funding models** that support sustained community-researcher partnerships rather than short-term project engagement.

E. Communities are represented on research boards and committees

Communities will have a visible and meaningful presence within Irish research governance, sitting on key decision-making boards, committees and panels across the research system, contributing to strategic direction, priority-setting and oversight.

By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Set clear expectations for stakeholder representation** on boards and committees of publicly funded research organisations, programmes and infrastructures.
- **Ensure ongoing research priority setting activities** so that they reflect community priorities.
- **Clarify and formalise roles, responsibilities and decision-making influence** of stakeholder community representatives within governance structures to ensure participation is substantive.

F. Communities actively advocate for involvement in research

By 2030, communities will not only participate in research but actively advocate for it. Public understanding of research will emphasise its relevance, openness and shared ownership, reinforcing trust in the research system and democratic involvement with knowledge.

By 2030, there is an opportunity to:

- **Support community ambassadors and champions** who can articulate the benefits of research participation within their own networks and contexts and the secondary use of pre-existing data.
- **Embed research literacy and participation themes** within community education, lifelong learning and public involvement initiatives.
- **Monitor and evaluate community attitudes** towards research participation and trust, using insights to inform policy, funding and involvement approaches.

Getting to Destination 5

2026/2027: Establishing, Coordinating and Aligning

In 2026/2027, the coalition will focus on **laying the foundations** for stakeholder involvement in research by aligning expectations across funders, universities, policymakers and communities themselves.

Key developments will include the **mapping of existing Community Advisory Panels (CAPs)** across disciplines and sectors, documenting their scope, governance models, resourcing arrangements and relationships with researchers. This will establish a shared evidence base for action and surface transferable models.

A **cross-sector learning group or convening of CAPs** will occur, bringing together panels from areas such as health, environment, agriculture, migration, disability and other domains. This group will co-develop **national good-practice guidance** for CAP establishment, operation, power-sharing and sustainability, ensuring relevance across contexts.

In parallel, funders and policymakers will begin aligning policy signals by articulating expectations around stakeholder involvement, impact and governance in publicly funded research. Universities will identify or strengthen **dedicated civic and community involvement roles**, clarifying points of access for communities.

By the end of 2027, communities will be more visible within the research landscape, with early recognition of their legitimacy, clearer pathways for involvement and an agreed direction of travel.

2028: Piloting, Learning and Capacity-Building

In 2028, a **pilot CAP-led agenda setting process** will be launched, enabling Community Advisory Panels to shape the research agenda in their field and develop research projects with support from academic partners. These pilots will explore different leadership models, governance arrangements and approaches to co-defining impact.

Capacity-building will be a central focus. Communities will be supported through **training, seed funding and proposal development supports**, enabling them to engage confidently with research funding and governance processes. Researchers and institutions will receive guidance on working ethically and effectively with community-led structures.

National guidance on **community Impact Assessment** will be drafted and tested within pilots, exploring proportionate approaches aligned with ethics and responsible research frameworks. Mechanisms for post-project community feedback will also be trialled.

A **national CAP community of practice** will be established to support peer learning, share emerging models and act as a collective interlocutor with funders and policymakers.

2029: Embedding, Scaling and Normalising

National good practice for CAPs will be recognised by the research funding landscape. Expectations for early and continuous engagement with CAPs will be reflected in funding calls, review processes and reporting requirements.

Community impact assessment will be **formally integrated** into certain funding applications and final reporting for such schemes, with flexibility according to scale and context. Community feedback mechanisms will be standardised to support accountability and system learning.

Dedicated **funding streams for community-led and community-initiated research** will be introduced within national programmes, with eligibility criteria formally recognising community organisations as lead or co-lead applicants. Long-term, flexible funding models will be piloted and evaluated to support sustained community research partnerships.

Universities will strengthen their civic role through clearer partnership agreements, expanded involvement roles and the development of **community-based research centres** located outside traditional campus settings.

2030 and Beyond: Consolidating, Optimising and Deepening

In the final year, the coalition will focus on **consolidation and optimisation**. Quality indicators for effective CAP engagement, community-led research and impact assessment will be articulated, supporting consistent practice across sectors.

Different communities will have a **visible and meaningful presence in research governance**, with expectations for representation on boards, subcommittees, ethics bodies and panels of reviewers for publicly funded research. Roles, responsibilities and influence will be clear, so as to ensure substantive participation.

Evidence from pilots and funded programmes will be synthesised and shared, highlighting transferable models and lessons for different stakeholder community types. **Advanced bridging roles spanning community, research and policy** will be further developed and formalised.

Communities will increasingly act as **advocates for research**, supported by community ambassadors and public involvement initiatives that reinforce trust, openness and shared ownership.

Indications of Success for Destination 5

The following indicators can be used to show the level at which communities are shaping research priorities:

- Proportion of publicly funded research projects incorporating Community Advisory Panels (CAPs).
- Percentage of research projects and programmes demonstrating documented community-led or community co-designed or co-produced approaches.
- Representation of community stakeholders in national and institutional research governance structures.
- Adoption rate of Community Impact Assessment frameworks across publicly funded research.
- Institutional accessibility of universities and research organisations to civic and community partners.
- Public awareness and perception of research as a societal public good.



Shaping the Roadmap

The ENGAGED project has benefitted from the motivation and enthusiasm of a wide variety of partners. In order to honour the diverse contributions that were made, it is useful to provide a number of points of context to create a better understanding of what is contained within the roadmap and how it is expressed:

ENGAGED has laid the groundwork for a coalition, bringing together academics, professional university staff, funders, librarians, civil and public servants, NGO workers, advocates, community development workers, freelance researchers and others to create change. **This wide coalition is its strength and, now that there are clear destinations and directions, it is hoped that this coalition will grow.** New partners, it is hoped, may bring new knowledge and insights that get us to our destination faster or warn us of unseen roadblocks and alternative routes. The work of the EU's Joint Research Council on Evidence Informed Policy Making and the work on mapping public sector knowledge brokering is an example of where work is already happening and where nascent partners for this coalition may already exist.

The co-creators were ambitious in calls for change. The roadmap is conscious that some of what people sought would require **amendments to legislation, significant investment or a far-reaching change in public policy** which would probably not be achievable in a five-year period. The endeavour in the roadmap is to keep moving in the direction of those ambitions, but mindful that the fundamental changes which may be required to achieve that change is outside of the five-year scope of the roadmap. This is also the case where co-creators sought **mandatory or compulsory funding conditions or national standards**. Again, the strength of resolve of the coalition will dictate whether these become possible, but the roadmap does not make them prerequisites for progress.

One theme that persisted across the project was the recognition that open research cannot be extra work for those involved but **a change in how work is assigned, valued and recompensed**. While a sister project to ENGAGED called ABOARD is looking at Responsible Research Assessment in open research, the roadmap does recognise that a call for alternative outputs and greater engagement with stakeholder communities should be rewarded by universities and funders. The time to take proposed training to learn how to do this work better must also be factored into the workload of a researcher and protected. Conversely, the involvement of a civil society organisation with a research project usually comes with some cost to the organisation in terms of resources or staff time. Budgets need to recognise the costs incurred by partners.

Finally, this project has realistic expectations about **different levels of utility for research outputs**. Some research is very specific and requires a lot of technical knowledge to fully understand, yet it is very hard to predict at what level different stakeholders are coming to the research. Research synthesis plays an important role for a stakeholder trying to find their way through a topic, as does the need for alternative outputs that may be more immediately useful to certain stakeholder communities. At the same time, the level of technical knowledge which exists beyond academia should not be underestimated. As the roadmap illustrates, however, open research stretches way beyond access to research papers.

Conclusion

Public involvement in open research matters for everyone. Communities need access to evidence they can trust, they can understand, and they can use to make decisions, improve services and interrogate policies. Researchers need public understanding and support to demonstrate value, secure sustained investment and defend the integrity of scholarship in contested environments. Public institutions need transparent, accessible knowledge to underpin effective, accountable decision-making. Together, Ireland needs a research system that builds trust rather than distance and collective strength rather than isolation.

This roadmap seeks to maximise the impact of a significant national investment in open research, not only by the Irish government but by a myriad of researchers, librarians, charities, technical staff and others, to create a system that will have a wider and deeper benefit, tackle societal challenges and promote greater evidence-informed action. Many organisations are showing, or have shown, leadership in various aspects of this agenda: DFHERIS, the HEA, the Irish Universities Association, the university sector, national research funders and civil society organisations. The opportunity now exists to continue with such leadership.

The roadmap belongs to the voices that have shaped it. It belongs to the researchers, NGOs, public sector workers, funders, professional staff, citizen scientists, advocates and business representatives whose voices have shaped it and whose ambition will drive its delivery.

In the same way, the implementation of the roadmap is no single organisation or agency's responsibility. Its implementation will depend on coalition, on collective action and community effort. Some of what is proposed here is already in train, some proposals require commitments on behalf of institutions or organisations, some require a slight change in perspective, and some will only emerge as partners come together to commit to cooperating on new initiatives, interventions and projects.

Immediate next steps for this roadmap are to:

- a) build awareness among the various stakeholder communities and research partners;
- b) align the roadmap with existing communities of practice in areas such as Public Sector Knowledge Brokerage, Engaged Research, Public Engagement, and Public and Patient Involvement;
- c) identify a basecamp organisation or body which can show leadership and champion connection and collaboration for this agenda;
- d) devise the annual convening event which can bring this coalition together to review progress and to drive the agenda forward.

This roadmap is showing us where we intend to be, the pathways to get us there and how we will know if we are on the right course. Now it is time for us to begin the journey.

Glossary of Terms

ABOARD – A NORF-funded project to develop academic system-level incentivisation of open research practices

CAPs – Community Advisory Panels are a way to bring together members of a stakeholder community on an ongoing basis in order to provide guidance, perspectives, support or accountability for a project or an ongoing relationship with a research team

Community Impact Assessments – Processes to identify and articulate the impact that a project or process will or has had on a stakeholder community. That impact may be understood in terms of economic, academic, social, cultural, environmental or civic outcomes

Community Expertise – The knowledge and skills built up from being part of a community, be that a geographical community, a community of interest or a community of practice

Community Researchers – Researchers who are not primarily employed by a higher education institution, and who bring community expertise or lived experience to their research activities

Discovery Tools – Searchable online access tools to find research outputs and information

DFHERIS – Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Diamond Open Access Model – Where journals or publishers do not charge fees to either authors or readers. This is different from Green Open Access Models where an author puts an article into an institutional repository, or Gold Open Access Models where the author pays for their article to be open access, or Bronze Open Access Models where a publisher makes an article available for a limited period

Engaged Research – This is research that takes place in partnership with community stakeholders

EOSC – The European Open Science Cloud offers researchers a virtual environment with open and seamless services for storage, management, analysis and re-use of research data by federating existing data infrastructures

Evidence Synthesis – Activity which draws together and synthesises the results of a number of pieces of research on a particular topic. A literature review is an example of this

FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable are the set of agreed principles applicable to open research data

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

HEA – Higher Education Authority. The statutory policy-advisory body for higher education in Ireland

Metadata – This is information that is attached to an output or digital object in order to make it easier to find or to sort

Notes

NGOs – Non-Governmental Organisations such as charities and formal advocacy groups such as unions

NORF – Ireland’s National Open Research Forum

ORI – Open Repositories Ireland is a NORF-funded project which promotes, supports, and develops open repositories and repository staff through networking, training, and advocacy

Open Research – Open research includes open access to publications, open research data, open-source software/tools, open workflows, citizen science, open educational resources, and alternative methods for research evaluation

Outputs – Things that have been created from a research project, e.g. a research paper, a report, a video, a lesson plan for teaching

Partnership Plans – Written documents that set out roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes, communication approaches and arrangements for data, outputs and benefits for all involved

Paywalls – The requirement for a reader to pay for access to the text of a book or an article from a publisher

PIDs – Persistent Identifiers which are generally a string of numbers or letters representing a unique reference to a digital item

Portals – Online mechanisms to access research material and outputs

PPI – Public and Patient Involvement in health-related research. The people involved primarily have a lived experience of a health condition, disability or illness, or support someone who does

Repositories – An online space to store and access research journal articles, books, theses and other research outputs

Research Literacy – An understanding of research concepts, research structures and research language

Stakeholder Communities – Identifiable groups or types of people with a stake in the outcomes of research

TROPIC – A NORF-funded project which provided Training for Open Research in an Irish Context. The training is targeted primarily at Irish researchers at various levels. This work is now part of the Irish Reproducibility Network

WCAG – The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, which are international technical standards to ensure digital content is accessible to people with disabilities

