



The Irish Research Council has awarded our Technology & Innovation Lead Dr. Esther Murphy funding under the New Foundations scheme which supports researchers to pursue research, networking and dissemination activities within and between all disciplines.

New Foundations provides seed funding for small-scale research actions; the development of networks, consortia and workshops; and creative approaches to the communication of scientific concepts or complex societal challenges for a lay audience.

### **INCLU-ID Questions of Inclusion: what inclusion means for adults with an intellectual disability in Ireland**

Inclusion of people with ID is a stated policy position in Ireland [HSE, 2011, 2012, DOJE, 2017], reflecting international trends [HSE, 2012], but there is little consensus about what inclusion means for people with ID [Amado et al., 2013].

Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been shown to support inclusion in the general population [Shpigelman, 2014]. Similar tools may also support inclusion of people with ID [Caton and Chapman, 2016]. However, use of ICT by older adults with ID is very low despite benefits identified in a number of international studies. Recent IDS-TILDA study data conducted by Dr. Esther Murphy and Dr. Darren McCausland confirmed a correlation between technology use and contact with family and friends for older adults with ID [Murphy et al., 2019]. Yet, ICT training is not commonly

provided by ID support services and there is a dearth of empirical studies of the technology needs of people with ID [Caton and Chapman, 2016].

Our collaborative study between **Trinity Centre of Ageing with an Intellectual Disability**, the **National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers** and the **Inclusive Research Network** aims to address this by exploring with adults with ID and with Inclusion Champions 'Questions of Inclusion'. Esther will lead focus groups with co-researchers with ID to (i) identify inclusion and exclusion experiences of people with ID; (ii) explore if/how/where/when people with ID want to be included; and (iii) identify the supports, with a specific focus on the role of technology, needed to improve inclusion. World Café style workshops will also explore strategies and tools to support inclusion with multi-stakeholder *Inclusion Champions*.

**Team:**

Dr. Esther Murphy: Principal Investigator

Dr. Darren McCausland: TCAID Social Inclusion Lead

Alison Harnett: Manager National Federation of Voluntary Bodies

Inclusive Research Network

**Speaking about the funding announcement, Director of the Irish Research Council, Peter Brown**, said: *"I am delighted to announce another round of awards under the New Foundations programme, a unique scheme that fosters the exchange of knowledge within and beyond academia. By supporting this collaboration, the benefits and impact of research are more widely shared, nationally and internationally. The emphasis on engaging with civil society fosters mutual learning between researchers and practitioners, often leading to longer-term collaborations."*