



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

September
2017



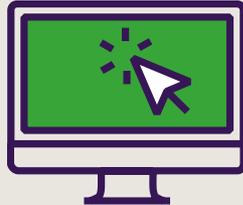
#LoveIrish
Research



The Irish Research Council



Funds excellent research **across all disciplines**



Provides support **from early career to professor-led research**



Enriches Ireland's **pool of knowledge and expertise**



Provides **policy advice**



Our mission is to enable and sustain a vibrant and creative research community in Ireland

Funding Landscape

Irish Research Council
€34m

Health Research Board
€32.5m

Science Foundation
Ireland
€172.6m

Enterprise Ireland
€123.5m

**Frontiers
research**

**Mission-oriented
research**

(14 priorities and areas of direct economic impact)

Applied R&D

(14 priorities and areas of
direct economic impact)

HEA Block Grant

4.3% of direct government funding for individual led
frontiers basic research in comparison to **17%** by the EU

Who do we support?

2016 New Award Spend

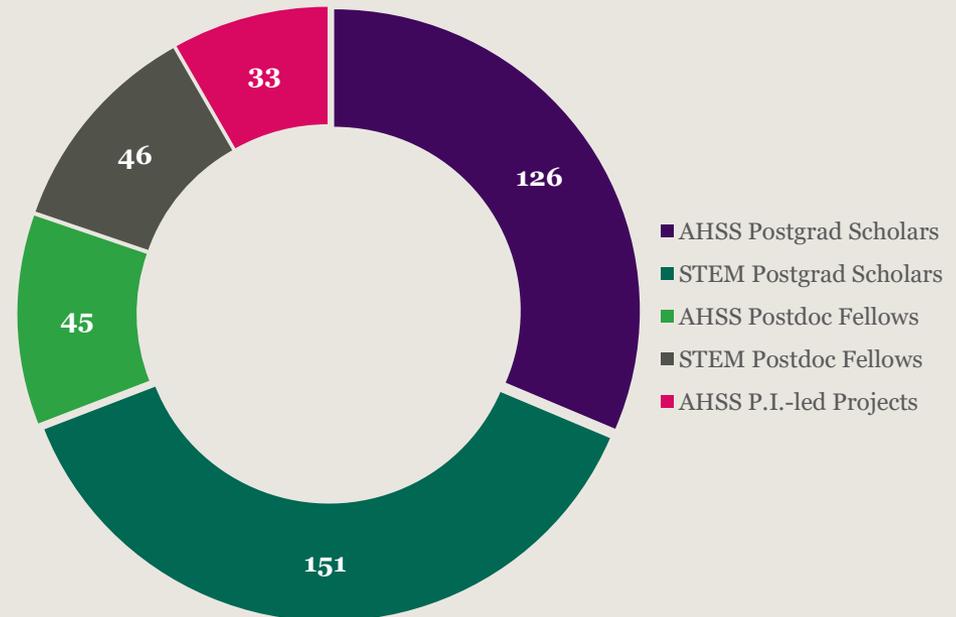
€20.5m
Postgraduate scholars

€7.8m
Postdoctoral fellows

€4.4m
Professor-led projects

1,365 funded researchers and 74 professor-led projects

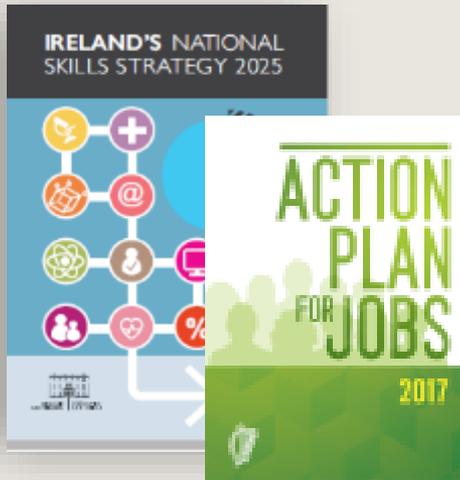
New Researchers in 2016



Total ongoing

Innovation in enterprise

Bringing skills, talent & research to enterprise



Industry-Ready

Enterprise-facing scholars
highly employable

Our Partners

70%+
SMEs

15%
large indigenous
companies

10%
multinationals
in Ireland



Addressing national challenges

Bringing research & expertise to
government & civic society

17



Partnerships with Government
Departments and Agencies



55

Projects with Civic Society Groups



Who have we supported and where do they go?

Total numbers funded 2000-2016

6,424



1,226

Postdoctoral
Fellows



95% in expert jobs

15% outside academia

4,381

Postgraduate
Scholars



91% in expert jobs

40% outside academia

Supporting applications under H2020

National Roles



European Research Council

Joint National ERC delegate & national coordinator for SSH

Societal Challenges 6
'Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies'



Marie Słodowska Curie Actions

Jointly operates MSCA National Office, & secured 4 Co-Fund Schemes



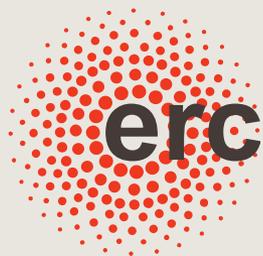
IRC has helped draw down*

€81m

under H2020
(40% of all HE draw down)



Priming for ERC success



European Research Council Awards



77% (10/13)

home-grown Starting Grant awardees in Ireland under H2020 are Council alumni or mentors



67% (16/24)

of home-grown ERC awardees in Ireland under H2020 (since 2014) are Council alumni or mentors

€1.2m

investment from IRC has leveraged



€18.5m

in ERC Starter Grant Funding

ERC success case study



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



2010

IRCHSS
Post-graduate
Scholar

2011

First Book;
Senior Research Fellow,
Centre for Disability
Law & Policy at NUIG

Engaged with: EU-funded
research projects; legal capacity
reform in Ireland; Secretariat of
UN Committee on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities

2014

Youngest Recipient
of ERC Starter
Grant in Europe

The IRC invested **€32,000**
in Dr Flynn, which helped
leverage almost **€900,000**
in ERC funding

Securing funding in our own right



100%
success rate



in applications for Marie Curie Co-Funds: INSPIRE, CARA, ELEVATE, CAROLINE with total drawdown of

€17.7m

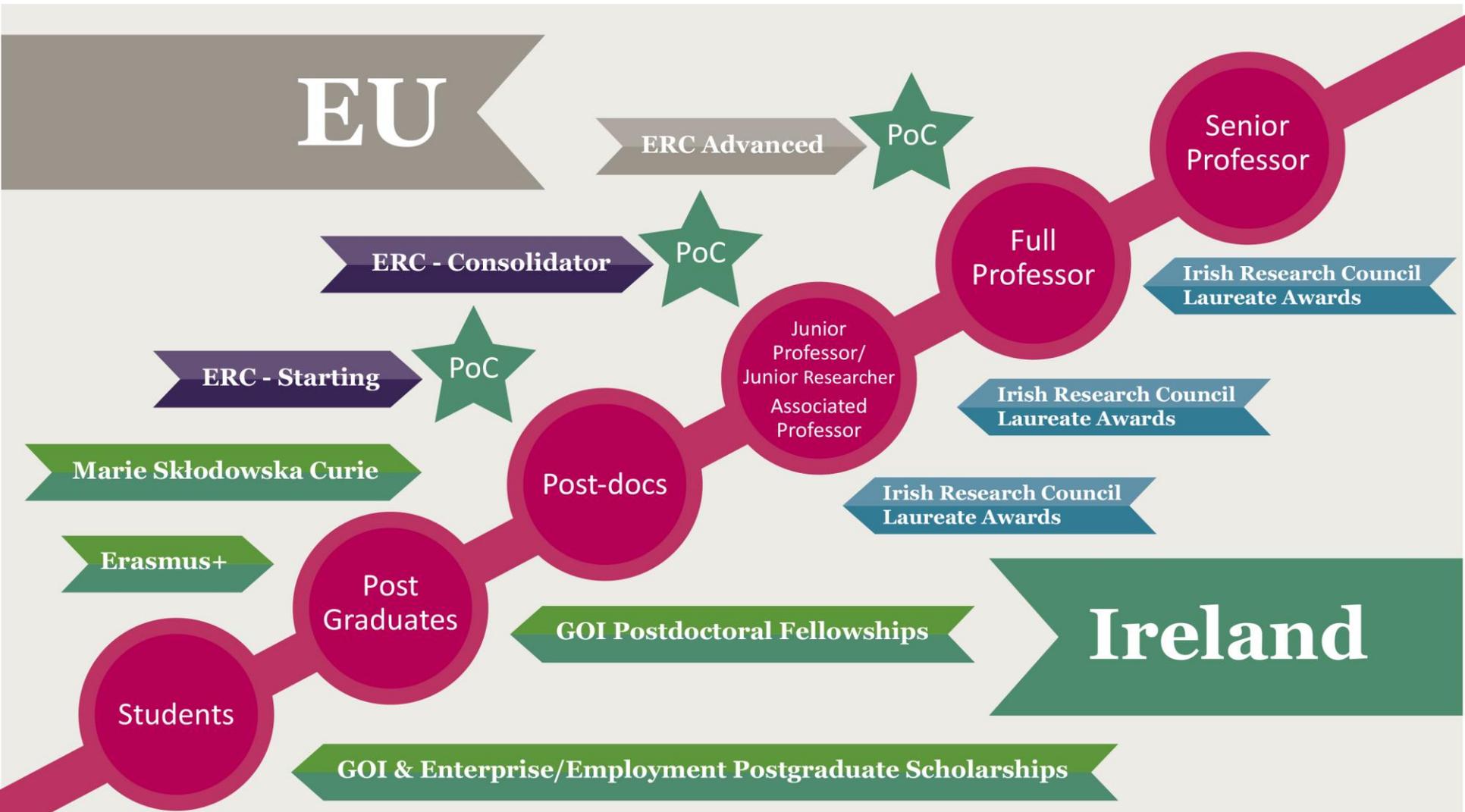


EU Commission reported IRC in the top 5 most successful co-fund participating organizations under FP7 in 2014

top 5



Laureate awards: addressing key national gaps



Brexit





Perceived impact

Brexit will have a significant impact on higher education and research on the island of Ireland

66%



believe that the impact of Brexit on HE and research in the **Republic of Ireland** will be negative

96%



believe that the impact of Brexit on HE and research in the **Northern Ireland** will be negative

Brexit will have a negative impact on North-South collaborations

Collaborations between U.K and Irish institutions are very important



Threats to research ecosystem

UK is ROI's
number one
partner country
on EU grants

UK and Ireland
frequent allies
on matters of
research policy
at EU level

UK is ROI's
number one
collaborator
on research
papers

Vulnerable
disciplines



Make Ireland a global hub for research and education



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Pull ahead in the global war for talent

1 Attract the best talent

- ▶ Address system capacity and financial needs.
- ▶ Rebalance Ireland's research ecosystem (frontier+applied).
- ▶ Inward mobility schemes for early & senior career researchers.
- ▶ Ambitious Erasmus+ targets.

2 Bespoke/targeted funding schemes

- ▶ Government of Ireland, IRC Laureates, N-S collaborative research programme, PRTL

3 Removal of impediments to mobility and collaboration



Building ever stronger international relations

**Bilaterals with
UK & EU agencies
/institutions**

**Become partner
of choice as EU grant
co-ordinator**

**Outward mobility
by Irish nationals**

**Foreign language
education**

**Attract European
institutions & scientific
networks based in
UK to Ireland**

**Influence EU policy
& programmes**

Benefits



Improved reputation
and visibility as the
destination of choice

Grow Ireland's
EU funding
draw down

Shape future
calls (FP9)

Increased
competitiveness
& attractiveness
to FDI

Global
university
rankings

National Context: Innovation 2020

The overall vision of *Innovation 2020* is that Ireland – currently classified in the Innovation Union Scoreboard as an innovation follower – will transition to becoming a Global Innovation Leader, driving a strong sustainable economy and a better society.



Innovation 2020: Developing Ireland's Research Infrastructure

- *Innovation 2020* commits to the further development of Ireland's research infrastructure. The following guiding principles will apply to this work:
- The core funding driver will be excellence with impact and funding will be awarded via a competitive process with potential for co-funding with industry and other private sources.
- In the context of addressing global challenges, and the need to be competitive, the infrastructural needs of the wider research base will be recognised, and the increasing importance of big data, data analytics and e-infrastructures will be acknowledged
- The funding of large scale infrastructures will explicitly recognise the importance of international links such as ESFRI
- There will be long-term commitment to funding the maintenance, operational and upgrade costs of facilities to ensure their future viability and national funders of research will implement access charges for all large pieces of research infrastructure
- System efficiencies will be sought on a continuous basis through inter- and intra-institutional collaboration for shared access to equipment and promotion of access by industry.
- Link between Council's role to protect investment in SSH research and support for membership of infrastructures



Irish Engagement with EU Open Access Policies

- National Open Data Strategy 2017-2022
 - The Strategy sets out seven strategic themes which will guide the Open Data initiative over the lifetime of the Strategy. These include: broadening the range of public bodies actively engaged in the Open Data Initiative; improving the quality, quantity and range of datasets available and improving the range of services available on the national Open Data portal; continued engagement with stakeholders to encourage the use of Open Data; supporting and encouraging various groups of Open Data users including public service bodies; evaluation of the impacts, benefits and risks of the Initiative and ensuring that effective governance structures are in place to implement the Strategy.
- National Open Research Forum (NORF)
 - This Forum combines the expertise of representatives from policy, research funding, research performing, the library sector, enterprise and other key stakeholders in the research system from across Ireland, and is now working to consider the national infrastructure and national principles for open research data.
 - Health Research Board chairs this group with DBEI
- HRB Open Research initiative and publishing platform



Council support for Irish membership of European Research Infrastructure Consortia

- The **European Social Survey** is an academically driven social survey designed to chart and explain the interaction between Europe's changing institutions and the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour patterns of its diverse populations.
- Currently in its eighth round, the survey covers more than 30 nations. It is a repeat cross-sectional survey and uses the most rigorous methodologies. It is funded through the European Commission's Framework Programmes, the European Science Foundation and national funding bodies in each country.
- Professor Michael Breen of Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, is the national coordinator.



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- DARIAH is a pan-European network for arts and humanities scholars working with computational methods. It supports digital research, as well as the teaching of digital research methods.
- In November 2014 it was formally established as a European Research Infrastructure (ERIC). The mission of the DARIAH ERIC is to enhance and support digitally enabled research across the humanities and arts. DARIAH ERIC develops, maintains and operates an infrastructure in support of ICT-based research practices.
- Dr Orla Murphy of UCC was appointed as national coordinator for DARIAH for Ireland in spring 2016.



Council support for Irish membership of European Research Infrastructure Consortia

- Irish Research Council submitted a recommendation to the Department of Education and Skills for Ireland to join CESSDA.
- Requirement for Department of Education and Skills to prepare memorandum seeking cabinet approval
- Requirement for draft memorandum to be circulated to other Government Departments for observations, comments
- Council continuing to press for cabinet decision as soon as practicable

cessda

Consortium of European
Social Sciences Data Archives





#LoveIrish Research

A national campaign of the
Irish Research Council