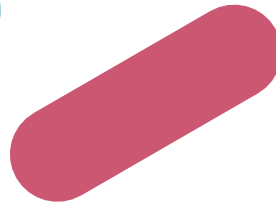




PPI IGNITE
NETWORK

IMPACT CASE STUDY



Maynooth University's PPI journey: building capacity, changing culture and fostering excellence

Who was involved?

- Lead sites and National Partners
- National Office
- One funder
- Maynooth University researchers
- Maynooth University Research Support Professionals

Summary

Maynooth University's (MU) inclusion in the PPI Ignite Network as a national partner has enhanced the growth and development of meaningful PPI in research at this site, as well as establishing and fostering valuable professional connections across the various national partners and Lead Sites.

Through knowledge exchange opportunities within the Network, MU has:

- Delivered tailored training days to our researchers
- Run an annual MU-HRCI collaborative PPI Festival event on building relationships and partnerships with charities

- Disseminated best-practice in PPI excellence, aiming to embed PPI across MU's research ecosystem

Our work

MU joined the PPI Ignite Network as a national partner in 2021, and MU researchers and research support professionals with interests in PPI joined the working groups within the Network. MU has had representatives on each of the five major working groups within the Network since they were established. An institutional funding commitment was secured to build PPI capacity at MU and led to the establishment of a new PPI officer role (0.4FTE), with the officer taking up this position in December 2021.

Engaging with lead sites and partners, MU Research Development office (RDO) and the MU PPI officer developed MU initiatives to better support our researchers with grant applications and provide training opportunities to ensure meaningful PPI is planned throughout research programmes



Attendees at the Research Together event

(both pre-and post-award). This included information and training events run in **2022** and **2023**. It also included the establishment of an annual collaborative MU-HRCI networking event, '**Research Together**', which was run in 2022 and 2023.

The **HEI self-assessment of PPI in institutional policies** and procedures allowed MU to benchmark its progress in this area. The MU data was presented to the MU Research Committee, a standing committee of the MU Academic Council. The MU RDO also recognized the need to address payment of PPI contributors and began the task to identify how PPI contributors could be paid with ease via MU's approved payments mechanisms. This aligned with **the commissioned report from PWC** on the tax implications for HEIs associated with PPI.

Our impact

Building PPI Capacity

MU researchers, the PPI officer and research support staff engage and add value to various PPI Ignite Network working groups, championing PPI in research and sharing best practice guidance from the Network across MU. Ten MU researchers and support staff are actively involved across the five work packages within the Network.

PPI training initiatives facilitated by our PPI officer with the support of the Network have been welcomed and well attended by MU researchers of all levels, from PhD students to established researchers.



“The facilitators and materials were very engaging and informative, and it was great to talk to others about PPI who are working at Maynooth.”

Anonymous, attendee at PPI training day event

MU Culture Change

The Network has influenced and inspired MU to reflect on best practice and PPI excellence. Acknowledging payment issues to PPI contributors can damage trust and partnerships, research support staff established an informal PPI payments guidance document, while formal MU policy on payments of contributors is developed. This document outlines current MU payment mechanisms that researchers can use to pay PPI contributors and aligns with the Network’s commissioned report.

The HEI self-assessment report from the Network enabled MU to reflect on our role in PPI. This reflection was integrated into **MU’s strategic plan 2023–2028**, and our ambition to imagine and create better futures for all. A vital aspect of this is a focus on Engagement and Partnerships, with a new Partnership Office due to be established to promote and enable meaningful engagement with civic society.

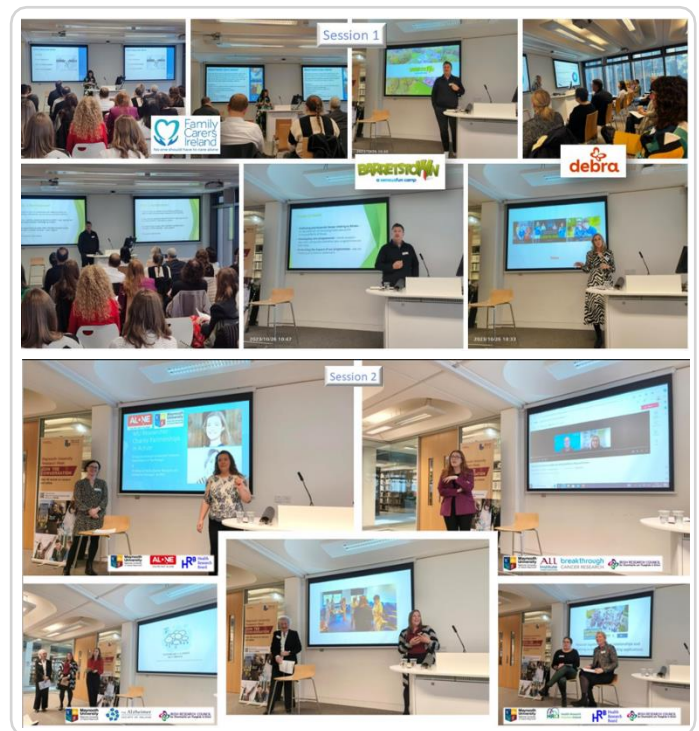
Building Relationships and Partnerships

Collaborations with national partner HRCI, have encouraged and inspired an annual Research week event, run by RDO with the support from **HRCI** that is breaking down barriers and building meaningful relationships, advancing PPI understanding, excellence and pursuing impact from health research together.

‘Research Together: Building relationships and partnering on health-focused funding applications’ in 2022, brought together 38 MU researchers, 2 HRCI representatives, 10 HRCI charity members, 5 other charities and civil society organisations (CSO’s), along with

5 research support staff. This in-person opportunity enabled this diverse group to come together, to better understand each other’s perspectives, constraints, what meaningful PPI is and how to partner well and co-produce health funding applications.

2023 Research Together, joined the National PPI Festival focusing on the real time research needs of HRCI charity members and learning from MU researcher-charity partnerships in action. Reflections and pictures of a great day [here](#), with a sold out event with 70 attendees including researchers, charities, CSO’s funder, PPI contributors and research support professionals.



Presentations by charity organisations and co-presented by MU Researcher-Charity partnerships in action during the Research Together event.

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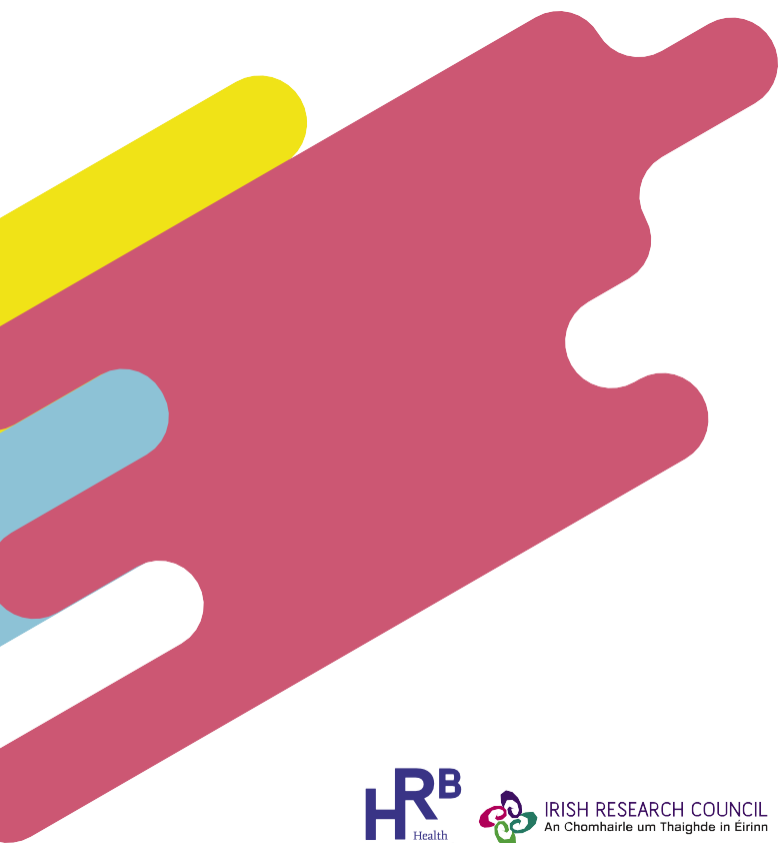


“In our new Strategic Plan, Maynooth University has identified engagement as core to our future development and impact as a university. We are establishing a new Partnership and Engagement office to further facilitate and support our engagement with the public, including initiatives like PPI, and other types of mutually beneficial partnerships.”

Rebecca Doolin, Vice-President of External Affairs at Maynooth University



Steering Group members meeting in person in Maynooth University, August 2023



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

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