

Fostering a Culture of Collaboration for Change: TU Dublin's Engaged Research Network

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Engaged Research:

Research collaboratively designed with stakeholders, e.g. communities, industries, and policymakers, for mutual benefit, tangible outcomes and societal impact.

- Drives a strong research culture, fostering collaboration, impact, and sustainability
- Enables integration by connecting early-career and senior researchers
- Creates a more inclusive, diverse, and dynamic research ecosystem
- Increases opportunities to secure funding
- Enhances research outcomes

Engaged Research Network
Líonraí Taighde Rannpháirtíoch



TU Dublin Engaged Research Network:

- Building capacity for Engaged Research, with a focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Connecting and supporting staff and PhD students on Engaged Research
- Developing and sharing resources and experience
- 130+ members: academics, PhD students, Postdocs, researchers, PMSS staff



Engaged Research Network meeting 2023



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Mentoring for Engaged Research:

Pilot programme, mentoring and peer mentoring.

3 mentoring pairs

Initial mentoring training

6 mentoring meetings over the academic year.

Evaluation of pilot.

Podcast:

New podcast 'Engaged Thinking and Research: Conversations.'

'What is Engaged Research?' with Sophie Duncan, Co-Director of UK National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement and Prof. Catherine Woods, Director of UL Physical Activity for Health Research Centre



Photo from left to right: (in person) Britney Madondo (TU Dublin 4th year Film and Broadcasting student) and Dr Gordon Cooke; (on-screen) Sophie Duncan and Prof. Catherine Woods.

Engaged Thinking and Research: Conversations



ENGAGEMENT through PARTICIPATORY FACILITATION

Informed by Engaged Research principles, e.g. inclusion, co-production, power-sharing, distributed leadership.

2 full meetings a year – members actively drive the direction, agree priority actions.

23 meetings across 3 main working groups in 1 year, to sustain members' creative progress towards shared goals.

Themed Networking Events:

Pilot research roundtables with TU Dublin Radiation and Environmental Science Centre, with researchers and community partners, on themes of air, soil and water health. Included Men's Health Forum in Ireland, HSE, The Liberties Community Development Project, Airfield Estate, The Wheel.

Hackathon/design sprint:

Greenhouse for Engaged Research in Education (with TU Dublin Learning, Teaching and Assessment team).

2-part design sprint for lecturers planning/doing external engagement in teaching, to collaborate with stakeholders to evaluate the impact of this work, to co-produce research outputs.

1 hour warm-up to identify challenges, 2-hour design sprint addressing these.



Participants at back-to-back environmental health and cancer roundtables in January 2025. L-R: Dr Aidan Meade (TU Dublin), Austin Campbell (The Liberties Community Project), Helen Forristal, (Marie Keating Foundation – on-screen), Dr Shane O'Reilly (TU Dublin), Dr Aoibhin Heslin (Airfield Estate), Dr Michelle Giltrap (TU Dublin), Emily Nelson (The Wheel), Dr Ahmed Mahmoud (TU Dublin), Prof. Fiona Lyng (TU Dublin), Kevin O'Hagan (Irish Cancer Society), Finian Murray (HSE and Men's Health Forum in Ireland), Dr Aoife Donnelly (TU Dublin), Dr Claire McDonnell (TU Dublin).

ERN working group members 2024:

Ade Baruwa
Caroline McGowan
Catherine Bates
Catherine Gorman
Claire McDonnell
Fiona Prendergast
Lucía Morales
Sorcha Hyland

Impact of Engaged Research Network on TU Dublin's research culture:

- Building supportive internal communities to explore engaged research.
- Empowering colleagues through ground-up, participatory identification of annual objectives.
- Leadership opportunities in cross-disciplinary working groups, with PMSS, research and academic staff collaborating creatively to achieve objectives
- Building resources, skills and capacity, enhancing career development
- Increasing networks of internal and external partners to support collaboration and engaged research
- Increasing diversity in research collaboration teams

