Irish PID strategy briefing:
Institutional leads

Impact 2030 notes that "as the attraction and retention of talent becomes increasingly competitive on a global level, Ireland needs to be a location of choice in order to realise our ambitions"[1]. Robust integration into international information systems is key to successful global participation and impact by Irish institutions — and critical to staying competitive. However, entering data into these systems is a mostly manual task, carried out primarily by researchers and staff at Research Performing Organisations (RPOs). It takes up valuable time that could otherwise be spent on research, risks the introduction (and replication) of errors, and hinders efforts to understand and support the important work being conducted at Irish RPOs.

Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) can help address these issues. These long-lasting digital references provide both a unique label for, and a resolvable link to, an entity: a person (e.g. a researcher), place (e.g. their organisation), or thing (e.g. a grant, a research output, etc.). They are associated with descriptive information (metadata) such as author names and keywords, as well as links to other PIDs.

The Irish National Action Plan for Open Research calls for the development of "a national roadmap for the adoption of a range of Persistent Identifiers"[2], and identifies four priority PIDs: DOIs for grants and research outputs (Crossref[3] and Datacite[4]); ORCIDs[5] for researchers and contributors to research; RAiDs[6] for research projects; and RORs[7] for research institutions, funders, and other organisations. Widespread adoption of these PIDs has the potential to bring significant benefits to Irish RPOs and researchers. Automated updates of the academic record for grants, outputs, and people are already making a demonstrable difference as shown by the Australian Research Council:

"If I want to put in a grant now and include all of my research track record, it's sitting there and ready to reuse and is being continually updated. This saved me 3-4 days per grant application - the difference in workload was staggering!"[8]

1   Impact 2030 - Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy (2022). https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/27c78-impact-2030-irelands-new-research-and-innovation-strategy/
2   https://norf.ie/national-action-plan/
3   https://www.crossref.org/
4   https://datacite.org/
5   Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier (ORCID) https://orcid.org/
6   Research Activity Identifier (RAiD) https://raid.org/
7   Research Organization Registry (ROR) https://ror.org/
8   Brown, J et al (2022). Incentives to invest in identifiers: A cost-benefit analysis of persistent identifiers in Australian research systems. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7100578

With increased uptake of the PIDs for organisations and projects, even greater savings could be delivered by slashing the burden of linking these additional entities. PIDs also have the potential to further support the research ecosystem by:

- Streamlining strategic institutional decision-making, and providing objective evidence bases for evaluating research outputs, and hiring and promotion practices

- Enabling easy and accurate mapping of Ireland's research collaborations, participation, and reach by connecting researchers, their organisations, and their outputs

- Embedding research activities, outputs, and outcomes into global discovery and analysis systems to ensure accurate attribution and recognition for each individual's and organisation's contributions

- Supporting the transition to open research, including Ireland's commitment to the FAIR principles, which require the use of PIDs and their metadata

Realising these benefits will require a community effort across all Irish research stakeholder groups — funders, institutions, publishers, and researchers themselves — supported by strong leadership and investment.

Work to develop a national strategy for PID adoption in Ireland is being led by the National Open Research Forum (NORF)[9] with support from MoreBrains Cooperative[10]. This includes the development of a cost benefit analysis for institutions in the Republic of Ireland, which found that "[a] conservative estimate of the potential savings from an 85% PID adoption level after five years...equates to more than 4,000 days of staff time each year."[11] In developing this strategy, Ireland is joining other nations around the world — including Australia[12], Canada[13], Germany[14], and the UK[15]. While each country is unique in its opportunities, challenges, and strategic priorities, they are united by their commitment to ensure that their societies have access to the benefits of a PID-optimised research ecosystem.

Implementing this national strategy will make the benefits of PIDs available to all Irish scholars and institutions. Institutional leaders can help by:

1. Proactively engaging with open research initiatives (such as internal training, projects, and conferences) that support the uptake and socialisation of PIDs among their researchers, research managers, and librarians.

2. Supporting institutional investment in PID-friendly systems and platforms.

3. Adopting PID-enabled workflows for reporting, evaluation, and other processes at their organisation.

For more information see the NORF website: https://norf.ie/pid-roadmap/

9   https://norf.ie
10   https://morebrains.coop
11   Jones, P. et al (2024) Efficiency and insight: a cost-benefit analysis for a central service to support persistent identifier implementation in Ireland. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.7486/DRI.nz80kt123
12   https://ardc.edu.au/resource/australian-national-persistent-identifier-pid-strategy-2024/
13   Brown, J. et al (2022). Towards a national PID strategy for Canada - Vers une stratégie nationale sur les PID pour le Canada. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7217469
14   Schrader, Antonia (2023). On the road towards a PID strategy for Germany. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8006667
15   https://www.jisc.ac.uk/innovation/projects/a-national-persistent -identifier-research-strategy

NORF FÓRAM NÁISIÚNTA NA HÉIREANN UM THAIGHDE OSCAILTE NATIONAL OPEN RESEARCH FORUM

HEA HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland