Irish PID strategy briefing: **Policy makers and funders**

"All-island, EU, and global research collaboration" is a pillar of the Irish Government's Impact 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy[1]. Understanding global patterns of activity and mapping them to local context and contributions requires robust integration into international information systems. At present, much of the data in these systems is added manually by researchers or research administrators, taking up valuable time that could otherwise be spent on research, risking the introduction (and replication) of errors, and hindering efforts to understand and support the Irish research landscape.

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 - https://orcid.org/
6 Research Activity Identifier - https://raid.org/
7 Research Organization Registry - 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 reducing the burden of linking these additional entities. As well as this, PIDs have the potential to support the research ecosystem by:

- Enabling easy and accurate mapping of Ireland's research collaborations, participation, and reach by connecting researchers, their organisations, and their outputs
- Embedding Irish research activities, outputs, and outcomes into global discovery and analysis systems to ensure recognition for the country's contributions
- Answering increasingly sophisticated questions about research collaborations, open access transactions, and impact, in order to inform future policy development — within and beyond academia
- 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 clear policy guidance, including at the government level.

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]. In developing this strategy, Ireland is joining other nations around the world — including Australia[11], Canada[12], Germany[13], and the UK[14]. 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. Research-funding organisations and policy-makers can help by:

1. Registering DOIs for grants.
2. Implementing PID-enabled workflows for grant awarding processes, research reporting, and evaluation.
3. Engaging with cross-stakeholder groups and initiatives to increase familiarity and usage of PIDs, in particular as best practice among early career researchers.

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

9 https://norf.ie
10 https://morebrains.coop
11 https://ardc.edu.au/resource/australian-national-persistent-identifier-pid-strategy-2024/
12 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
13 Schrader, Antonia (2023). On the road towards a PID strategy for Germany. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8006667
14 https://www.jisc.ac.uk/innovation/projects/a-national-persistent-identifier-research-strategy

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