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**Sustainable Development Week 2023 18-23 September**

# **SDG Integration Showcase**

**Some important Targets already identified**

8.8 - Protect labour rights and promote safe working environments



The project discovers how faculty live the SDGs in their Teaching, Engagement activities and Research. This is showcased in a website with individual profiles

12.2 - Sustainable management and use of natural resources



3.4 - Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health



The website highlights areas of shared interest across the School and the wider university, discovering new opportunities for internal collaboration and external partnerships.

13.1 - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters



*Everyone can contribute to the SDGs*



4.7 - Education for sustainable development and global citizenship



8.1 - Sustainable economic growth

For more information on the Business School SDG integration project please contact Dr David Kreps [david.kreps@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:david.kreps@universityofgalway.ie) or Dr Ann O'Brien [ann.obrien@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ann.obrien@universityofgalway.ie) to take part



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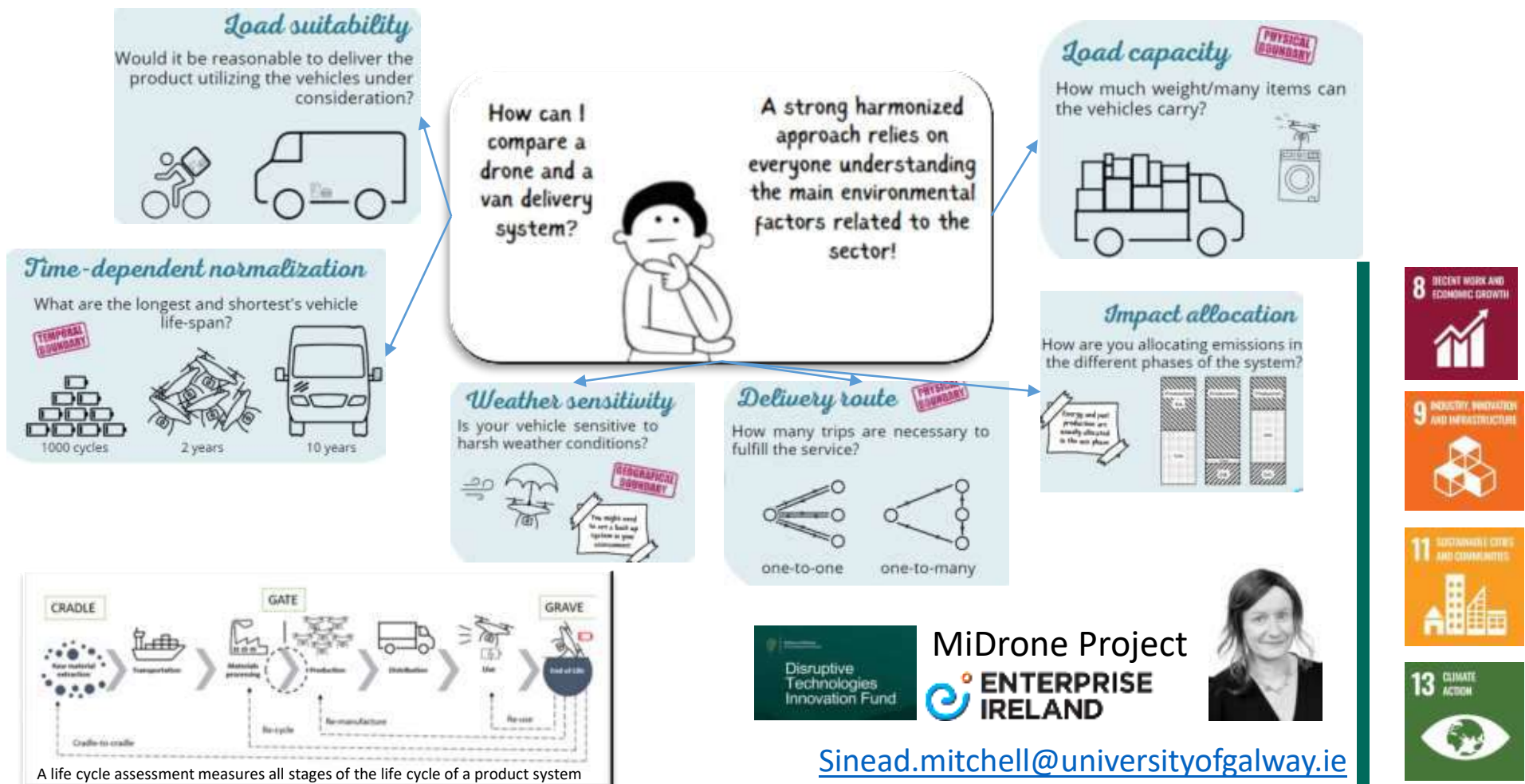
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# Measuring the sustainability of drone-delivery: what matters?

The MiDrone project investigated the sustainability of drone last-mile delivery drones. Here are (some of) the important aspects to be considered when measuring with Life Cycle Assessment.



Scan QR code for full LCM 2023 poster



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# Campus Collaborations on a Circular Social Enterprise

In a circular economy, we eliminate waste where possible,, and incorporate multiple lives into materials, products and services. Today's earth is only 7.2% circular and relies on the extraction of over 90% virgin materials Ireland is performing poorly with a circularity material at 2%. Circular solutions are needed to solve the climate crisis, to prevent environmental degradation and to safeguard biodiversity. We collaborate regularly with [An Mheitheal Rothar](#) is one small social enterprise on campus working towards a circular economy such as its **remanufacturing "Made in Galway" bike** - this restores highest value parts of a bike (&, frame and handlebars). A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of the remanufactured bike showed that it is less environmentally harmful, and the design aims to extend the life of the bike, making it suitable for the very damp and wet weather in the west of Ireland!.

This result will support the decision to scale up production of remanufactured bikes, future development of circular economy solutions and inform circular economy enterprises, policymakers and government of the benefits of remanufacturing to achieve decarbonisation, emissions reductions and increased circularity rates in Ireland.

**MADE IN GALWAY**  
Remanufactured

**AN MHEITHEAL ROTHAR**  
GALWAY'S COMMUNITY BIKE WORKSHOP

Material	Remanufacture Bicycle	Manufacture Bicycle
New Bicycle	145.30	445.00
Steel Wire	0.05	
Steel	13.81	
Steel	1.51	
Rubber	0.51	
Road	0.33	
Polyethylene	2.39	
Polyethylene	2.00	
Aluminium	82.35	

**Life Cycle Assessment Framework**

```

graph TD
    A[Goal & Scope Definition] --> B[Inventory Analysis (LCI)]
    B --> C[Impact Assessment (LCIA)]
    C --> D[Interpretation of Results]
    A --> D
    B --> D
    C --> D
  
```

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**

[Sinead.mitchell@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Sinead.mitchell@universityofgalway.ie)

A life cycle assessment measures all stages of the life cycle of a product system



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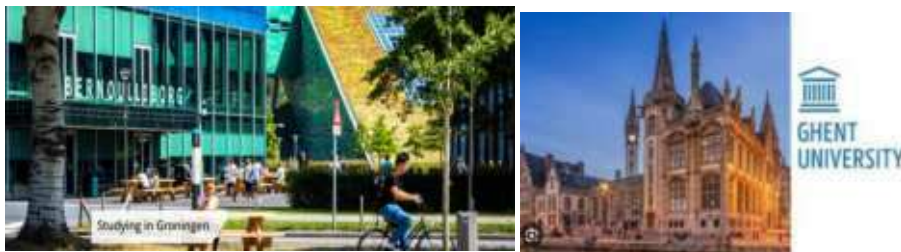


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#### Management Control of Innovation and Sustainability: Cross-cultural understanding



Given the increased diversity of the workforce and the global nature of organisations, understanding how management controls operate in different countries is important in promoting inclusive industrialization and fostering innovation. In Semester 2 2023/24, postgraduate Accountancy & Finance Students on Master of Accounting, Master of Corporate Finance and Master of International Accounting & Analytics programmes in University of Galway, will be co-taught a new topic entitled '*Management control of innovation and sustainability: Cross cultural understanding*' on module *Management control for sustainable business success* (AY5140/AY511) with students from University of Groningen and Ghent University.

The teaching content incorporates challenge-based learning and will involve analysing how management controls foster innovation and sustainability in case studies of companies in Galway and Ghent along with insights from healthcare industry speakers from Groningen. It is funded by ENLIGHT internationalisation initiatives.

Students will work in virtual inter-university teams in solving real world problems and will document the learning process in a reflective learning journal.

Professor Breda Sweeney

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Natasha Caulfield [natasha.caulfield@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:natasha.caulfield@universityofgalway.ie)



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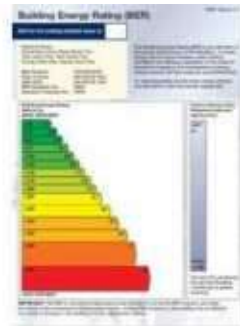


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#### HAVEN - Health Impact Assessment of Energy Renovations on Irish Domestic Dwellings



Europeans spend almost 90% of their time indoors and 50% or greater of their time at home and thus exposure indoors has an important role to play in occupant health and wellbeing. Almost one third of the global cardiovascular disease burden is attributable to exposure to ambient and household air pollution (13% and 17% respectively). Statistics from the Healthy Homes Barometer 2017, a pan European study investigating the link between health and homes across the EU report that *'Unhealthy buildings affect not only Europeans' health, but their wallets. The cost to European societies of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is €82 billion per year'*. Despite this, the impact of energy efficient measures on exposure to indoor air pollutants (IAPs) in domestic dwellings in the developed world is poorly understood.

The **HAVEN** project is the first Irish and international study to complete a health impact assessment (HIA) and health economic evaluation on energy renovations in domestic dwellings. Ireland's Long term Renovation Strategy identifies deep energy renovation as a key measure potentially capable of up to 9400GWh in energy savings in the residential sector over the period 2021-30. This study will provide a holistic view of co-benefits (other than energy savings) that energy renovations can achieve including estimation of the likely future health benefits of the programme and a measure of subjective assessment of health improvements among a sample of residents.

Europe and Ireland as a member state is at a key stage in developing its energy efficient strategy beyond 2020. The proposed study will help support this development and will also identify opportunities to improve the growth of Ireland's Energy Retrofit programme to 2050.



For more information visit:  
<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/haven/>



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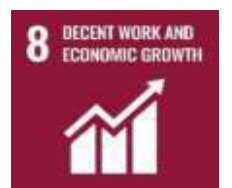
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# Mainstreaming biodiversity into policy



Recent global and regional assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) show that Nature's Contributions to People (NCP) are under an alarming threat due to the continuing loss of biodiversity. SEMRU contributed to the recent IPBES Regional Assessment for Europe and Central Asia. These assessments call for increasing conservation efforts and a more sustainable use of biodiversity to enhance the chances of halting biodiversity loss and reversing current trends. One of the strategies to achieve change is to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral policies. Mainstreaming promotes the integration of the environment into political, societal, and economic planning and decision-making. Based on the review of key studies undertaken during the regional assessment for Europe and Central Asia, we develop a stepwise approach to analyse the current status of mainstreaming of biodiversity and NCP. The approach can be used both for policy design purposes and diagnostic evaluations.



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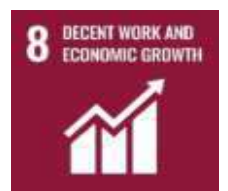
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# Native oyster reef restoration as a nature based solution for climate adaption: A cost benefit analysis



This project examines the recreational use values associated with a coastal walking trail under threat from increased episodes of storm surges and coastal erosion, and the cost of alternative grey and nature based infrastructure options that could protect it. These options involve restoring an oyster reef bar that would act as a natural breakwater versus an impermeable revetment. The results of an on-site survey of users of the amenity and a negative binomial travel cost model demonstrate that the coastal trail has considerable recreational use value to local communities. In terms of a cost benefit analysis it was found that both protection options resulted in a positive net benefit over a 20 year time horizon but the nature based solution had a benefit cost ratio multiple times larger than the grey infrastructure alternative. The results suggest a compelling case for embedding nature based solutions in climate adaption and flood management planning for low lying coastal areas where recreational resources are under threat.



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# The Social and Community Impact of Rural hubs



*“letting people live the life that they want to live in their location and not letting geography be a limiting factor”*

Unfortunately, our research finds that many small rural hubs are not being used to their full potential. Some hub users described how their productivity fell on days they were at the hub, but their well-being soared. Others needed structure, mentoring and learning opportunities to support productivity. Some examples were found of the potential of hubs to play an important role in the future of *rural digital transformation*. While phase one of rural working hubs, their physical creation is largely complete, phase two needs to identify shared goals coordinating local businesses, local community and digital entrepreneurship. Some needs and opportunities are identified:

- A better system of hub management is needed;
- Need to co-ordinate existing services with hubs for better local engagement i.e. LEOs;
- Need to formalise knowledge sharing across government agencies in relation to best practice for the development of hubs;
- Opportunities to work with larger organisations to place pods of employees at hubs;
- And universities to support student use of hubs for study space and engagement with businesses.

Dr Ann O’Brien, Prof Eoin Whelan and Prof Jonathan Levie Report J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, University of Galway, Ireland. Funded by the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics Strategic Fund and supported by Connected Hubs

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# SHAREPAIR



**Interreg**   
EUROPEAN UNION  
**North-West Europe**  
**SHAREPAIR**

European Regional Development Fund

Project objectives: to reduce the amount of waste from electrical and electronic goods, by strengthening the work of repair organizations and guiding citizens in their repair decisions and by pooling data on repair solutions.

Contact: [umair.ulhassan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:umair.ulhassan@universityofgalway.ie)

Website: <https://www.sharepair.org/>



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There is an urgent need globally, regionally and locally to identify Climate Resilient Development Pathways. This involves integrating climate mitigation and especially adaptation policies into other social, economic and environmental considerations. The Climate Resilient Places research project aims to develop our understanding of future climate risks, specifically flood hazards, at a highly local level in Ireland.

Climate Resilient Places (CREPs) is a two-year research project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transport. The project is led by researchers at the Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability (CERIS) and involves interdisciplinary collaboration between economists, engineers and psychologists at the University of Galway. The research directly addresses a number of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

To learn more about the research, please contact the PI [thomas.mcdermott@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:thomas.mcdermott@universityofgalway.ie) or scan the QR code below to find out more.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



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# From Digital to Community Transformation for Sustainable Development

Matthew Ajimati & Noel Carroll, Business Information Systems

CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT LAB  
Empowering to Sustain Digital Transformations

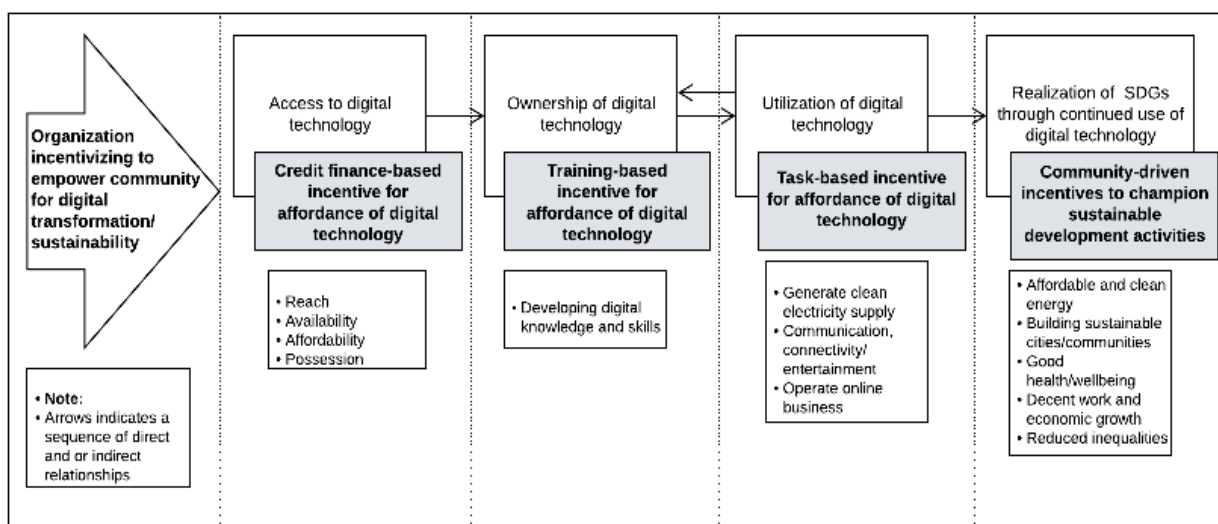


Figure 1. Incentive-based Functional Affordances Model

**Background:** scant empirical evidence exists regarding how digital technologies transform communities in bridging the digital divide between underprivileged rural communities in the digital sphere.

**Research Question:** how does an organization (i.e., Yellow Africa) adoption of low-code/no-code (i.e., Zoho Creator) technologies contribute to sustainable rural community transformation?

**Methodology:** conducted 36 interviews + archival data

**Findings:** Providing access to digital products/services of low-code/no-code solutions enabled Malawian rural communities to benefit from the affordances of digital solutions and digitally sustainable communities. Incentivizing communities with access, ownership, utilization and realization of low-code/no-code digital solutions for community transformation (i.e., addressing select SDGs, Figure 1) can sustain growth and prosperity.



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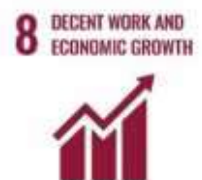
# Technostress and worker well-being in the digital gig economy

Azka Umair, Prof. Eoin Whelan and Prof. Kieran Conboy  
Business Information Systems

Online labour markets (OLMs) have recently become a widespread phenomenon of digital work. These markets include completion of location-independent digital tasks that are facilitated by online platforms such as Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) and Upwork. These markets offer a wide variety of tasks, varying from simple to complex in nature, and include data verification, data processing, audio transcription, survey taking, software development and web design, among others. The McKinsey Global Institute (2015) estimated that OLMs could contribute up to US\$2.7 trillion to global GDP, benefitting more than 540 million individuals by 2025.

OLMs offer many opportunities, such as additional income, a just-in-time workforce and flexibility. Yet, they have created significant social, economic and individual challenges. The highly competitive and fast-paced nature of OLMs compels workers to multitask and to perform intense technology-enabled work, which can potentially enhance technostress (stress induced due to the use of technology). To advance the understanding of the effects of digital technology on platform workers this research develops a model by identifying antecedents and consequences of technostress in OLMs. The research further proposes strategies for a healthier platform work environment.

The current research aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasise ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being as a fundamental requirement for decent work. If more people are working on OLMs, it is critical to understand how adverse outcomes of worker well-being materialise so that targeted interventions can be designed, tested and implemented.



Link to  
publication



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# Data Democratisation and Authentic Learning: Exploring SDG Indicators Using Analytics Tools

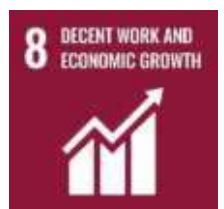
Michael Lang, Business Information Systems (Research-in-Progress)

Data democratisation is about making data accessible, understandable, and available to all for the greater good of society. It aims to reduce information asymmetry, enhance accountability, and drive innovation by enabling a broader spectrum of people to access, analyse, and utilise data (Lefebvre et al., 2021). Open data is a vital resource as individuals, organisations and governments work together towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (MacFeely, 2017; Jütting & McDonnell, 2017; Hassani *et al.*, 2021).

This research explores the innovative integration of data analytics and visualisation tools in the classroom to foster data literacy and promote active engagement with the SDGs. By merging authentic project-based learning (Cross & Congreve, 2021; Saur-Amaral *et al.*, 2023) and a flipped classroom strategy, students will grapple with real-world 'wicked' problems using open data collected from a variety of sources.

Students will be introduced to MongoDB, a NoSQL database, which has the flexibility to handle polymorphic data from sources such as the UN Statistics Database, EU Eurostat, and World Bank Data Catalog. Students will also learn to use Neo4J, a graph database, to uncover intricate relationships within the SDG data, discovering connections between indicators and identifying potential synergies or conflicts. This dynamic approach encourages critical globally-aware thinking. Finally, Tableau, a powerful data visualisation tool, brings the SDG data to life. By importing data from MongoDB and Neo4J, students will create and publish publicly-viewable interactive dashboards and visualisations that convey progress, challenges, and interdependencies among SDGs.

**Further information:** Michael Lang, Business Information Systems,  
J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics (Michael.Lang@universityofgalway.ie)



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#### “Our Undergraduate Students’ Crucibles and Their Leadership Development”



Our research of 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate students’ crucible experiences within the context of early stage leadership development, addresses SDG 4: *Quality Education*.

Crucibles are transformative experiences. They are “*a tipping point where new identities are weighed, where values are examined and strengthened or replaced, and where one’s judgment and other abilities are honed*” (Bennis & Thomas, 2002b, p. 106). Crucibles prompt deep self-reflection, compelling individuals to question their core values and priorities and may reveal previously untapped strengths, resilience, and decision-making capabilities (Day, 2010; Bennis and Thomas, 2002).

Our research addresses SDG 4: *Quality Education*, by:

- Demonstrating that a young adult’s crucible is a profound and transformative experience that can significantly shape and alter their leader identity. In all cases, the participants' narratives reveal how their crucible was pivotal in leading to deep personal growth and self-discovery.
- Contributing to the understanding of early leadership development by exploring how crucible experiences in the formative years of young adults can impact their leader identity and highlighting the importance of early life stage conceptualisations in shaping leadership potential and behaviours.
- Bridging the gap in the literature on early leadership development and the role of crucibles of loss in leader identity formation.
- Offering a unique and novel perspective that sheds light on the transformative power of crucibles of loss in early leadership development and emphasising the significance of understanding how individuals navigate and make sense of these experiences, providing valuable insights for theory and practice in leadership development and the cultivation of resilient and self-aware leaders

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### CERIS

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH  
ON INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

#### Who We Are

The Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability was established in 2019 with a mission to conduct high-quality economic research that helps develop a more inclusive society and sustainable environment, ensuring a better future for all. Our work is motivated by, and seeks to contribute to, achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since its inception, CERIS has grown to become an active, vibrant, and productive research centre. It is now home to seven full-time academic staff, ten PhD students, as well as several postdoctoral researchers, research assistants, and research affiliates.

#### What We Do

We study the causes and consequences of socioeconomic and geographic inequalities, as well as issues relating to economic and environmental sustainability. We work with national and international collaborators and our research, which is published in leading journals, has had major impact at local, national, and international levels. Our work spans a wide range of areas including agriculture, climate change, development, disability, education, energy, environment, health, housing, innovation, regional, and urban economics. We use applied microeconometrics, programme and policy evaluation, lab and field experiments, discrete choice experiments, survey techniques, big data, and geographic information systems in our research, which has been funded by numerous national and international agencies.

#### Other Activities

In addition to our active research programmes, CERIS hosts regular seminars, research workshops, and a working papers series. Our members contribute to SDG-related teaching on the MSc Global Environmental Economics, MSc Health Economics, and MEconSc International Finance programmes at University of Galway. In 2023, CERIS held its first international workshop on inclusivity and sustainability. Our planned 2024 event will bring together internal and invited external participants in Galway with the aim of showcasing and developing economics research on the SDGs.

For more information about CERIS, contact Professor John Cullinan ([john.cullinan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:john.cullinan@universityofgalway.ie)) or scan the QR code below.



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# Balance of care and Dementia

The understanding of appropriate or optimal care is particularly important for dementia, characterised by multiple, long-term, changing needs and the increasing expectations of people who need services, within a wider context of resource constrained health and social care services. The broad objective of our economics of homecare research programme at the Centre for Economic and Social Research on Dementia is to explore current and future resource allocation for different dementia case types, with and without fixed budget constraints. An expanded balance of care framework and mixed methods design, using quantitative and qualitative methodologies, has been used to explore resource allocation across the continuum of dementia care including the margin with residential care settings and acute hospital care. Our key results show: strong support among the public for the recalibration of home care towards a more person-centred allocation system based on personhood for people with dementia; a willingness among the public to pay increased taxation for greater flexibility of care provision, including tailored care provision; the importance of extending and expanding home care packages for people with dementia people living at home; the contribution of integrated care programmes in maintaining autonomy and choice for people with dementia; and the enduring role of family carers in the provision of frontline care for people with dementia. Our research also suggests that the role and importance of psychosocial interventions, including counselling and peer support programmes, are currently underestimated by providers and policy-makers. The provision of in-home respite care is also highly valued by carers. One interesting finding, however, is that even when resources are plentiful, some carers do not judge home care to be a viable option for dementia case types with the highest level care needs.



This research aligns with UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

- Carter, L., O'Neill, S., Keogh, F., Pierce, M., & O'Shea, E. (2019). Intensive home care supports, informal care and private provision for people with dementia in Ireland. *Dementia*.
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**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



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# Cost of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals

Dementia is a costly condition, expected to rise worldwide above one trillion dollars in the next twenty years, but it differs somewhat from other conditions in the way that its costs are distributed. With an estimate of 64,000 people with dementia in Ireland, the total baseline annual cost for Ireland is about 2 billion, 48% of which is attributable to the opportunity cost of informal care provided by family and friends. An increasing concern, however, is the cost of dementia care in acute hospitals. The Centre for Economic and Social Research on Dementia recently undertook a cross-sectional study based on administrative data collected on all public hospital in-patient discharges in Ireland for people aged 65 years and older. Coarsened exact matching (CEM) was undertaken to account for observed confounders between dementia and non-dementia groups, while generalised linear modelling (GLM) was used to compare differences in LOS.

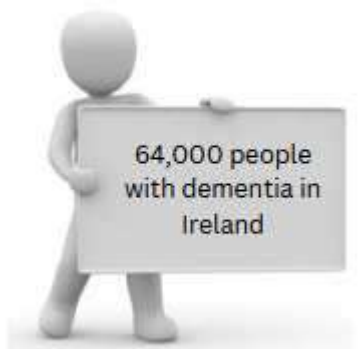
Patients with a principal diagnosis of dementia spent on average 17.5 (CI: 15.42, 19.56;  $p < .01$ ) days longer in hospital than similar patients with no principal diagnosis of dementia. LOS was 6.7 (CI: 6.31, 7.14;  $p < .01$ ) days longer for patients with a secondary diagnosis of dementia compared to similar patients with no secondary diagnosis of dementia. The additional annual cost of care for patients in hospitals with a secondary (principal) diagnosis of dementia was €62.0 million (€13.2 million). Dementia care in acute hospitals is undoubtedly professionally challenging and there are many structural and environmental obstacles to ensuring a positive hospital experience for patients with the condition. Change is required in the form of the delivery of more person-centred care by hospital staff trained in the nuances and complexity of dementia care. The likely benefit would be a reduction in length for patients with principal and secondary diagnoses of dementia in acute care settings and an associated reduction in the cost of care. This model is now being applied to a larger cross-sectional study of acute hospitals from the U.S to explore whether comparable results hold for that country.

This research aligns with UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

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#### Research Impact and Dementia Policy-Making

3 GOOD HEALTH  
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Influencing policy is a complex and time-consuming process involving many actors and agencies. For researchers, impact is a long game with many twists and turns along the way. That has certainly been the case with dementia policy in Ireland. As far back as 1999, researchers at the School of Business and Economics have sought to influence dementia policy in Ireland through the publication of a national *Action Plan on Dementia*. This was followed by the evidence-based research report – *Creating Excellence in Dementia care* - that provided the foundation and building blocks for the Irish National Dementia Strategy in 2014.



More recently, the Centre for Economic and Social Research on Dementia helped create the *New Model of Care for Dementia* in Ireland. The latter supports the pathway of care for the person with dementia, that will ensure the health system possesses the capability to respond quickly to a person's needs, including the provision of exceptional support and care. The Centre also initiated a successful Policy Dialogue process in 2019/20 to support the ongoing legislative programme for Home Care provision in Ireland. A Policy Dialogue is a structured dialogue among policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders (such as clinicians, patient groups etc.) that helps to integrate evidence and data to inform policy development. It has been defined as an ***“interactive knowledge sharing mechanism that allows research evidence to be brought together with the views, experiences and tacit knowledge of those who will be involved in, or affected by, future decisions about high priority issues”***. All invitees to the Policy Dialogue on home care, held under Chatham House rules, were sent documents and films in advance to help them to prepare to participate as fully as possible. Materials included: a short film describing Policy Dialogue rules; a discussion document setting out the context of home care in Ireland and summarised material relevant for discussion on future trajectories of care; and two short films featuring people with dementia going about their daily lives. The report on the Policy Dialogue, which was co-hosted with the Department of Health, contains ***the evidence-base for the transformation of community-based care for dependent older people in Ireland, providing an opportunity for policy-makers to gain insight into the perspectives of a range of stakeholders on key aspects of the scheme— potential scope, care-planning and organisation, regulation, and funding***. The rich seam of quantitative and qualitative research presented at the Policy Dialogue has already helped the Department of Health to ensure that the programme of legislation being developed is more in tune with stakeholders' views.

- O'Shea, E. and O'Reilly, S (1999). An action plan on dementia. Dublin National Council of Ageing and Older People.
- Cahill, S., O'Shea, E., Pierce, M. (2012). Creating excellence in dementia care: a research review for Ireland's national Dementia Strategy. Galway. Irish Centre for Social Gerontology.
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- Begley, E., Gibb, M., Kelly, G., Keogh, F., Timmons, S (2023). Model of care for dementia in Ireland. Tullamore, National Dementia Service.



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# Measuring Support for a Carbon Tax on Flights



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IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Approximately 2.5% of global annual carbon emissions come from aviation, and the sector is growing every year. Can aviation reach its net-zero-by-2050 target while increasing the total number of flights? Best estimates find this is impossible, even the most optimistic scenarios of greener technology adoption [1]. **So, how can demand be reduced?**

A tried-and-trusted method to reduce demand for an activity is to tax it. But new taxes struggle to gain public support, which makes implementation risky for politicians. The aspects of a climate policy that determine public support are its perceived effectiveness, its perceived fairness, and self-interest. In the context of flying, do certain tax designs receive more support than others?

In this research, we conducted an experimental survey investigation of public support for two types of tax on flying, namely a carbon tax and a **frequent flyer levy (FFL)**. An FFL taxes the number of flights taken rather than the carbon emissions of each flight. It is better at targeting the behaviour of the minority who fly the most, as the levy usually only applies from the second outbound flight in a calendar year, and it gets larger for each subsequent flight.

We conducted the experimental survey on a nationally representative sample of Irish adults. We explained the two types of tax and measured support, as well as perceptions of fairness and effectiveness. The experimental manipulation in the survey was that half of all participants were randomly selected to be shown an infographic on how often Irish people fly: the salient fact is that 5% of people take one quarter of all flights, with two-thirds flying zero or one time in the past 12 months.

The information treatment had a small positive effect on the preferred level of a hypothetical FFL. However, the most striking result was that support for the FFL was generally low, even among those who would not be affected by it. A follow-up experiment, which is currently being conducted, is testing how understanding of how the levy actually works - and who it targets - affects levels of support.



Dr Féidhlim McGowan

Discipline of Economics

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*This research is being conducted with Ylva  
Andersson and Pete Lunn at the ESRI.*

[1] Sacchi, R., Becattini, V., Gabrielli, P. et al. How to make climate-neutral aviation fly. Nat Commun 14, 3989 (2023).



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# The economic impact of RFLs in Irish maritime shipping



Alan Ahearne



Daniel Cassidy

The European Green Deal aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and achieve a carbon neutral economy by 2050. The 'Fit for 55 package' includes a suite of new regulations and taxes to promote Renewable and Low Carbon Fuels (RFLs) in the maritime transport sector. We use a Vector Autoregressive model (VAR) to forecast the impact of higher marine fuel prices during the transition to RFLs on Ireland's maritime transport sector and the broader Irish economy. Our analysis finds that higher marine fuel prices are expected to reduce Gross Value Added (GVA) in the maritime transport sector by nearly 8% by 2050, relative to a "no-policy-change" baseline. Our results indicate that fuel price increases will not have a material impact on overall economic activity. The negative impact on real output is projected to range from 0.09% in 2025 to 1.21% in 2050. The projected decline in real exports ranges from 0.17% in 2025 to 2.29% in 2050, while consumer prices will increase from 0.13% in 2025 to 1.72% in 2050.

Contact:

alan.ahearne@universityofgalway.ie

daniel.cassidy@universityofgalway.ie

Further reading:

Ahearne, A., Cassidy, D. The impact of Fit for 55 on Ireland's maritime transport sector and the macroeconomy. *Maritime Economics and Logistics*. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41278-023-00267-9>

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



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9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



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# Irish Economic History Through the Lens of SD



After a century of Irish independence, this study constructs long run Genuine Savings estimates, a leading economic indicator of sustainable development (SD), to reassess Irish economic history. The main difference uncovered surrounds the post-1950 period where Ireland failed to achieve economic convergence and was considered an economic failure in growth terms. From a sustainability perspective, Ireland may have been an overachiever during a “great transition” of sustainable development driven by improved institutions as well as economic and social policies to boost physical capital formation, reduce pollution and support human and social capital. The findings show the value of the sustainable development perspective in shedding new light on a country’s development experience.

Find out more – McGrath L., Hynes, S., & McHale, J., 2022. Reassessing Ireland’s economic development through the lens of sustainable development, *European Review of Economic History*, 26 (3), 399-422.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



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9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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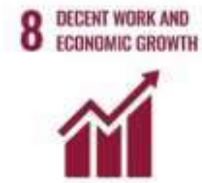
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# Linking SD w/Ireland's Well-Being Framework



Ireland's national well-being framework was announced in late 2021. This study offers a systematic review concerning two key missing links whose omission weakens the framework's coherence. 1) A lack of clarity surrounding the concept of sustainable development leading to potential confusion between the trade-offs surrounding well-being today and sustained well-being into the future. 2) A lack of spatial integration that threatens to distort policy choices regarding regional development. Considerations for the future development of the framework are presented through an amended dashboard, a suite of suggested indicators at a more disaggregated spatial level that intersects relevant well-being themes and a practical policy application monitoring the National Planning Framework.

Find out more – McGrath L., 2022. Some Missing Links in Ireland's National Well-Being Framework, *Economic & Social Review*, 53(4). & McGrath L., Hynes, S., & McHale, J., 2020. Linking Sustainable Development Assessment in Ireland and the European Union w/Economic Theory, *Economic & Social Review*, 51 (2).



<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>



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## Work in the Irish home-care sector – low-paid, dead-end job or decent work?



To find out more, please contact:  
Dr Maeve O’Sullivan | Dr Dr Áine Ní Léime

LinkedIn

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ni-leime-aine-179550a/>

 [@maeveosull](https://twitter.com/maeveosull) [@AineNiLeime](https://twitter.com/AineNiLeime)

**What:** Funded by the Low Pay Commission, this research seeks to:

1. Examine the scale and **profile of low-paid workers** in the home-care sector;
2. Explore what home-care workers and providers perceive to be **decent and meaningful work**;
3. Examine the implications of extending working life policies for women workers **in physically-demanding, precarious employment**;
4. Unpack the nature of the current **recruitment and retention crisis** in care work;
5. Identify solutions to the recruitment and retention issues through a bottom-up approach, **capturing the voice** of home-care workers and providers;
6. Provide a set of **policy recommendations** regarding pay and the provision of decent and meaningful care work which meets the needs of home care workers and service-users;
7. Contribute to and extend the **academic discourse** on this area.

**How:** 1-2-1 interviews with **30 home-care workers** employed by (a) the HSE, (b) private sector agencies and (c) directly by families.

**Why:** While this sector is currently in crisis, the situation is likely to **deteriorate** further;

- Caring work is **crucial, demanding and underpaid**;
- The Irish population is **ageing** due to increased life expectancy and declining fertility rates;
- Public policy is focused on providing **domiciliary care** for older people.



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# Connect to Innovate: MedTech in Galway and Costa Rica

The Med Tech clusters in Galway and Costa Rica are at different stages of development. Both clusters are borne from the attraction of manufacturing-based foreign direct investment (FDI). Whilst Galway has since developed a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem flourishing alongside high value add foreign investment operations; Costa Rica has yet to make this transition. Crossing the chasm from almost wholly FDI-focused to a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem enhances regional resilience and requires innovation. This research explores how one region in a more advanced sector (Galway in Med Tech) can enhance another less advanced sector in a region (Med Tech in Costa Rica) through knowledge transfer linkages. Using in-depth interviews, we investigate the multiple linkages that exist between Med Tech companies in the two regions – direct value chain linkages and more indirect non value chain linkages - to ascertain what and how inter-regional knowledge transfer and learning takes place. We also examine the role of Government supporting research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the respective regions.

Galway and Costa Rica are two regional nodes in the Med Tech Global Value Chain, and this research demonstrates how such nodes at different stages of evolution and development can influence and impact each other.

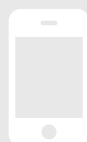
Contact: Dr Majella Giblin,  
Majella.giblin@universityofgalway.ie  
Joint research project with Dr Paul Ryan and Dr Giulio Buciuni, Trinity College Dublin and Dr Carlos Rodríguez INCAE Business School, Costa Rica



Dr Carlos Rodríguez, INCAE Business School and Dr Majella Giblin, University of Galway. Majella visited Costa Rica in December 2022 to conduct interviews



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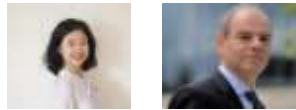
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# Megatrends-

## What the future will be like?



What do you think will be the big trend for the future of the world? What are the influences that it brings along? And why do you think so? Students in Megatrends work in groups to conscientiously scan the environment, and investigate the world's most significant long-term trends in society, technology, climate or demography. Each group's topic may address one or more sustainable development goals as shown in the SDG images; some researched topics by student groups are listed below.

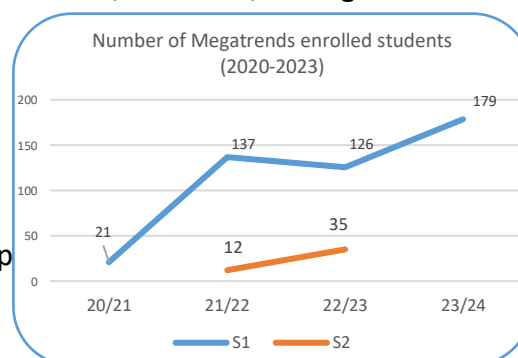
The Megatrends module has attracted a spectacular growing number of students since its first delivery in 2020, from 21 students to 179 students (number enrolled by 10<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2023). For more details please refer to the line chart.

#### Teaching approach:

- Student-centred teaching
- Transdisciplinary insights and teamwork (lecturers and students)
- Research-based presentation through interviews, fieldwork, filming and desk research

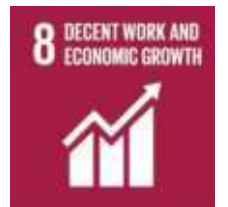
#### Selected topics presented by students:

- Cashless society
- Vertical farming
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Rural Decline: Communities on the Cusp
- The rise of plastic use in our lives
- Mass migration in the global society

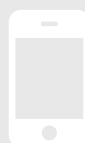


Future student presentations, in the form of a conference, will be open to university students and staff. Welcome to the final Megatrend conference! Please email me if you are interested or have ideas on the module; we will update you with a Megatrends Conference timetable in due course.

Dr. Yixin Qiu (yixin.qiu@universityofgalway.ie)  
Prof. Jonathan Levie (jonathan.levie@universityofgalway.ie)



Scan QR code to  
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(module coordinator)



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# Remote Working & Emissions



“Will increased remote working reduce emissions from commuting? Evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic”

**Authors:**

Eoghan Clifford, Ronan Cooney,  
Joseph Mee (Engineering)

Anna Farrell, Thomas K.J.  
McDermott & Alma McCarthy (SBE)

As part of the Remote Working in Ireland project, researchers from the School of Business & Economics in collaboration with colleagues from Engineering at University of Galway, have been investigating the relationship between remote working and emissions from commuting.

The findings from the project, which combines survey evidence with detailed modelling of emissions, suggest that emissions from commuting in Ireland would fall by 60% if workers’ preferences for remote working were facilitated. This would also see weekly commuting time drop by 3.5 hours for the median respondent to the survey.

However, the analysis also reveals that those commuting less frequently tend to accept longer commute distances, with survey respondents also likely to consider relocating in response to increased remote working opportunities. This means that over the longer-term, emissions reductions from remote working might be eroded by unsustainable patterns of spatial development.

The research underlines the need for complementary policies to ensure the potential gains from remote working are realised and unintended negative effects kept to a minimum.

To find out more about this research, please contact [thomas.mcdermott@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:thomas.mcdermott@universityofgalway.ie), or click on the QR code below to learn more about the Remote Working in Ireland project.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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# Team skills development to advance the UN SDGs

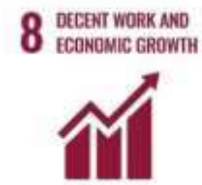
The School of Business' Undergraduate Skills Development Programme, sponsored by PwC, gives opportunities to student teams to explore the advancement of the UN SDGs in a variety of settings. This is done through three 5 ECTS modules positioned through most of the School's undergraduate degrees. It includes approximately 1,200 students each year, help to raise their awareness and apply business principles to societal challenges..

In 2022-23, in their 1<sup>st</sup> Year of studies, student teams have analysed city and regional energy strategies with some teams collaborating with students from Drexel University, Philadelphia. This year, the focus will be on the circular economy and product re-use, again with a cross-Atlantic university dimension.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of their studies, student teams take the Leading Ireland's Future Together(LIFT) programme and are tasked with applying values-based leadership to social challenges of their choosing.

In the Final Year of their degree, students teams are tasked with developing social businesses targeted at SDG aims of their choice with a view to devising sustainable and profitable solutions to societal challenges.

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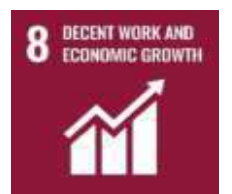
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# Ecosystem service values from Blue Carbon Habitats



The BlueC project is a multidisciplinary project that aims to investigate Ireland's Blue Carbon (BC) potential through a scientific, socio-economic and legislative approach. Blue Carbon is the carbon sequestered and stored by marine ecosystems, in particular carbon in vegetated, tidally influenced coastal ecosystems such as tidal marshes, mangroves and seagrass meadows. In Ireland, there is approximately 100 km<sup>2</sup> of saltmarsh habitat and approximately 62 km<sup>2</sup> of seagrass habitat, which are the main blue carbon ecosystems (BCEs). Additionally, as an island it is home to a vast marine territory that contains many potential BCEs. This research programme attempts to fill the gap in knowledge regarding the scale, nature, extent, dynamics and values of Irish BCEs. Managed properly, BCEs can be part of a suite of nature based solutions to climate change, yet they are under threat worldwide. A 2012 study estimated that at current rates of land conversion, annual global economic damages due to lost carbon storage amounted to US\$2.6 bn for tidal marshes and US\$6.1 bn for seagrasses.



The BlueC project is carried out with the support of the Marine Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency



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### Sustainable Development Week 2023 18-23 September

*An exploration of Ukrainian Asylum Seekers' experience of working in the hospitality sector: **An Ireland/Scotland collaborative study***



**Dr Deirdre Curran & Dr Maeve O'Sullivan**

University of Galway, Ireland



**Prof Tom Baum & Dr Anastasios Hadjisolomou**

University of Strathclyde, Scotland



#### Background:

- More than 3.5 million people have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion.
- The unique consequence of the Russian war on Ukraine provided an unimagined scenario for these people who ended up in Ireland or Scotland whereby, as refugees, they (uniquely) had immediate access to employment opportunities.
- A coincidental acute post-pandemic labour shortage provided a serendipitous opportunity for hospitality establishments to access labour.

#### Study aims:

To explore the lived experience of workers who found themselves in another country, working in hospitality establishments.

#### Methodology:

A mixed-method, multi-stakeholder approach incorporating:

- A survey of Ukrainian hospitality workers based in both Ireland and Scotland covering demographic, employment and the 'lived experience' information;
- Audio files detailing experiences of working in hospitality since moving to Ireland and Scotland;
- 1-2-1 interviews with some hospitality employers in Ireland and Scotland.



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## **Female Entrepreneurship & Regional Inequality**

This research project investigates the experiences, strategies and outcomes for female entrepreneurs in the North West Atlantic Innovation Corridor region.

The research will contribute to our understanding of how female entrepreneurs engage with their eco-system in establishing and growing their new ventures and how this can support this lagging region

The research is carried out in partnership with key female entrepreneurship programmes and networks on the island and unique insights into the process of establishing and growing start-ups.



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# University of Galway Tax Clinic

**Emer Mulligan and Maggie O'Neill**



The Tax Clinic offers free confidential tax information to university students and marginalised citizens. Tax student advisors, overseen by pro bono tax professionals empower individuals through one-on-one tax consultations. This initiative nurtures the client's ability to independently handle tax matters, fostering social inclusivity.

The Tax Clinic supports SDGs 16 and 17, targeting enhanced public administration and promoting transparent institutions to facilitate peaceful, inclusive societies. In line with Goal 17, Target 17.1, and Goal 16, Target 16.6, we are committed to bolstering trust in administrative systems and championing the essential role of taxes in realizing SDGs.

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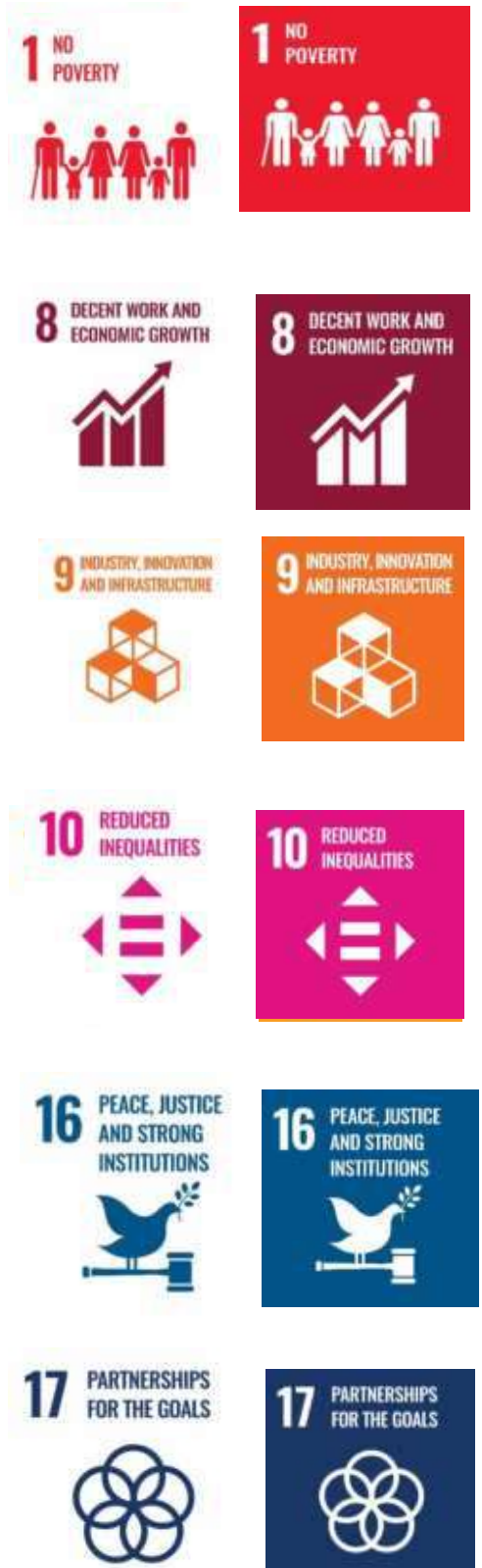
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# Advancing Sustainable Development through Integrating Technology in Tax Administration

**Emer Mulligan, Edidiong Bassey & Adegboyega Ojo**

Technology integration has revolutionized revenue collection and management of fiscal policies in tax administration. Innovations such as AI, blockchain, and big data analytics have the potential to strengthen institutions, promote transparency and accountability, and enhance service delivery. To achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goals like promoting peace, justice, strong institutions (SDG 16), industry growth, technological advancement, and infrastructure (SDG 9), and partnership for the goals (SDG 17), successful integration of technology in tax administration requires collaboration between governments, technology companies, and multilateral institutions. As part of an IRC project, my colleagues and I interviewed tax officials in a number of tax administrations to understand how technology in tax administration can help achieve these goals. It is important to recognize that careful planning, ethical considerations, and equitable access to technology are crucial to maximizing its positive impact while addressing challenges such as data privacy and job displacement. Finally, successful technology integration can reduce tax evasion and fraud, leading to sustainable revenues for governments to provide social welfare programs, reducing poverty (SDG 1), inequality (SDG 10), and promoting economic growth (SDG 8).







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#### Health Technology Assessment at University of Galway

**Health technology assessment (HTA):**  
a multidisciplinary process that summarises information about the **medical, social, economic and ethical issues** related to the use of a health technology in a **systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner**.

Its aim is to inform the formulation of **safe, effective, health policies** that are **patient focused** and seek to **achieve best value**.

(EUnetHTA)

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**



The aim of the **Health Economics and Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC)** is to develop, apply and teach methods for the economic analysis of health and health care. HEPAC researchers apply health economic methods to explore a range of **health and well-being** research questions. In the methodological domain of **health technology assessment**, health economists at the School of Business and Economics have engaged in multiple multidisciplinary collaborations to examine the **cost effectiveness** of various *healthcare interventions* and *health technologies*.

This research agenda aligns to **UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being**.

#### Key Collaborative Links:

- Health Research Board (HRB) Diabetes Collaborative Clinical Trial Network Ireland*
- Health Research Board (HRB) Clinical Research Facility Galway (CRFG)*
- Health Research Board (HRB) Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland*
- Health Research Board (HRB) Evidence Synthesis Ireland (ESI)*
- Health Research Board (HRB) Trials Methodology Research Network (TMRN)*
- CÚRAM, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre on Medical Devices*



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For more information:  
<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health-economics/>

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#### Health Economics of Medical Devices at University of Galway

The aim of the **Health Economics and Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC)** is to develop, apply and teach methods for the economic analysis of health and health care. HEPAC researchers apply health economic methods to explore a range of **health and well-being** research questions. In the case of **medical device technologies**, health economic evidence is, and will increasingly be, used to inform reimbursement and market access decisions in Ireland and internationally. Notably, methodological issues arise in the application of standard health economic methods to the analysis of medical devices, and further methodological research and development is required. In this context, HEPAC researchers are working on a programme of research with **CÚRAM**, the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Research Centre on Medical Devices.



The aim of this project is to develop and apply valid health economic methods for the analysis of medical devices and health technologies to inform policy and practice in Ireland and internationally. In particular, the project employs two related but distinct methodological approaches:

- **Early Health Economic Appraisal:** Guidance and support to inform the development of a 'value proposition' for the potential cost effectiveness of the health technology
- **Health Economic Evaluation:** Guidance and support to undertake definitive analysis of the cost effectiveness of the health technology



This research agenda aligns to **UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being**



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#### Health Economics of Diabetes at University of Galway



The aim of the **Health Economics and Policy Analysis Centre (HEPAC)** is to develop, apply and teach methods for the economic analysis of health and health care. HEPAC researchers are currently applying health economic methods to explore a range of **health and well-being** research questions. In the clinical area of **diabetes**, health economists at the School of Business and Economics have engaged in multiple multidisciplinary collaborations to explore questions relating to costs, health outcomes, health preferences, and cost effectiveness of healthcare interventions. This work has led to portfolio of research output and impact.

This research agenda aligns to **UN SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being**

#### Key Collaborative Links:

- Health Research Board (HRB) Diabetes Collaborative Clinical Trial Network Ireland
- Health Research Board (HRB) Clinical Research Facility Galway (CRFG)
- Health Research Board (HRB) Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland
- Health Research Board (HRB) Evidence Synthesis Ireland (ESI)
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# Drugmex Fulfils the First Covid-19 Vaccine in Mexico

Case accepted for publication in: **Birdthistle, N. & Hales, R. (2023)**; Family Businesses on a Mission: Attaining the Sustainable Development Goal of Good Health and Well-Being. Emerald Publishing.

Drugmex, a family-owned, active product ingredients manufacturer, was founded by a young Argentinian accountant in 1990. The business operates in the pharmaceutical industry in Argentina, Mexico and Buenos Aires. This case study examines the family-owned business, and describes how it was chosen by the Mexican government to deliver the first Covid-19 vaccine into Mexico in March 2021.

This case study charts the historical development of the family business, how its patriarchal and culture of social justice underpins its mission and values to produce affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all (SDG#3.8).

The business model of Drugmex involves three key activities:

1. Trading of drugs – reselling drugs to customers and suppliers (mostly Chinese and Indian customers).
2. Consulting, using its industry knowledge, and working with customers for product development as cheaply as possible. This element of the business is really to help and develop medicines for benefit of the public good, aligning to SDG#3 Target 3.b, ensuring affordable medicines to all.
3. The factory, a demanding business due to regulatory requirements.

#### Impact and Goals of SDG#3

In the context of Latin America; private industry competes with the government in terms of its ability to be responsive to social needs and impact on society. Many multinationals, do not enter Latin America. Drugmex gives to society not only as evidenced by the fulfilment of the COVID-19 vaccine, but it also undertakes extensive charity work in all areas of society.

The social justice values of the three partners, which transcend the culture of the business, meant that there was no resistance by employees to deliver the vaccine and stop all other medicine production, thereby losing many customers. This, of course, was a major challenge for the business, however, the value of working for the greater good has meant that the business remains fully capable of sustaining itself into the future.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



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Discipline of  
Management,  
University of Galway.  
Dr Alejandro Delaney,  
Owner of Drugmex and  
Professor at Florida  
International  
University).  
Dr Deborah Mireles,  
PhD Graduate  
University of Galway



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# At the Cyberface



Delivering specifically on SDG 9 (To build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation), a new 10 ECTS taught course on the School's new MSc Cybersecurity Risk Management has 3 of its 5 learning outcomes directly framed by the STG:

1. Identify Cybersecurity threats and learn how to defend against them
2. Assess and manage Cybersecurity risk
3. Discuss evolving and emerging issues in Cybersecurity

The course is titled Cybersecurity Risk Management, running in semester 1. To realise these SDG-focused outcomes, the course involves hands-on CyberRange activities where students attack and defend using technological systems, interactions with numerous industry people at the cyber coalface regionally and globally, and direct exposure to industry best practice in cybersecurity risk management.

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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



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## Celebrating Wondrous Diversity on our Campus



Dr Deirdre Curran

Working with a group of volunteer **Diversity Champions** in our College, we captured images of wondrous diversity. Images taken **by** our students, **of** our students, **on** our campus, to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion. Our goal is to highlight and celebrate difference and thereby **#reduceinequality**.

If you would like to hear more, feel welcome to contact [deirdre.curran@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:deirdre.curran@universityofgalway.ie)



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# SDG-Related Public Value through Digital Technologies in Public Administration

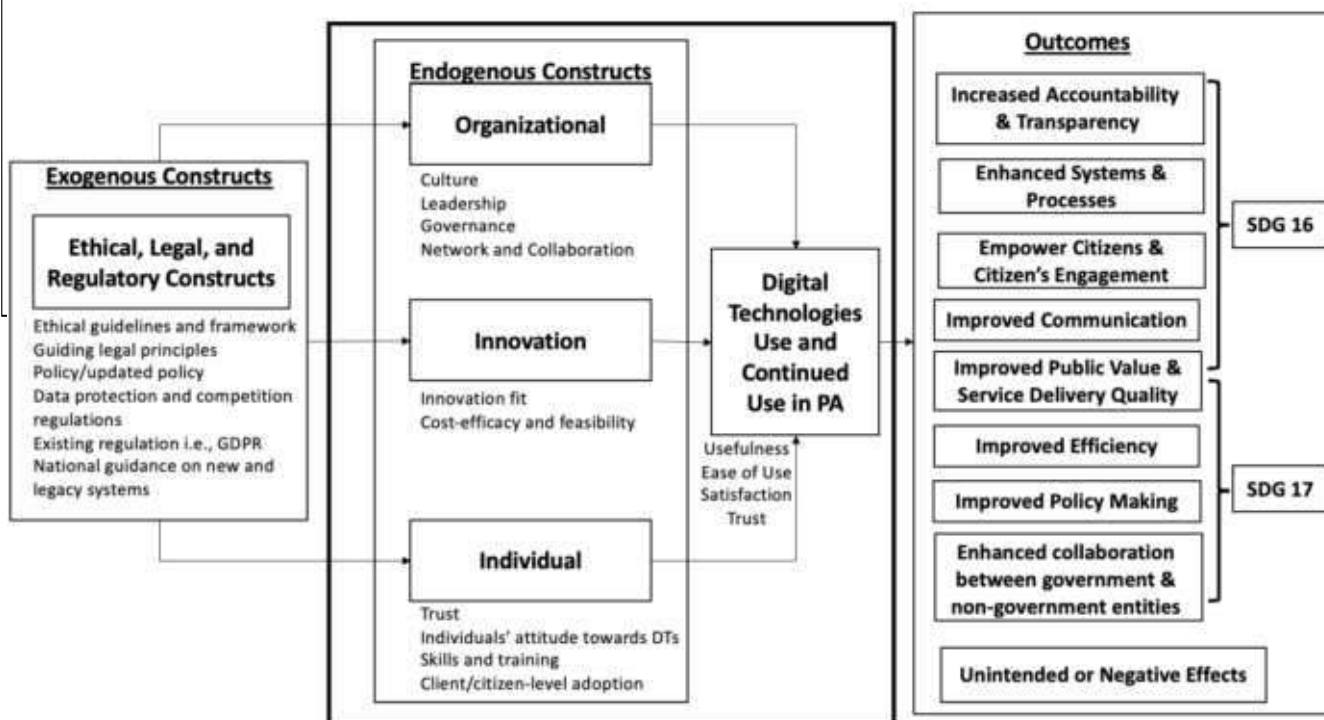
Grace Sheila Walsh, Adegboyega Ojo,  
Fatemeh Ahmadi Zeleti and Emer Mulligan

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16 and 17 are linked to several public value outcomes achievable through SDG realisation. The integration of digital technologies, particularly in tax administrations, can enhance these outcomes, aligning with the trend of digitalisation in the public sector to improve services. Despite challenges like risk-aversion, legacy systems, and new issues introduced by these technologies, they continue to stimulate interest for increasing transparency, efficiency, and fairness. This systematic review explores the role of digital technologies in reaching SDG-related public value outcomes, offering a model that outlines the keys to successful adoption.

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# Virtually Engaged Positive Ageing: Enhancing engagement and connectivity

Virtual-EngAge examines the potential of everyday communication devices to support the maintenance, development and re-purposing of retirement association groups for social connectivity, critical information communication and advocacy in virtual environments. In doing so, it will inform the development of a technology mediated participation platform for older people.

This interdisciplinary programme harnesses social gerontology and computational science and linguistics to address the nexus of digital exclusion and limitations in multifaceted engagement in later life. Intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, this nexus reflects long-standing, systemic issues facing ageing societies which include: (1) digital exclusion and socio-technical innovation barriers to inclusive technology development for ageing societies; (1) the lack of collective engagement opportunities and voice for older people; and (3) the sustainability of grass-roots organization that can support this voice.

Virtual-EngAge uses an assets-based approach, and along with academic papers and policy briefs, will produce a Technology-mediated communication map, enhanced engagement pathways, and design criteria for digital participation platforms.

Contact: Kieran Walsh – [Kieran.walsh@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Kieran.walsh@universityofgalway.ie) and Arianna Poli – [arianna.poli@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:arianna.poli@universityofgalway.ie)



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# HOMeAGE – Advancing Research and Training on Ageing in Place

HOMeAGE is a nine country, Marie Skłodowska Curie (MSCA) Doctoral Network Programme. HOMeAGE aims to institutes an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international programme of doctoral training and research that drives the development of new leaders in excellence for the advancement of evidence-based innovation on ageing in place. HOMeAGE tackles three interrelated challenges by pursuing three strategic objectives with the work of 12 doctoral researchers (DRs) and their individual research projects (IRPs).

### CHALLENGE 1

#### Needs & Systems

#### Objective 1 – DRs 1-4

HOMeAGE will identify flexible and sustainable housing, community-care and mobility systems and critically assess their capacity to support community living needs, across various cultural and structural conditions.

### CHALLENGE 2

#### Home & Belonging

#### Objective 2 – DRs 5-7

HOMeAGE will harness new engagement pathways as a means to create new channels for building a sense of home and belonging amongst diverse older populations, in diverse places.

### CHALLENGE 3

#### Rights & Voice

#### Objective 3 – DRs 8-12

HOMeAGE will identify integrative frameworks, that are responsive to the diversity of older people and their places, to drive relevant and rights- based policy development on ageing in place.



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# Service Involvement and Lived Experience (SILE) in Health and Social Care Services

The SILE study aims to investigate service involvement, or Public and Patient Engagement, in health and social care services for population groups susceptible to health, and care service inequalities. It identifies current levels of engagement, existing understandings and goals, and the key challenges impacting involvement for these groups.

SILE focuses on service involvement with: (1) those who use drugs and alcohol; (2) those who experience homelessness; (3) those who experience mental health challenges; (4) those from migrant, minority ethnic and Roma backgrounds; and (5) members of the Traveller community. Using a mixed-method, multi-level and participatory approach SILE captures and integrates the lived experiences of these groups, with the tacit knowledge of national stakeholders and services providers to inform an inclusive and effective public and patient engagement for the five groups.

The research will address international research gaps with respect to how service involvement can account for the health and social circumstances of the five populations and the structural barriers that they face. SILE study outputs will include peer-review articles, a national report and co-produced policy recommendations to inform forthcoming HSE agendas with respect to Public and Patient Engagement.



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### Sustainable Development Week 2023, 18-23 September

# Economics of Ageing: Supporting the well-being of family carers of people with dementia



Community-based care for people with dementia is mainly provided by family carers, many of whom experience decreased mental, physical and financial well-being due to their caring role. Many countries are now implementing ageing-in-place policies that have increased pressure on family carers as care-work is redistributed from residential to community-based settings. Family caring responsibilities for people with dementia are made even more complicated by the economic, social and cultural expectations that underpin existing provision. Support for family carers is, therefore, an important policy topic across many countries. The focus of this paper was on the propensity of citizens to support enhanced care for family carers in Ireland, as demonstrated by their willingness-to-pay additional taxation to fund different combinations of carer support measures, developed through careful and sustained dialogue with multiple stakeholders, especially family carers themselves. We carried out a discrete choice experiment (DCE) with 509 members of the general public in Ireland between January and February 2021. Using mixed logit models, our findings show that citizens value four key attributes: regular caring breaks for family carers (day-care and long-break respite); financial compensation (carer's allowance); and emotional support (carer peer support groups). We also estimated the welfare impact of moving from current provision to enhanced support packages for family carers of people with dementia. The welfare gains accumulate to €1035.80 for the most complete levels of provision across the four support attributes. Overall, respondents in this paper showed empathy and understanding towards family carers of people with dementia through their willingness to contribute to funding additional services and supports.

Teahan, Á., Walsh, S., Doherty, E. & O'Shea, E. 2021. Supporting family carers of people with dementia: A discrete choice experiment of public preferences. *Social Science & Medicine*, 287, 114359

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# Economics of Ageing: Palliative care for people with advanced dementia

Figure 4. Forest plot of comparison: 1 Organisation and Delivery versus Usual Care, outcome: 1.1 Comfort in dying (CAD-EOLD).



Figure 8. Forest plot of comparison: 2 Advance Care Planning versus Usual Care, outcome: 2.10 Documentation of advance directives.



Figure 9. Forest plot of comparison: 2 Advance Care Planning versus Usual Care, outcome: 2.12 Goals of care discussion.



In this research, we conducted a Cochrane systematic review to assess the effect of palliative care interventions in advanced dementia. Advanced dementia is characterised by profound cognitive impairment, inability to communicate verbally and complete functional dependence. Usual care of people with advanced dementia is not underpinned universally by a palliative approach. Palliative care has focused traditionally on care of people with cancer, but for more than a decade, there have been calls worldwide to extend palliative care services to include all people with life-limiting illnesses in need of specialist care, including people with dementia. We searched for randomised (RCTs) and non-randomised controlled trials (nRCTs), controlled before-and-after studies and interrupted time series studies evaluating the impact of palliative care interventions for adults with advanced dementia of any type. We searched ALOIS, the Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group's Specialised Register on 7th October 2020. We found nine suitable studies that involved 2122 people. The studies came from the USA, Canada, the UK and Europe. Overall, we found that the evidence on palliative care interventions in advanced dementia is limited in quantity and certainty. When compared to usual care, changes to the organisation and delivery of care for people with advanced dementia may lead to improvements in comfort in dying, but the evidence for this was of very low certainty. Advance care planning interventions, compared to usual care, probably increase the documentation of advance directives and the occurrence of discussions about goals of care, and may also increase concordance with goals of care. The uncertainty in the evidence across all outcomes in both comparisons is mainly driven by imprecision of effect estimates and risk of bias in the included studies.

Walsh, S. C., Murphy, E., Devane, D., Sampson, E. L., Connolly, S., Carney, P. & O'Shea, E. 2021. Palliative care interventions in advanced dementia. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

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# The People's Trial

## online public engagement

The People's Trial was the first online only public led randomised trial. Taking a fun educational approach to trial methodology. It aimed to help the public better understand randomised trials by inviting them to design and carry out a trial. Carried out over 6 rounds of asking the public to participate in all aspects of the trial process.



All welcome



Accessible information



Deciding the question

Finucane, E., O'Brien, A., Treweek, S., Newell, J., Das, K., Chapman, S., Wicks, P., Galvin, S., Healy, P., Biesty, L. and Gillies, K., 2021. Does reading a book in bed make a difference to sleep in comparison to not reading a book in bed? The People's Trial—an online, pragmatic, randomised trial. *Trials*, 22, pp.1-13. [ann.obrien@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:ann.obrien@universityofgalway.ie)



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# Responsible Management & Leadership: Postgraduate Module

Managers and leaders are increasingly confronted with challenges related to ethics, responsibility and sustainability (ERS). Managing and leading responsibly is an integrative approach regarding the role of business in collaborating to achieve ERS goals, while creating long-term sustainable business models.

This postgraduate module (taught on MBA and MSc in Sustainability Leadership programmes) facilitates students to engage in changing organisational practices to make them more responsible, with a focus on transformative change.

The module provides a foundation to mainstream management concepts and follows by illustrating the application of responsible management and leadership in practice. Using a balance of theory and practice, including application of central tools such as stakeholder management in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), students analyse key sustainability / ESG challenges encountered by business leaders, and generate real-life solutions towards resolving these. This involves partnering with Galway Chamber of Commerce member organisations for SDG materiality analyses and ESG reporting recommendations. It also includes an interactive demo delivered by the Chambers Ireland 'SDG Toolkit for Business' author, and guest talks from ESG experts in KPMG and Boots Ireland.

Dr. Johanna Clancy delivers this module and designed it as one element of her MA in Academic Practice (2022) unpublished dissertation: *"Institutionalising Responsible Management Education in a Business School for the Public Good"*.



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# UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The **Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)** is a United Nations-supported initiative, founded in 2017. PRME's vision is to create a global movement and drive thought leadership on responsible management education (RME). Its mission is to transform management education and develop the responsible decision-makers of tomorrow to advance sustainable development.

PRME engages business and management schools through drawing attention to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the [UN Global Compact](#). PRME is underpinned by *Six Principles: Purpose, Values, Method, Research, Partnership, and Dialogue*. With over 850 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organised relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.

J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics (SBE) has recently signed up to PRME and is engaged in the work of the PRME UKI Chapter. In addition to this network, PRME offers its members access to nine Working Groups, which provide a platform for knowledge-sharing, learning, and peer-to-peer support, including co-development of resources, tools, curricular approaches and teaching methods. Other PRME initiatives include PRME Global Students and PRME i5. The UKI Chapter holds three annual competitions – Student Writing Competition, Faculty Innovative Pedagogy Competition, and Faculty Research Seed Funding Competition.

As we strive to embed the SDGs in our research, teaching and engagement activities, PRME is a valuable and supportive initiative, which all our School members are welcome to get involved in. If you would like further information, please see <https://www.unprme.org/> and / or contact **SBE PRME Lead, Dr. Johanna Clancy** ([Johanna.clancy@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Johanna.clancy@universityofgalway.ie))



The work of PRME addresses all SDGs, with focussed impact on:



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# Hygiene Hub: Working to Tackle Hygiene Poverty



**Hygiene  
Hub**



Founded in 2019 by three Irish women, **Hygiene Hub** is the only organisation tackling hygiene poverty in Ireland. The charity has a vision for everyone in Ireland to have equal access to hygiene and household cleaning products. Through its network of partners and more than 50 volunteers, Hygiene Hub advocates for change through education, research and campaigns.

Dr. **Johanna Clancy** is a volunteer with the Galway branch of Hygiene Hub. She has led many local drives and has collected and donated over 300kg of hygiene and household cleaning products to family resource centres, homeless and women's refuge centres across Galway City and County since 2021.

In 2022, a partnership was formed with the **University of Galway's Students Union (SU)** and last year, the SU collected almost 200kg of donations. The SU holds monthly donation drives, encouraging students and staff to donate at the Students' Union office on the last Friday of each month, starting Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

This year, the School's first **MSc in Sustainability Leadership** students are completing a self-organised virtual 5k October run/walk, and are kindly donating monies raised to Hygiene Hub Galway.

For more information, or to get involved, contact [Johanna.clancy@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Johanna.clancy@universityofgalway.ie) and / or keep an eye out for the Student Union's monthly campaigns, and / or visit <https://www.hygienehub.ie/>.



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# Foroige NFTE Social Enterprise pilot

Foroige, Ireland's largest voluntary youth organisation, with the support of Dr. **Johanna Clancy**, has designed a Social Enterprise pilot module as part of its Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) programme. NFTE is a world-recognised, youth entrepreneurship education and development programme. It is currently being delivered to almost 5000 students in schools and youth centres across the country.

In 2023, the **Department of Rural and Community Development**, with remit for national social enterprise development, awarded funding to Dr Johanna Clancy (P.I.), Dr. **Veronica McCauley** and Dr. **Paul Flynn** (both of the School of Education) to evaluate the impact of the Social Enterprise pilot module. The objective of this ongoing study is to measure and showcase social enterprise impact, thus giving credibility to the programme's impact, support its necessary funding, and highlight the essential role of government.

In 2023, the project was a nominee in the 8th Annual Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards "*Excellence Through Collaboration*" category.

For more info: [Johanna.Clancy@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Johanna.Clancy@universityofgalway.ie)



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



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## J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics Sustainable Development Week 2023 18-23 September

### Costs of Discrimination and Benefits of Diversity for Business in Ireland

Áine Ní Léime and Nata Duvvury

**To find out more,  
please contact:**

Dr Áine Ní Léime



**What:** Funded by Science Foundation Ireland and hosted by the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth DCEDIY this research seeks to:

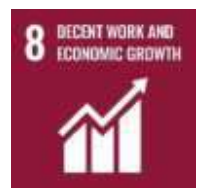
- Investigate the costs of wage discrimination in Ireland
- Investigate the rationale for and benefits of implementing diversity policies for businesses in Ireland
- Explore the challenges encountered in introducing diversity policy and practice for people with disabilities and migrants by businesses in Ireland.
- Provide **policy recommendations to help** promote diversity in the workplace.
- Produce a Diversity Index that may be used to assess the level of diversity practices by Irish businesses.

**How:** Conduct decomposition analysis on wage differentials

Conduct a scoping review, interviews and a pilot survey of Irish businesses

**Why:**

- People with disabilities and some groups of migrants have lower wages and are less likely to be employed than the general population *generating loss to the economy*
- There is a lack of research into the diversity policies and practices of Irish businesses and a need to establish baseline data.
- Diversity policy and practice for disability and migrant status is at an early stage for Irish business
- The research findings will help inform public policy in promoting decent sustainable work and reducing inequality.



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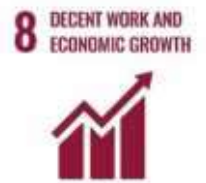


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**Sustainable Development Week 2023 18-23 September**

## **Promoting Decent Work in Hospitality**



Emerging from pandemic, the need to create more **decent work** in hospitality became more acute. Promoting change in the lived experience of hospitality workers requires a critical debate founded on solid research evidence.

Through my research I am engaging with political leaders, union representatives, employers, workers, and customers so that everyone has the potential to influence change.

Almost everyone has an interest in this sector and all voices matter. **#togetherbetter**



Dr Deirdre Curran

For more information, feel welcome to contact

[Deirdre.curran@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Deirdre.curran@universityofgalway.ie)



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#### EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND HUMAN CAPITAL IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



Human capital, which combines the knowledge, skills and health that enable people to realise their potential, is key to economic empowerment and sustainable economic growth.

Parents play a vital role in developing children's human capital, via investments in their health and education, as well as the time spent with their children in their early years.

Through research examining education and human capital investment in sub-Saharan Africa, we document cultural and institutional determinants of children's human capital.

In many cultures, parents have preferences toward sons. This means the gender composition of one's siblings can play a large role in determining the human capital investments a child receives. In my research, I show that parents view inheritances and educational investment as substitutes. This means that if children are not in line to inherit property, then having a brother has a negative impact on one's own education as brothers provide greater competition for investments than sisters. These effects are reduced when parents can also transfer inheritances to their children.

Many developing countries have introduced universal free primary education in recent decades. In ongoing work, we find that, in more gender-equal cultures, free education reduces the number of births, but not the number of living children born to mothers. These results highlight improved health and thus human capital among children born after the introduction of free education.

Research has documented that parents invest more in children with higher initial levels of human capital. Such a practice fosters inequalities in human capital across siblings. In an upcoming project, we seek to identify the cultural traits that cause parents to reinforce or mitigate these initial differences in human capital.



Dr Matthew Collins

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