



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## E - Bulletin Newsletter 05/06/2026

Dear PPN Member,

Welcome to our E-Bulletin!

Our E-Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with Cork County Public Participation News and to keep you connected to other communities, events, training, and information.

Whilst Cork County Public Participation Network has **almost** 800 member groups, it has the potential to reach so many more - so forward this email to your committee members and volunteers!

I hope you find this helpful. Get in touch if there is anything you would like to include in future editions, we may even make you our next Group of the Week!

Watch a short video animation about Cork County PPN - Click the following [link](#).

Check Out our Website [Link](#)

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – [Cork County PPN](#)

Instagram – [@corkcountypn](#)

Happy Friday,

Noelle xx



# Public Participation Network **Cork County**

News & Events: .....	3
Get involved! .....	14
#fundingfriday .....	17
Consultations: .....	21



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## News & Events:



Cork  
Volunteer Centre  
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

## POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE KINSALE LIBRARY

JUNE 23  
TUESDAY  
10:30-12:00



**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Speak 1:1 with Cork Volunteer Centre staff
- Find out more about the services Cork Volunteer Centre provides to volunteers and non-profit organisations
- Register as a volunteer and apply for volunteer opportunities
- Advice on recruiting and managing volunteers for community groups



Any questions? Contact: [gosia@volunteercork.ie](mailto:gosia@volunteercork.ie)



# Public Participation Network Cork County



## POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE MIDLETON HUB

JUNE 24  
WEDNESDAY  
10:30-12:00



**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Speak 1:1 with Cork Volunteer Centre staff
- Find out more about the services Cork Volunteer Centre provides to volunteers and non-profit organisations
- Register as a volunteer and apply for volunteer opportunities
- Advice on recruiting and managing volunteers for community groups



Any questions? Contact: [gosaia@volunteercork.ie](mailto:gosaia@volunteercork.ie)



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## What is a DPO – Information Session

### What is a DPO?



#### Information Session

**Learn. Connect. Get Involved.**

An information session to explain what a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) is and how you can get involved.



For disabled people  
and allies

**YOUR VOICE.**  
**YOUR RIGHTS.**  
**YOUR COMMUNITY.**



**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**  
14:00 – 16:00



**The Lombard Room**  
The Mercy Centre,  
Fair Street,  
Mallow, Co. Cork,  
P51 PF10

To register or find out more:



[corkdpo26@gmail.com](mailto:corkdpo26@gmail.com)



Call or text Nicola  
087 718 9237



Cork County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

**NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US.**



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## Path 4 funding for Level 5 'Certificate in Cultural Citizenship' opportunity

### Certificate in Cultural Citizenship

*Access to third level education for people with intellectual disabilities*

In this course you will experience life on campus and learn about advocacy and communication. You can then choose to study one area: food & drinks (hospitality) or music or sport or art.

You will be on campus one day a week - Thursday in year one. You will get support. You will learn about yourself as a person and how to learn and work with others.

The programme will help you to prepare for getting a job or continue your studies.



This is an NFQ Level 5 programme and it is part-time.



This programme is located on the MTU Bishopstown Campus. If you choose the art elective you will also be in the MTU Crawford College of Art & Design. If you choose the music elective you will also be in the MTU Cork School of Music.



This programme is for people age 18+ with intellectual disabilities who have experience of second level education.



For more information and to apply you can contact the course coordinator Emma.Cubitt@MTU.ie or scan the QR code below.



The course offers students the chance to experience campus life, build confidence, develop communication and advocacy skills, and choose an elective in areas such as art, music, sport, or hospitality.

**Programme for Access to Higher Education** covers the cost so that adults with intellectual disabilities can take part without fees.

<https://www.mtu.ie/courses/cracuci4/>



# Public Participation Network **Cork County**



## Skills For Life

Grow the skills you need at your local library

All of these events are free to attend, but events with a **Book Now** button require booking in advance. You can find contact details for all of Cork County library branches [here!](#)

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### Garden Ideas and Skills Workshops

**BOOK NOW**

Join Éidín Griffin for a creative workshop around garden ideas and skills.

From beginners to experienced gardeners there will be something for everyone. From simple design ideas, companion planting and plant propagation to long-term garden health and biodiversity. You will get inspired and receive some lovely seeds and cuttings to take home.

📍 **Castletownbere Library** on Friday 5th June at 11.30am

📍 **Mitchelstown Library** on Saturday 13th June at 11.30am

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### From Garden to Skincare

**BOOK NOW**

Discover how everyday herbs and flowers can be transformed into natural skincare products. Take home your own skincare blend.

📍 **Kinsale Library** on Saturday 13th June at 11am

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### Virtual Reality Workshops

**BOOK NOW**

Have you ever wondered what Virtual Reality is? Join Ann Burns for an interactive workshop where you will step inside the image and see how immersive media can shape what we see, feel and believe.

📍 **Clonakilty Library** on Saturday 27th June at 11am

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### Dementia Awareness Workshops | Alzheimer Society of Ireland

**BOOK NOW**

Dementia is not simply a health issue but a social issue that requires a community response. Learn how you, your business, sporting club or community organisation can help create a dementia-inclusive community in your local area.

📍 **Mallow Library** on Tuesday 30th June



## Public Participation Network Cork County

Please choose from one of the timeslots below and email [laura.curtin@alzheimer.ie](mailto:laura.curtin@alzheimer.ie) to book your place.

- 10am to 12pm
  - 12.30pm to 2pm
  - 3pm to 5pm
- 



### Infant Mental Health Week: Happy Talk Session

Join Aoife O'Shea HSE for stories, songs and rhymes aimed at children aged 0-6 years.

📍 **Bandon Library** on Thursday 11th June at 11am

### Men's Health Week: Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls

Norma Mulcahy, Neuromuscular Therapist, will give practical guidance on how to stay steady on your feet and work towards preventing slips, trips and falls.

📍 **Macroom Library** on Friday 12th June at 11am

📍 **Fermoy Library** on Tuesday 23rd June at 11am

### Men's Health Week: Men's Nutrition Talks

Presented by Registered Dietician Aoife McDonald. While these sessions are tailored to men's health, all are welcome to attend. Whether you're looking to improve your own well-being or support the men in your life, this is a great opportunity to learn more about nutrition.

📍 **Bandon Library** on Friday 19th June at 11am

📍 **Kinsale Library** on Friday 19th June at 2pm

## Other Library Events :

### 📍 Bandon Library

- **Gramophone** | Thursday 4th June at 11am
- **Pokémon Card Swap Hour** | Saturday 27th June at 3pm. Parental supervision is required.
- **Crafters** | Tuesdays at 10am
- **Ciorcal Cainte** | Wednesdays at 10.30am
- **45 Card Club** | Wednesdays at 3pm. Enjoy a few games of 45.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

- **Knitting Group** | Fortnightly on Thursdays at 11am. Contact library for date of next meeting.
  - **Bridge Club** | Thursdays at 2.30pm
  - **Creative Writers Group** | Fortnightly on Saturdays at 11am. Next meetings on 6th and 20th June.
  - **STEM Saturdays** | Saturdays from 10am to 12pm. Construction play for children. Parental supervision is required.
  - **Family Lego Hour** | Saturdays at 3pm. Parental supervision is required.
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### 📍 **Bantry Library**

- **Lego Club** | Saturdays 6th and 20th June from 11am to 1pm
  - **Storytime and Craft (Ages 4-7)** | Saturday 13th June at 11.30am
  - **Shared Reading** | Tuesday 16th June from 2.30pm to 4pm
  - **Games and Puzzles** | Morning of Saturday 20th June
  - **Spanish Conversation** | Wednesdays at 10.30am
  - **Comhrá Gaeilge** | Thursdays at 12pm
  - **Fibre Craft** | Thursdays from 2.30pm to 4pm
  - **Knitting** | Fridays from 11am to 1pm
  - **Chess (Ages 6-16 years)** | Fridays from 4pm to 5pm
- 

### 📍 **Carrigaline Library**

- **SECAD CV Workshop Drop-In** | Tuesday 9th June from 10am to 2pm
  - **Summer Stars Launch** | Saturday 13th June (All Day). Storytime, arts & crafts, and more!
  - **Gramophone Circle** | Thursday 18th June from 11am to 1pm
  - **Ciorcal Cainte** | Friday 26th June at 3pm
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### 📍 **Charleville Library**

- **Ciorcal Cainte** | Saturday 6th and 20th June at 3.30pm. New members are welcome.
  - **Adults Book Club** | Thursday 25th June at 3pm. Limited spaces, please call the library.
  - **Crochet Group** | Wednesdays at 10.30am. New members are welcome.
  - **LEGO Club** | Saturdays Fortnightly at 3pm. For ages 8 and over, booking is essential as places are limited.
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### 📍 **Clonakilty Library**

- **Ciorcal Comhrá** | Fridays 5th and 19th June at 11am



# Public Participation Network Cork County

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## 📍 Dunmanway Library

- **Youth Chess Club** (Ages 8-13) | Saturdays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June at 11am
  - **Lego Hour** | Saturdays 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th June at 3.30pm
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## 📍 Fermoy Library

- **Adults Writing Workshop with Author Mary Noonan** | Thursday 18th June at 11am
  - **Poetry Reading** | Saturday 27th June from 1pm to 3pm
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## 📍 Kanturk Library

- **MABS Information Session with Jacklyn Foley** | Friday 26th June from 10am to 12pm
  - **Storytime** | Saturdays at 11.30am
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## 📍 Kinsale Library

- **Ciorcal Cainte** | Tuesdays at 3.30pm
  - **Tots Time** | Wednesdays at 10am
  - **Summer Stars Storytime** | Saturday 20th June at 11am. Suitable for children 7 and under.
  - **Pop-Up LEGO Session** | Saturday 20th June from 1.30pm to 4pm
  - **Cork Volunteer Centre Pop-Up** | Tuesday 23rd June from 10.30am to 12pm. A great opportunity to speak to staff about volunteer services.
  - **Age Friendly Social Group** | Thursday 25th June from 11am to 1pm. Chat with new friends and enjoy board games, tackle crosswords, jigsaws and more. All are welcome.
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## 📍 Mallow Library

- **YA Creative Writing Showcase** | Saturday 6th June at 2.30pm. An afternoon celebrating the creativity and imagination of our Young Adult Book Club.
  - **Adult Bingo** | Friday 12th June at 2pm
  - **The History of Doneraile Court** | Saturday 13th June at 2pm. Presented by Mark Leamy, OPW. Learn how Doneraile Court grew from a family estate into a national heritage landmark beloved by visitors from across Ireland.
  - **Volunteer Tutors Required for Age Action Digital Literacy Classes** | Classes will run for 5 weeks on Fridays from 10.30am to 12:30pm. Training and support will be provided. Contact Mallow Library for more information.
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# Public Participation Network Cork County

## 📍 Mitchelstown Library

- **Sleep Well, Live Well** | Tuesday 16th June from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Hosted by Ballyhoura Development, [click here](#) to book.
  - **Storytime** | Saturday 20th June at 11.30am
  - **Local Studies Talk** | Tuesday 23rd June at 11.30am
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## 📍 Passage West Library

- **Conversation Café** | Wednesday 10th June from 10.30am to 12pm. Last meeting before the summer break.
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## 📍 Skibbereen Library

- **Creative Writers Group** | Saturdays 6th and 20th June at 11am
  - **Co-Action Volunteer Clinic** | Tuesday 9th June at 11am
  - **Poetry Circle** | Wednesday 10th June from 11.30am to 1pm
  - **Skibbereen Show Launch** | Thursday 18th June at 7.30pm
  - **Adult Book Club** | Tuesday 30th June at 11am
  - **Knitting Group** | Wednesdays at 10am
  - **Conversation Group** (For people with English as their second language) | Thursdays at 2pm
  - **Gach Duine - Peer Support for Disabled People, Carers, and Family** | Fridays at 10.15am
  - **Chess for Adults** | Fridays at 2.30pm
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## 📍 Youghal Library

- **Match Attax card Swap** | Saturday 6th June from 2.30pm to 4pm. Parental supervision is required.
- **Art Group** | Saturday 13th June at 11am
- **Adult Book Club** | TBC
- **Youghal Lacemaking** | Wednesdays at 11am
- **Knitting and Crochet** | Thursdays at 11am
- **French Conversation Café** | Thursdays at 3.30pm
- **Creative Writing Group** | Alternate Fridays at 3.30pm. Contact Youghal Library for date of the next meeting.
- **Storytime** | Saturdays at 11am
- **Junior Book Club** | Inviting expressions of interest. For children aged 9-12 years. Contact Youghal Library for more information and to book a spot.



## Public Participation Network Cork County



## EUROPE DIRECT

Carraig Uí Leighin  
Carrigaline

**Europe Direct** is an information service that links YOU, the citizen, to the European Union. The newly established Europe Direct Centre at [Carrigaline Library](#) is your starting point for finding information about the EU.

The centre provides access to material covering a wide variety of topics, including:

- General information about how the EU works
- Information about the various EU institutions and agencies
- The latest news about EU affairs and events
- Information about citizen rights in the EU

[Europe Direct Carrigaline](#) is one of eight Europe Direct centres in Ireland, which in turn is part of the Europe-wide network of Europe Direct centres. Carrigaline Library is home to Europe Direct for Cork and Kerry.

### What services are provided at Europe Direct Carrigaline?

- A selection of free EU publications and brochures covering a wide range of EU related topics
- Access to free public computers to search for specific information about EU related matters
- Free telephone access to the Europe Direct Citizen's Helpline to assist with queries on any aspect of the EU

### What type of queries can Europe Direct help me with?

- Enquiries about how to obtain an EU Passport
- Information about matters relating to EU legislation and policy
- Requests for information on setting up a business in the EU
- Information about citizen and consumer rights in the EU



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

## **Art for the Heart Doneraile**



Doneraile Arts Festival and Plein Air 2026 will take place from Thursday, 25th June to Sunday, 28th June in County Cork.

Festival highlights include:

- Plein Air competitions offering a top prize of €1,000.
- A Junior Plein Air competition for young artists under 15 years old.
- Workshops led by experienced artists covering acrylics, oil & printmaking techniques.
- Craft workshops, including willow weaving and botanical plaster art.

Check their website for more information: [Doneraile Arts Fest](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Get involved!

### Secretariat Vacancies:

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs, but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road !

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN. Its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

#### **Commitment Involved:**

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website [Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](#)

- or reach out to [PPN@corkcoco.ie](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie) and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Current Vacancies:

**2 x Vacant** seats – Carrigaline Municipal District

**Vacant** seat – East Cork Municipal District

**Vacant** seat – Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District

**Vacant** seat – Macroom Munciple District

**2 x Vacant** seats – Environmental Electoral College

[Cork-County-Secretariat-Nomination-form](#)

## Further vacancies:

### SPC Vacancies:

**Economic Development & Enterprise SPC:** 2 seats vacant (any pillar)

**Tourism SPC:** 1 seat vacant (any pillar)

**Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC:** 2 seats vacant (any pillar)

**Arts, Culture & Language SPC:** 1 seat vacant (any pillar)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-SPC-Nomination form final](#)

### LCDC Vacancies:

- **North Cork** (2 Social Inclusion vacancies)
- **South Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)
- **West Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-LCDC-Nomination-form](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Join Our Linkage Groups!

Linkage Groups bring together stakeholder organisations and groups who are members of the PPN with a common interest to discuss their diverse views and interests in a specific policy area.

This is a pathway for such organisations and groups to have a real input into policy in their respective area of operation.

Linkage Groups are an essential component of the work of the PPN.

They are independent networks of community groups who are interested in a common theme such as Arts, Community, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Planning, Social Inclusion, Transport or Tourism (and more).

Linkage Groups work to influence change. They do this through advocating for policy changes on behalf of the community through PPN Reps engaging with Cork County Council and other bodies appropriate to the issue or subject matter of advocacy.

After our recent Plenary meeting, we are proposing four Linkage Groups:

1. Housing, Planning, Transport and Community Safety
2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Tourism
3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth, Enterprise & Recreation

Please let us know if your group would like to join to any of these Linkage Groups, by emailing [ppn@corkcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@corkcoco.ie).

By making submissions to a Linkage Group, you can support our SPC and LCDC Reps and give them a mandate to bring to the Council.



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

**#fundingfriday**

## **Applications Now Open for Coca-Cola Thank You Fund**

The 2026 Coca-Cola Thank You Fund is now inviting applications until Friday 26 June.

With €100,000 in grant funding available this year, the Fund's total investment in youth and local community organisations since 2011 will surpass €2 million, supporting programmes that empower young people through inclusion, wellbeing and future work readiness.

This year's Coca-Cola Thank You Fund theme focuses on Inclusion & Wellbeing for Future Work Readiness, helping young people aged 16 – 25 develop the confidence, capabilities and practical life skills needed to successfully navigate education, training and employment pathways.

[Read the full details](#)

## **Nominations Now Open for AIB Community €1 Million Fund 2026**

AIB has launched the fifth year of the annual AIB Community €1 Million Fund. The nationwide Fund will support more than 70 charities in 2026, helping to deliver meaningful change at local level.

AIB will donate €760,000 to charities chosen by customers and the community, with a further €300,000 allocated to charities selected by employees.

Nominations will close Friday, 19 June 2026 at 5.00pm - [Read the full details](#)



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

# **€750,000 Power to Participate Fund for Disabled Persons' Organisations Launched**

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley and the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Emer Higgins have launched a new €750,000 Power to Participate Fund for Disabled Persons' Organisations and eligible Civil Society Organisations.

Power to Participate: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement Fund 2026 will make individual grants available to organisations that are led by and include disabled people so they can work with Government Departments on policies and initiatives to deliver on the National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030.

Power to Participate: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement Fund for Disabled Persons' Organisations and Civil Society Organisations is open now and will close on Friday 26 June 2026.

[Read the full details](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# €10 million Capital Scheme for Early Learning and Childcare Services

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality Norma Foley has announced the opening of a €10 million capital funding scheme to deliver a significant number of additional early learning and childcare places.

The Building Blocks Extension Scheme Phase 2 will provide grants for community and private early learning and childcare services who are Core Funding partner services to increase their capacity by means of extensions to their existing premises.

Community providers can apply for a capital grant of between €100,000 and €530,000 to extend their existing premises. Private providers can apply for a capital grant of between €50,000 and €265,000 to extend their existing premises.

All projects will be required to deliver net increases in full-time places for one to three-year-olds. Projects will also be required to incorporate Universal Design Guidelines.

There are two strands to the Scheme, as follows:

### **Community strand:**

- Community providers can apply for a capital grant of between €100,000 (minimum) and €530,000 (maximum) to extend their existing premises.
- Match funding is not a requirement.
- Project values between €100,000 and €680,000 will be eligible.
- Any additional project costs between €530,000 and €680,000 must be funded by the provider.

The closing date for applications is 31 July 2026. This will ensure that all applicants have sufficient time to engage with their design teams and their solicitors prior to the closing date. The outcome of the appraisal process will be communicated to services in September 2026.

[Full details here](#)



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

## **Applications Open for the Traveller and Roma Local Employment Initiative**

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley has announced the opening of applications from eligible organisations for funding from the Traveller and Roma Local Employment Initiative.

Organisations with experience in providing local recruitment, training, employment and/or advocacy supports to Travellers and Roma, as well as those with a background in community development or peer outreach, are encouraged to apply to deliver the Traveller and Roma Local Employment Initiative.

In parallel, applications are also invited for the role of national Traveller and Roma Local Employment Initiative Coordinator.

Applications for both the local employment initiative and the Coordinator role must be submitted by email to [equality@dcde.gov.ie](mailto:equality@dcde.gov.ie) by 12.00 midday on 17 June 2026.

[Read the full details](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Consultations:

## National survey on how people experience research in Ireland

This week saw the launch of the **Research in Ireland Barometer 2026**, a national initiative led by Research Ireland (Taighde Éireann) to better understand how people across Ireland experience and relate to research in their everyday lives.

Support is being sought from community groups, voluntary organisations, and local stakeholders. Hearing directly from communities is essential to ensure that research policy and funding reflect people's lived experiences, priorities, and needs. The survey is open to anyone aged 16 and over who is resident in Ireland and will remain available for three months. There is a particular focus on reaching voices that are not usually included in conversations about research.

PPN members are encouraged to circulate the survey link and QR code across their networks.



In addition, community focus groups will be held nationwide over the summer. The survey responses will help ensure these discussions reflect a broad and diverse range of perspectives. This engagement will support the development of more inclusive, representative, and meaningful findings, helping to inform how Research Ireland and the wider research system engage with society into the future.

#### [Barometer link](#)

For further information, reach out to [jennifer.cassidy@researchireland.ie](mailto:jennifer.cassidy@researchireland.ie) or visit the Research Ireland website [Research in Ireland Barometer | Research Ireland](#).