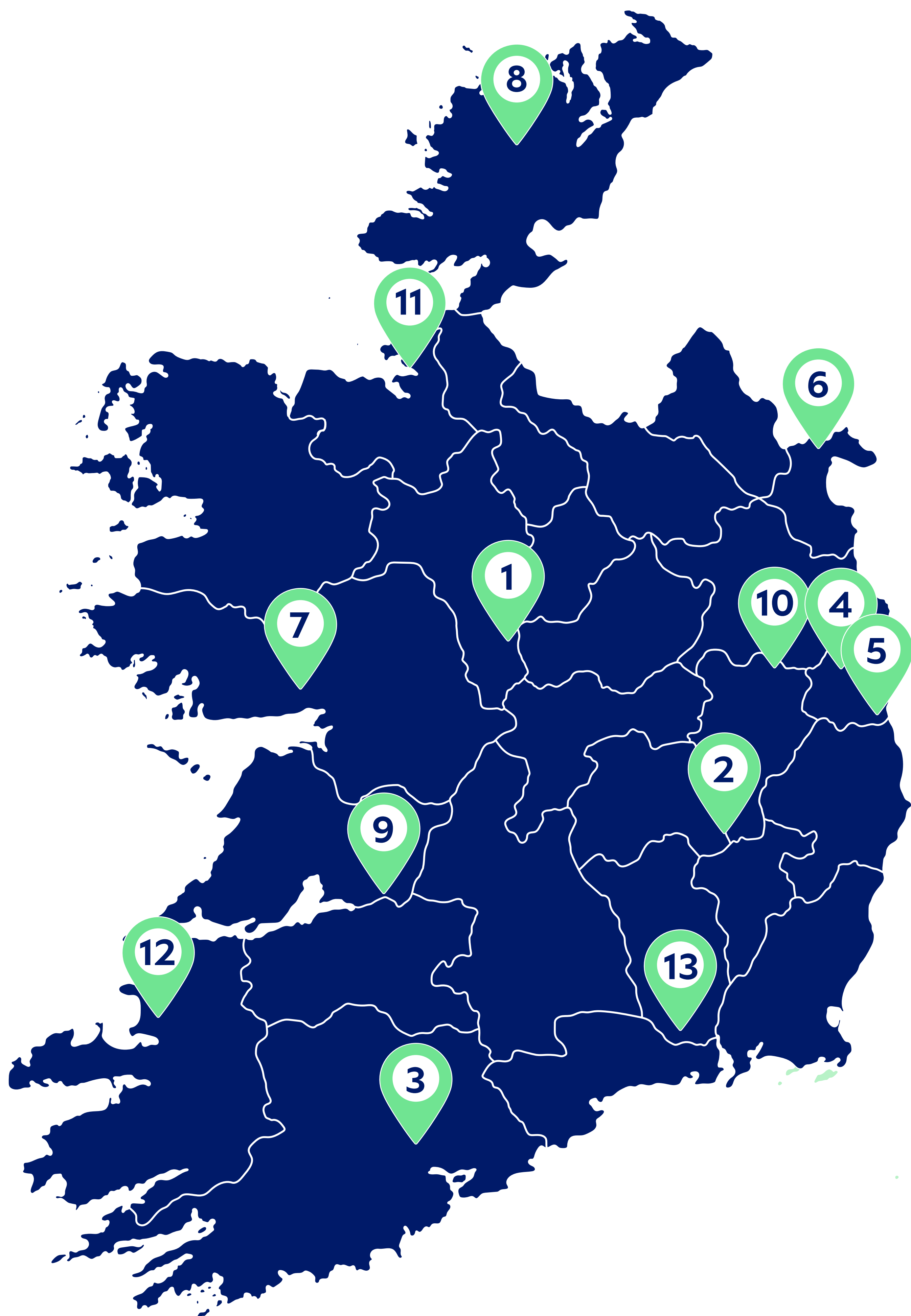


Working with a consortium to help establish a baseline of good research integrity practice across the Republic of Ireland



Over 30 institutions



15,000+ researchers trained

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Athlone
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest</p> <p>2 Carlow
South East Technological University Teagasc</p> <p>3 Cork
Irish Cattle Breeding Foundation
Munster Technological University
University College Cork</p> <p>4 Dublin
Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
Dublin City University
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
Health Research Board
Health Service Executive
Irish Manufacturing Research Ltd.
Research Ireland
Marino Institute
National College of Art and Design
National Institute for Bioprocessing Research & Training
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Royal Irish Academy
Technological University of Dublin
Trinity College Dublin
University College Dublin</p> | <p>5 Dún Laoghaire
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology</p> <p>6 Dundalk
Dundalk Institute of Technology</p> <p>7 Galway
Atlantic Technological University
Marine Institute, Oranmore
University of Galway</p> <p>8 Letterkenny
Atlantic Technological University</p> <p>9 Limerick
Mary Immaculate College
Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest
University of Limerick</p> <p>10 Maynooth
Maynooth University</p> <p>11 Sligo
Atlantic Technological University</p> <p>12 Tralee
Munster Technological University</p> <p>13 Waterford
South East Technological University</p> |
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Origins & Initial Rollout

The National Research Integrity Forum (NRIF) has been in place since 2015 and was born out of the 2014 National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland, updated in 2019. It includes a partnership between the higher education institutions (HEIs), state research performers, research funders, and other stakeholders in higher education. Following on from the aims in the National Policy Statement, the Forum decided to put in place a national training programme on research integrity, an aim that was mirrored in the Irish National Research and Innovation Strategy (2015).

In 2017 the Epigeum *Research Integrity* programme was selected by the institutions involved, for a 2018 start. The project was managed by the Irish Universities Association (IUA) and the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA), working on behalf of the NRIF until 2022. The NRIF now runs the project and is led by a steering committee at a national level.

Key Goals

One of the key goals was to harmonise training curricula, so the NRIF team determined that a national subscription to the training would best

achieve that goal, ensuring that the same baseline training in research integrity could be provided across the HEI landscape in Ireland, as well as some state-funded research performing organisations.

Research funding agencies started to clarify the need for research integrity training and some have made it mandatory for all funding applications.

The Programme

Building on the existing UK *Research Integrity* programme, Epigeum worked closely with representatives of the IUA and THEA to tailor the programme content to the Irish context.

- Self-paced, interactive online programme
- 8 core modules and 5 specialist modules, designed for flexible delivery
- Suggested blended learning activities

Benefits & Impact

The main benefit to implementing this training across the Irish higher education and research system was that it ensures that no-one gets left behind. Other positives experienced have included that being part of a consortium agreement gave the training more legitimacy. Because it was part of a national agenda, this strengthened the need for it

even further. In addition, the project has helped to instill a research integrity mindset within institutions, created an awareness of good research practices amongst researchers, and fostered an environment of honesty and excellence throughout research practice. Furthermore, belonging to a consortium offers high-quality training in a very cost-effective way.

All members of the consortium can choose whether to access the training via the Epigeum platform or host it on their VLE/LMS. Approximately 25% of them use their VLE/LMS, liking the ability to customise the programme, while the rest prefer the Epigeum platform, particularly for its easy-to-run certification process.

Future Plans

In this fast-moving field, it is important to ensure that training materials are up-to-date, and in July 2024 Epigeum will be launching the latest update of the *Research Integrity* programme for Ireland, assisted by an Irish working group who ensure that the materials meet the needs of HEIs in Ireland. Alongside the Epigeum publishing and academic partnerships teams, our implementation team support all the member institutions throughout the duration of the contract, via email, webinars, and biannual User Group Meetings.