

ESRI ANNUAL REPORT 2016



The Council is the Institute's overall governing body and acts as its board of directors. In association with the director and staff, the Council is responsible for the development of the Institute's research strategy. The Council meets quarterly and is supported by its three sub-committees: Audit and Risk, Business and Operations, and Governance and Nominations. Section 7 provides a short biography of Council Members.

The Council

MEMBERS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016



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Chair***



***Prof. A. Barrett,
Director***

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PROFESSOR S. SHORTALL, Newcastle University

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) aims to advance evidence-based policymaking that supports economic sustainability and social progress in Ireland. The Council of the ESRI supports this work by setting and overseeing the Institute's strategic objectives, establishing the required quality standards and ensuring that the independent analysis provided by the Institute remains relevant to the economic and social issues facing policymakers in Ireland today. While the Council is responsible for internal governance, Council members play no role in preparing or commenting on specific research.

This Introduction sets out the Council's views on how the Institute maintains its reputation as a centre for excellence in independent policy-focused research. It also includes a brief overview of the Institute's governance and its research output in 2016, the third year of its 2014–2018 research strategy.

Independence and Funding

The Institute's research strategy reaffirms the importance of the ESRI's commitment to producing research that is independent, objective and of high quality. Independence is assured through the contractual relationships between the Institute and its clients and underpinned by a policy of publishing research, regardless of the findings or source of funding. Quality, objectivity and independence are further supported by a rigorous peer review system, which is examined regularly by the Council, and by peer reviews of the Institute itself.

In recent years, the Institute has focused on building financial sustainability through multi-annual programmes of research funded by a number of government departments and agencies. These programmes are discussed in Section 2. The Council acknowledges the importance of the continued support from government in the form of grant-in-aid, which comes from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. It recognises the significant contribution of many government departments and agencies that funded research programmes in 2016. The other major sources of research funding for the Institute come from competitive funding processes, both in Ireland and in the EU.

The Council also recognises the contributions of individuals and companies that are subscribing ESRI members. These membership subscriptions support the work of the Institute and contribute to ensuring its independence.

Council Governance

The Council of the ESRI continues to ensure that its standards of corporate governance operate to the highest level. The Institute adheres to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies where relevant.

There is a high level of awareness regarding where potential conflicts of interest can arise and a strong commitment to ensuring that Council membership is appropriately balanced. The Council's Nominations sub-committee monitors the membership to ensure that the Council has the requisite skills, broad sectoral coverage and gender balance. Normally, Council membership is for a three-year period, with a renewal being common for a further three years. Council members are not paid any fees for their membership of the Council. Members are nominated through a formal process and elected at the Institute's AGM.

Professor Philip Lane, Governor of the Central Bank, came to the end of his term in November in 2016. The Council wishes to commend Prof Lane for his contribution to the work of the Institute throughout his time on the Council. In 2016, Mr Pdraig McManus continued his term as Chairman. Philip Lane, John Buckley and John Martin served on the Audit and Risk sub-Committee; Hannah McGee, Brid O'Brien and Alan Barrett served on the Business and Operations sub-committee; and Emer Gilvarry, Pdraig McManus and Alan Barrett served on the Nominations Committee.

At the beginning of 2017, the Council welcomed 4 new members: Mr Patrick Rabbitte, former Minister and former leader of the Labour Party, Mr Ronan Murphy, former Managing Partner of PwC and current board member of Davy and Liberty Insurance, Professor Rowena Pecchenino, Department of Economics, Maynooth, and Mr Sean O’Driscoll, President of the Glen Dimplex Group.

Peer Review 2016

In 2010, the first peer review of the Institute was undertaken and the Council made a commitment at the time to undertake such reviews approximately every five years. The second peer review was undertaken in 2016.

The review panel was made up of six members - Brigid McManus (Co-Chair), Chairperson of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment; Michael G. Tutty (Co-Chair), Member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC); David Blackaby, Professor of Economics at Swansea University; Christian Dreger, Research Director for International Economics at DIW Berlin; Ingrid Schoon, Professor of Human Development and Social Policy at the Institute of Education, University College London; Chris Taylor, Professor of Education Policy at Cardiff University.

The following quote sums up the positive assessment which was provided:

“Overall the Panel was impressed with the scope and quality of the work conducted by the ESRI and its impact on policy and setting the research agenda in Ireland. The ESRI occupies a unique and important place in Ireland’s economic and social research and policymaking ecosystem. It has a strong reputation for credible, objective, independent research of an excellent academic standard and of strong policy relevance. Its work is a point of reference in many public policy debates and has an influential impact on policymakers’ deliberations.”

Research Outputs in 2016

In 2016, the Institute advanced its research strategy through significant output across its 12 research areas. Its research was disseminated in 34 reports, 59 journal articles and 22 book chapters, in addition to two Research Notes and five Special Articles published with the *Quarterly Economic Commentaries*. Summaries of journal-published research studies were published in 17 Research Bulletins. Work-in-progress was disseminated in 29 working papers.

Significant research achievements in 2016 included the launch of a newly developed macroeconomic model called COSMO (COre Structural Model of the Irish Economy), which allows for the simulation of policy changes and economic shocks. ESRI researchers used the model to test the possible impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) diversion from Ireland following the UK’s departure from the EU, and the impact of the proposed Common Consolidated Tax Base (CCCTB). The findings of this research were published in December in *Ireland’s Economic Outlook: Perspectives and Policy Challenges*.

In November, a conference took place to mark the Institute’s 50th year of conducting social research. Research alumni joined current researchers to discuss the contribution ESRI research findings have made to addressing social policy issues across a range of areas including education, gender equality and health inequalities.

Growing Up in Ireland

In 2016, the *Growing Up in Ireland* study published its latest set of *Key Findings* publications, documenting the lives of 17- and 18-year-olds in Ireland focusing on four areas: education and early work experiences; health, weight, physical activity and diet; life satisfaction, relationships and mental health; and risky behaviours and sexual activity. These were launched at the annual *Growing Up in Ireland* Research Conference in November, during which ESRI researchers and researchers from external institutions presented 25 papers using *Growing Up in Ireland* data.

In October, the ESRI published a book titled *Cherishing All the Children Equally? Ireland 100 Years on From the Easter Rising*. The landmark publication draws on 10 years of findings from the *Growing Up*

in Ireland study to provide a comprehensive picture of inequalities among children in contemporary Ireland.

People

In 2016, the Council was saddened to learn of the deaths of two people who contributed enormously to the work of the ESRI. Professor Brendan Walsh, who passed away in May 2016, established himself as one of the country's leading researchers in the social sciences and later served as a member and President of the ESRI Council. Dr T.K. Whitaker, the founder of the ESRI, passed away in January 2017. The Council would like to pay tribute to the important role he played in establishing the Institute in 1960 and to his lifelong support of the Institute's work, especially during his time as Council member and President of the Council.

The Council would like to commend the Institute's staff whose expertise and commitment enables the Institute to continually identify new solutions to policy challenges. The Council would also like to thank the government departments and state agencies who support critical research programmes, ESRI Members who provide valuable ongoing support, and the many stakeholders who engage with the work of the Institute. Such support enables the Institute to work towards realising its vision of "Informed Policy for a Better Ireland".

Pádraig McManus

Chairman

Alan Barrett

Director

2. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS 2016

Implementation of the Institute’s research strategy ensures that the Institute contributes evidence to inform policy debate and decision-making at this critical time for Ireland.¹ The Strategy outlines the Institute’s priority actions for the period in the context of the Institute’s mission, vision, goals and values. These were developed by the Council in agreement with the research staff, following a comprehensive strategic process in 2014. Our goals of *research excellence* and *policy impact* are being pursued through three sets of strategic actions related to research programmes, collaborations and dissemination. They are being supported by a further three sets of actions relating to funding, human resources and business processes. Summarised in Figure 1, these goals and actions help to ensure that the Institute stays focused on its key role as a centre for excellence in policy-focused research in Ireland in the economic and social domains.

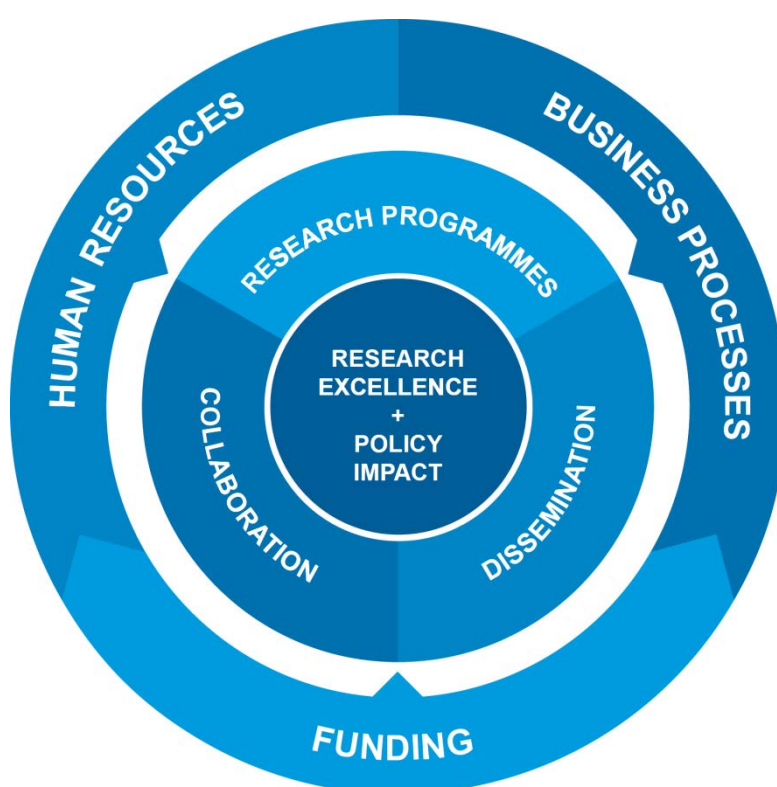


Figure 1: Research Excellence and Policy Impact

The Council oversees the implementation of the research strategy, through twice-yearly reports to the Business and Operations sub-committee. The reports cover the research agenda across the 12 research areas, as well as the implementation of the strategic actions.

This section briefly sets out the progress made in 2016 in delivering on the actions designed to meet our goals of research excellence and policy impact. It looks at progress in relation to research activity, followed by research supports – generating funding, developing human resources and improving business processes.

¹ A copy of the ESRI’s *Research Strategy 2014–2018* (2014) can be downloaded at: <https://www.esri.ie/about/esri-research-strategy-2014-2018/>.

2.1 Research Activity

These strategic actions relate to developing research areas, building collaborations and improving dissemination. In each case we provide illustrations of developments that took place in 2016 in relation to these strategic actions.

2.1.1 Developing Research Areas

The ESRI had undertaken work on Brexit prior to the UK's referendum of June 23, 2016. However, the result of the referendum provided a strong impetus for additional work on this critical issue for Ireland. The Institute produced papers looking at (a) the macroeconomic effects of different Brexit scenarios and (b) the possible impacts of WTO tariffs. Both of these papers were quoted extensively. Work was also commenced on the North/South trade dimension of Brexit and this project, along with others, continued into 2017.

2.1.2 Collaborations

Throughout 2016, there was extensive collaboration between the ESRI and the Department of Finance primarily under our joint research programme on *The Macro-economy and Taxation*. An official from the Department worked closely with ESRI researchers on developing the new model of the macro-economy, COSMO. Other Department of Finance officials worked with ESRI researchers on issues such as tax elasticities and wealth taxes. The papers from these collaborations were presented at the Department of Finance Annual Tax Conference in November 2016.

2.1.3 Dissemination

We have recognised for a while that we were lagging in our use of social media but we were cautious to balance the potential benefits with the well-known risks. Progress is now being made. Taking Twitter as an example, the ESRI now has over 5,000 Twitter Followers. All events, reports and research bulletins are now being communicated on Twitter and several tweets are posted every week. To encourage engagement over the period, more images were used and tweets were written to clearly communicate the topic or key findings of a publication. For the first time, the annual Budget Perspectives conference was live-tweeted.

2.2 Research Supports

These strategic actions relate to generating funding, developing human resources and improving business processes. In each case we provide some illustrations of developments that took place in 2016 in relation to these strategic actions.

2.2.1 Generating Funding

Funding remains a key challenge and so considerable effort was devoted to this issue in 2016. One area where new funding was generated was environmental economics. Recognising the importance of climate change and the absence of environmental economics from the ESRI's research portfolio, we sought funding from the (then) Department of the Environment for work on climate change. These discussions were successful. When combined with new funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, we are now in a position to make a significant research impact in the area.

2.2.2 Human Resources

The Institute has always been eager to maintain an openness to continuing training. Financial constraints made this difficult during the crisis years but there was an increase in activity in 2016. For example, twenty-three staff members with people management responsibility participated in a three-day management development programme. All training programmes responded to specific training needs and/or strategic skills development.

2.2.3 Business Processes

The processes for tendering for research contracts and the subsequent reporting requirements have become increasingly complex. This situation has been recognised by the universities and they have typically expanded their “research offices” and supports to researchers in the areas of tendering and project management. We had also recognized that we needed to improve our project management capacity partly in response to the growing number of multi-annual research programmes. The Institute expanded its capacity in this area in 2016 through the appointment of a Research Project and Funding Manager.

3. RESEARCH IN 2016

This section provides an overview of our research activities and findings for 2016. Following these highlights, we provide a brief summary of research across the 12 research areas in 2016. Further details on the research and the researchers involved are available on the ESRI website.

1. Macroeconomics	7. Education
Macro modelling; Housing markets; SMEs; Household behaviour; Consumer sentiment.	Educational pathways; Schools and learning; Special education needs; Higher education.
2. Internationalisation and Competitiveness	8. Taxation, Welfare and Pensions
Trade; Foreign direct investment; Innovation; Productivity.	Tax and welfare policy; Tax modelling.
3. Energy and Environment	9. Social Inclusion and Equality
Energy markets; Regulation; Renewable power; Environmental valuation; Climate policy.	Inequality; Discrimination; Social disadvantage; Poverty.
4. Communications and Transport	10. Health and Quality of Life
E-commerce; Broadband; Infrastructure.	Access to healthcare; Healthcare quality; Health inequalities; Health systems; Wellbeing; Working conditions.
5. Labour Markets and Skills	11. Children and Young People
Unemployment; Skills and training; Further education.	Childhood; Adolescence; Family.
6. Migration, Integration and Demography	12. Behavioural Economics
Immigration; Integration monitoring; Ageing.	Consumer decision-making.

Figure 2: Research Areas and Topics

3.1 Research Highlights

Macroeconomics

- COSMO, a macroeconomic model of the Irish economy, was developed to allow for the testing of a range of policy scenarios and economic shocks.
- Research examined Irish economic output under a range of scenarios following the UK's departure from the European Union. The results suggest that the level of output will be lower in all scenarios than it would have been in the absence of Brexit.

Internationalisation and Competitiveness

- Research results indicated that a competitive corporate tax rate was a significant factor in attracting FDI to Ireland, especially from countries outside the EU and in the services sector. The evidence also indicated that Ireland and the UK were perceived as similar alternatives in terms of location for FDI, in particular by investors from outside the EU and in the services sector.
- Research highlighted the highly concentrated nature of exporting, with most manufacturing exporters selling a few products to a small number of destinations, and export values being dominated by a relatively small group of highly globalised large firms.

Energy and Environment

- Research highlighted potential unintended consequences of electricity smart-metering on consumer behaviour: while electricity usage was reduced, households across treatment groups were less likely to invest in energy saving measures.
- Research examined how climate variability affects the carbon intensity of the Irish electricity system and found policy risks associated with using fixed targets for renewables.

Communications and Transport

- A study found that broadband provision noticeably improved quality and use of the internet in Ireland's post-primary schools, with many staff members reporting that broadband provision had a significant impact on teaching and learning. However, participants reported that further progress may be hindered by requirements for investment in infrastructure, enhanced technical support and accessible professional development for teachers.
- Research emphasised that human capital and proximity to a third-level institution are influential determinants of new firm establishment. Availability of broadband infrastructure is also important, but its effects may be mediated by the presence of sufficiently high educational attainment in the area.

Labour Markets and Skills

- New research found that sub-minimum wage rates are likely to have little impact on early school leaving rates as a very small percentage, usually less than 0.5 per cent, of employees are in receipt of the training or youth rates of the national minimum wage.
- Research on graduate mismatch suggests that increasing the practical aspects of degree programmes reduces the incidence of initial mismatch. Higher education work placements with the potential to develop into permanent posts and higher education job placement assistance were found to have substantial impacts in reducing the incidence of graduate mismatch.

Migration, Integration and Demography

- Research found that the number of refugees resettled to Ireland doubled between 2015 and 2016. However, the overall number resettled remained low, both in the context of the international migration crisis and compared to some other countries in Europe.
- Research found that involuntary, or forced, retirement has a negative and statistically significant effect on mental health. In the case of voluntary retirement, negative mental health effects are also found but the magnitude is smaller and the effects are not statistically significant in all models. Retirement due to poor ill health is negatively associated with mental health, although these negative effects seem to diminish with time.

Education

- Research found striking gender differences in levels of participation in the arts from as young an age as three years. These gender differences persist throughout childhood, with girls' schools offering more arts activities, and more girls participating after school. Socioeconomic background is also found to have a strong impact on participation levels, with household income emerging as a barrier to participation in cultural activities after school.
- A report found that schools take varied approaches to establishing and operating special classes. Principals who adopt a positive, whole-school approach to inclusion and teachers who have appropriate skills are most likely to create an environment where students with special educational needs can thrive.

Taxation, Welfare and Pensions

- New results using harmonised tax-benefit models for Ireland and the UK showed that neither jurisdiction could be regarded as having a work incentive regime that is consistently more favourable to work than the other.
- Analysis using SWITCH (Simulating Welfare and Income Tax Changes), the ESRI tax-benefit model, found that recent increases in the national minimum wage have mainly benefited individuals living in households in the middle of the household income distribution.

Social Inclusion and Equality

- Research found that both social risks (such as lone parenthood and disability) and social class need to be taken into account in order to understand variations in poverty, deprivation and quality of life. The extent of multidimensional disadvantage across a range of quality of life outcomes (poverty, deprivation, health and housing) was striking, implying that the multidimensionality of disadvantage needs to be taken into account in designing policy responses.
- Research on the relationship between childcare and the socio-emotional wellbeing of children found that centre-based childcare was most beneficial for disadvantaged children, but the effects were small and not sufficient to level the playing field.

Health and Quality of Life

- Research found that musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) and stress, anxiety and depression (SAD) are the two main forms of work-related illness in Ireland. SAD illnesses were associated with long working hours, shift work and employment in the services sector, while MSD illnesses were more common for those working in agriculture, construction and the health sector.
- Using a framework developed by the World Health Organization to monitor the achievement of a universal health system, the research found that the model of universal health insurance proposed by the 2011–2016 Government could have increased costs without achieving

universality or equitable access. The research recommended that future policy should aim to move towards universality by identifying a cost-effective approach from the existing Irish system.

Children and Young People

- A new book, *Cherishing All the Children Equally? Ireland 100 Years on from the Easter Rising*, found that despite many improvements in education, health and socio-emotional outcomes of children and young people in Ireland over the last century, their wellbeing continues to be shaped by parental circumstances and social position, resulting in persistent inequalities and differences in life chances.
- The latest *Key Findings* reports from the *Growing Up in Ireland* study, focusing on the lives of young people aged 17 and 18 years old, found that for some young people, this period is marked by difficulties in their socio-emotional wellbeing. Ten per cent of young people in the study reported a diagnosis of depression or anxiety (or both) at some point, and 11 per cent reported hurting themselves on purpose in the previous year.

Behavioural Economics

- The first results from PRICE Lab, a laboratory set up to conduct experiments with consumers, found that when consumers had to take into account more than two or three factors at the same time, they struggled to spot good deals and often made mistakes.
- Research showed that consumers find it hard to understand how the length of a loan affects both the size of monthly repayments and the overall amount it costs to borrow, leading to inconsistent choices. A 'high cost loan' warning was found to reduce the chances that consumers opted for loans with above-average interest rates. Providing consumers with a specific table of example loans before they made their choices also helped them to make more consistent decisions.

3.2 Macroeconomics

The research area of Macroeconomics in the ESRI covers a wide range of issues that impact on the overall performance of the Irish economy. In addition to the short-term economic forecasts produced on a quarterly basis, work in 2016 included a significant research output examining the potential longer-term capacity of the Irish economy. This study used COSMO, a newly developed macroeconomic model of the Irish economy, to analyse potential shocks to a baseline path of economic growth. The study demonstrated the potential to use COSMO for ongoing analysis of a range of policy scenarios.

A major focus of macroeconomic analysis in 2016 was the examination of potential effects on the Irish economy of the UK's decision to exit the European Union. The COSMO model was used to examine the overall impact on Irish GDP of a number of different Brexit scenarios, undertaken as part of the joint research programme with the Department of Finance and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. The findings suggested that in the medium- to long-term Brexit would lower Irish output under all scenarios. Other work carried out as part of this programme included an examination of the sensitivity of major Irish taxation aggregates to underlying economic activity, research on the volatility of tax revenues and more granular work on the relationship between income tax receipts and income by type of taxpayer. The potential revenue and distributional impact of a tax on household wealth was also examined.

In addition to the overall risks to the Irish economy of the Brexit referendum, work was also undertaken to estimate the impact on bilateral trade. This work used detailed information on

product-level export and import flows to identify the sectors most exposed to the possible introduction of tariffs between the EU and the UK. Additional research examined prospects for GDP growth for the euro area.

The housing market continued to be an area of focus for macroeconomic research. As part of research published in *Economic Outlook: Policy Perspectives and Policy Challenges*, the COSMO model was used to examine long-term challenges in the housing market, including demographic change and the capacity of the banking system to meet household sector demand. The research found that, based on projected demographic change, demand for housing supply could reach 30,000 units per annum by 2024.

Other housing-related research on behalf of the Banking and Payments Federation assessed the impact of the macroprudential measures introduced by the Central Bank of Ireland. In particular, this research provided an empirical assessment of the measures in the Irish housing and credit markets. Research also examined the relationship between the adoption of macroprudential measures and the tenure choice of Irish people.

3.3 Internationalisation and Competitiveness

The research area of **Internationalisation and Competitiveness** focuses primarily on the key factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of increased European and international integration. In 2016, the research in this area addressed three themes, outlined below.

(i) *Corporate taxation and foreign direct investment*: This research, funded as part of a joint research programme with the **Department of Finance** and the **Revenue Commissioners**, analysed the impact of corporation taxes and other factors on the attractiveness of Ireland and other EU countries to foreign direct investment (FDI) over the past decade. The results indicated that a competitive corporate tax rate was a significant factor in attracting FDI to Ireland, especially from countries outside the EU and in the services sector. The evidence also indicated that Ireland and the United Kingdom were perceived to be similar as alternative locations for FDI, in particular by investors from outside the EU and in relation to FDI in the services sector. Further research found that changes in the aggregate inward FDI to host countries were mainly driven by the number of FDI projects, while the average size of investment played a relatively small role.

(ii) *Expanding and diversifying the manufactured exports of Irish-owned enterprises*: This study was undertaken as part of a joint research programme with the **Department of Jobs, Employment and Innovation** and **Enterprise Ireland**. The key objective was to analyse the patterns and dynamics of Irish-owned exporting firms in the manufacturing sector, examining a wide variety of very detailed product-level and destination-level information. The results highlighted the highly concentrated nature of exporting, with most manufacturing exporters selling a few products to a small number of destinations, and how export values were being dominated by a relatively small group of highly globalised large firms. The research also found considerable dynamism among exporters, as demonstrated by high rates of entry and exit, both in terms of products and destination markets. This dynamism is shown to make a significant contribution to overall export growth.

(iii) *Studies on competitiveness*: This research was funded by the **European Commission**. A first study provided evidence on the scale and determinants of Ireland's intra-firm trade over the past two decades. The research results indicated that intra-firm trade accounted for one-third of Ireland's exports and one-quarter of its imports. Further, this analysis found that firms engaged in intra-firm trade were more likely to trade with the US and other larger economies, including France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. A second study focused on financing firms with high-growth potential across EU countries including Ireland. It found that firms with high-growth potential tended to be medium-sized, middle-aged and engaged simultaneously in innovation and exporting.

3.4 Energy and Environment

Work in the research area of **Energy and Environment** is financed by multi-annual research programmes and specific purpose research projects. Energy and climate research is funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, ESB, Ervia, Eirgrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian**, the **Commission for Energy Regulation, Science Foundation Ireland**, the **Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland** and the **Gas Innovation Group**. Environmental research is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** and **Inland Fisheries Ireland**. Collaborations are ongoing with University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, University of Limerick, University College Cork, National University of Ireland, Galway, Queens University Belfast and a number of universities abroad.

Energy research focuses on interdependencies and interactions between players in energy systems, including policymakers, energy suppliers and consumers. The aim is to deliver research to support decision-making on all levels. This research is structured into four areas, outlined below.

Market design and regulation: A paper explored alternative capacity payment mechanisms. Price-based mechanisms were found to yield higher levels of investment but also higher consumer costs compared to quantity-based mechanisms. Firms have an interest in refurbishing existing capacities.

Energy services: In the context of the Irish smart-metering trial, a paper highlighted potential unintended consequences of smart-metering on consumer behaviour. While electricity usage was reduced, households across treatment groups are less likely to invest in energy saving measures.

Energy infrastructure: A paper explored the impact of new interconnection lines on the EU electricity market and found that increased interconnection increases welfare but does not necessarily reduce emissions.

Interface with society and environment: A paper examined how climate variability affects the carbon intensity of the Irish electricity system and found policy risks associated with using fixed targets for renewables.

Several projects were carried out in each area; the above list represents a selection. The Energy and Environment research area co-hosted energy policy conferences with University College Dublin in March, University College Cork in June and hosted a seminar by Professor Dieter Helm from the University of Oxford in October.

The ESRI has established a new Environment Research Programme in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2016, research began across five topics:

environmental effects of selected fiscal instruments;

behavioural economics lab experiments to examine environmental influences on consumer behaviour;

behavioural and experimental tests of the long-term benefits of the Green-Schools Programme;

health and wellbeing benefits of a clean and healthy environment and environmental amenities in Ireland; and

environmental market failures – spatial and land use planning.

Another environment-related research area involves examining the effect of water quality on water-based leisure activity, including leisure site choice decisions. Within the fisheries research programme, papers have examined angler expenditures on local economies and anglers' preferences for fishing site attributes, while ongoing research examines anglers' preferences for active stock management of pike populations within designated wild brown trout fisheries in Ireland.

3.5 Communications and Transport

The programme of research in **Communications** is supported by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment** and the **Commission for Communications Regulation**. In 2016, a paper was completed on how local infrastructure affects the location of inward investment in Ireland. The local area characteristics covered by this study include electronic communications networks, accessibility, local labour markets and clustering of economic activity. This paper is still under peer review, but the results suggest that human capital and proximity to a third-level institution are important determinants of new firm establishment. Availability of broadband infrastructure is significant, but its effects may be mediated by the presence of sufficiently high educational attainment in the area. Transport infrastructure access is significant for some sectors.

In collaboration with colleagues engaged in education research, a report entitled *Teaching and Learning in Second-level Schools at the Advent of High-Speed Broadband* was launched this year. The study found that broadband provision noticeably improved quality and use of the internet in Ireland's post-primary schools and that staff had a very positive reaction to the development, with many reporting that broadband provision had a significant impact on teaching and learning. However, participants reported a number of persistent challenges that are likely to hinder further progress, largely centred on requirements for investment in infrastructure, enhanced technical support and accessible professional development for teachers. This research has been extended in a follow-up paper entitled, "The Student Perspective on In-school Personal Electronic Devices and Online Safety: A Qualitative Study", which was issued as a working paper and is under peer review by a journal. Earlier work in this area was cited in the 2016 World Development Report published by the World Bank.

Work continued on a study of the factors affecting consumer switching in Irish broadband, mobile, fixed line and bundled services. The research uses data from a Commission for Communications Regulation survey to explore whether service attributes such as bundling and consumer characteristics, including past switching behaviour, affect the intention to switch services. Another ongoing study explores how broadband use affects the productivity of service sector firms in Ireland, using Central Statistics Office (CSO) data on firm locations, productivity and other attributes linked to spatial data on broadband availability. A scoping study was carried out into the potential for modelling how local socioeconomic factors affect the level of objections to planning applications and the likelihood of obtaining planning permission for utilities infrastructure.

Under the taxation, welfare and pensions research programme, research is ongoing into the scale of Ireland's cross-border motor fuel sales and the tax receipts and climate emissions associated with them.

3.6 Labour Markets and Skills

During 2016, research was undertaken on a range of issues in the area of **Labour Markets and Skills**, including two reports on the National Minimum Wage for the **Low Pay Commission** and an evaluation of the Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme for **SOLAS**. The team also completed one report, and commenced another, assessing issues related to community development and social inclusion for **Pobal**. Research commenced on two projects funded by the **Department for Social Protection**; namely an evaluation of components of Intreo, Ireland's public employment service, and a study on the determinants of early retirement. A research project assessing the concept of skill mismatch within a developing economy context was completed for the **International Labor Organization** and another study examining variations in rates of overeducation across low-income and middle-income countries commenced for the same client. Work continued on studies of skill and education mismatch, funded under the **European Commission's** 7th Framework Programme project, resulting in the publication of a journal article in 2016 and a book chapter to be published in 2017. During 2016, researchers continued to provide regular reports on Ireland's labour market progress to the European

Commission's **European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO)**; topics covered in 2016 included skill mismatch, atypical employment, traineeships, social partnership and inequality.

The evaluation of Intreo, commissioned by the **Department of Social Protection**, is examining the effectiveness of the Government's new employment and entitlement services model in assisting jobseekers to find employment or related opportunities (such as training, education and work placements). In particular, the evaluation is focusing on how effective the Intreo activation process reforms have been in improving the extent to which unemployed people exit to jobs. A counterfactual estimation methodology is being employed, using data from the Department of Social Protection's Jobseeker Longitudinal Dataset (JLD) and various other administrative data sources. The research will provide evidence on how effective the most recent public employment services (PES) and social protection reforms have been, and will thereby potentially contribute to future reforms in these areas that aim to help jobseekers find employment. The research will be published in 2017.

Work conducted for the Low Pay Commission included a published study examining the structure, and take-up, of sub-minimum wage rates internationally. The research also used Irish data to examine the extent to which the estimated incidence of the national minimum wage varied according to measurement approach. Among other findings, the report indicated that a very small percentage, usually less than 0.5 per cent, of employees were in receipt of either the training or youth rates of the national minimum wage. One debate around sub-minimum rates relates to the fact that their introduction can potentially incentivise early school leaving. The evidence from this study suggests that such impacts are likely to have been small given the very low incidence of sub-minima pay found in the data.

3.7 Migration, Integration and Demography

In the research area of **Migration, Integration and Demography**, research is conducted under a number of strands. The first strand relates to the ESRI being Ireland's national contact point for the European Migration Network (EMN) and the related funding, which is provided by the **European Commission** and the **Department of Justice and Equality**.

Reflecting the current policy focus on the refugee crisis, the EMN Ireland team produced two protection-related studies in the period. The first study looked at the integration of beneficiaries of international protection into the Irish labour market, noting the limited availability of targeted supports. The second investigated the long-established refugee resettlement programme, the operation of which compares well internationally. The team worked closely with the **Department of Justice and Equality**, the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** and other parties to produce both reports. An international conference on responses to the refugee crisis was held in December and a seminar on statelessness determination procedures with the United Nations High Commissioner was held in May. EMN Ireland also submitted reports on the obstacles to the effective implementation of a return policy for rejected asylum applicants, working in consultation with the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, and on changing immigration status. In addition to the topic reports, the EMN also produced a review of asylum and migration policy, covering the year 2015.

A second important strand of research in this area relates to immigrant integration. A team of researchers compiled a draft of the Integration Monitor 2016, as part of a new programme of research with the **Department of Justice and Equality**. This will be published in early 2017. This monitor considers immigrant integration in four key life domains – employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship. Other research on integration looked at the immigrant-native earnings gap during the recession, and found that the earnings gap did not increase after accounting for the changing characteristics of employed immigrants. Researchers looked at the experiences of migrant children in Ireland, including both their academic achievement and social integration, using the *Growing Up in Ireland* data. They also explored satisfaction among international students in higher education in Ireland.

Research found considerable variation in perceived group discrimination among new Polish migrants across four west European countries. This was published as part of a journal special issue entitled “Starting Out: New Migrants’ Socio-Cultural Integration Trajectories in Four European Destinations”, based on data collected as part of the **Norface-funded** SCIP (Socio-cultural Integration Processes) project.

Work also continued on the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) and papers were published looking at aspects of mental health among Ireland’s older people, including the impact of retirement on mental health.

3.8 Education

The **Education** research area covers all levels of the Irish educational system, including early childhood education, primary, second-level, further and higher education. Research in 2016 focused on children with disabilities, educational disadvantage, the use of ICT in education, arts and cultural participation among children and young people, the PLC programme and teacher education.

The *Growing Up in Ireland* study has provided an invaluable resource for educational research. New analyses, commissioned by the **Arts Council**, examined the nature and impact of children’s participation in arts and cultural activities, showing stark differences by social class background and gender. These patterns are of policy concern, given that cultural participation is associated with improved academic and socio-emotional outcomes among children.

Through a study funded by the **National Disability Authority**, researchers found that the educational expectations parents hold for children with disabilities play an important role in shaping their educational and social development. A second study relating to children with disabilities was also published, entitled *Special Classes in Irish Schools, Phase 2: A Qualitative Study*. The report found that schools take varied approaches to establishing and operating special classes and concluded that principals who adopt a positive, whole-school approach to inclusion and teachers who have appropriate skills are most likely to create an environment where students with special educational needs can thrive. The study was funded by the **National Council for Special Education**, and was presented at the *Growing Up in Ireland* annual research conference in November.

In collaboration with researchers in the Communications area, a report entitled *Teaching and Learning in Second-Level Schools at the Advent of High-Speed Broadband* was launched this year. Funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**, this research is assessing the role of ICT and the internet in influencing teaching and learning across schools and classrooms.

Working with researchers in the Labour Market area, work continued on the evaluation of PLC programme provision. Funded by **SOLAS**, the research includes analyses of the nature and distribution of PLC courses, participants’ experiences of the programme and their educational and labour market outcomes.

The topic of teacher education was the subject of two major publications, funded by the **Teaching Council**. Entrants to initial teacher education were found to have very high achievement levels but one of these studies pointed to a lack of diversity, especially among entrants to primary teaching. An evaluation of the Droichead pilot programme, a new programme for teacher induction, pointed to high levels of satisfaction among participants, while highlighting a number of challenges for schools and teachers.

Education researchers continued to be involved in international networks, including the Advanced Quantitative Methods Network (AQMeN), funded by the UK **Economic and Social Research Council**, the Network of Experts on the Social Dimension of Education and Training (NESET 2) and the **DG EAC** Network of Independent Networks in Education and Training.

3.9 Taxation, Welfare and Pensions

ESRI research on **Taxation, Welfare and Pensions** during 2016 focused on the impact of tax and welfare policies on financial incentives to work and on the distribution of income. In addition, work on SWITCH, the ESRI microsimulation model, included the development of new capacity in the areas of health entitlements and the Affordable Childcare Scheme announced in Budget 2017. The research programme was supported by funding from the **Department of Social Protection**, the **Department of Health**, the **Department of Children and Youth Affairs** and the **Department of Finance**.

Regular analysis of the distributive impact of budgetary policy continued, with the model database restructured to use almost 8,000 households from the Central Statistic Office's nationally representative Survey on Income and Living Conditions for 2013 and 2014. Budget 2017 was found to have led to small gains for all income groups, with the greatest gains for those on the lowest incomes.

Work continued on monitoring the financial incentives to work faced by the Irish population, and was extended to include a comparison of the financial incentives faced in the UK, with its different population structure and tax-benefit system. New results using harmonised tax-benefit models for Ireland and the UK show that neither jurisdiction could be regarded as having a work incentive regime that is consistently more favourable to work than the other. These results are based on detailed estimates of the incentives faced by nationally representative samples under the tax and benefit systems prevailing in April 2015.

SWITCH researchers examined the impact of minimum wages on the overall distribution of income. They found that workers on low hourly rates of pay are often found in households with incomes close to the average. More than 11 out of 12 low-paid workers live in households above the most commonly used poverty line. Analysis using SWITCH, the ESRI tax-benefit model, found that recent increases in the national minimum wage have mainly benefited individuals living in households in the middle of the household income distribution. In a majority of cases, low-paid employees are not the sole earners in the household. Even when low-paid workers are the sole earners, fewer than one in five of them fall below the EU's 'at risk of poverty' threshold. These findings reflect patterns that are common across countries and persistent over time.

The SWITCH model was also used, with support from the SWITCH team, for policy analyses within the Departments of Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Social Protection, including the social impact assessment of Budget 2017 by the Department of Social Protection.

3.10 Social Inclusion and Equality

ESRI research on **Social Inclusion and Equality** is investigating factors influencing access to the material and other resources required to participate in economic and social life and the processes that lead to inequalities in opportunities and outcomes.

At a November conference to mark 50 years of social research at the ESRI, researchers presented overviews of continuity and change in social inclusion and equality over that period. For example, it was observed that despite dramatic increases in women's labour market participation, occupational segregation and difficulties in combining work and caring have persisted. Within those 50 years, across periods of economic growth and recession, ESRI research on non-monetary indicators of deprivation made a vital contribution to understanding and monitoring poverty in Ireland.

Under the research programme on equality and integration funded by the **Department of Justice and Equality**:

- The full Census 2011 microdata was analysed to provide a profile of Irish Travellers in terms of education, employment, housing and health (launched in January 2017);
- A study of gender balance and progression in the civil service was commenced, involving analysis of new qualitative data as well as data from the Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey.

In research funded by the **Department of Social Protection**, involving analysis of data from the CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), it was found that:

- both social risks (such as lone parenthood and disability) and social class need to be taken into account in order to understand variations in poverty, deprivation and quality of life; and
- the extent of multidimensional disadvantage across a range of quality of life outcomes (poverty, deprivation, health, housing) is striking, implying that the multidimensionality of disadvantage needs to be taken into account in designing policy responses.

The ESRI was successful in tendering for a further two-year research programme on social protection and social inclusion, which will commence in 2017.

Research drawing on data from the *Growing Up in Ireland* study found that:

- inequalities in access to childcare persist;
- centre-based childcare is most beneficial for disadvantaged children, but the effects are small and not sufficient to level the playing field (this research took place under the programme on community development and social inclusion with **Pobal**);
- the impact of the recession on economic stress faced by families was more complex than either the 'class polarisation' or 'middle class squeeze' hypotheses would suggest;
- contrary to some suggestions in the literature, family economic vulnerability is just as harmful to socio-emotional development in middle childhood as in infancy.

As part of the **International Panel on Social Progress**, ESRI researchers contributed a chapter on the future of work to the report, *Rethinking Society for the 21st Century*.

The **National Disability Authority** funded research on the impact of disability on employment-related transitions as Ireland moved from recession to recovery (to be launched in early 2017).

3.11 Health and Quality of Life

In 2016, the **Health** research area focused on the themes of: the development of a projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure; geographic profiling of healthcare need, supply and utilisation; determinants of maternal health outcomes; socioeconomic mortality differentials; inequities in access to GP care; the relationship between the environment and health; and financial security among the older population.

Quality of life research in 2016 focused on occupational illnesses, farm accidents, the effects of unemployment on quality of life, and participation in sports or physical activity. Further quality of life research is reported under the Social Inclusion and Equality research area.

Under a major programme of research funded by the **Department of Health**, the ESRI continued work on the development of a projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure, with initial work focusing on analysis of utilisation of acute hospital care. In a further strand of work in the programme, analysis of unmet need and demand for care in the hospital and community settings was undertaken. Following up on the publication in 2015 of a major study of the potential costs of universal health insurance in Ireland, in 2016 the ESRI examined challenges in achieving universal healthcare in Ireland.

Two research projects funded by the **Health Research Board** finished in 2016. The mortality project documented widening socioeconomic inequalities in mortality in Ireland since the 1980s, while the caesarean section project found substantial differences in behaviour between public and private patients. The Health Research Board continued to fund health research projects in 2016 on: costing post-stroke cognitive impairment; inequalities in access to GP services; and determinants of hospital utilisation, including the supply of non-acute services.

A new programme of research on environmental economics, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency**, began in 2016. The health work package uses geo-coded data on exposures to environmental amenities (such as green spaces) and pollutants (such as air, noise and radon) matched to health outcomes data from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA).

Research funded by the **Health and Safety Authority** found that musculo-skeletal disorders (MSD) and stress, anxiety and depression (SAD) were the two main forms of work-related illness in Ireland. SAD illnesses were associated with long working hours, shift work and employment in the services sector, while MSDs were more common for those in agriculture, construction and the health sector. Research was also undertaken on accidents and safety behaviour in farming, which has the highest rate of fatal injuries across all sectors.

Research based on the **European Social Survey** investigated the effects of unemployment and insecurity on the wellbeing of young people. A key theme of this comparative study was the role of the welfare state and employment policies in shaping national differences.

Research was also completed on participation in rugby, funded by the **Irish Rugby Football Union**, and on participation in golf, funded by the **Confederation of Golf in Ireland**. The research will inform policies to increase sports participation and physical activity.

3.12 Children and Young People

Work in the research area of **Children and Young People** principally examines the developmental outcomes for children and young people and how these vary between different groups in society. A substantial proportion of the research in this field is closely tied to the *Growing Up in Ireland* project – the national longitudinal study of children.²

A major book in this area, launched by Minister Katherine Zappone, assesses whether or not contemporary Ireland does, as aspired to in the 1916 *Proclamation of Independence*, ‘cherish all the nation’s children equally’, regardless of their demographic, family and socioeconomic circumstances. Making extensive use of research and data that have emerged in recent years from the *Growing Up in Ireland* study, the book considers whether or not all children can participate fully and equitably in contemporary Irish society, across a range of domains in their lives.

The book found that despite many improvements in education, health and socio-emotional outcomes of children and young people in Ireland over the last century, their wellbeing continues to be largely shaped by parental circumstances and social position, resulting in persistent inequalities and differences in life chances.

Substantial progress was also made in the second half of the year in progressing the *Growing Up in Ireland* project itself. Interviewing was completed with over 6,000 17 and 18 year olds in the project’s older ‘child cohort’ while a pilot study was completed with the nine year olds in the younger ‘infant cohort’. Almost 10,000 children and their families in this latter cohort will be interviewed in their homes from May to November 2017.

The *Growing Up in Ireland 2016 Annual Research Conference* was held on 3rd November in Croke Park. The keynote address was given by Professor Gordon Harold from the University of Sussex. His paper was entitled: *Family Relationship Influences on Children’s Mental Health: New Research, Emerging Themes, Future Opportunities*.

Minister Zappone launched four *Key Findings* outputs, from the 17 and 18 year old wave of the child cohort, which focused on teenagers. The four themes were: education and work experience; health, weight, physical activity and diet; risky behaviours and sexual activity; and life satisfaction, relationships and mental health. These most recent findings indicate, among other things, higher

² *Growing Up in Ireland* is largely funded by the Irish government, with a generous contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

levels of risk in several areas of the lives of young people from the most socially disadvantaged backgrounds. In general, the results show young people of this age have, overall, a positive view of their lives. Nevertheless, for some this period is, or has been, marked by significant difficulties in terms of their socio-emotional wellbeing, with 10 per cent reporting a diagnosis of depression or anxiety (or both) at some point, and 11 per cent hurting themselves on purpose in the previous year.

3.13 Behavioural Economics

Behavioural Economics is a rapidly expanding area of research that builds on advances in experimental psychology and related disciplines. It focuses on the use of controlled experiments to give insight into how consumers and firms make economic decisions. In 2016, ESRI research in this area expanded into new policy domains.

PRICE Lab is an ongoing research programme that began in 2013 and is presently funded by the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission**, the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)** and the **Commission for Energy Regulation**. During 2016, experimental tests were designed and conducted to shed light on how consumers make decisions in key Irish markets, how these are influenced by marketing practices, and to pre-test potential regulatory interventions designed to help consumers to make better decisions. An example included the pre-testing of a mandatory 'estimated annual bill' intervention, which was found to reduce consumer confusion and make it easier to compare products. This was the first time a regulation in Ireland had been experimentally pre-tested like this for effectiveness. Work was also undertaken on the marketing of personal loans and the pricing of mobile phone contracts, showing how consumers can benefit from the presentation of total cost information over the whole contract.

The behavioural economics research area embarked on two new programmes during 2016. The Environment Research Programme, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency**, includes a behavioural strand of research that uses experimental methods to examine decision-making in relation to environmental consequences. In 2016, an experimental online shopping environment was designed, programmed and used for the first time to test how the weight given to 'green' product attributes by consumers depends on the way the impact on environment is described. The results revealed that consumers are more inclined to give weight to environmental information that is presented on simple scales, rather than concrete information about precise environmental consequences.

The Research Programme on the Economics of Pensions, funded by the **Pensions Authority**, also has a strand of behavioural research that employs experimental methods to investigate how workers understand and respond to information about pension products. Initial designs to test the impact of pension benefit statements on scheme members' comprehension were developed in 2016.

In addition to these uses of laboratory experiments to support policy development, the research area has designed and undertaken some field experiments as part of a research programme for the **Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine**. Data from multiple trials were collected in late 2015 and 2016, with the first results due in 2017.

4. NATIONAL STUDY OF CHILDREN (*GROWING UP IN IRELAND*)

In 2016, the *Growing Up in Ireland* study undertook intensive face-to-face fieldwork with 17 and 18 year olds from the older child cohort. This involved carrying out interviews, in their homes, with approximately 6,250 young people and their parent(s)/guardian(s). The first results from this round of interviewing were released in November at the *Growing Up in Ireland* Annual Research Conference. These focused on the following aspects of the lives of adolescents in Ireland: education and early work experiences; health, weight, physical activity and diet; life satisfaction, relationships and mental health; and risky behaviours and sexual activity. Survey work was also completed in early 2016 on a postal survey of the main caregiver of seven year olds in the younger infant cohort.

A detailed pilot exercise was carried out in September among nine year olds in the infant cohort. This was reported on to its Steering Group and Research Ethics Committee, both of which oversee the project, with a view to commencing main fieldwork on this round of the study in the early summer of 2017.

The *Growing Up in Ireland* Annual Research Conference was held on 3 November in the Croke Park Conference Centre. The conference was opened by Dr Katherine Zappone, TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. The keynote address, *Family Relationship Influences on Children's Mental Health*, was given by Professor Gordon Harold from the University of Sussex. Twenty-five papers based on *Growing Up in Ireland's* child and infant cohorts were read at the conference and covered a range of topics including health, parenting, education and socio-emotional wellbeing. The 2016 conference also featured a methodology session, which included presentations on topics related to the practical aspects of collecting and using data from longitudinal studies like *Growing Up in Ireland*.

Data from the study continue to be used extensively by researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders for the development of policy and the production of research reports and peer-reviewed journal articles. A particularly important publication in 2016 was an edited volume of papers, entitled *Cherishing All the Children Equally? Ireland 100 years on from the Easter Rising*. This book (based almost entirely on *Growing Up in Ireland* data) focuses on inequalities among children in contemporary Ireland and provides a comprehensive overview of factors influencing child wellbeing. It provides insights into critical points in child development, allowing the authors to investigate if the words of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, specifically the commitment to “cherish all of the children of the nation equally”, have, in fact, been realised 100 years on from the Easter Rising. The book finds that despite many improvements in education, health and socio-emotional outcomes in the last century, children’s wellbeing in contemporary Ireland is largely shaped by parental circumstances and social position, often resulting in persistent inequalities. The findings in the book point to implications for public policy that could support families most in need and help children to reach their potential regardless of family circumstances, health or ethnic background.

5. RESEARCH AREA COORDINATORS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

- **Macroeconomics** (Professor Kieran McQuinn and Dr Martina Lawless)



- **Internationalisation and Competitiveness** (Professor Iulia Siedschlag)



- **Energy and Environment** (Dr Valentin Bertsch, Professor John Curtis and Professor Seán Lyons)



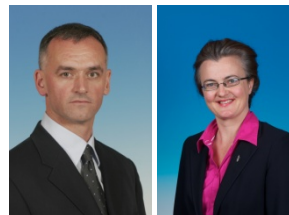
- **Communications and Transport** (Professor Seán Lyons and Professor Edgar Morgenroth)



- **Labour Markets and Skills** (Professor Seamus McGuinness)



- **Migration, Integration and Demography** (Professor Alan Barrett and Dr Frances McGinnity)



- **Education** (Professor Emer Smyth and Professor Selina McCoy)



- **Taxation, Welfare and Pensions** (Professor Tim Callan)



- **Social Inclusion and Equality** (Dr Frances McGinnity and Professor Dorothy Watson)



- **Health and Quality of Life** (Dr Anne Nolan, Dr Maev-Ann Wren and Professor Helen Russell)



- **Children and Young People** (Professor James Williams)



- **Behavioural Economics** (Dr Pete Lunn)



6. STAFF AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

Director	Caroline Goodwin	Marek Bohacek
Alan Barrett	Aisling Murray	Aoife Brick
Economic Analysis	Aoife Murphy	Tim Callan
Samantha Arnold	Pauline Needham	Sheelah Connolly
Adele Bergin	Sarah Purcell	Áine Ní Choisdealbha
Valentin Bertsch	Elizabeth Ryan	Merike Darmody
Elaine Byrne	Maeve Thornton	Nora-Ann Donnelly
Matthew Collins	Amanda Quail	James Eighan
John Curtis	Fionnuala Waters	Raffaele Grotti
Yota Deli	James Williams (Head of Division)	Conor Keegan
Seraphim Dempsey	Corporate Resources	Oona Kenny
Mel Devine	Eleanor Bannerton (Operations and Strategy Manager)	Claire Keane
Mattia Di Ubaldo	Sarah Burns	Richard Layte
Valeria di Cosmo	Claire Buckley (HR Manager)	Caitríona Logue
Daniel Foley	Patricia Byrne	Pete Lunn
Abian Garcia Rodriguez	Bernice Clancy	Bertrand Maître
Marie Hyland	Martina Clarke	Selina McCoy
Elish Kelly	Liz Coyle	Fran McGinnity
Martina Lawless	Lliana D'Emidio	Féidhlim McGowan
Muireann Lynch	Maria Fitzgerald	Sanna Nivakoski
Seán Lyons	Louise Gallagher	Anne Nolan
Seamus McGuinness	Tina Gao	Mark Regan
Niall Mc Inerney	Elaine Goode	Helen Russell
Kieran McQuinn (Head of Division)	Dave Gorman	Bernadette Ryan
Edgar Morgenroth	Adrienne Jinks	Michael Savage
Martin Murphy	Rachel Joyce	Samantha Smith
Paul Redmond	Christina Kelly	Emer Smyth (Head of Division)
Petr Spodniak	Ingrida Maguire	Valentina Tonei
Adele Whelan	Clare O'Neill	Brendan Walsh
Susan Whelan	Charles O'Regan (Head of Finance)	John Walsh
Emma Quinn	Francis McEvoy	Dorothy Watson
Iulia Siedschlag	Jackie Turner	Maev-Ann Wren
Anne Sheridan	Social Research	
Zuzanna Studnicka	Joanne Banks	
Growing Up in Ireland		
Sophie Gallagher		

7. ESRI COUNCIL – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Padraig McManus, Chairman

Padraig McManus became Chair of the Economic and Social Research Institute in January 2016. In 2016, he also chaired the Governance and Nominations sub-committee. Mr McManus has been a member of the ESRI Council since July 2012. He is also Chairman of the Eircom Group and the Foundation for the National Maternity Hospital in Holles Street, in addition to serving on the boards of Mincon, the Photonomi Group and others. Previously, he was appointed Chief Executive and member of the Board of the ESB in July 2002, where he served until 2012. He joined the ESB in 1973 and spent 15 years in the company's international businesses, later becoming Managing Director of ESB International and Commercial Director of ESB. He is a Global Counsellor of the Conference Board of the United States.

Alan Barrett, Director

Alan Barrett first joined the ESRI in 1994 and became Director of the Institute in July 2015, at which point he joined the Council. During his time with the Institute he was seconded to the Department of Finance (2001–2003) and to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin (2011–2013). He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from 2011 to 2015. He is a Research Fellow with IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor) in Bonn, Germany and is Co-editor of the IZA Journal of European Labor Studies. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. He is also a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council.

John Buckley, former Comptroller and Auditor General

John Buckley joined the Council in February 2013 and chaired the Audit and Risk sub-committee in 2016. He is an accountant (ACCA) and a barrister. He has a degree in psychology and an MSc in strategic management. He previously served as Comptroller and Auditor General.

Pádraig Dalton, Director General, Central Statistics Office

Pádraig Dalton joined the Council in July 2012. He is a career statistician who joined the Central Statistics Office in November 1991, taking up the position of Director General in May 2012. He is a member of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), which provides professional guidance to the European Statistical System (ESS) for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. He is also Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) High Level Group on the Modernisation of Official Statistics and is an ex-officio member of the National Statistics Board (NSB).

Emer Gilvarry, Chairperson, Mason Hayes & Curran

Emer Gilvarry joined the Council in February 2014. She is the chairperson of Mason Hayes & Curran and a partner in the dispute resolution team. Emer is experienced in a broad range of commercial and financial services litigation. Emer specialises in project management and investigatory work and acts as a legal advisor to corporates and boards on corporate safeguards and compliance procedures. Emer is a member of the advisory board at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and a member of the Ireland Funds Board. In 2014, Emer was ranked in the Financial Services 50 and the Global 100 by *Business & Finance*. Emer is also a qualified mediator.

John Martin, former Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

John Martin joined the Council in February 2015. He was Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs at the OECD from 2000 to early 2013. From late 2013 to early 2016, he worked as a consultant for the German Bertelsmann Foundation on a major cross-country project on the political economy of reforming European labour markets. He is a part-time Professor at the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) in Paris. His other professional roles include the following: Policy Associate of the

Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy at the University of Nottingham; Research Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA) in Bonn; member of the French Prime Minister's *le Conseil d'orientation pour l'emploi*; member of the strategic board of the Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire d'Evaluation des Politiques Publiques (LIEPP) at Sciences Po, Paris; and member of the Irish government's Labour Market Advisory Council. In 2013, he was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins.

Hannah McGee, Professor of Psychology and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Hannah McGee joined the Council in November 2010. She chaired the Governance and Nominations sub-committee in 2014–2015 and currently chairs the Business and Operations sub-committee. She is a health psychologist whose research interests are in quality of life assessment and epidemiological and psychosocial aspects of ageing, cardiovascular disease and sexual health. She was awarded a DSc (NUI) for her research portfolio in 2015. Her current brief is as chief academic officer for RCSI's degree awarding programmes – incorporating Dublin, Bahrain, Dubai and Malaysia. She has served as president of the Psychological Society of Ireland and the European Health Psychology Society and as Chair of the Rehabilitation Committee of the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation. She chaired the Department of Health's expert group to develop Changing Cardiovascular Health: National Policy on Cardiovascular Health (2010–2019). Currently she serves on the oversight board of The Irish Longitudinal Ageing Study (TILDA) and on the council of the National Children's Research Centre.

David Moloney, Assistant Secretary, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

David Moloney joined the Council in November 2010. He is Assistant Secretary at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Head of its labour market and enterprise division. His responsibilities include the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES).

Rónán Murphy^{*}, former Managing Partner, PwC and current board member, Davy and Liberty Insurance

Rónán Murphy joined the Council in February 2017. He is a non-executive director of Davy and Liberty Insurance. Rónán was previously Senior Partner of PwC Ireland, a position he was elected to in 2007 and was re-elected to for a further four year term on 1 July 2011. Rónán joined PwC in 1980 and was admitted to the partnership in 1992, following a two year secondment to PwC in Boston. As an assurance Partner, he served PwC clients in the financial services, technology and services sectors. In 1995, Rónán joined the Firm's Leadership Team and held a number of operational leadership roles, prior to being appointed as Partner in Charge of the Firm's Assurance practice in 2003, a position he held for four years. Rónán was a member of the PwC EMEA Leadership Board from 2010 to 2015. Rónán completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Masters in Business Studies at University College Dublin before qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1982. Rónán is a founding member of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce.

Bríd O'Brien, Head of Policy and Media, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed

Bríd O'Brien joined the Council in May 2012. She is Head of Policy and Media with the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed. Bríd is one of the Community and Voluntary Pillar representatives on the National Economic and Social Council, and she has been a member of the Labour Market Council since it was established in September 2013. Bríd works with colleagues in the community and voluntary sector and other civil society organisations on issues of social inclusion, economic justice and equality.

^{*} Joined the Council in February 2017.

Sean O’Driscoll* , President of the Glen Dimplex Group

Sean O’Driscoll joined the Council in February 2017. He is a Bachelor of Commerce Graduate from University College Cork (UCC) and a Chartered Accountant. On graduating from UCC in 1979, he joined KPMG and was elected a Partner in 1989. He joined Glen Dimplex as Group Financial Director in 1990, was appointed Deputy Chief Executive in 1994, Group Chief Executive Officer in 1998 and President in 2016. He is a member of the National Competitiveness Council of Ireland, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Board of the International Energy Agency, the Trilateral Commission and is an Industry Partner to the Irish Government’s Action Plan for Jobs. He is a former Non-Executive Director of Allied Irish Banks. He is the recipient of an OBE and a Légion d’Honneur award.

Rowena Pecchenino* , Professor, Department of Economics, Maynooth

Rowena Pecchenino joined the Council in February 2017. She is Professor of Economics at NUI Maynooth. She received a BA in Economics from Cornell University in 1981, an MSc from the London School of Economics in 1982 and a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1985. In 1985 she was appointed assistant professor at Michigan State University, and was promoted to professor in 1997, becoming Department Chair in 2001. In 2007 she became Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting at NUI Maynooth and two years later took on the additional role as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at NUI Maynooth. She has since stepped down from both administrative roles. She was a long-serving member of the board of the Irish Research Council. She has published and continues to conduct research in a number of distinct fields in economics and the conjunction of economics and theology. Her recent work explores hope and despair in economic thought. She has published widely in journals such as the American Economic Review, the Economic Journal, the Journal of Public Economics, and the Scandinavian Journal of Economics.

Patrick Rabbitte* , former Minister and former leader of the Labour Party

Patrick Rabbitte joined the Council in February 2017. He is a former Irish Labour Party politician who served as Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources from 2011 to 2014. He was Leader of the Labour Party from 2002 to 2007 and Minister of State for Commerce, Science and Technology from 1994 to 1997.

Sally Shortall, Professor, Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy, Newcastle University

Sally Shortall joined the Council in May 2015. She is the Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy, Newcastle University. She has served as an expert advisor to the UK Food Standard Agency, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the OECD. She was recently Principal Investigator on a report on women in agriculture in Scotland for the Scottish Government, who have set up a Task Force to consider implementation of the recommendations of this report. She is the President of the Executive Committee of the European Society for Rural Sociology. Her research interests include rural women, rural development theory and practice, community and stakeholder engagement in policy practice and how evidence is used to inform policy.

* Joined the Council in February 2017.

8. COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Council is the Institute’s overall governing body and acts as its board of directors. The Council is elected by the members. It consists of up to 14 members (including the Director) and is representative of the social partners, public bodies, universities, other research institutes, and the private sector.

In association with the director and staff, the Council is responsible for the development of the Institute’s research strategy. The Council approves the Institute’s budget and monitors the actual outturn against budget. The Council is also responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements. In 2016 the Council assessed and monitored the principal risks facing the Institute.

Internally, the Institute is managed by a Management Committee [MC], comprising seven members: the Director, Heads of the Research Divisions (3), Head of Operations, Head of Finance and Head of Human Resources. The Management Committee is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Institute and implementation of the research strategy set by the Council.

The Council meets quarterly and is supported by its three sub-committees: Audit and Risk, Business and Operations, and Governance and Nominations.

The Council met four times in 2016.

Name	Number of Meetings Attended	Notes
Alan Barrett	4	
John Buckley	4	
Padraig Dalton	0	Unable to attend in 2016 due to European Commitments. Inputted bilaterally to meetings.
Emer Gilvarry	2	
Philip Lane	3	Retired November 2016
John Martin	2	
Hannah McGee	2	
Padraig McManus	3	
David Maloney	3	
Brid O’Brien	4	
Sally Shortall	3	

The Audit and Risk Committee met four times in 2016

Name	Number of Meetings Attended	Notes
Alan Barrett (In attendance)	4	
John Buckley	4	
Philip Lane	4	Retired November 2016
John Martin	1	

The Business and Operations met four times in 2016

Name	Number of Meetings Attended	Notes
Alan Barrett	4	
Hannah McGee	4	
Brid O'Brien	4	

The Governance & Nominations Committee met two times in 2016

Name	Number of Meetings Attended	Notes
Alan Barrett	2	
Emer Gilvarry	2	
Padraig McManus	2	

In 2017 the Governance and Nominations Committee was reconfigured as the Nominations Committee with the Governance function transferring to the Audit and Risk Committee.

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