

ESRI REVIEW OF RESEARCH 2019





The Economic and Social Research Institute is an independent research institute working towards a vision of 'Informed policy for a better Ireland'. The ESRI seeks to support sustainable economic growth and social progress in Ireland by providing a robust knowledge base capable of providing effective solutions to public policy challenges.

The Institute was founded in 1960 by a group of senior civil servants, led by Dr T.K. Whitaker, who identified the need for independent and in-depth research to support the policymaking process in Ireland. Since then, the Institute has remained committed to independent research and its work is free of any expressed ideology or political position. The Institute publishes all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research.

The ESRI brings together leading experts from a variety of disciplines who work together to break new ground across a number of research initiatives. The expertise of its researchers is recognised in public life and researchers are represented on the boards and advisory committees of several national and international organisations.

ESRI researchers uphold the highest academic standards. The quality of the Institute's research output is guaranteed by a rigorous peer review process. Research is published only when it meets the required standards and practices. Research quality has also been assessed as part of two peer reviews of the Institute, in 2010 and 2016.

ESRI research findings are disseminated widely in books, journal articles and reports. Reports published by the ESRI are available to download, free of charge, from its website. ESRI staff members communicate research findings at regular conferences and seminars, which provide a platform for representatives from government, civil society and academia to discuss key findings from recently published studies and ongoing research.

The ESRI is a company limited by guarantee, answerable to its members and governed by a Council, comprising a minimum of 11 members and a maximum of 14 members, who represent a cross-section of ESRI members: academia, civil service, state agencies, businesses and civil society.

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(L to R) Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform; An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD; Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) and Eoghan Murphy TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, at the National Economic Dialogue in Dublin Castle, June.



At the ESRI Annual Geary lecture, 'Tax and welfare reform: The challenge of labour market inequality', were (L to R) Roy Dooney (grandson of Dr R.C. Geary, the first Director of the Institute), Pat Rabbitte (ESRI Council Member) and Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), December.



Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment with Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) at the ESRI-UCC-MaREI Energy Research: Climate Action Conference, May.

01 INTRODUCTION

This annual Review of Research is an opportunity for my colleagues and me to describe the important work of the ESRI in providing independent, high-quality research to achieve our vision of 'informed policy for a better Ireland'. The ESRI performs a unique role in Irish public life. It provides the most effective input with which to solve public policy problems: evidence.

The extent of public policy challenges can seem overwhelming in our rapidly changing world. At the time of writing, the world is dealing with the Covid-19 crisis and, to an extent, we are consumed by the twin public health and economic challenges. But, at the same time, the difficulties posed by housing supply, healthcare, climate change, an ageing population, and technological advances, to name just a few, continue to demand innovative and effective responses.

Solutions to these challenges are only likely to be effective if they are based on high-quality evidence. Solving policy problems is multifaceted and difficult. The best place to start is with the facts. Establishing the facts should be a guiding principle, a 'North Star', for policymakers tasked with responding to complex public policy challenges.

There are two reasons why the ESRI is among the best-placed organisations to help policymakers achieve this. First, our commitment to academic rigour distinguishes us from others. A rigorous peer review process guarantees the quality of the Institute's research output and we publish work only when it meets the highest standards. Our researchers also publish in international peer-reviewed journals, thereby demonstrating that our work measures up to top international standards.

Secondly, the Institute is independent and its work is free of any expressed ideology or political position. We publish all research reaching the appropriate academic standard, irrespective of its findings or who funds the research.

For these reasons, the ESRI can be relied on to provide only solid evidence, which cuts through the noise of an information-heavy world where the lines between facts and opinion are often blurred and disinformation is readily available. The ESRI will continue to support informed public debate by promoting the importance of high-quality research, by making its research widely available and by communicating the results in a variety of public fora. Our contributions to public discourse are informed by 60 years of expertise in a wide range of socio-economic topics.

Before concluding, I want to thank our funders, our members and our research partners for their valuable support. I would like to acknowledge in particular the grant provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. I would also like to thank the numerous government departments, state agencies and other organisations that commissioned the research described throughout this document.



Professor Alan Barrett
Director of the ESRI

2019 IN NUMBERS

PUBLICATIONS

18
RESEARCH
BULLETINS

9
BOOK
CHAPTERS

57
REPORTS

52
JOURNAL
ARTICLES

39
WORKING
PAPERS

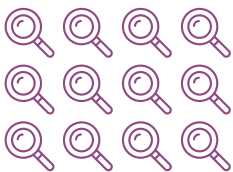


RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS



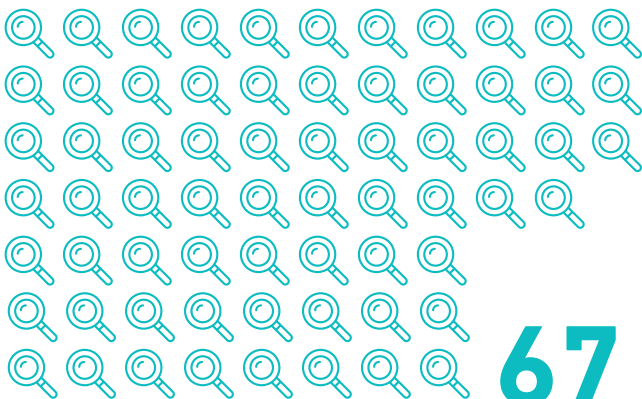
21

NEW



12

COMPLETED



67

ONGOING

OIREACHTAS



ESRI RESEARCHERS ADDRESSED
OIREACHTAS COMMITTEES

6 TIMES

THE ESRI WAS MENTIONED
IN OIREACHTAS PROCEEDINGS

340 TIMES

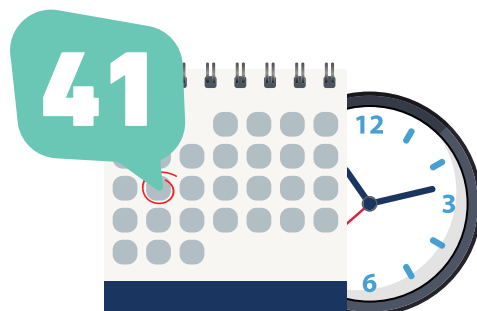
(200 PQ MENTIONS + 119 DÁIL DEBATES
+ 21 SEANAD DEBATES)



MEDIA



EVENTS



02 ESRI CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS 2019

The Institute's public conferences and events are an important platform for disseminating our research findings to a wide audience and to allow us to strengthen our relationships with policymakers and our collaborations within the research community.

The Institute holds weekly public seminars where researchers from both the ESRI and other institutions present new research findings and research methodologies on a variety of public policy and research topics.

Visit <https://www.esri.ie/events> for more information, including presentations, photos and videos of events held in 2019.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

*Technical paper on social inclusion and access to care services in Ireland, **February**.*

*Launch of Growing Up in Ireland reports, **February**.*

*Growing Up in Ireland data workshop, **March, April, May and December**.*

*Data for monitoring integration: Gaps, challenges and opportunities, **March**.*

*Environment and health conference, **April**.*

*ESRI-UCC-MaREI energy research: climate action conference, **May**.*

*Pensions and retirement conference, **May**.*

*Greater cohesion in an increasingly fractured world: where now for the European project? **June**.*

*Budget perspectives 2020, **June**.*

*Migrant integration: policy and place, **June**.*

*Gender, pensions and income in retirement, **September**.*

*ESRI/UCD conference: Energy research to enable climate change mitigation, **September**.*

*Access to childcare and home care services across Europe, **September**.*

*Health and social care supply and resource allocation planning in Ireland, **September**.*

*The ageing workforce in Ireland: working conditions, health and extending working lives, **October**.*

*ESRI post-Budget briefing, **October**.*

*Second annual conference on the Irish housing and mortgage market, **November**.*

*Growing Up in Ireland: 11th annual research conference, **November**.*

*ESRI annual Geary lecture — Tax and welfare reform: The challenge of labour market inequality, Professor Richard Blundell, David Ricardo Chair of Political Economy at University College London, **December**.*

*Energy Finance Christmas Workshop (EFC19), **December**.*

02 ESRI CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS 2019

ESRI SEMINAR SERIES

Targeting disability insurance applications with screening, **Maarten Lindeboom, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, School of Business and Economics and Tinbergen Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, January.**

Labour market concerns and support for immigration, **Chris Roth, Institute on Behaviour & Inequality, Bonn, Germany, January.**

New developments in behavioural macroeconomics, **Dr Yuemei Ji, School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, University College London, February.**

US monetary and fiscal policies – conflict or cooperation? **Campbell Leith, Professor of Macroeconomics, University of Glasgow, February.**

The ENGINE model: Determining optimal development of the Irish electricity sector under different policy scenarios, **Desta Fitiwi, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), March.**

Do lower minimum wages for young workers raise their employment? Evidence from a Danish discontinuity, **Daniel Reck, Department of Economics, London School of Economics, March.**

Why do households re-leverage as house prices rise? **Peter Levell, Institute for Fiscal Studies, April.**

Childhood self-control and economic and health outcomes across life, **Dr Michael Daly, Maynooth University, April.**

Parental divorce, life-course dynamics and children's time use: heterogeneity by parental education and child gender, **Dr Pablo Gracia, Trinity College Dublin, April.**

The cognitive meltdown: radiation and cognitive skills after birth, **Dr Benjamin Elsner, School of Economics, University College Dublin, May.**

Taxation, expenditures and the Irish miracle, **Paul Klein, Professor of Macroeconomics, Stockholm University, May.**

On the persistence of UK inflation: a long-range dependence approach, **Guglielmo Maria Caporale, Professor of Economics and Finance, Brunel University London, May.**

Risks that matter, **Dr Valerie Frey, OECD, June.**

Market and political power interactions in a SOE-RBC model: a DSGE model of southern European capitalism and the Great Recession, **Vangelis Vassilatos, Associate Professor of Macroeconomics, Athens University of Economics and Business, June.**

Communication and hidden action: evidence from a person-to-person lending experiment, **Martin Brown, Professor of Banking at the University of St Gallen, September.**

The evolutionary process of knowledge recombination and Smart Specialisation Strategies for economic development, **Dr Dieter F. Kogler, Associate Professor in Economic Geography and the Academic Director of the Spatial Dynamics Lab at University College Dublin, November.**

Ireland's trade with the Baltic in the 18th century, **Dr Aidan Kane, Head of Economics at NUI Galway, November.**

03 RESEARCH AREAS

The research process in the Institute is team-oriented, with collaborations across the economics and sociology disciplines and across the research areas. In 2019 the Institute's research agenda was organised into 11 main areas, as outlined in the following sections.





BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

04



04 BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE



Research Area Coordinator:
Pete Lunn

Others working in this area include:
Deirdre Robertson, Shane Timmons, Cameron Belton, Hannah Julianne, Laura Gormley, Ciarán Lavin and Martina Barjaková.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **People order and eat fewer calories for lunch when the number of calories in each item on the menu is presented immediately after the price, in the same size and in the same font. This study was a pre-test of planned legislation on calorie posting.**
- **The importance people place on pollution depends not only on how concerned for the environment they are but also on how the idea of pollution is framed. People respond differently to descriptions that stress causing harm over descriptions that emphasise dirtying the environment.**

04 BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

The Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) is a team of multidisciplinary scientists who use controlled experiments to investigate decisions and behaviours. It has recently broadened its focus beyond consumer behaviour to investigate health and environmental behaviours.

The BRU completed two studies on food choice, both funded by the **Department of Health**. The first showed that people order and eat substantially fewer calories when calories are printed on menus, provided the information is shown in the right format. The second study found that people pay more attention to portion size when it is displayed on packaging by a visual cue rather than written text.

An international review was completed for **Sport Ireland** on behavioural interventions designed to increase physical activity in socially disadvantaged areas. Two randomised controlled trials were undertaken to test interventions designed to increase activity. Results will be published in 2020.

The first step in a Horizon 2020 project funded by the **European Commission** was undertaken in collaboration with the **Geological Survey of Ireland**. The BRU investigated how people assess environmental risks associated with mining exploration.

An experiment funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency** showed that, in making decisions, how much weight people give to the effects of pollution depends on how the idea of pollution is framed, e.g. as harm to other people, or as damage to the purity of the environment.

An experiment funded by the **OECD** in collaboration with the Water Industry Commission for Scotland looked at households' priorities for investment in the industry. The study found strong variation in households' priorities for service improvements versus environmental benefits.

The BRU completed an experiment on consumers' responses to personalised pricing and associated disclosures, also for the **OECD**. The experiment is to be repeated in Chile in 2020.

A statistical model was developed for the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)** to identify farms most at risk of breaching EU nitrates regulations. The model is being used to target behavioural interventions designed to reduce emissions. The BRU started two other research programmes with **DAFM**: one to assist farmer behaviour with respect to preventing the spread of bovine tuberculosis; the other to study antibiotic use by farmers and vets.

Late 2019 saw the start of three new research programmes. A study designed to test for a link between understanding of climate change and willingness to take and support pro-climate action is being funded by **AIB**. A new research programme with the **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission** will design and test an intervention to increase saving. And the BRU is working with the **Health Insurance Authority** to investigate how consumers choose among complex health insurance products.

04 BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Setting defaults for online banking transactions: Experimental evidence from personal loan repayment terms', *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, Vol. 23, September 2019, pp. 161–165, **Shane Timmons, Féidhlim McGowan, Pete Lunn.**

'The effect of spatial location of calorie information on choice, consumption and eye movements', *Achievement*, Vol. 144, 1 January 2020, 104446, **Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn.**

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

'Field and lab experiments training at UCD School of Economics', Tiziana Brancaccio et al., *Economics in Action: Topics and Resources*, Chapter 2, pp. 22–35, McGraw-Hill, UK, **Liam Delaney, Orla Doyle, Pete Lunn, Till Weber.**

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

'Subtle features of online loan calculators can influence consumer choices', ESRI, Dublin, **Shane Timmons, Féidhlim McGowan, Pete Lunn.**

'Supporting decision-making in retirement planning: Do diagrams on pension benefit statements help?', ESRI, Dublin, **Féidhlim McGowan, Pete Lunn.**

'The position of calories on menus influences how much people eat', ESRI, Dublin, **Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn.**

04 BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'An experiment for regulatory policy on broadband speed advertising', ESRI, Dublin, **Shane Timmons, Terence McElvaney, Pete Lunn.**

'Can official advice improve mortgage-holders' perceptions of switching? An experimental investigation', ESRI, Dublin, **Shane Timmons, Martina Barjaková, Terry McElvaney, Pete Lunn.**

'Interventions to increase physical activity in disadvantaged communities: A review of behavioural mechanisms', ESRI, Dublin, **Laura Gormley, Cameron Belton, Pete Lunn, Deirdre Robertson.**

'Predicting farms' noncompliance with regulations on nitrate pollution', ESRI, Dublin, **Pete Lunn, Seán Lyons, Martin Murphy.**

'Smart choices? An experimental study of smart meters and time-of-use tariffs in Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Cameron Belton, Pete Lunn.**

'The effect of spatial position of calorie information on choice, consumption and attention', ESRI, Dublin, **Deirdre Robertson, Pete Lunn.**

'Underestimation of money growth and pensions: Experimental investigations', ESRI, Dublin, **Féidhlim McGowan, Pete Lunn, Deirdre Robertson.**



(L to R) Pete Lunn, Deirdre Robertson and Anne Nolan (ESRI), Regina Doherty TD, Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), and Paul Redmond (ESRI) at the 'Pensions and retirement' conference on 29 May.

The background of the page features a teal-tinted image of the European Union flag, with its twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle on a blue field. The flag is positioned in front of a modern building with a glass and steel facade, which is visible on the right side of the image. The overall aesthetic is professional and institutional.

COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND FDI

05



05 COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND FDI



Research Area Coordinator:
Iulia Siedschlag

Others working in this area include:
Mattia Di Ubaldo, Martina Lawless, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Stefano Meneto, Manuel Tong Koecklin and Weijie Yan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Full compliance with the Single Market – in the sense of a correct and timely transposition of the Single Market legislation into national law – could be a driver of productivity growth and welfare in the long term. These gains would come about through increased specialisation and greater intra-EU production linkages.**
- **Leaving the EU is likely to make the UK less attractive as a location for foreign direct investment. This effect will come about through slower economic growth and reduced access to the EU Single Market.**

05 COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND FDI

ESRI research in this area focuses primarily on structural and microeconomic factors and policies underlying competitiveness and economic growth in Ireland and other European countries in the context of international economic integration. In 2019 research in this area addressed the following themes: the impact of the EU Single Market on trade, competition and productivity, and the impact of Brexit on foreign direct investment, cross-border trade, and environmental policy and enterprise competitiveness.

A study funded by the **European Commission** found that compliance with the Single Market legislation has been associated with increased trade, enhanced competition and productivity gains in EU countries. Further research results indicated that the quality of the Single Market legal framework was a source of comparative advantage and export specialisation in EU countries. The study concluded that full compliance with the Single Market – in the sense of a correct and timely transposition of the Single Market legislation into national law – could be a driver of productivity growth and welfare in the long term. These gains would come about through increased specialisation and greater intra-EU production linkages.

Research funded by the **Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland** found that Brexit will reduce the attractiveness of the UK as a location for foreign direct investment. This effect would come about through slower economic growth and reduced access to the EU Single Market. Further research indicated that Northern Ireland would become more attractive to foreign direct investment if it remained in the EU Single Market for goods and services while the rest of the UK left the EU Single Market. Additional research estimated that the number of FDI-related new jobs in Northern Ireland over two years after the referendum was lower by 31 per cent

than it would have been without the Brexit uncertainty.

Research funded by **InterTradeIreland** examined the shock absorption capacity of firms in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This was done by examining the distribution of firms by growth performance and profit margins, in order to distinguish between those performing strongly and those most likely to be vulnerable to any negative shock to their demand or cost base. The findings of the report indicate that small, largely locally orientated firms with some cross-border trade are likely to be most exposed to any changes in trade costs.

Environmental Protection Agency- funded research found that environmental regulations, in-house research and development activity, and acquisition of capital assets were major drivers of the propensity of Ireland's enterprises to introduce innovations with environmental benefits. Further research found that spending on environment protection was more likely in large enterprises, enterprises engaged in international markets, enterprises with higher fuel consumption intensity and enterprises subject to the EU Emissions Trading System. Additional research found that spending on environment protection reduced the intensity of fuel consumption and increased output and labour productivity.

05 COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND FDI

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Firm strategies in expanding and diversifying exports', *World Economy*, Vol. 42, Issue 2, February 2019, pp. 349–375, **Martina Lawless, Iulia Siedschlag, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

'Sources of productivity growth using the Färe-Primont decomposition. An empirical application to the Irish beef sector', *Applied Economics*, Vol. 51, Issue 36, 2019, pp. 3982–3994, **Maria Martinez Cillero, Fiona Thorne**.

'South-North trade in Ireland: Gravity and firms from the Good Friday Agreement to Brexit', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 4, Winter 2019, pp. 751–766, **Martina Lawless, Peter Neary, Zuzanna Studnicka**.

'The product and sector level impact of a hard Brexit across the EU', *Contemporary Social Science*, Vol. 14, Issue 2, 2019, pp. 189–207, **Martina Lawless, Edgar Morgenroth**.

05 COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND FDI

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Shock absorption capacity of firms in Ireland and Northern Ireland', InterTradelreland, Newry, **Martina Lawless**.

'The impact of Brexit uncertainty on FDI-related new jobs in Northern Ireland', Department for the Economy, Belfast, **Iulia Siedschlag, Manuel Tong Koecklin**.

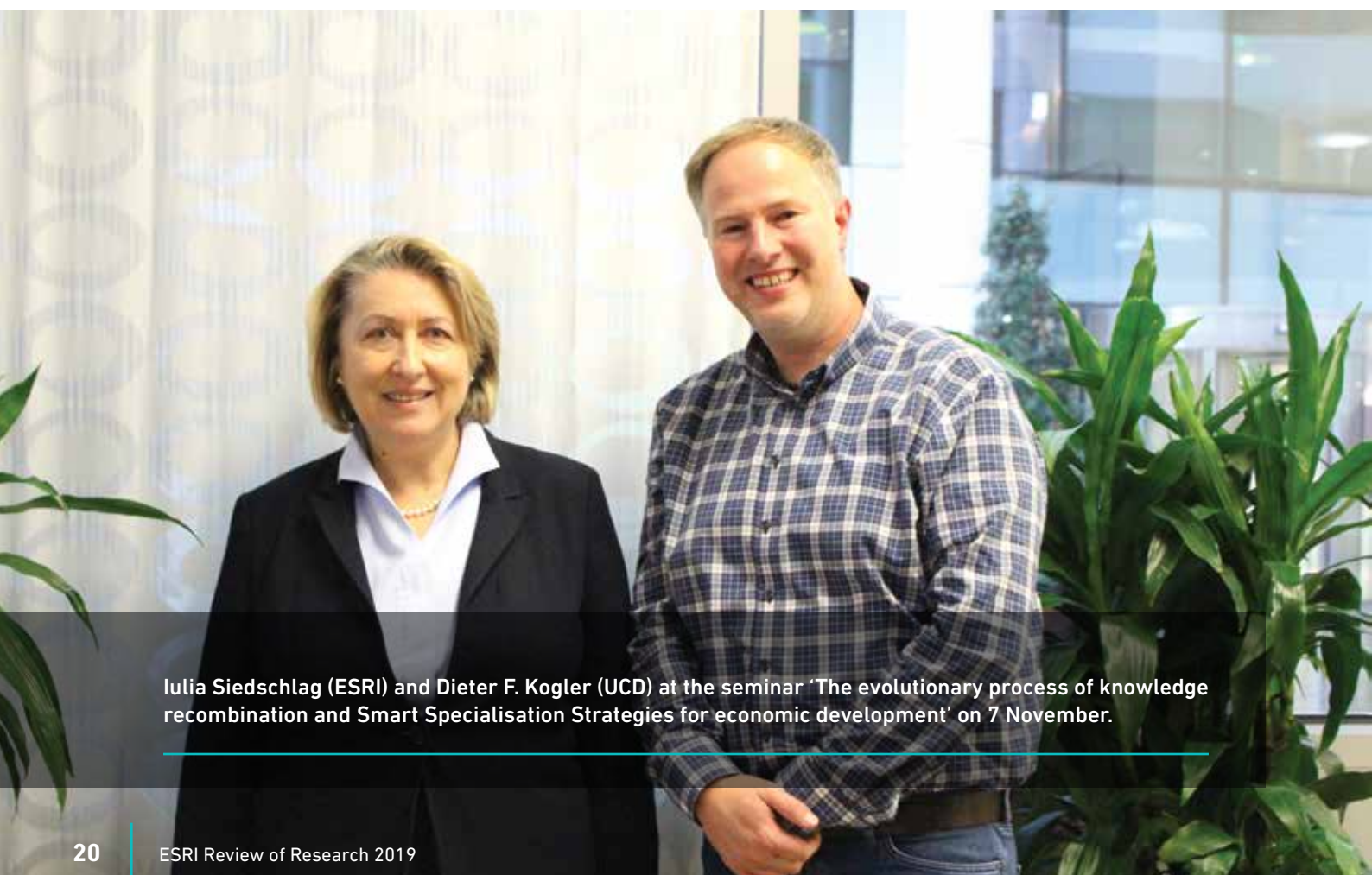
'The impact of the UK's EU exit on its attractiveness to FDI and associated job creation effects', Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland, Belfast, **Iulia Siedschlag, Manuel Tong Koecklin**.

'The impact of the UK's EU exit on the attractiveness of Northern Ireland to FDI and associated job creation effects', Department for the Economy Northern Ireland, Belfast, **Iulia Siedschlag, Manuel Tong Koecklin**.

'The performance of the single market for goods after 25 years', European Commission, Brussels, **Yvonne Wolfmayr, Klaus Friesenbichler, Harald Oberhofer, Michael Pfaffermayr, Iulia Siedschlag, Mattia Di Ubaldo, Manuel Tong Koecklin, Weijie Yan**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'Determinants of green innovations: Firm-level evidence', ESRI, Dublin, **Iulia Siedschlag, Stefano Meneto, Manuel Tong Koecklin**.



Iulia Siedschlag (ESRI) and Dieter F. Kogler (UCD) at the seminar 'The evolutionary process of knowledge recombination and Smart Specialisation Strategies for economic development' on 7 November.



EDUCATION

06



06 EDUCATION



Research Area Coordinators:
Selina McCoy, Emer Smyth

Others working in this area include: Merike Darmody, Georgiana Mihut.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Young people with special educational needs (SEN) are more likely to experience a negative transition to second-level education. Students with general learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities are three times more likely to experience a poor transition compared to young people without SEN.**
- **A lack of clear policy guidance has meant that students' experience of technology at school varies widely, and public discourse has been device- rather than content-focused.**

06 EDUCATION

The ESRI Education research area covers all levels of the Irish educational system, including early childhood education, primary, second-level, and further and higher education. Research in 2019 focused on the role and impact of digital technologies in the lives of children, how schools might respond in an era of digital learning, the use of digital cameras in teacher education, the impact of changes to the Leaving Certificate grading scheme, the Youthreach programme, research on the experiences of persons with disabilities, and a number of projects for the European Commission.

In collaboration with researchers in the Communications research area and as part of a programme funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**, research investigated the impact of digital technologies within and outside school on academic skills development and psycho-social wellbeing among children and young people. The education team, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Limerick, also examined how schools might respond in an era of digital learning. Funded by **Hibernia College**, researchers examined how digital cameras can support student teachers during their school placement, undertaken as part of their teacher education.

The number of Educate Together second-level schools has expanded rapidly. Given the scale of growth, and the distinct ethos and climate of **Educate Together** schools, new research funded by Educate Together is examining how students attending these schools experience diverse aspects of their school life.

A study examining the early impact of the revised Leaving Certificate grading scheme was published. It was overseen by the Transitions Reform Steering Group and funded by the **National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)**. The study found that the changes led to an increase in uptake of higher-level subjects, but this increase was less pronounced in DEIS schools and smaller schools. Also, for the **NCCA**, findings from the senior-cycle review consultation showed a strong appetite among students, parents and teachers for changing senior-cycle education.

A review of the Youthreach programme, undertaken on behalf of **SOLAS**, and published in 2019, showed the value of the programme in supporting entry into education, training and employment. Key findings from the evaluation were highlighted in the *Yearbook of Education 2019/2020*.

Work began on a new research programme with the **National Disability Authority (NDA)** examining the experiences of persons with disabilities across a range of key policy areas, including education.

Education researchers continued to be involved in work for the European Commission, including the **Directorate General for Education and Culture's** Network of Independent Experts in Education and Training and its Expert Group on Graduate Tracking.

06 EDUCATION

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Between ethos and practice: Are Ireland's new multi-denominational primary schools equal and inclusive?', *Compare*, Vol. 49, Issue 4, 2019, pp. 602–618, **Daniel Faas, Aimee Smith, Merike Darmody**.

'Evaluating Post Leaving Certificate provision in Ireland', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 3, Autumn 2019, pp. 557–585, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Elish Kelly, Selina McCoy, Emer Smyth, Adele Whelan**.

'Post-school transitions in Ireland: a case study of Russian-speaking students', *Comparative Education*, Vol. 55, Issue 3, 2019, pp. 326–346, **Daniel Faas, Merike Darmody, Holly Foley**.

'The digital learning movement: How should Irish schools respond?', *The Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 4, Winter 2019, pp. 767–783, **Ann Marcus-Quinn, Triona Hourigan, Selina McCoy**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Evaluation of the National Youthreach Programme', ESRI Research Series No. 82, ESRI, Dublin, **Emer Smyth, Joanne Banks, Jessica O'Sullivan, Selina McCoy, Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness**.

'Student, teacher and parent perspectives on senior cycle education', ESRI Research Series No. 94, ESRI, Dublin, **Emer Smyth, Selina McCoy, Joanne Banks**.

'The early impact of the revised Leaving Certificate grading scheme on student perceptions and behaviour', ESRI Research Series No. 85, ESRI, Dublin, **Selina McCoy, Delma Byrne, Jessica O'Sullivan, Emer Smyth**.

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'Senior cycle review: analysis of discussions in schools on senior cycle pathways and structures in Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Emer Smyth**.



(L to R) David Duffy (Teachers' Union of Ireland (TUI)); Seamus Lahart (President, TUI); Selina McCoy (ESRI); and Adam Harris (AsIAM Ireland) at the Teachers' Union of Ireland conference, November.



(L to R) Selina McCoy (ESRI), Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), Siobhan Barron (Director, National Disability Authority (NDA)) and Seán Lyons (ESRI) at the launch of the NDA Research Programme, November.



**ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

07





Research Area

Coordinators:

Seán Lyons and John Curtis

Others working in this area include:

Achim Ahrens, William Brazil, Philip Carthy, Kelly De Bruin, Desta Fitiwi, Ankita Gaur, Gianluca Grilli, Jason Harold, Dana Kirchem, Muireann Á. Lynch, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Anne Nolan, Marianna Russo, Petr Spodniak, Miguel Tovar Reanos, Aykut Mert Yakut, Shiyu Yan and Tong Zhu.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fossil-fuel subsidies, mostly excise exemptions, are six times the magnitude of carbon tax revenue. Abolition of these subsidies, excluding household fuel allowances, would have a modest economic impact but lead to substantial reduction in CO2 emissions.**
- **Early mobile-phone ownership among children is associated with better performance in reading and maths. Across both domains, children who reported owning a phone by the age of nine fared less well in terms of their academic development at age 13 compared to those who got phones later than age nine.**

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Research in this area is funded through a number of multi-annual research programmes. Energy and climate research is funded by the **Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), ESB, Ervia, Gas Networks Ireland, EirGrid, SSE Ireland, Viridian, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**. Research related to the environment, including fisheries, is funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Inland Fisheries Ireland**. Research on electronic communications networks and services is funded by the **Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) and DCCAE**.

The Energy Research Programme spans market design and regulation, energy services, energy infrastructure, and the interface with society and the environment. Research in 2019 found that renewable energy subsidies for wind-power generation are beneficial not just to windfarm owners, but also to owners of other technologies such as 'power-to-gas'.

The development of an LNG import facility or an underground gas storage facility would yield lower energy costs for consumers in the case of an LNG import facility, whereas development of gas storage capacity would enhance natural-gas and power system flexibility. The European experience in biogas development has lessons for Irish policy ambitions to increase biogas/biomethane production, highlighting the need for clear strategic vision for the sector, as well as supply-chain risks surrounding secure and consistent quality feedstocks.

The ESRI's Research Programme on Climate, Energy and the Economy focused on informing the Government's Climate Action Plan, including analyses on the impacts of removing fossil-fuel subsidies, the regional impacts of carbon taxation, and the distributional impacts of carbon-tax revenue recycling.

The Environment Research Programme published research this year showing that Ireland has experienced a substantial loss of non-urban land in recent decades. Furthermore, a significant share of urban land use has been extended to remote areas, thereby exacerbating sprawl. A wide-ranging EPA report was published based on research under the programme Research on Aspects of Ireland's Environment, Consumer Behaviour and Health. Behavioural studies underway in this programme include a field trial of measures to increase radon remediation in at-risk households and methods to improve communication of environmental information more generally.

A new three-year communications research programme was agreed with **DCCAE and ComReg**. In 2019, journal articles were published on the effects of broadband on productivity of service-sector firms and on employment levels among firms generally. Another publication examined the relationship between early mobile-phone ownership among children in Ireland and their academic performance.

A new research theme supporting river-basin management planning was initiated in 2019, starting with a review of methods and approaches to encourage pro-environmental behaviours. Fisheries research focused on quantifying the nature and economic impact of angling activity.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Are objective data an appropriate replacement for subjective data in site choice analysis?', *Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy*, Vol. 8, Issue 2, 2019, pp.159–178, **John Deely, Stephen Hynes, John Curtis.**

'Changes in land cover and urban sprawl in Ireland from a comparative perspective over 1990–2012', *Land*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2019, **Achim Ahrens, Seán Lyons.**

'Combining actual and contingent behaviour data to estimate the value of coarse fishing in Ireland', *Fisheries Research*, Vol. 215, 2019, pp. 53–61, **John Deely, Stephen Hynes, John Curtis.**

'Effects of broadband availability on total factor productivity in service sector firms: Evidence from Ireland', *Telecommunications Policy*, Vol. 43, Issue 1, February 2019, pp. 11–22, **Stefanie Haller, Seán Lyons.**

'Electricity prices and industry switching: evidence from Chinese manufacturing firms', *Energy Economics*, Vol. 78, February 2019, pp. 567–588, **Robert Elliott, Puyang Sun, Tong Zhu.**

'Exploring the influence of an extended theory of planned behaviour on preferences and willingness to pay for participatory natural resources management', *Journal of Environmental Management*, Vol. 232, February 2019, pp. 902–909, **Gianluca Grilli, Sandra Notaro.**

'How to reach an elusive INDC target: macroeconomic implications of carbon taxation and emissions trading in Turkey', *Journal of Climate Policy*, Vol. 19, Issue 9, 2019, pp. 1157–1172, **Baris Karapinar, Hasan Dudu, Ozge Geyik, Aykut Mert Yakut.**

'Is employment growth affected by the introduction of broadband services? Evidence from firms in Ireland', *Economics and Business Letters*, Vol. 8 (1), 2019, pp. 41–52, **Philip Carthy, Seán Lyons**.

'Later is better: mobile phone ownership and child academic development, evidence from a longitudinal study', *Journal Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, Vol. 28, Issue 8, 2019, pp. 798–815, **Seraphim Dempsey, Seán Lyons, Selina McCoy**.

'Liquefied natural gas and gas storage valuation: Lessons from the integrated Irish and UK markets', *Applied Energy*, Vol. 238, March 2019, pp. 1389–1406, **Mel Devine, Marianna Russo**.

'Measuring and assessing the evolution of liquidity in forward natural gas markets: The case of the UK national balancing point', *The Energy Journal* Vol. 40, Issue 1, pp. 143–169, **Lilian M de Menezes, Marianna Russo, Giovanni Urga**.

'Promoting agricultural biogas and biomethane production: Lessons from cross-country studies', *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, Vol. 114, October 2019, 109332, **Tong Zhu, John Curtis, Matthew Clancy**.

'Residential energy efficiency retrofits: potential unintended consequences', *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, Vol. 62, Issue 12, 2019, **Matthew Collins, Seraphim Dempsey**.

'The effect of Demand Response and wind generation on electricity investment and operation', *Sustainable Energy, Grids and Networks*, Vol. 17, March 2019, 100190, **Mel Devine, Sheila Nolan, Muireann Á. Lynch, Mark O'Malley**.

'The impacts of demand response participation in capacity markets', *Applied Energy*, Vol. 250, September 2019, pp. 444–451, **Muireann Á. Lynch, Sheila Nolan, Mel T. Devine, Mark O'Malley**.

'The role of power-to-gas in the future energy system: Market and portfolio effects', *Energy*, Vol. 185, pp. 1197–1209, **Muireann Á Lynch, Mel Devine, Valentin Bertsch**.

'Who pays for renewables? Increasing renewable subsidisation due to increased datacentre demand in Ireland', *World Journal of Applied Economics*, Vol. 5, No. 1, June 2019, pp. 25–29, **Muireann Á. Lynch, Mel Devine**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Construction of the Energy Social Accounting Matrix for Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut**.

'Recreational angling monthly activity survey', ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis, Gianluca Grilli**.

'Research on aspects of Ireland's environment consumer behaviour and health: ESRI environment research programme 2016–2018', EPA, Wexford, **Achim Ahrens, John Curtis, Seraphim Dempsey, Mel T. Devine, Tom Gillespie, Gianluca Grilli, Stephen Hynes, Ronan C. Lyons, Pete Lunn, Seán Lyons, Terry McElvaney, Edgar Morgenroth, Kyle Moore, Martin Murphy, Áine Ní Choisdealbha, Anne Nolan**.

'Technical documentation of I3E model', ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut**.

'Technical documentation of I3E model, Version 2', ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut**.

'The economic and distributional impacts of an increased carbon tax with different revenue recycling schemes', ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Eoin Monaghan, Aykut Mert Yakut**.

'The impacts of removing fossil fuel subsidies and increasing carbon tax in Ireland', ESRI Research Series No. 98, ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Eoin Monaghan, Aykut Mert Yakut**.

'Transitioning to a low-carbon Irish economy: An analysis of regional labour impacts', ESRI Research Series No. 100, ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Martina Lawless, Eoin Monaghan, Aykut Mert Yakut**.

QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

'Carbon taxation in Ireland: distributional effects of revenue recycling policies', *QEC Special Article*, ESRI, Dublin, **Miguel Tovar Reaños, Muireann A. Lynch**.

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

'Biogas: a real option to reduce greenhouse gas emissions', ESRI, Dublin, **Tong Zhu, John Curtis, Matthew Clancy**.

'How social housing tenants respond when their homes are made more energy efficient', ESRI, Dublin, **Bryan Coyne, Seán Lyons, Daire McCoy**.

'Later is better: Mobile phone ownership and child academic development', ESRI, Dublin, **Seraphim Dempsey, Seán Lyons, Selina McCoy**.

'Liquefied natural gas and gas storage valuation: Lessons from the integrated Irish and UK markets', ESRI, Dublin, **Mel Devine, Marianna Russo**.

'Measuring liquidity in gas markets: The case of the UK National Balancing Point', ESRI, Dublin, **Lilian M. de Menezes, Marianna Russo, Giovanni Urga**.

'Productivity is higher among some service firms when broadband becomes available, but not all', ESRI, Dublin, **Stefanie Haller, Seán Lyons**.

'Salmon and sea trout angling: Anglers' conservation preferences', ESRI, Dublin, **Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis, Stephen Hynes**.

'Stick or switch? Consumer switching in 14 retail markets across Europe', ESRI, Dublin, **Jason Harold, John Cullinan, Seán Lyons**.

'The effect of demand response and wind generation on electricity investment and operation', ESRI, Dublin, **Mel Devine, Sheila Nolan, Muireann Á. Lynch, Mark O'Malley.**

'The impacts of demand response participation in capacity markets', ESRI, Dublin, **Muireann Á. Lynch, Sheila Nolan, Mel T. Devine, Mark O'Malley.**

'Who pays for renewables? the effect of datacentres on renewable subsidies', ESRI, Dublin, **Muireann Á. Lynch, Mel Devine.**

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'Access to and consumption of natural gas: spatial and sociodemographic drivers', ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis, Miguel Angel Tovar, Gianluca Grilli.**

'Blockchain electricity trading using tokenised power delivery contracts', ESRI, Dublin, **Mel Devine, Marianna Russo, Paul Cuffe.**

'Capacity-constrained renewable power generation development in light of storage cost uncertainty', ESRI, Dublin, **Desta Fitiwi, Muireann Á Lynch, Valentin Bertsch.**

'Consumer preferences for end-use specific curtailable electricity contracts on household appliances during peak load hours', ESRI, Dublin, **Valentin Bertsch, Jason Harold, Harrison Fell.**

'Demand response within the energy-for-water-nexus: A review', ESRI, Dublin, **Dana Kirchem, Muireann Á. Lynch, Eoin Casey, Valentin Bertsch.**

'Distributional impacts of carbon taxation and revenue recycling: a behavioural microsimulation', ESRI, Dublin, **Miguel Tovar Reaños, Muireann Á. Lynch.**

'Encouraging pro-environmental behaviours: a review of methods and approaches', ESRI, Dublin, **Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis.**

'Heat pumps and their role in decarbonising heating sector: a comprehensive review', ESRI, Dublin, **Ankita Gaur, Desta Fitiwi, John Curtis.**

'Modelling anglers' fish release choices using logbook data', ESRI, Dublin, **Gianluca Grilli, John Curtis, Stephen Hynes.**

'Optimal development of electricity generation mix considering fossil fuel phase-out and strategic multi-area interconnection', ESRI, Dublin, **Desta Fitiwi, Muireann Á. Lynch, Valentin Bertsch.**

'Promoting biogas and biomethane production: Lessons from cross-country studies', ESRI, Dublin, **Tong Zhu, John Curtis, Matthew Clancy.**

'Recreational angling demand in a mixed resource fishery', ESRI, Dublin, **Gianluca Grilli, Soumyadeep Mukhopadhyay, John Curtis, Stephen Hynes.**

'The effects of an incremental increase in the Irish carbon tax towards 2030', ESRI, Dublin, **Kelly de Bruin, Aykut Mert Yakut.**

'The relevance of wholesale electricity market places: the Nordic case', ESRI, Dublin, **Petr Spodniak, Kimmo Ollikka, Samuli Honkapuro.**

'The role of demand response in mitigating market power — a quantitative analysis using a stochastic market equilibrium model', ESRI, Dublin, **Valentin Bertsch, Mel Devine.**

'The role of socio-economic characteristics in predicting peak period appliance use', ESRI, Dublin, **William Brazil, Jason Harold, John Curtis.**

'Understanding preference heterogeneity in electricity services: the case of domestic appliance curtailment contracts', ESRI, Dublin, **John Curtis, William Brazil, Jason Harold.**

OTHER PAPERS

'Carbon taxes and compensation options', Budget Perspectives 2020/1, ESRI, Dublin, **Barra Roantree, Maxime Bercholz.**



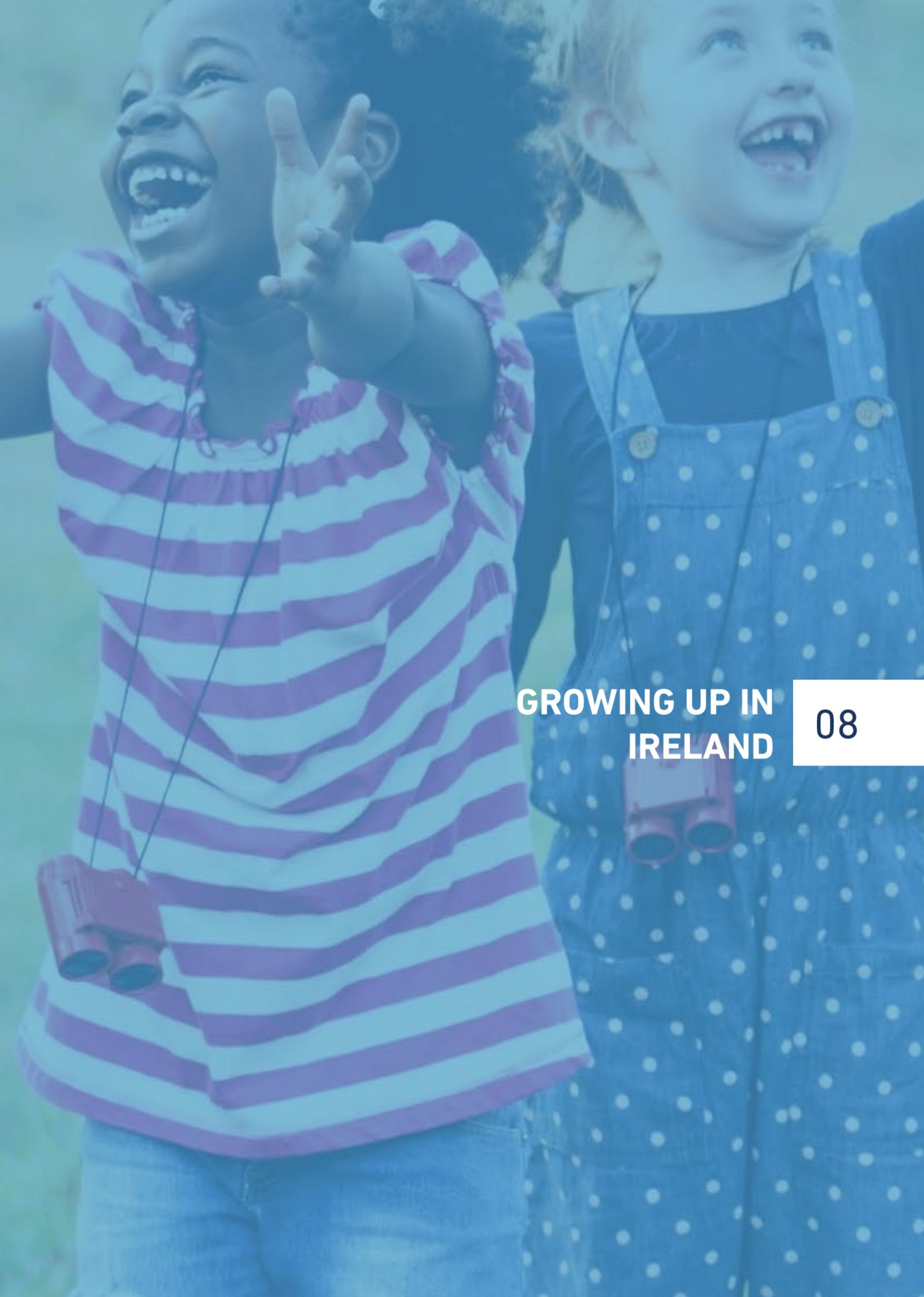
(L to R) Matthew Crowe (Director, Office of Evidence and Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)), Seán Lyons (ESRI), Laura Burke (Director General, EPA), Stephanie O'Keeffe (National Director of Health and Wellbeing, HSE), Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), and Anne Nolan (ESRI) at the Environment and Health conference, April.



(L to R) John Curtis (ESRI), Brian Ó Gallachóir (Director, MaREI), Aoife MacEville (Commissioner for Regulation of Utilities), Jerry Murphy (Director, MaREI), Ann-Marie Colbert (Gas Networks Ireland) and Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), at the ESRI-UCC-MaREI Energy Research: Climate Action Conference, May.



(L to R) Evin McMahon (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment), Lisa Ryan (UCD), Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), Hildegard Naughton TD, Chairperson of Oireachtas Committee for Communications, Climate Action & Environment and Special Committee on Climate Action, Muireann Lynch (ESRI) and John O'Connell (Ervia) at the ESRI/UCD conference: 'Energy research to enable climate change mitigation' in September.

A photograph of two young girls standing outdoors, looking upwards with joyful expressions. The girl on the left is wearing a red and white horizontally striped shirt and has red binoculars hanging from her neck. The girl on the right is wearing a blue dress with white polka dots and also has red binoculars hanging from her neck. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

**GROWING UP IN
IRELAND**

08



08 | GROWING UP IN IRELAND



Research Area

Coordinators:

Dorothy Watson and
Emer Smyth

Others working in this area include:

Aisling Murray,
Desmond O'Mahony,
Eoin McNamara,
Caoimhe O'Reilly,
Amanda Quail, Eoin
Keogh, Aoife Murphy,
Elizabeth Burke,
Andrew Moore, Brigid
Francis-Devine, Hannah
Frankis, Caroline
Goodwin, Fionnuala
Waters, Marina Profir,
Bernadette Ryan, Sarah
Purcell, Mary Kirwan,
Stefan Engemann, Anne
Johnston and Owen
Ryan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Relationships between parents and their five-year-olds are generally positive but some early inequalities in child outcomes were already detectable in health, learning and wellbeing. Children from the highest-income families were significantly more likely to be described as 'very healthy' than children in the bottom two income groups.**
- **Most 20-year-olds were still living at home; most were still engaged in education or training, and family support was very important in funding post-school education and training.**

08 GROWING UP IN IRELAND

Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland. It is funded by the **Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA)**, with a contribution from **The Atlantic Philanthropies**. The research is conducted by a consortium of independent researchers at the **Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)** and **Trinity College Dublin**.

The study follows almost 20,000 children throughout Ireland as they grow up. The objective is to provide evidence to inform the development of effective policies and services for children, young people and families. To do this, the study monitors the physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development of children and identifies factors that help or hinder their wellbeing. As well as collecting data on family structure and background, information is collected on health and physical development; socio-emotional development; cognitive and educational development, and the choices and activities of children and young people themselves.

Information is collected from children, young people, their caregivers, principals and teachers through face-to-face interviews, self-complete questionnaires and postal questionnaires. *Growing Up in Ireland* emphasises direct participation in the study by children themselves from as early an age as possible, to ensure that it captures the voice of the child – in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. From the age of three, children complete cognitive tests. As they grow older, they record their views in detail, using age-appropriate methods and questionnaires.

There are two cohorts in the study:

- Cohort '98 (most of whom were born in 1998, formerly called the 'Child Cohort') consists of 8,500 children and their families first approached in 2007/08 when the study children were 9 years old. They were reinterviewed at ages 13, 17 and 20 (in 2011/12, 2015/16 and 2018/19).
- Cohort '08 (most of whom were born in 2008, formerly called the 'Infant Cohort') were recruited when the children were 9 months old in 2008/09. The families were reinterviewed when the study children were 3, 5 and 9 years old (in 2010/11, 2013 and 2017/18). There was also a postal survey with the main caregiver in 2015/16 when the children were 7/8 years old. In 2019, an agreement was reached with the DCYA to extend the study for a further three years until 2022, to collect data from the younger cohort at age 13.

The availability of in-depth information on two cohorts of children born a decade apart, and covering the period from 2007 to the present, makes it possible to address important questions about the consequences of economic recession and recovery on outcomes for children and young people at different ages. Identifying the factors that promote resilience and protect children from the effects of adverse circumstances provides important insights for policy on children and families.

During 2019, home-based interviews were completed with almost 5,200 twenty-year-olds and their parents in the project's older Cohort '98. The response by the young people and their parents was very positive: questionnaires were completed by 66 per cent of the young people whose details had been issued to interviewers and who were still eligible (i.e. living in Ireland).

08 | GROWING UP IN IRELAND

A report launched by Minister Dr Katherine Zappone in February examined the circumstances of the younger Cohort '08 children at five years old. Most were doing well at home and in school but some early inequalities in child outcomes were already detectable in health, learning and wellbeing.

Minister Zappone also launched a set of *Key Findings* on the lives of 20-year-olds at the 2019 Annual Conference in November, covering their main activity and living circumstances, physical health, socio-emotional and behavioural wellbeing, and their education, training and work experience. The results showed a very high rate of participation in post-school education and training but revealed inequalities in this respect by social background and by attainment in the Leaving Cert.

ESRI researchers presented papers on a wide range of topics at the annual conference, including clusters of health behaviour among young adults; health effects of inadequate home heating; impact of bullying on mathematical achievement at age nine; work-family conflict and outcomes for young children; school social mix and junior-cycle performance; technology use among young children, and anti-social behaviour in Irish youth. A special session described the data collected using time-use diaries in *Growing Up in Ireland* and illustrated the use of these data to examine gender inequalities in the time children spent on housework, and the association between obesity and time spent on physical activity and sedentary behaviour.

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

08 GROWING UP IN IRELAND

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Growing Up in Ireland', *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 4, October 2019, pp. 531–546, **Eoin McNamara, Aisling Murray, James Williams**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Design, Instrumentation and Procedures for Cohort '08 at Wave 3 (5 Years)', Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, **James Williams, Maeve Thornton, Aisling Murray, Amanda Quail**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: Being 20 Years Old', ESRI/TCD/DCYA, Dublin, **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: Design, Instrumentation and Procedures for Cohort '98 at 17/18 years of age', Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, **Daráine Murphy, James Williams, Aisling Murray, Emer Smyth**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: Education Training and Employment', ESRI/TCD/DCYA, Dublin, **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: Physical Health and Development', ESRI/TCD/DCYA, Dublin, **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: Report on the Pilot Extension for the Child Cohort/Cohort '98 at Wave Two (13 Years)', Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, **James Williams, Maeve Thornton, Amanda Quail, Aisling Murray**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: Socio-emotional Well-being and Key Relationships at 20', **Growing Up in Ireland Study Team**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: The Lives of Five-Year-Olds', The Stationery Office, Dublin, **Aisling Murray, Eoin McNamara, James Williams, Emer Smyth**.

'Growing Up in Ireland: To School and Beyond — Review of the Literature on Selected Issues Pertaining to the Infant Cohort at 5 Years', Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Dublin, **Aisling Murray, Mark Morgan**.



Katherine Zappone TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with (L to R), Adam, Kevin, Aileen and Alec at the launch of four Growing Up in Ireland reports on 21 November



(L to R) Eoin McNamara and Aisling Murray (ESRI), Anne-Marie Brooks (Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), Clare Farrell (DCYA), Emer Smyth and Dorothy Watson (ESRI), Richard Layte and Elizabeth Nixon (TCD) at the launch of two new Growing Up in Ireland reports at the ESRI, February.

UNEQUAL SUPPLY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACROSS COUNTIES

Large inequalities in supply of health and social care in Ireland measured in 2014. In order to achieve equity in health and social care supply, increases in supply of care could be needed in many counties.



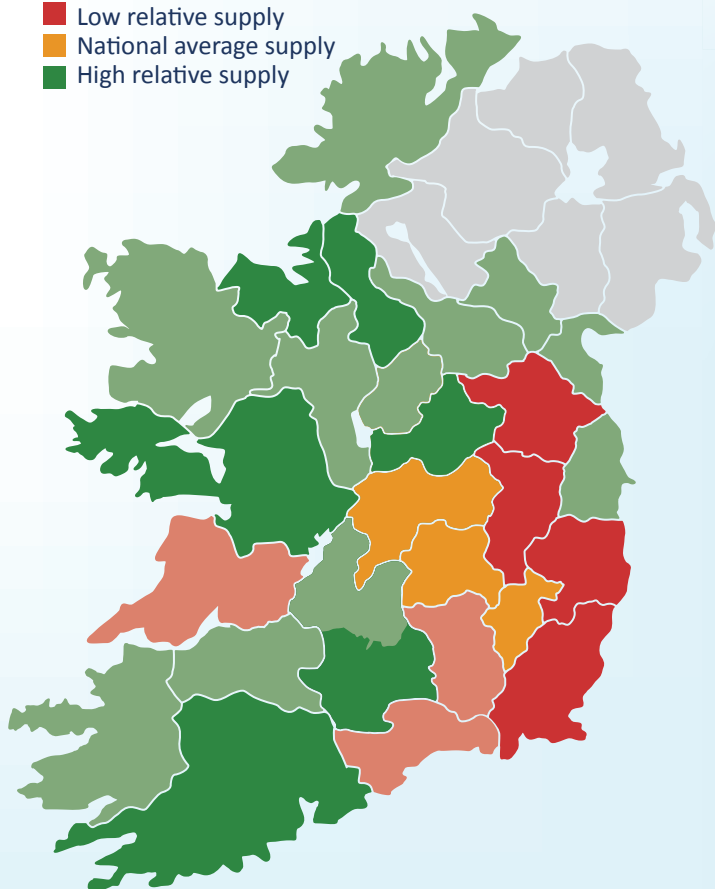
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



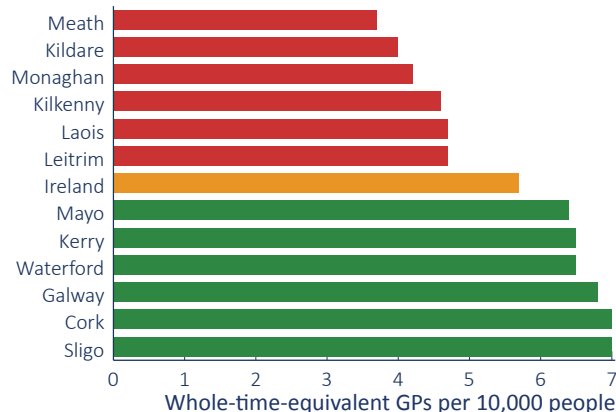
Inequalities in the supply of health and social care could impede progress towards proposed Sláintecare policies of moving some care from hospitals to the community.

OVERALL SUPPLY OF 10 SERVICES EXAMINED

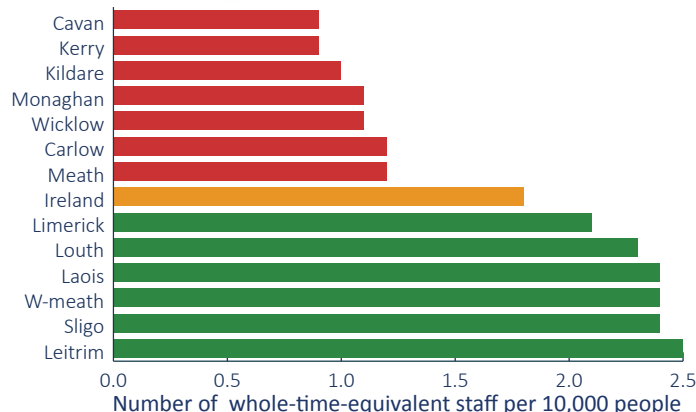
- Low relative supply
- National average supply
- High relative supply



GENERAL PRACTITIONERS



COUNSELLORS & PSYCHOLOGISTS

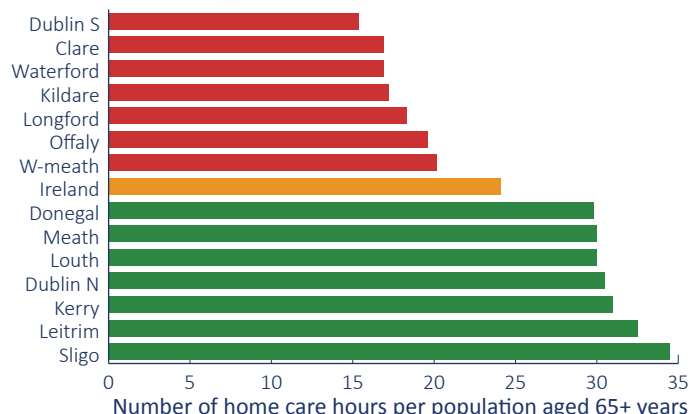


10 NON-ACUTE SERVICES EXAMINED

- GPs
- Community Nurses
- Public + Private Physiotherapists
- Public Occupational Therapists
- Public Speech & Language Therapists
- Public Podiatrists
- Public Counsellors & Psychologists
- Public Social Workers
- Public + Private Nursing Home Beds
- Public Home Care Hours



HOME CARE HOURS



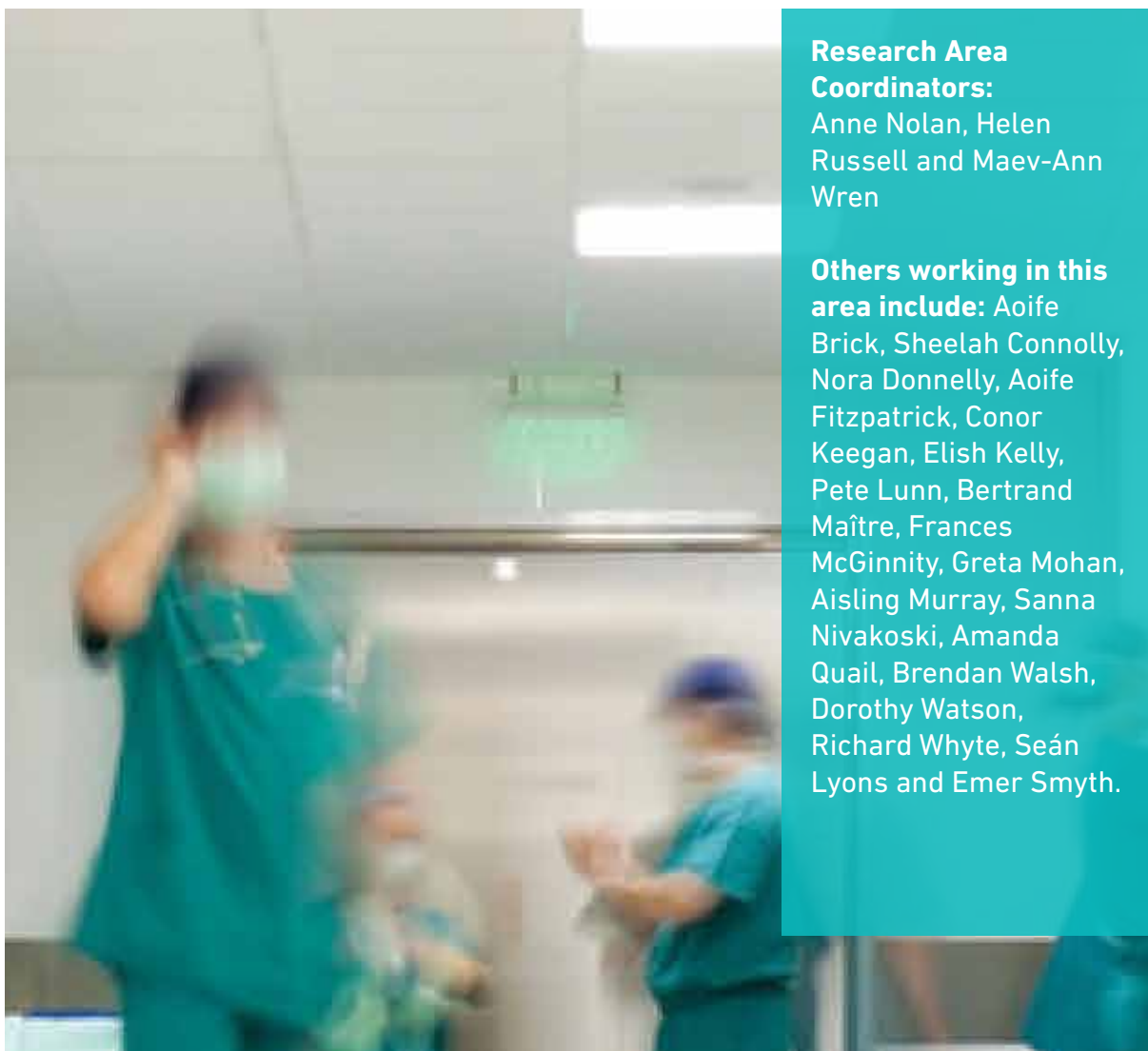


**HEALTH AND
QUALITY OF LIFE**

09



09 HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE



Research Area

Coordinators:

Anne Nolan, Helen Russell and Maev-Ann Wren

Others working in this area include:

Aoife Brick, Sheelah Connolly, Nora Donnelly, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Conor Keegan, Elish Kelly, Pete Lunn, Bertrand Maître, Frances McGinnity, Greta Mohan, Aisling Murray, Sanna Nivakoski, Amanda Quail, Brendan Walsh, Dorothy Watson, Richard Whyte, Seán Lyons and Emer Smyth.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Ireland may need an extra 3,200 public hospital beds by 2030, based on assumptions that investment in and improved access to primary and social care will help to reduce the need for additional public hospital beds. These findings suggest that the Government's National Development Plan commitment to increase public acute-bed capacity by 2,600 in the years to 2027 may not be sufficient to meet demand out to 2030.
- The geographic profile of health and social care supply across Ireland is inequitable and the supply of home and residential care services is associated with shorter length of stay in acute hospitals.

09 HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Health research focused on a range of themes in the areas of health service reform and public health during 2019. In the ESRI Research Programme on Healthcare Reform, funded by the **Department of Health**, the ESRI's Hippocrates projection model for healthcare demand and expenditure was expanded to encompass mental health and disability services. The Hippocrates model was also used to produce projections of hospital bed capacity needs. Further research found that the expansion of free GP care to children under six years old did not reduce overall emergency department utilisation.

This year, a report on the cost implications of reforming dental services was published, funded by the **Department of Health**.

A three-year (2018–2020) project, funded by the **Health Research Board (HRB)**, continued to examine the potential cost, outcomes and challenges of alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare. This year, the project focused on the role of private health insurance (PHI) in Ireland and examined the relationship between PHI and the uptake of screening services, as well as the association between PHI and waiting times.

A major **HRB**-funded project ended with the publication of reports which showed that the geographic profile of health and social care supply across Ireland is inequitable, and that the supply of home and residential care services is associated with shorter length of stay in acute hospitals. HRB projects on mortality in Ireland and on costing post-stroke cognitive impairment continued during the year.

The research programme on environmental economics, funded by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, continued to investigate the links between the environment and health, and also began research on environmental citizen scientists. A project funded by the EPA project **Noise Health** began studying associations between urban transport noise and cognitive health among older people.

Older workers were the focus of a study completed as part of the programme of research with the **Health and Safety Authority**. The study profiled the ageing workforce and examined how working conditions influence health and the ability to work longer. Population ageing means that retaining older workers is increasingly important. Almost one in five of those who left employment between the ages of 55 and 59 did so because of illness and disability. Older women were five times more likely than men to have left early for care reasons. Flexible working and part-time hours facilitate longer working as does protecting workers' health and safety across the life course.

Research funded by the **GAA** and the **Gaelic Players Association (GPA)** focused on sporting participation and player welfare. A project funded by the **Health Service Executive** on financial security in the older population finished in 2019 and, as part of this, a paper was published showing a negative association between widowhood duration and socio-economic status. A research project funded by the **Irish Cancer Society**, which started in November 2019, is examining the challenges and barriers that people diagnosed with cancer experience when working in paid employment.

09 HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'A European late starter: lessons from the history of reform in Irish health care', *Health Economics, Policy and Law*, Vol. 14, Issue 3, July 2019, pp. 355–373, **Maev-Ann Wren, Sheelah Connolly**.

'A profile of physiotherapy supply in Ireland', *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, Vol. 188, Issue 1, February 2019, pp 19–27, **James Eighan, Brendan Walsh, Samantha Smith, Maev-Ann Wren, Steve Barron, Edgar Morgenroth**.

'Addressing cognitive impairment following stroke: systematic review and meta-analysis of non-randomised controlled studies of psychological interventions', *BMJ Open*, 2019;9:e024429, **Niamh A. Merriman, Eithne Sexton, Grainne McCabe, Mary E. Walsh, Daniela Rohde, Ashleigh Gorman, Isabelle Jeffares, Nora-Ann Donnelly, Niall Pender, David J. Williams, Frances Horgan, Frank Doyle, Maev-Ann Wren, Kathleen E. Bennett, Anne Hickey**.

'Did the expansion of free GP care impact demand for Emergency Department attendances? A difference-in-differences analysis', *Social Science & Medicine*, Vol. 222, February 2019, pp. 101–111, **Brendan Walsh, Anne Nolan, Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan**.

'Expected widowhood duration varies with socio-economic status', *Applied Economics Letters*, Vol. 26, Issue 15, 2019, pp. 1218–1223, **Sanna Nivakoski, Anne Nolan**.

'How many beds? Capacity implications of hospital care demand projections in the Irish hospital system, 2015–2030', *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, Vol. 31, Issue 1, January 2019:e569–e582, **Conor Keegan, Aoife Brick, Brendan Walsh, Adele Bergin, James Eighan, Maev-Ann Wren**.

09 HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

'Personality and preventive healthcare utilisation: evidence from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing', *Preventive Medicine*, Vol. 120, March 2019, pp. 107–112, **Anne Nolan, Cathal McCrory, Patrick Moore.**

'Switching benefits and costs in the Irish health insurance market: an analysis of consumer surveys', *International Journal of Health Economics and Management*, March 2019, Vol. 19, Issue 1, pp. 15–32, **Conor Keegan, Conor Teljeur, Brian Turner, Steve Thomas.**

'Systematic review and meta-analysis of the prevalence of cognitive impairment no dementia in the first year post-stroke', *European Stroke Journal*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, pp. 160–171, **Eithne Sexton, Affraic McLoughlin, David J. Williams, Niamh A. Merriman, Nora Donnelly, Daniela Rohde, Anne Hickey, Maev-Ann Wren, Kathleen Bennett.**

'Universal health care in Ireland—What are the prospects for reform?', *Health Systems & Reform*, Vol. 5, Issue 2, 2019, pp. 94–99, **Sheelah Connolly, Maev-Ann Wren.**

'Uptake of cancer screening services among middle and older ages in Ireland: the role of healthcare eligibility', *Public Health*, Vol. 173, August 2019, pp. 42–47, **Sheelah Connolly, Richard Whyte.**

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'An analysis of the effects on Irish hospital care of the supply of care inside and outside the hospital', ESRI Research Series No. 91, ESRI, Dublin, **Brendan Walsh, Maev-Ann Wren, Samantha Smith, Seán Lyons, James Eighan, Edgar Morgenroth.**

'Geographic profile of healthcare needs and non-acute healthcare supply in Ireland', ESRI Research Series No. 90, ESRI, Dublin, **Samantha Smith, Brendan Walsh, Maev-Ann Wren, Steve Barron, Edgar Morgenroth, James Eighan, Seán Lyons.**

'Reforming the delivery of public dental services in Ireland: potential cost implications', ESRI Research Series No. 80, ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Nolan.**

'Rugby in Ireland: a statistical analysis of participation', ESRI Research Series No. 97, ESRI, Dublin, **Pete Lunn, Elish Kelly.**

'Safeguarding amateur athletes: An examination of player welfare among senior inter-county Gaelic players', ESRI Research Series No. 99, ESRI, Dublin, **Elish Kelly, Conor Keegan, Brendan Walsh.**

'The ageing workforce in Ireland: Working conditions, health and extending working lives', ESRI Research Series No. 92, ESRI, Dublin, **Ivan Privalko, Helen Russell, Bertrand Maître.**

09 HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

'Did the expansion of free GP care impact demand for Emergency Department attendances?', ESRI, Dublin, **Brendan Walsh, Anne Nolan, Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan.**

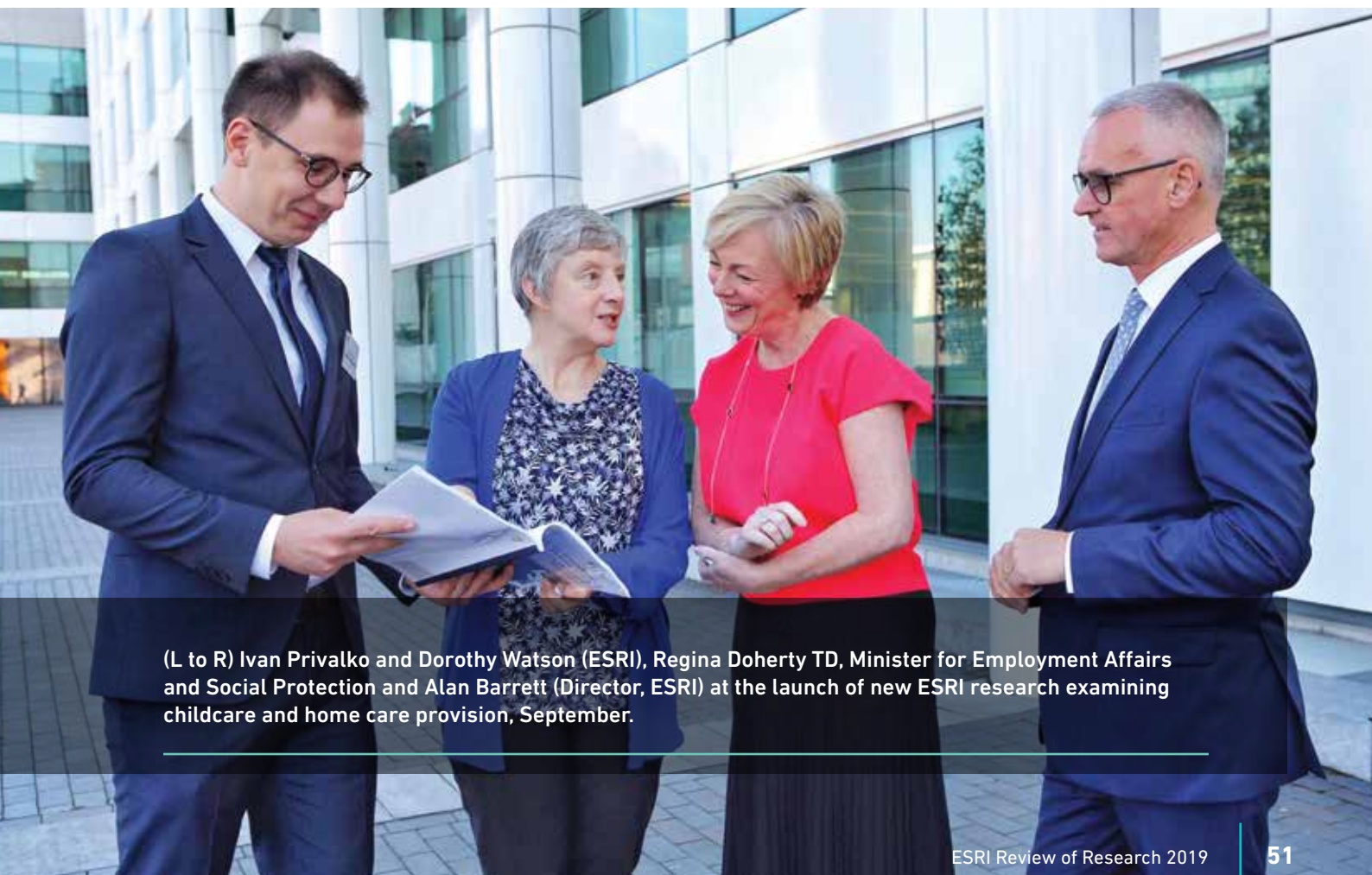
'Uptake of cancer screening services among middle and older ages in Ireland: the role of healthcare eligibility', ESRI, Dublin, **Sheelah Connolly, Richard Whyte.**

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'Baseline utilisation of specialist disability services in Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Aoife Brick, Conor Keegan, Maev-Ann Wren, Kathleen E. Bennett, Anne Hickey.**

OTHER PAPERS

'What harm a poor healthcare system?', Working Notes, Vol. 32, Issue 83, February 2019, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Dublin, **Sheelah Connolly.**



(L to R) Ivan Privalko and Dorothy Watson (ESRI), Regina Doherty TD, Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection and Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) at the launch of new ESRI research examining childcare and home care provision, September.



(L to R) Samantha Smith (TCD), Jim Breslin (Secretary General, Department of Health), Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), Brendan Walsh (ESRI), Áine Carroll (UCD and National Rehabilitation Hospital), Maev-Ann Wren (ESRI) and Paul Reid (Director-General, Health Service Executive) at the ESRI conference 'Health and social care supply and resource allocation planning in Ireland', September.



(L to R) Sharon McGuinness (CEO, Health and Safety Authority), Pat Breen TD, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection and Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) at the launch of the report 'The ageing workforce in Ireland: working conditions, health and extending working lives' in October.



LABOUR MARKETS AND SKILLS

10



10 LABOUR MARKETS AND SKILLS



Research Area Coordinator:
Seamus McGuinness

Others working in this area include:
Adele Bergin, Merike Darmody, Judith Delaney, Claire Keane, Elish Kelly, Bertrand Maître, Selina McCoy, Paul Redmond, Helen Russell, Emer Smyth and Adele Whelan.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Analysis of the 2016 minimum wage increase supports the view that increases in the minimum wage decrease levels of wage inequality in the labour market.**
- **As a result of the 2018 minimum wage increase, the number of hours worked by minimum-wage workers fell in the Dublin and West regions and in the manufacturing sector nationally. However, the changes did not persist into the second half of 2018, suggesting any impacts were likely to have been temporary.**

10 LABOUR MARKETS AND SKILLS

ESRI research on Labour Markets and Skills examines how workers are faring in the labour market and what skills workers need to meet the needs of an evolving economy. Research topics in 2019 include the gender pension gap, labour-market activation processes and the impact of minimum-wage changes. Researchers continued to provide regular reports on Ireland's labour-market progress to the European Commission's European and Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO). A study examining skill imbalances in Ireland was completed as part of this work.

Two reports were funded by the **Low Pay Commission**. One examined the impact of minimum-wage changes on the distribution of hourly wages and household incomes. The other analysed labour-market transitions of changes to the minimum wage across regions and sectors.

Research funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection** evaluated the new Intreo service and sought to establish if the reforms undertaken to Ireland's Public Employment Services, under Intreo, had resulted in any improvements in the labour-market outcomes of jobseekers. The study found no consistent evidence that the Intreo reforms had any substantive impact on exits from unemployment to employment or education for jobseekers. Some modest improvements were observed. However, it was concluded that these are likely to have been driven by efficiency gains under Intreo, resulting in the early identification of invalid unemployment claims.

In a study on the gender pension gap, funded by the **Pensions Council**, the ESRI measured the gender pension gap in Ireland and explored causes for any observed differences. A total raw gender pension gap of 35 per cent was discerned. This was mostly attributable to differences in incomes from private and occupational pensions, which were much more prevalent among males. For occupational and private pensions, the raw gender differential was 43 per cent, of which 7 per cent can be attributed to differences in observable characteristics. Policy measures can address the gender pension gap and reduce the observed differences in occupational and private pension coverage across genders. Raising female employment levels and ensuring increased continuity in employment were indicated as effective policy options.

Other projects finalised during the year included a study of the income smoothing into retirement, funded by the **Pensions Authority**, and a study of the impact of one-parent family reforms, funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection**. A study measuring the impacts of local development policies was also released. This was funded by the **Department of Regional and Community Development** and managed by **Pobal**.

10 LABOUR MARKETS AND SKILLS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Are some sectors more "youth friendly" than others? Employment regimes, sectors, and gender disparities in the Great Recession', *Human Resource Management Journal*, Vol. 29, Issue 3, July 2019, pp. 490–508, **Jacqueline O'Reilly, Raffaele Grotti, Helen Russell.**

'Assessing the impact of the minimum wage in Ireland', *ifo DICE Report*, Vol. 16 (4), Winter 2018, pp. 23–26, **Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.**

'Carrots, no stick, no driver: the employment impact of job search assistance in a regime with minimal monitoring and sanctions', *Journal of Labor Research*, Vol. 40, Issue 2, June 2019, pp. 151–180, **Seamus McGuinness, Philip J. O'Connell, Elish Kelly.**

'Entry deterrence, coordinating advertising and pricing in markets with consumption externalities', *The B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*, Vol. 19, Issue 2, 2019, **Adele Whelan.**

'Explaining the gender gap in job satisfaction', *Applied Economic Letters*, **Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.**

'Exploiting the Irish border to estimate minimum wage impacts in Northern Ireland', *IZA Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 8, Issue 1, **Duncan McVicar, Andrew Parks, Seamus McGuinness.**

'The gender wage gap in Europe: Job preferences, gender convergence and distributional effects', *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 81, Issue 3, June 2019, pp. 564–587, **Paul Redmond, Seamus McGuinness.**

'The impact of a minimum wage increase on temporary contract workers', *Fiscal Studies*, Vol. 40, Issue 2, June 2019, pp. 149–173, **Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond.**

10 LABOUR MARKETS AND SKILLS

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'An initial evaluation of the effectiveness of Intreo activation reforms', ESRI Research Series No. 81, ESRI, Dublin, **Elish Kelly, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond, Michael Savage, John R. Walsh.**

'Labour Market Policy Thematic Review 2018: An analysis of Personal and Household Services to support work life balance for working parents and carers', European Commission, Brussels, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Whelan, Judith Delaney.**

'The impact of a change in the National Minimum Wage on the distribution of hourly wages and household income in Ireland', ESRI Research Series No. 86, ESRI, Dublin, **Paul Redmond, Karina Doorley, Seamus McGuinness.**

'The prevalence and effect on hours worked of the minimum wage in Ireland: A sectoral and regional analysis', ESRI Research Series No. 93, ESRI, Dublin, **Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond, Judith Delaney.**

'Valuing community development through the SICAP programme: towards a framework for evaluation', ESRI Research Series No. 77, ESRI, Dublin, **Adele Whelan, Seamus McGuinness, Judith Delaney.**

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

'How useful is the concept of skills mismatch?', ILO, Geneva, **Seamus McGuinness, Konstantinos Pouliakas, Paul Redmond.**

'Overeducation in Europe: Is there scope for a common policy approach?', Jacqueline O'Reilly *et al.* (Eds.), *Youth labor in transition: Inequalities, mobility, and policies in Europe*, 2019, chapter 18, pp. 530–559, Oxford University Press, New York, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin, Adele Whelan.**

'Skills mismatch in low- and middle-income countries: Key synthesis findings and policy recommendations', ILO, Geneva, **Judith Delaney, Seamus McGuinness, Paul Redmond.**

'Stressed economies, distressed policies, and distraught young people: European policies and outcomes from a youth perspective', Jacqueline O'Reilly *et al.* (Eds.), *Youth labor in transition: Inequalities, mobility, and policies in Europe*, 2019, chapter 4, pp. 104–131, Oxford University Press, New York, **Mark Smith, Janine Leschke, Helen Russell, Paola Villa.**

'Where do young people work?', Jacqueline O'Reilly *et al.* (Eds.), *Youth labor in transition: Inequalities, mobility, and policies in Europe*, 2019, chapter 2, pp. 33–70, Oxford University Press, New York, **Raffaele Grotti, Helen Russell, Jacqueline O'Reilly.**

10 LABOUR MARKETS AND SKILLS

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

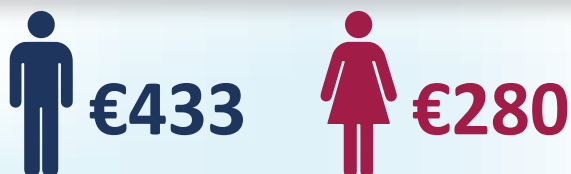
'It's not just for boys! Understanding gender differences in STEM', ESRI, Dublin, **Judith Delaney, Paul Devereux.**



(L to R) Shane McElroy (Youthreach Co-ordinator), Andrew Brownlee (Executive Director, Solas), Selina McCoy (ESRI), Joe McHugh TD, Minister for Education and Skills, Liane McCarthy (past Youthreach learner) and Ian Power (CEO, Spunout) at the launch of the report 'Evaluation of the National Youthreach Programme', June.

PENSION INCOME IN IRELAND

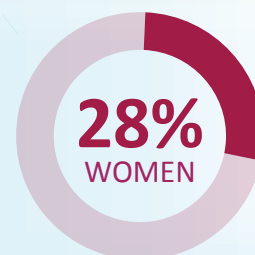
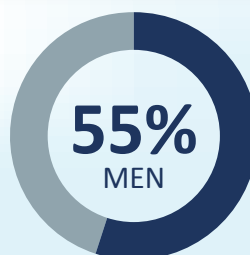
AVERAGE PENSION INCOME PER WEEK



GENDER PENSION GAP 35%

However, there are no gender differences in average state pensions.

The gender gap was driven primarily by the difference in % who received a **private/occupational pension**



BASED ON DATA FROM 2010

WHY DO WOMEN HAVE LESS PENSION INCOME?



Less likely to have been employed



Earn less



Work fewer hours

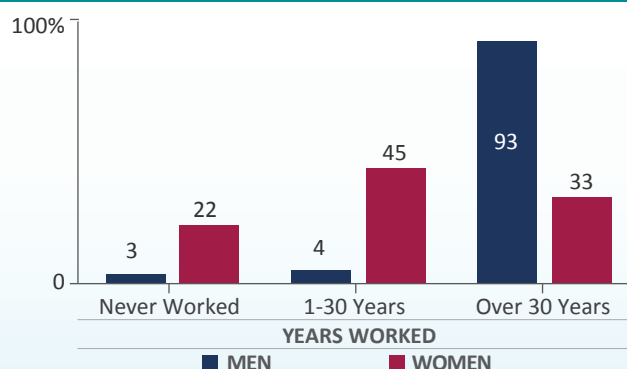


Shorter careers



More likely to have career interruptions related to caring responsibilities at home

A principal factor contributing to the gap is the lower relative years of work experience among women



However, higher levels of education for women reduce the gender pension gap.

INCOME POVERTY IN OLD AGE

BASED ON DATA FROM 2015 AND 2016

0% GENDER POVERTY GAP AMONG OLDER PEOPLE

Old-age benefits provide a safety net for both women and men.

9% OF OLDER PEOPLE ARE INCOME-POOR

The income poverty rate is higher among children (18%) and working-age people (16%).

80% OF INCOME-POOR OLDER PEOPLE LIVE IN SINGLE OR OLDER COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS

Income poverty among older people is not due to others who live in the household.

80% OF INCOME COMES FROM CONTRIBUTORY & OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS

Older people are very reliant on old-age benefits.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Increase women's employment and continuity of employment



Promote equal labour market access, including distribution of caring responsibilities, equal pay legislation and career break entitlements



Promote supplementary pension savings for women





11 | MACROECONOMICS



Research Area

Coordinators:

Martina Lawless and
Kieran McQuinn

Others working in this area include:

Matthew Allen-Coghlan,
Adele Bergin, Kelly De
Bruin, Abian Garcia
Rodrigeuz, Elish Kelly,
Ilias Kostarakos, Maria
Martinez-Cillero,
Conor O'Toole, Iulia
Siedschlag, Rachel
Slaymaker, Mattia
Di Ubaldo, Petros
Varathalitis, Dorothy
Watson, Aykut Mert
Yakut and Cathal Coffey.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- The introduction of rent pressure zones (RPZs) with limits on the rate of increase in rents was shown to have moderated the pace of rent inflation across the country.
- As Brexit continued to generate uncertainty over the course of 2019, work continued in the ESRI to estimate the impacts under different scenarios. Using the ESRI macroeconomic model COSMO, one study concluded that a disorderly no-deal Brexit could reduce Irish GDP by 5 per cent.

11 MACROECONOMICS

The macroeconomic research programme in the ESRI covers a wide range of issues that affect the overall performance of the Irish economy. The programme assesses the domestic macroeconomic outlook on a regular basis while also conducting in-depth research on issues such as public finances, the housing market and drivers of economic growth.

The joint research programme with the **Department of Finance** and the **Revenue Commissioners** and the ESRI produced research on topics related to macroeconomic, taxation and banking issues. With the possibility of a no-deal Brexit generating considerable concern for Irish policymakers throughout the year, a major assessment of its economic implications for Ireland was undertaken as part of the joint research programme. Using the ESRI macroeconomic model, COSMO, this work found that the long-run impact on real output in the Irish economy could be a reduction of 5 per cent in a disorderly no-deal scenario. The eventual deal scenario was also examined and found to have a smaller, but still reasonably substantial, impact on Ireland – reducing output by 2.6 per cent.

The joint research programme with the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** entered its third year in 2019. The programme has latterly focused on regional aspects of the housing market, with research published on affordability and price sustainability on a county level basis. The ESRI continued to produce the quarterly rent index for the Residential Tenancies Board through 2019. This hedonic price index is used by policymakers to determine which Local Electoral Areas are to be designated Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs). Research conducted for the RTB assessed the impact of RPZs on rent price inflation. This found that rent inflation has moderated in areas classified as RPZs but in many cases tenants still face rent increases above the regulation level.

Other work published this year as part of the programme included new estimates of fiscal multipliers, assessment of the impact of an increase in carbon tax and a profiling of households in mortgage arrears. The assessment of changes in the carbon tax found that incremental increases that reach €80 per tonne by 2030 will help reduce economy-wide emissions by approximately 15 per cent. However, it will lead to increased prices and a small reduction in GDP and household disposable income. Recycling the carbon-tax revenue to decrease other taxes was found to reduce the negative impacts on households.

The *Quarterly Economic Commentary (QEC)* continues to provide analysis of recent economic developments in the Irish economy as well as short-term forecasts for key economic indicators. A significant focus of the *QEC* in 2019 was on both the actual and potential impact of Brexit on the Irish economy. Beyond Brexit, additional analysis over the year included a study on the effect a sudden reduction in corporation tax receipts would have on the domestic economy and how global uncertainty affects Irish domestic investment.

11 | MACROECONOMICS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Cross-border macroprudential policy spillovers and bank risk-taking', *International Journal of Central Banking*, October 2019, **Fergal McCann, Conor O'Toole**.

'Exploring affordability in the Irish housing market', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 1, Spring 2019, pp. 119–157, **Eoin Corrigan, Daniel Foley, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker**.

'Export structure, FDI and the rapidity of Ireland's recovery from crisis', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 4, Winter 2019, pp. 707–724, **Frank Barry, Adele Bergin**.

'Have Irish Sovereign Bonds Decoupled from the Euro Area Periphery, and Why?', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 3, Autumn 2019, pp. 529–556, **David Cronin, Peter Dunne, Kieran McQuinn**.

'Technology heterogeneity and policy change in farm level efficiency analysis: an application to the Irish beef sector', *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 46, Issue 2, April 2019, pp. 193–214, **Maria Martinez Cillero, Fiona Thorne, Michael Wallace, James Breen**.

11 | MACROECONOMICS

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Quarterly Economic Commentary, Spring 2019', ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Philip Economides.**

'Quarterly Economic Commentary, Summer 2019', ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Philip Economides.**

'Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2019', ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan.**

'Quarterly Economic Commentary, Winter 2019', ESRI, Dublin, **Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Cathal Coffey.**

'Trends in rental price inflation and the introduction of Rent Pressure Zones in Ireland', Rental Tenancies Board, Dublin, **Achim Ahrens, Maria Martinez-Cillero, Conor O'Toole.**

QEC SPECIAL ARTICLES AND RESEARCH NOTES

'A county level perspective on housing affordability in Ireland', *QEC Research Note 2019/4/2*, ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Conor Judge, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.**

'Assessing price sustainability in the Irish housing market: A county-level analysis', *QEC Research Note 2019/4/1*, ESRI, Dublin, **Matthew Allen-Coghlan, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole.**

'Exploring the implications of monetary policy normalisation for Irish mortgage arrears', *QEC Special Article*, ESRI, **Mike Fahy, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Rachel Slaymaker.**

'Ireland and Brexit: modelling the impact of deal and no-deal scenarios', *QEC Special Article*, ESRI, Dublin, **Adele Bergin, Philip Economides, Abian Garcia-Rodriguez, Gavin Murphy.**

11 MACROECONOMICS

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'FIR-GEM: A SOE-DSGE Model for fiscal policy analysis in Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Petros Varthalitis**.

'Fiscal multipliers in Ireland using FIR-GEM model', ESRI, Dublin, **Petros Varthalitis**.

'Have Irish sovereign bonds decoupled from the euro area periphery, and why?', ESRI, Dublin, **David Cronin, Peter Dunne, Kieran McQuinn**.

'Household savings constraints, uncertainty and macroprudential policy', ESRI, Dublin, **Philip Economides, Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole**.

'Monetary policy normalisation and mortgage arrears in a recovering economy: The case of the Irish residential market', ESRI, Dublin, **Rachel Slaymaker, Conor O'Toole, Kieran McQuinn, Mike Fahy**.

'Public debt consolidation and its distributional effects', ESRI, Dublin, **Petros Varthalitis, Stelios Sakkas**.

'The determinants of SME capital structure across the lifecycle', ESRI, Dublin, **Maria Martinez Cillero, Martina Lawless, Conor O'Toole**.

OTHER PAPERS

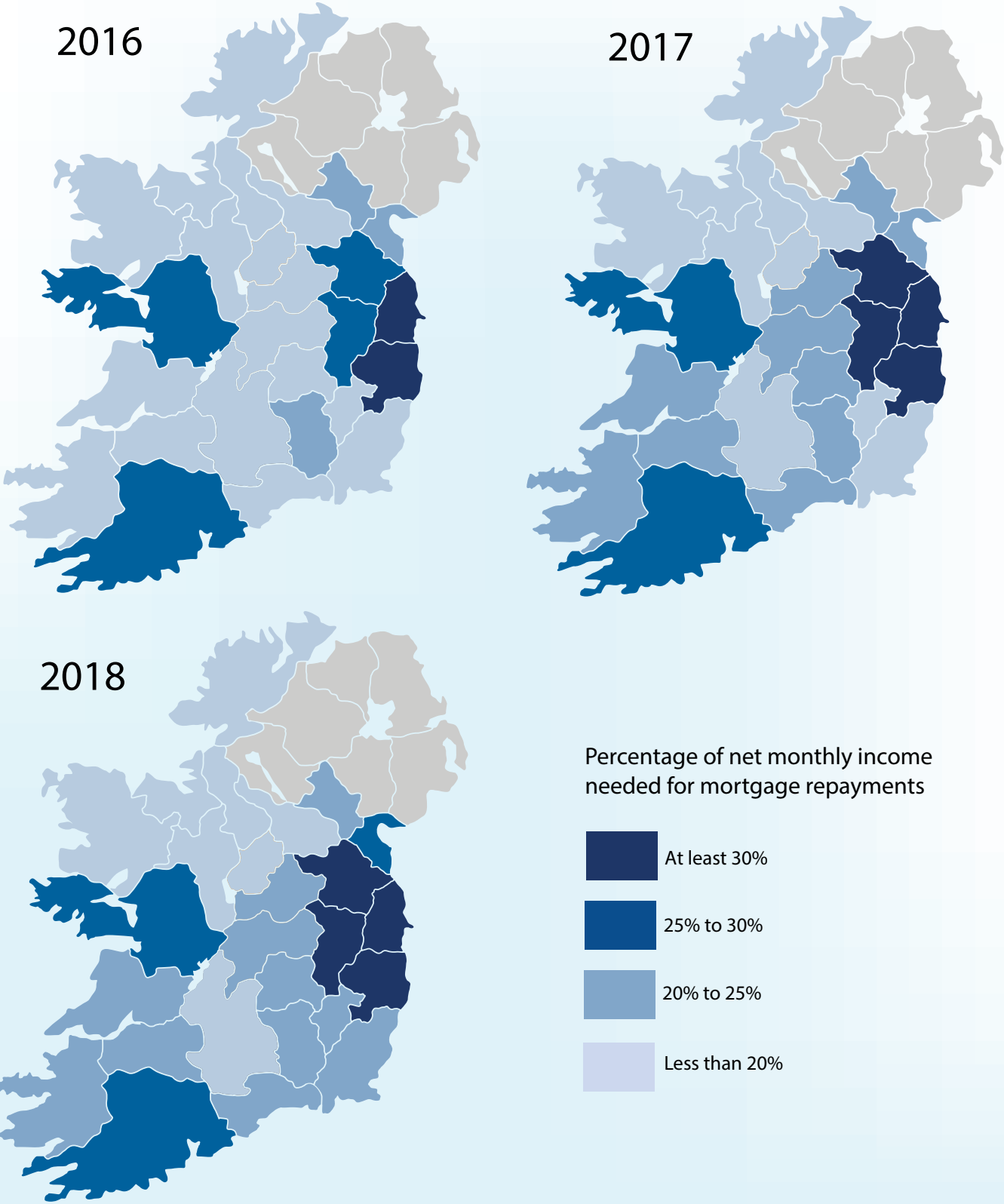
'The political economy of a Northern Ireland border poll', IZA, Bonn, **Seamus McGuinness, Adele Bergin**.



Eoghan Murphy TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government opened the ESRI's second annual conference on the Irish housing and mortgage market. (L to R) Rachel Slaymaker and Matthew Allen-Coghlan (ESRI), Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI), Eoin Corrigan (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government), Minister Eoghan Murphy, Kieran McQuinn and Conor O'Toole (ESRI).

What share of income would potential first-time buyers spend on mortgage repayments?

Research conducted by the ESRI as part of a joint research programme on housing economics carried out in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.





**MIGRATION, INTEGRATION
& DEMOGRAPHY**

12



12 | MIGRATION, INTEGRATION & DEMOGRAPHY



Research Area Coordinators:
Frances McGinnity and Emma Quinn

Others working in this area include:
Helen Russell, Éamonn Fahey, Samantha Arnold, Sarah Groarke, Frank McNamara, Ivan Privalko and Shannen Enright.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Migrants are not concentrated in areas of disadvantage and are relatively evenly distributed across neighbourhoods in Ireland. Compared to the United States and other Western European nations, migrants in Ireland have a low level of residential segregation.**
- **There was an increase in integration-related activities and public funding available in recent years, notably Ireland's first Migrant Integration Strategy. Like most EU member states, Ireland pursues a policy of mainstreaming service provision in the area of integration. Since targeted initiatives meet specific needs, service-providing departments and agencies play a key role.**

12 MIGRATION, INTEGRATION & DEMOGRAPHY

Research in the area of Migration, Integration and Demography is conducted under several strands. The first strand relates to the ESRI being Ireland's National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Migration Network (EMN) and the related funding provided by the **European Commission** and the **Department of Justice and Equality**.

One EMN Ireland study found that the number of non-EEA higher-education students in Ireland grew by 45 per cent between 2013 and 2017. However, difficulties with immigration registration delays, employment and accommodation were identified as challenges. A study, *Policy and Practice Targeting the Labour Market Integration of Non-EU Nationals in Ireland*, was also published, in addition to reports on visa liberalisation agreements and beneficiaries of international protection. The *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2018: Ireland* provided a review of asylum and migration policy developments. Like all EMN Ireland outputs, these studies fed into EU-wide analyses.

A second strand of research in the area falls under the research programme on Integration and Equality, funded by the **Department of Justice and Equality**. A report mapping the availability of quantitative data on immigrant integration in Ireland, from both survey and administrative sources, found notable gaps. These included an absence of resident permit data on non-EEA children, and national-level data on unaccompanied minors, as well as very limited data on both the growing second-generation and ethnic minorities in Ireland.

Researchers also participated in an international COST network, funded by the **Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union**, which is compiling surveys of immigrants and ethnic minorities in Europe and evaluating indicators of migrant integration.

12 MIGRATION, INTEGRATION & DEMOGRAPHY

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'Policy and practice in language support for newly arrived migrant children in Ireland and Spain', *British Journal of Educational Studies*, Vol. 67, Issue 1, 2019, pp. 41–57, **Rosa M Rodríguez-Izquierdo, Merike Darmody**.

'The empirical content of marital surplus in matching models', *Economic Letters*, Vol. 176, March 2019, pp. 51–54, **Karina Doorley, Arnaud Dupuy, Simon Weber**.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Annual report on migration and asylum 2018: Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Sheridan**.

'Attracting and retaining international higher education students: Ireland', ESRI Research Series No. 88, ESRI, Dublin, **Sarah Groarke, Christina Durst**.

'Beneficiaries of international protection travelling to their country of origin: Challenges, policies and practices in Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Samantha Arnold**.

'Data for monitoring integration: Gaps, challenges and opportunities', ESRI and Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Dublin, **Éamonn Fahey, Emma Quinn, Frances McGinnity**.

'Diverse neighbourhoods: an analysis of the residential distribution of immigrants in Ireland', ESRI/Department of Justice and Equality, Dublin, **Éamonn Fahey, Helen Russell, Frances McGinnity, Raffaele Grotti**.

'European survey data on attitudes to equality groups and human rights', ESRI, Dublin, **Eamonn Fahey, Doireann O'Brien, Helen Russell, Frances McGinnity**.

'Policy and practice targeting the labour market integration of non-EU nationals in Ireland', ESRI Research Series No. 89, ESRI, Dublin, **Samantha Arnold, Sarah Groarke, Emma Quinn, Christina Durst, Frances McGinnity**.

'Trends in migration to Ireland of nationals of countries with visa liberalisation agreements with the European Union', ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Sheridan, Sarah Groarke**.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS AND REPORTS

'Immigrant-origin children and the education system', Bryan Fanning and Lucy Michael (Eds.), *Immigrants as outsiders in the two Irelands*, Manchester University Press, Manchester, **Merike Darmody, Frances McGinnity**.

'Refugee children and young people in Ireland: policies and practices', Jody L. McBrien, *Educational Policies and Practices of English-Speaking Refugee Resettlement Countries*, chapter 9, Brill | Sense, Leiden, **Merike Darmody, Samantha Arnold**.



(L to R) Úna Ní Dhubhghaill (Department of Justice and Equality), Emma Quinn (ESRI), Éamonn Fahey (ESRI) and Michael Williams (Department of Justice and Equality), at the ESRI event 'Data for monitoring integration: Gaps, challenges and opportunities', March.



(L to R) Emma Quinn and Helen Russell (ESRI), Úna Ní Dhubhghaill (Department of Justice and Equality), David Stanton TD, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, Frances McGinnity and Éamonn Fahey (ESRI) at the launch of the report 'Policy and practice targeting the labour market integration of non-EU nationals in Ireland', June.



SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

13



13 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY



Research Area Coordinators:
Bertrand Maître and Frances McGinnity

Others working in this area include:
Dorothy Watson, Ivan Privalko, Helen Russell, Éamonn Fahey, Doireann O'Brien and Shannen Enright.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Women in Ireland spend twice as much time on unpaid work, such as housework and caring, as men. People in Ireland record the third-highest amount of unpaid work time across Europe (EU28), which is likely to be linked to policies here.**
- **Ireland has the second-highest level of unmet need for home care across 11 EU countries. Households with unmet need for home care are twice as likely as those whose care needs are met to experience material deprivation. In Ireland the main reason for unmet need for home care is a lack of such services.**

13 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

ESRI research in this area investigates 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. Two reports were published under the programme of research with the **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission**. One of these reports mapped data available on attitudes to equality and human rights issues in Ireland collected in European surveys over the period 2000 to 2018. A journal article published as part of this programme found that Irish attitudes towards Muslim immigrants were more negative than attitudes towards white immigrants, and that an international terrorist attack during fieldwork had a negative effect on attitudes to Muslim immigrants.

In this programme of research, work began on the development of the Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring Framework (SERMF); decent work and housing were the first two topics. This framework, which combines equality and human rights approaches, included a consultation event on decent work in September. Research from this programme of research also informed a presentation on racial discrimination in Ireland to the Royal College of Surgeons.

Two reports funded by the **Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)**, published in February and September, examined the association between social inclusion and access to childcare and home care for people with physical or mental ill-health conditions. The first report, focusing on Ireland, found a high level of unmet childcare needs among lower social-class families, households in poverty, lone-parent families and families with an adult who has a disability.

This was mostly due to unaffordability and constituted a barrier to mothers' labour-market participation. The second report compared Ireland's access and unmet need to childcare and home care services with 10 other European countries.

Work began on a new research programme with the **National Disability Authority**, examining the experiences of persons with disabilities across a range of key policy areas, including an analysis of services to support community living for persons with disabilities, such as personal assistance.

ESRI researchers contributed to several international initiatives in this area, including participation on the advisory board of a London School of Economics-based project funded by the **Nuffield Foundation**.

13 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'From income poverty to multidimensional quality of life', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 4, 2019, pp. 683–705, **Christopher T. Whelan, Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître.**

'Irish Attitudes to Muslim Immigrants', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 3, Autumn 2019, pp. 491–514, **Éamonn Fahey, Frances McGinnity, Raffaele Grotti.**

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Access to childcare and home care services across Europe: an analysis of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), 2016', Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and ESRI, Dublin, **Ivan Privalko, Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson, Raffaele Grotti.**

'Caring and unpaid work in Ireland', ESRI and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Dublin, **Helen Russell, Raffaele Grotti, Frances McGinnity, Ivan Privalko.**

'Technical paper on social inclusion and access to care services in Ireland: An analysis of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), 2016', Social Inclusion Technical Paper No. 9, Department of Social Protection, Dublin, **Raffaele Grotti, Bertrand Maître, Dorothy Watson.**

ESRI RESEARCH BULLETINS

'Work at Older Age in Ireland', ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Nolan, Alan Barrett.**



Regina Doherty TD, Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection with Alan Barrett (Director, ESRI) at the 'Access to childcare and home care services across Europe' conference held in September.



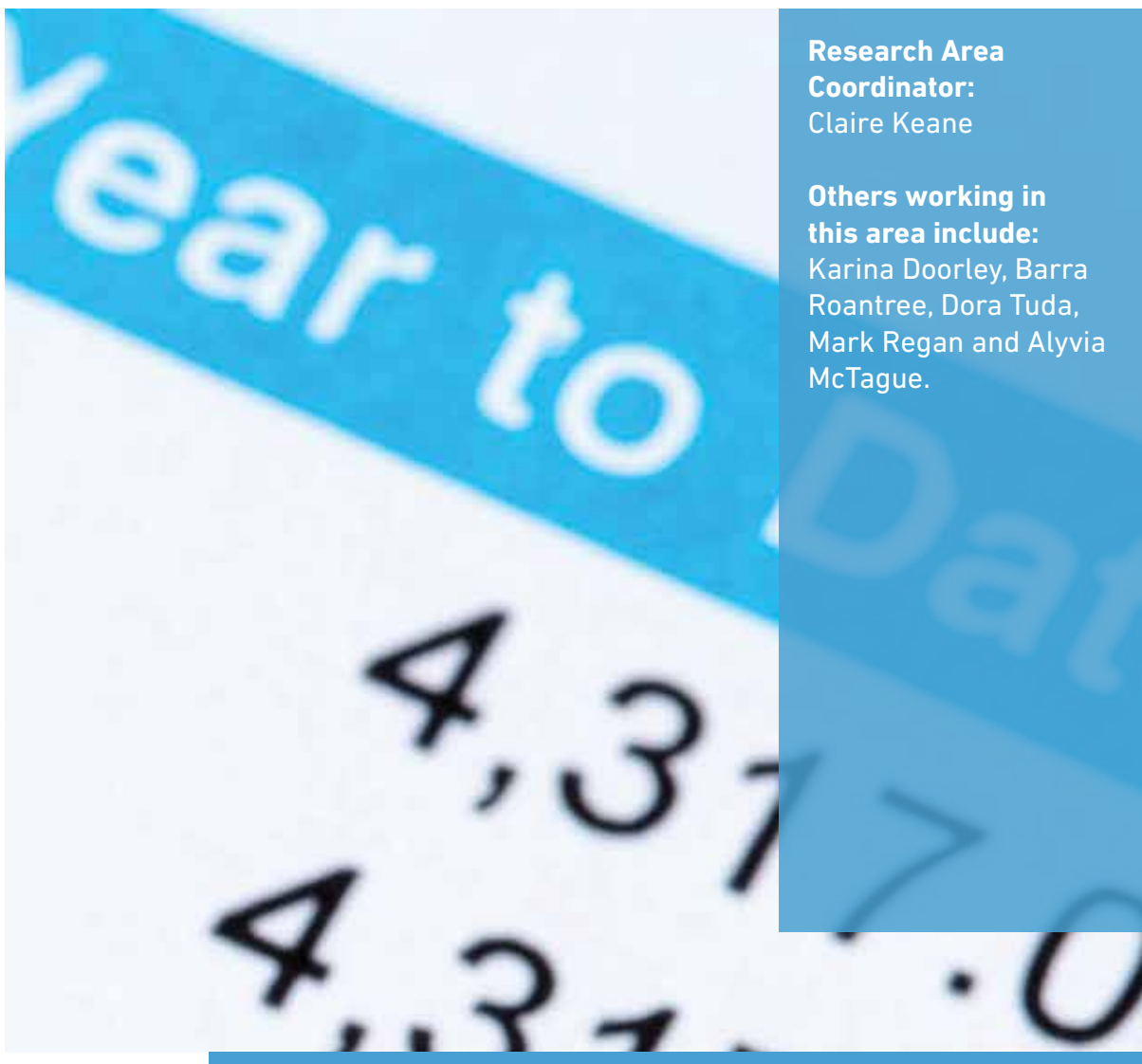
(L to R) Emily Logan (Chief Commissioner, IHREC), Brendan Courtney (Presented RTÉ documentary *We need to talk about Dad*), Ivan Privalko (ESRI), Helen Russell (ESRI) and Bernie Bradley (IHREC) launching the new report 'Caring and unpaid work in Ireland' in July.

TAXATION, WELFARE AND PENSIONS

14



14 TAXATION, WELFARE AND PENSIONS



Research Area Coordinator:
Claire Keane

Others working in this area include:
Karina Doorley, Barra Roantree, Dora Tuda, Mark Regan and Alyvia McTague.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- In a major modelling development, a labour supply model was built to be used in conjunction with SWITCH, the ESRI tax and benefit model.
- Research provided new microeconomic and macroeconomic evidence relevant to designing and implementing the auto-enrolment pension scheme.

14 TAXATION, WELFARE AND PENSIONS

This research area examines the design of the tax, welfare and pensions system, with a focus on the effect it has on redistribution and incentives to work. Much of this work uses SWITCH – the ESRI tax and benefit model – to simulate the impact of reforms on households. Research in this area was supported by funding from the **Departments of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Health, Children and Youth Affairs and Finance**, as well as through the grant-in-aid provided by the **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**.

In a major modelling development, a labour supply model was built to be used in conjunction with SWITCH. This model will allow examination of behavioural responses to tax-benefit policy changes in future policy work. Lone mothers were found to be particularly responsive to income changes, an important new finding for Ireland where less than half of lone mothers are in paid work.

Research launched at the ESRI's annual Budget Perspectives conference found that a carbon tax rise would disproportionately affect lower-income households, although such households could be effectively compensated by using the revenues raised to increase certain welfare payments. Other research launched at the conference investigated the effect of indexing social welfare rates, along with tax credits and bands, in line with price or wage inflation.

The annual post-Budget analysis showed that Budget 2020 would result in most households paying more tax as a result of freezes to the main tax credits and bands. However, households were also set to gain from higher spending on public services, investment and pay in 2020.

In the area of pensions, research provided both microeconomic and macroeconomic evidence relevant to the design and impact of the proposed pension auto-enrolment scheme. Research showed that demographic change in Europe, primarily population ageing, is likely to increase income inequality by 2030. Further research investigated the link between retirement and divorce.

Other research examined the impact of changes to the One Parent Family Payment on female employment. An investigation of how childcare costs, childcare subsidies, Medical and GP Visit Cards and the Housing Assistance Payment affect financial incentives to work was also carried out. Research highlighted how Medical Cards affect the health status and financial stress of those eligible for the scheme. The partial individualisation of the Irish income tax system in the early Noughties was investigated and found to have substantially increased the employment rate of married women. Research also examined the effect of employee and employer social security contributions on labour cost and hours of work.

Building on gender budgeting work carried out in 2018, the ability of the tax-benefit system in a cross-section of European countries to cushion gender earnings inequality was also examined.

14 TAXATION, WELFARE AND PENSIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

'35 years of reforms: A panel analysis of the incidence of, and employee and employer responses to, social security contributions in the UK', *Journal of Public Economics*, Vol. 171, March 2019, pp. 29–50, **Stuart Adam, David Phillips, Barra Roantree**.

'Demographic change and the European income distribution', *Journal of Economic Inequality*, Vol. 17, Issue 3, September 2019, pp. 337–357, **Mathias Dolls, Karina Doorley, Alari Paulus, Hilmar Schneider, Eric Sommer**.

Estimating, and Interpreting, Retirement Income Replacement Rates', *Economic and Social Review*, Vol. 50, No. 3, Autumn 2019, **Sanna Nivakoski, Alan Barrett**.

'Minimum wages and the gender gap in pay: New evidence from the United Kingdom and Ireland', *Review of Income and Wealth*, Vol. 65, Issue 3, September 2019, pp. 514–539, **Olivier Bargain, Karina Doorley, Philippe Van Kerm**.

'Taxation, work and gender equality in Ireland', *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*, Vol. 47, 2017–18, pp. 71–87, Dublin, **Karina Doorley**.

'The role of self-employment in Ireland's older workforce', *Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, Vol. 14, 2019, 100201, **Anne Nolan, Alan Barrett**.

'What a difference a day makes: inequality and the tax and benefit system from a long-run perspective', *Journal of Economic Inequality*, March 2018, Vol. 16, Issue 1, pp. 23–40, **Barra Roantree, Jonathan Shaw**.

'Working beyond age 65 in Ireland', *Journal of Population Ageing*, Vol. 12, Issue 3, September 2019, pp. 299–326, **Anne Nolan, Alan Barrett**.

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REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Gender, pensions and income in retirement', ESRI Research Series No. 87, ESRI, Dublin, **Anne Nolan, Adele Whelan, Seamus McGuinness, Bertrand Maitre.**

ESRI WORKING PAPERS

'A micro-macro economic analysis of pension auto-enrolment options', ESRI, Dublin, **Maxime Bercholz, Adele Bergin, Tim Callan, Abian Garcia Rodriguez, Claire Keane.**

'Work incentives adjusting for childcare subsidies and healthcare benefits', ESRI, Dublin, **Maxime Bercholz, Claire Keane.**

'Housing Assistance Payment: potential impacts on financial incentives to work', ESRI, Dublin, **Barra Roantree, Mark Regan, Tim Callan, Michael Savage, John R Walsh.**

'The characteristics and incomes of the top 1%', IFS Briefing Note BN253, Institute for Fiscal Studies, London, **Robert Joyce, Thomas Pope, Barra Roantree.**

OTHER PAPERS

'Assessing the distributional impact of budgetary policy: the role of benchmarks and indexation', Budget Perspectives Paper 2020/2, ESRI, Dublin, **Tim Callan, Claire Keane, Mark Regan.**

'Financial Literacy and Preparation for Retirement', IZA, Bonn, **Anne Nolan, Karina Doorley.**

'Marital Status and Retirement: An Empirical Study for France', IZA, Bonn, **Karina Doorley, Elena Stancanelli.**

'The Determinants of Retirement Planning within Couples in Ireland', IZA, Bonn, **Karina Doorley, Anne Nolan.**



(L to R) ESRI researchers Barra Roantree, Maxime Bercholz, Mark Regan, Tim Callan and Claire Keane at the Budget Perspectives 2020 conference held on 13 June.



Professor Richard Blundell, David Ricardo Chair of Political Economy at University College London speaking at the ESRI's Annual Geary lecture, 'Tax and welfare reform: The challenge of labour market inequality' in December.

TOTAL CORPORATION TAX RECEIPTS (2018 DATA)



Between 2012 and 2018, corporation tax receipts grew by **146%**



going from **4.3** billion euro to **10.4** billion euro



going from **11%** to **18.7%** of total tax revenues



Corporation tax receipts are now the 3rd largest source of tax revenue in Ireland

IMPACT ON PUBLIC FINANCES IF CORPORATION TAX RECEIPTS DECLINE

Scenario 1: If corporation tax receipts decline by 2 billion euro

	Debt-to-GDP (%)	Debt-to-GNI* (%)	10Y Govt Bonds Rate (+ in basis points)	Surplus-to-GDP (%)
Starting value	63.6	104.3	0.94	1.0
After 1 Year	65	107	+5	-0.2
After 5 Years	68	112	+9	0.4
After 10 Years	71	116	+14	0.6

Scenario 2: If corporation tax receipts decline by 6 billion euro

	Debt-to-GDP (%)	Debt-to-GNI* (%)	10Y Govt Bonds Rate (+ in basis points)	Surplus-to-GDP (%)
Starting value	63.6	104.3	0.94	1.0
After 1 Year	69	114	+12	-2.5
After 5 Years	77	126	+28	-0.8
After 10 Years	84	138	+45	-0.2

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Decline in revenues would require restrictive fiscal measures to be implemented



Important to build up fiscal buffers to absorb external shocks



Important not to use windfall amounts to fund current expenditure



15 EXTERNAL COMMITMENTS OF STAFF

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