

Welcome to the IVI newsletter, updating you on the latest news and upcoming events from the Innovation Value Institute. This month we have a bumper edition reviewing 2025 and looking ahead to our twentieth anniversary year, with the biggest IVI Summit yet.

Director's Message

As we reflect on 2025, the Innovation Value Institute (IVI) at Maynooth University continues to strengthen its position as a global leader in responsible digital transformation, ethical artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, data governance and applied research with tangible business benefits and societal impact. Throughout the year, we continued to collaborate with many non-academic organisations from the private and public sectors, offering strategic guidance to those organisations with our **capability framework** and evidence-based digital transformation paths.



2025 demonstrated once more the scale and speed of AI adaption and adoption, and that many organisations are challenged with architecting an AI-based infrastructure. To discuss some of those key challenges and opportunities, this year, IVI convened over 300 experts from academia, industry and government at the 2025 IVI Summit, under the theme *What's Possible by 2030? Accelerating Change Through the Responsible and Fair Use of Data, Digital and AI*. Over three days, participants engaged in over 50 presentations, seven co-creation workshops, two panel discussions, three deep-dive sessions and much more, highlighting our role as a hub for cutting-edge innovation, collaboration and insight. Some highlights of this year's IVI Summit **are available here**.

IVI's research and applied programmes consistently demonstrate real-world relevance underpinned by scientific excellence. Through the EMPOWER Spokes Programme, we advanced ethical data governance across Ireland and Europe, contributing to the European Health Data Space, co-developing tools with the HSE and Department of Health in Ireland and collaborating with a European consortium. IVI engagement provides not only key research, but also helps shape international standards in secure data access and ethical data governance. Across sectors, IVI continues to drive innovation. From the ReThink | ReDesign programme for SMEs, to sustainable software development toolkits, digital health initiatives, and advanced training for the next generation of data leaders through programmes like DIGI+ and EnTrust, we combine research excellence with applied impact. IVI's commitment to engaged research is matched by our focus on developing talent and leadership, through micro-credentials courses, doctoral networks and postdoctoral training programmes.

In 2025 we also attracted significant new funding and established many collaboration opportunities. Some examples include projects with Fidelity Investment, EU-funded projects GoGreenRoutes, GoGreenNext, DigiPlus and Entrust, and further projects supported by the Environmental Protection Agency and Age Friendly Ireland. Those examples illustrate the breadth of our impact: improving urban wellbeing, enabling climate-neutral planning, and supporting professional and societal standards in AI and data governance. Our collaborations with national and international partners — including the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum, Age Friendly Ireland and European research consortia — amplify Ireland's influence in ethical AI, data governance, and smart city development. As we approach IVI's 20th anniversary in 2026, this year's accomplishments demonstrate the enduring power of collaboration, innovation and socially responsible research. IVI remains dedicated to advancing digital, sustainable and human-centred innovation, shaping the digital future that works for all.

A big thanks to all involved in IVI: our enterprise partners, public sector organisations and policy makers, thought leaders and advisors, researchers, collaborators and academic partners.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of our research clusters, working groups or would like to collaborate with IVI, either on research projects and as IVI member, please get in touch. Keep an eye on your email for invitations to our varied outreach activities, webinars and the Spring IVI Members' Town Hall on 12th March. And, of course, the IVI Summit 2026 on 10-12th of June 2026: *20 Years of Impactful Research – What's Next?* See below for more details!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and looking forward to connecting with you in the New Year.

Professor Markus Helfert, Director, Innovation Value Institute



IVI Summit 2026: 20th Anniversary

10-12th June, Maynooth University

2026 marks IVI's 20th anniversary – and we are inviting you to join the celebrations, in our biggest Summit yet. Preparations have already begun, with

over 50 speakers and a further 50 high-profile collaborators expected. Confirmed co-creation workshops include:

- Advancing Age-Friendly Futures: State-of-the-Art Technology, Challenges, and Innovations

- From Fields to Space: Where Agricultural Data and Innovation Meet
- Process Mining Meets Generative AI: Toward Intelligent and Explainable Process Analysis
- Can AI Run This Workshop Better Than We (Humans) Can?

Further workshops will be confirmed shortly, and our line-up of expert speakers will be announced over the coming weeks. We are expecting over 300 registrants from across government, research, business, digital, health and the EU innovation ecosystem, so don't miss out!

Registration is open now with a special Early Bird reduced rate only until the end of February. Exclusive tickets are available for IVI members and PhD/early career researchers - get in touch with us for further details. Registration and all details [are available here](#).

Call for auxiliary events

The IVI Summit will host a series of auxiliary events alongside our central Summit programme. These events allow for more flexibility and creativity in structure or for smaller-group collaborative sessions. Events might include workshops, training sessions or discussion of key topics. If you would like to propose an auxiliary event as part of the Summit, please get in touch with info@ivi.ie.

Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available, to get your organisation in front of our audience of cross-sector decision makers. A range of packages for public sector and industry partners is available, to suit your aims and budget. Email us on info@ivi.ie for a sponsorship brochure.

Thought Leader Interviews - video now available

We are pleased to launch the latest in our series of Thought Leader interviews. Professor Rachel Msetfi, Vice-President for Research and Innovation at Maynooth University, spoke with Lorraine McNerney, Head of Data Governance at the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer about challenges in data governance between the public sector, business and citizens in the age of AI. [Watch the full video here](#).



DIGI+ Bootcamp: developing research leaders

A busy start to December at IVI began with the DIGI+ Bootcamp. The training and development event took place from December 1st to 4th, gathering Fellows and Supervisors from this EU Cofund programme at Maynooth University to support the development of our Postdoctoral Fellows. The event was designed to equip researchers with essential skills for 'Sustainable Digital Transformation,' blending technical discussions on AI and cyber threats, intellectual property commercialisation, and practical career development.

Beyond technical research, the event prioritised professional growth, offering practical training on funding landscapes, interview skills and effective mentoring. The week concluded with a hands-on Design Science Workshop, ensuring our fellows are prepared to lead impactful projects in the future.

Prof. Piero Formica delivers inaugural lecture

IVI's long-time collaborator Professor Piero Formica was confirmed as Maynooth University's latest Distinguished International Collaborator with an Inaugural Lecture on 2nd December. Congratulations once again to Prof. Formica! A video showing highlights from the event is now available [on our website](#).



Age-Friendly Ireland

On behalf of Age-Friendly Ireland, Dr. Claudia Roessing took part in an Interactive Age-Friendly AI Workshop at the Wood Quay Venue in Dublin on 3rd December, where she shared her insights on the project. The session focused on improving AI literacy by demystifying AI, gathering participants' hopes and concerns, and exploring ideas for effective AI literacy training. Attendees emphasised AI's potential to help older adults remain at home through assistive technologies and by providing quick, accessible information.



Design Science - What's the fuss about the artefact (or is it artefact)?

On 4th December, IVI hosted a one-day Design Science Workshop at the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth. The event featured presentations by Prof. Piero Formica, Prof. Markus Helfert, and Dr. Zohreh Pourzolfaghar, alongside interactive sessions exploring the role of artefacts in design-oriented research. Discussions focused on challenges in designing, refining, and validating artefacts, emphasising the need for collaborative approaches to advance Design Science research. Postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, and external researchers actively contributed, sharing how they apply Design Science research in their projects and the obstacles they encounter.

And finally... Merry Christmas from everyone at IVI! Here's to further success in 2026.



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