

## February 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the IVI newsletter, updating you on the latest news and upcoming events from the Innovation Value Institute. **This month:** a new collaboration with east Africa, and using digital solutions to tackle endometriosis and ensure healthy ageing.

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### IVI in Kenya

Prof. Markus Helfert took part in an academic and high-level delegation from Maynooth University to visit the Aga Khan University (AKU) in Nairobi, Kenya from 14th-19th February, 2026. The visit forms a key element of a **strategic partnership** between the two Universities designed to foster research collaboration, student and staff mobility, and knowledge exchange in areas of mutual expertise and development, including research related to health and healthy ageing; nursing and

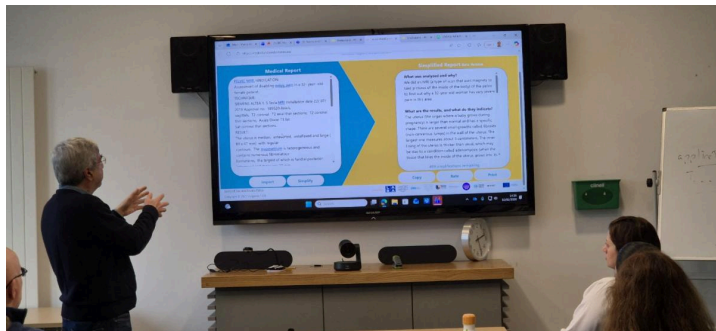
medicine; data science, data governance and digital transformation; and climate and sustainability. Those areas align well to our IVI Research Clusters and expertise, and provide many opportunities to foster future collaborations and funding opportunities.

The collaboration and visit is supported by the European Union Erasmus+ grant of the STEADY Network to enable researcher mobility between Maynooth University and AKU-East Africa. During the visit, Prof. Helfert and other delegates from MU had the opportunity to meet and discuss with senior leaders from AKU and to explore possibilities for joint research collaborations in key areas. They also discussed opportunities for networking and events, including the **IVI summit 2026** in June and **DataFest Africa** in October, research exchanges, and joint research and teaching programmes. Prof. Helfert discussed specific projects and ideas for further collaborations with the team at the Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications (GSMC) (see photo) and the AKU Data Innovation Office. The visit provides an excellent basis to continue building the relationship – both at the leadership level and among individual academics working on priority areas to establish impact-driven activities and projects. So, watch this space for future developments!

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### The Impact of Age Friendly Programmes

As part of a collaboration project with Age Friendly Ireland, Dr. Emer Coveney (AFI), Dr. Claudia Roessing, and PhD candidate Niamh Petrie recently delivered a workshop titled “Understanding the Impact of Age Friendly Programmes: Data Governance Best Practices.” The session was held at the Johnstown Estate Hotel in Enfield, County Meath, as part of the Age Friendly Ireland Residential 2026, and brought together practitioners to explore effective approaches to data governance and evidence-based programme evaluation.



## #ENDOS project

IVI Cluster Lead Dr. Marco Alfano led a workshop and focus group on the EU-funded #ENDOS project at IVI.

#ENDOS brings together health, art, technology, and narrative medicine to raise awareness of endometriosis and support better management of the condition. At the event, Dr. Alfano

presented the 'Endostand' platform, which simplifies medical reports and improves communication between patients and healthcare professionals. Participants tested the platform, found it highly useful, and shared valuable feedback to guide further improvements.

You can try the [Endostand platform yourself here](#), and a survey for any users [is available here](#) - your support would be very useful.

## Upcoming IVI events

**12th March** Annual IVI Town Hall

**10th-12th June** IVI Summit 2026 '20 Years of Impactful Research - What's Next?'

The IVI Summit is fast approaching. Early Bird tickets representing a 35% discount are currently available, only until 10th March, so register soon! [Visit our website](#) to register and keep up to date with Summit announcements as they're confirmed.

This year, in our twentieth anniversary year, our annual IVI Summit promises to be our biggest yet. We're expecting over 300 attendees and some very exciting international speakers are lined up - watch this space for more details soon. The programme includes

Day 1: **Cutting Edge Co-Creation: Shaping the Digital Future**

Day 2: **Opportunities: Deciding Today for the Digital Future**

Day 3: **Winning the Race: Inspiring the Digital Future**

The Summit will feature co-creation workshops, deep-dive discussion sessions, the International Research Symposium and much more. We're pleased to let you know that this year, the third day of the Summit will involve a visit to the National Stud and Gardens in the heart of County Kildare's countryside.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, with a range of packages for public sector and industry partners to suit your aims and budget - email us on [info@ivi.ie](mailto:info@ivi.ie) for a sponsorship brochure.

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## Have you missed us? Have we missed you?

In our twentieth anniversary year, we would love to reconnect with some of our collaborators from previous years. Over the last two decades IVI has worked with a wide range of collaborators and partners, and in some cases we have fallen out of touch over the years. If you have collaborated with IVI in the past, please get in touch about Summit attendance, as each of our past collaborators will receive a twentieth anniversary gift from IVI. Please email [info@ivi.ie](mailto:info@ivi.ie) if you would like to reconnect and join us at the IVI Summit in June.

[IVI Summit registration](#)

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