INNOVATION VALUE INSTITUTE

September 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the IVI newsletter, updating you on the latest news and upcoming events from the Innovation Value Institute. **This month**: a busy month of events - and a preview of an equally packed month ahead! See below for our 'Digital Oktoberfest' Research Week schedule.

This month also saw the launch of the **refreshed and updated IVI website** - take a look and let us know what you think!

We're putting a team together...

IVI's new Innovation Teams bring together experts from research, digital, policy, tech and the public sector to shape best practices for the challenges organisations face today: AI governance, skills development, process management, data governance and more.

Innovation Teams are open innovation consortia allowing for discussion, shared knowledge creation, networking and learning. By joining a Team, you will

- learn from experts with decades of experience
- network with other decision makers
- shape the future of best practices
- establish yourself as an innovation leader

Our first Innovation Team meeting, focusing on AI Governance, will take place on 22nd October. To learn more and register your interest, **visit our site** and complete the short form - we'll be in touch.



EnTrust conference: How can data transform agriculture?

The week of 14th September saw the EnTrust conference 2026, asking "how can data transform agriculture while ensuring fairness, transparency and trust?" With an opening address from Neale Richmond TD, Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora (left), the event was hosted at the beautiful Airfield Estate in South Dublin - both a research centre and working farm, offering a great environment for the conference's themes.
EnTrust is a doctoral research network funded through the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme. The network has trained 11 doctoral researchers in an intersectoral, international and interdisciplinary setting to establish a new generation of Data Executives that are able to advance the state of the art in sharing data in a fair, transparent, and trusted environment. EnTrust includes six academic partners, eleven industry partners and eleven doctoral researchers across five countries - including three researchers here at IVI. Learn more on our site.

Inside the homes of the future: An Age Friendly housing visit

As part of our ongoing work exploring age friendly housing, working alongside Age Friendly Ireland, Dr. Claudia Roessing, Dr. Heidi Elnimr and Niamh Gannon Petrie took to the road for a site visit to three Healthy Age Friendly Housing developments across

South County Dublin. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to move beyond plans and policy documents and to see first-hand how age friendly principles are being translated into the design and construction of homes.



The tour was led by two architects, Patrick Harrington and Helen Grogan, who are based in South Dublin County Council and work with Age Friendly Ireland to design age friendly homes for older adults.Their expertise offered insight into the design decisions behind each development, as well as the practical considerations involved in delivering universally designed homes.

One of the most interesting aspects of the visit was the opportunity to see three developments at very different stages. The first development was fully completed, with residents already living in their homes. The second was nearing completion, offering an example of the final stages of construction, while the third was still mid-construction. Seeing their life cycles allowed considering not only the finished product, but also how design intentions are translated into the construction process.

The visit provided an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the realities of designing age friendly housing with professionals directly involved in the process. These conversations offered valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges associated with incorporating age friendly considerations into new housing developments.

Overall, the site visit was an informative and engaging opportunity for IVI's ongoing research. Visiting developments at different stages of completion helped to better understand how age friendly housing and universal design principles are considered from the planning stage through to completed homes and ultimately, how these principles can shape the experience of the people who live in Healthy Age Friendly Homes.



Bootcamp for Digi+ researchers: Design Thinking, Impact and... Beer

The week of 8-11 September saw the second 'bootcamp' training week for research fellow of the Digi+ programme, eight leading researchers working on cutting-edge challenges in data and digital. The packed schedule saw sessions on sustainability in research, design thinking and gender equality in research, plus an expert panel discussing different pathways to research impact. With discussions and workshops on research career paths and managing IP, the week included a diverse lineup of experts and trainers from business, academic research and policy. To cap off the week, fellows (and a few other lucky members of the IVI team) visited the local Rye River Brewery, learning more about the data and business of brewing and beer!

Thank you once again to all our guest speakers and to Programme Manager Pedro Campilho for organising the week's schedule.



LG CORE: Cyber resilience in local government

On 10th September IVI hosted representatives from the majority of local councils across Ireland for a one-day workshop as part of the LG-CORE programme. The initiative focuses on local government cybersecurity and the development of sector-wide collaboration and information sharing. IVI was honoured to welcome so many guests from across the country, and attendees enjoyed a full day of collaboration, problem-solving and knowledge creation.



Congratulations to our graduates!

IVI is delighted to congratulate two of our recent graduates. On 25th August, Dr Coleen Rose Griffin (below left) graduated with a Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng) from the University of Limerick, with her thesis titled 'Advancing Sustainability Reporting through Effective Data Governance'.

In Maynooth University, Maryam Nawaz (below right) graduated with a Masters by Research (Science) on 7th September, with her thesis 'Health Empowerment (HE) through Conversational Agents (CAs): A Mapping between CA Architectural Components and HE Elements to Design CA Interventions.'

Huge congratulations to both! We wish Coleen and Maryam continued success, and a well-deserved break before getting back to research...





Upcoming events

- The **European Big Data Value Forum**, for which IVI is a collaborator, will be held 30th September/1st October in Galway with over 100 expert speakers. IVI will host a session, 'The Agentic Organisation: Transforming AI, Operating Models and Governance'. **Details are available here.**
- IVI will be present at the **NCSC Cyber Expo** in Dublin, 6-8 October. This event linked to the EU presidency is a major showcase of cyber security in Ireland - stop by and chat to us.
- IVI will also be represented at the **EU Digital Talent** days at Trinity College Dublin, 15-16 October, to discuss our range of executive learning opportunities - microcredential courses, workshops and more.

- **Maynooth University Research Week** begins on Monday 19th October and following last year's success, IVI's Digital Oktoberfest will return! The busy schedule includes:



Monday 19th October

- 1-3pm ' Human Agency and Creativity in the Age of AI' - a joint session with IVI and the Arts & Humanities Institute

Tuesday 20th October

- 10am-5pm 'AI for Your Health and Wellbeing: Explore, Understand and Take Control' This drop-in, interactive session allows you to explore - and try! - the latest technologies to discover how AI and other emerging digital technologies can help people better understand, manage and improve their health and wellbeing.
- 11am-12pm 'Beyond the Hype: Technology Myths and the Society We're Building' This session, featuring a panel of experts from the Hamilton Institute and IVI, offers an accessible, evidence-led discussion of technology myths, with questions spanning AI, digital trust, public services and wellbeing.

Wednesday 21st October

- 'Digital Health in Practice: Person-Centred Innovation and AI-Powered Clinical Support' A joint webinar with IVI and colleagues in Aga Khan University Nairobi exploring how digital health solutions can be designed and deployed to be both human-centred and clinically useful

Thursday 22nd October

- 9am-9:45am 'GoGreen Trail'
  Following the success of walks during the IVI Summit and other events, this event gives another chance to take a climate walk exploring the Maynooth University campus, mental health and climate change awareness
- 10:30 onwards 'Data Digital and AI: The Future of Research'
  Following a welcome address, IVI presents a showcase of groundbreaking research from throughout the university on the topics of data, digital and AI.
- 11am-11:30am 'DIGIFABS - Applied Digital Transformation modules for creating change agents in food & beverage industry'
  Presenting the results of IVI's innovative programme for digital skills in food and beverage manufacturing.
- 12:30pm-1:15pm Lunch for attendees
- 1:15pm-2:30pm Launch meeting for Innovation Team on AI Governance - **register your interest here** to join the Team.

- As part of EU ESPON Week, the session 'Territorial Cohesion and Competitiveness: The Role of the Green Energy Transition in Driving Balanced Regional Development' will be held in Cork City Hall, 11th-12th November. A draft programme and details of registration **are available here**.

Interested in IVI membership or Innovation Teams? Click here

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