



Ireland – National Embedment

1. RI definition	
In which points does the National Roadmap deviate from the ESFRI Roadmap?	
Categories	National Roadmap
Funding	RM developed before ESFRI RM. Ireland's RM was established in 2007. The first ESFRI roadmap was only 2006.
Categorisation of RI	RM developed before ESFRI RM.
Access to RI	RM developed before ESFRI RM.
Organisation within national procedure	RM developed before ESFRI RM.
<p>The tools provide essential services to the research community for basic or applied research. They may concern the whole range of scientific and technological fields, from social sciences to astronomy, going through genomics or nanotechnologies.</p> <p>Examples include libraries, databases, biological archives, laboratories, clean rooms, communication networks, research vessels, satellite and aircraft observation facilities, coastal observatories, telescopes, synchrotrons, accelerators.</p> <p>They may be "singlesited", "distributed", or "virtual". What we are dealing with are the necessary tools for the future to do research in many areas at the cutting edge, in accordance to ESFRI definition. (Higher Education Authority & Forfás, p. 58)</p> <p>Ireland uses the same definition as the EC. The term 'Research Infrastructures' refers to "facilities, resources and related services used by the scientific community to conduct top-level research in their respective fields." Examples are scientific equipment, sets of instruments, archives and ICT-based infrastructures. The definition of Research Infrastructures also encompasses technical operators, (bespoke) buildings, access and support services and, in specific cases, R&D and education programmes that are linked to the RI and research centres that are the custodians of RI.</p>	



2. RI players in the national R&I system

The RI players within the R&I system are displayed in figure 12.

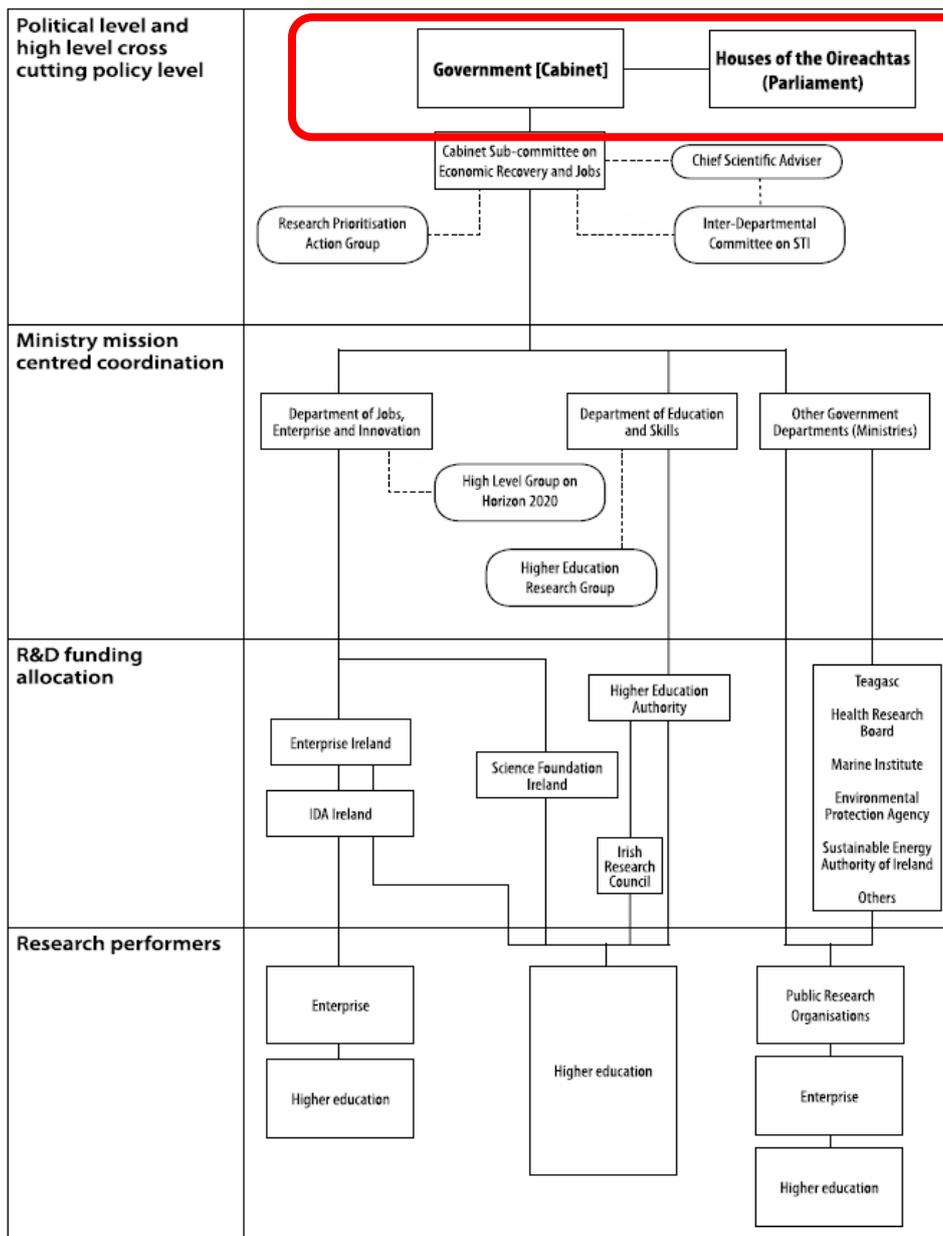


Figure 12: Organisational chart of the R&I system of Ireland (Martin & La Placa 2016, p. 17). Red colour indicates the bodies with the main decision power regarding RI.

National relevance of RI

The Irish national government acknowledged the importance of RI for achieving the objectives of Ireland's National Development Plan (2000-2006 and 2007-2011) and Ireland's Science, Technology and Innovation priorities (adopted in 2006 and updated in 2010/2011). The main government-financed intervention is the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLTI). This programme is coordinated by the HEA and funded by the Department of Education and Skills (2000-2010) and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (2010-ongoing). Using five calls for proposals, PRTLTI has invested in buildings, large RI, specific items of research equipment, research centres, research programmes and structured PhD programmes. Both HEA and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), established in 2003, launched dedicated calls for research equipment. In addition, a number of government departments (such as Agriculture, Food and the Marine), public agencies (such as Enterprise Ireland and IDA) and research councils provided grants for research equipment and RI in general. Moreover, universities, Institutes of Technology and research performing organisations used some of their funding (such as block grants and core funding) to invest in RI.



(Technopolis Group 2015, p. 3)

Embedding of RI in the national R&I system

Responsibility for RI are shared between the HEA and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

3. RI in the National R&I System

Ireland's R&I system is organised top down. At the top level, the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Recovery and Jobs is the executive body of the government. It is supported by a high level governmental co-ordinating body in the form of the **Inter-Departmental Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation and by the Research Prioritisation Action Group** which oversees the implementation of the National Research Prioritisation Strategy. **The coordination of policies is located at the ministerial level.** The Higher Education Authority (HEA) has a statutory responsibility, at central government level, for governance and regulation of higher education institutions and the higher education system. The Inter-Departmental Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation supports the preparation of new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) strategy, Innovation 2020, which was published in December 2015. (Martin & La Placa 2016, p. 18.) The bulk of the R&I budgets is being controlled by the governmental departments (ministries) (Martin & Fákó 2017, p. 6).

4. Major national strategies for international cooperation in R&I and strategic integration of RI

In 2015, Ireland's new strategy for research and development and science and technology (Innovation 2020) was published. One of the main objectives of this strategy is to increase total R&D investment in Ireland to 2.5 % of the Gross National Product. The Enterprise 2025 strategy was developed as a complement to Innovation 2020. The aim is to stronger promote innovation in companies. A national Roadmap for RI was developed by the HEA and Forfás in 2007. Forfás, which has been the national policy advisory board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation in Ireland, was dissolved in 2014 and its policy functions were integrated with the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

References

- Higher Education Authority of Ireland and Forfás (2007). Research Infrastructure in Ireland: Building for tomorrow, 2007. <<http://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/06/Research-Infrastructure-in-Ireland-Building-for-Tomorrow.pdf>>. [Last access: 08/2017].
- Information included in the InRoad Consultation (survey sent on 02/05/2017).
- Martin, T & G. La Placa (2016). RIO COUNTRY REPORT 2015: Ireland. <<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/file/9538/download?token=ZTTPT3Om>>. [Last access: 07/2017].
- Martin, T & P. Fákó (2017). RIO COUNTRY REPORT 2015: Ireland. <<https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/file/10760/download?token=R9JKBpAk>>. [Last access: 07/2017].
- Technopolis Group (2015). Ireland's future Research Infrastructure needs, Dublin, Ireland. July 2015 <<https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Irelands-Future-Research-Infrastructure-Needs-Study.pdf>>. [Last access: 07/2017].

Further links

- Research infrastructure in Ireland. Building for tomorrow 2007. <https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/roadmaps/ireland_national_roadmap.pdf> [Last access: 07/2017].

