

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the IVI newsletter, updating you on the latest news and upcoming events from the Innovation Value Institute. **This month:** a bumper summer issue including how to get involved with the relaunched IVI community, international collaborations and new research on trustworthy AI...

Expanding our Community

On 23 July IVI held the webinar 'Expanding Our Community - the Next Stage of IVI.' The webinar covered the key challenges that came through in discussions at the recent IVI Summit:

- The current speed of change in digital and tech
- Governance, particularly in relation to AI
- 'Using' AI vs fully integrating AI into processes and workflows -the 'agentic organisation' of the future
- Trust, integrity and reliability

To research and address these topics, the webinar detailed some of the exciting developments in IVI's knowledge exchange, including the revised Capability Maturity Framework, our new Innovation Teams, and further updates on the AI-powered ATLAS platform to aid organisational assessment and decision making.

The webinar recording is now available to view [here](#).

IVI membership offers benefits including joining our problem-solving Innovation Teams, accessing ATLAS and funding supports, and discounted and member-exclusive events. If you would like to know more about how to get involved in our Innovation Teams or the benefits of IVI membership, get in touch with us via info@ivi.ie or **[complete this short form](#)**.

ARQUS Alliance conference comes to Maynooth

The **ARQUS Alliance** bringing together nine universities across Europe held its most recent annual conference in Maynooth from 7th to 9th July, and IVI was proud to be well represented. Dr Michael Hanley, IVI's Knowledge Transfer Manager, spoke as part of the panel 'Beyond Borders: European Universities and Their Societal Footprint', while the extensive ARQUS poster exhibition included displays from IVI projects GoGreen Next, DIGI+, EnTrust and ReThink/ReDesign.



Visit from Beijing Jiaotong University

On Friday 24 July IVI was pleased to welcome a delegation of senior leaders from Beijing Jiaotong University (BJTU) to discuss overlaps in research and interests. IVI Director Prof. Markus Helfert and Operations Manager Paul Heynen provided an overview of IVI's history and current work, while senior researcher Dr. Marco Alfano presented on the Digital Health and

Wellbeing research cluster. The BJTU team, lead by university Vice-President Prof. Shi Xianliang, discussed their university's research specialisms including logistics, transport and a large-scale digital health project. Both IVI and BJTU look forward to continuing discussions about collaboration and shared interests.

Age Friendly Ireland

On 7th and 8th May, Dr Claudia Roessing and PhD candidates Niamh Petrie and Alejandro Mosquera, who work on a collaborative project with Age Friendly Ireland, attended the National Older People's Council (OPC) Convention, hosted by Westmeath County Council in Athlone. This year's convention theme, *'Thriving Together: Age Friendly Sustainable Communities,'* brought together



representatives from 31 Older People's Councils across Ireland. During the event, the team facilitated discussions on Age Friendly topics and shared information and sign-up

sheets for an email list that provides updates on ongoing research examining the association between housing, social connection, and social participation. The group also had the opportunity to meet the Minister for Older People and Housing, Kevin O'Donnell [above].



Dr Roessing also attended the 3rd World Congress of Age Friendly Cities and Communities in San Sebastián, Spain from 16th to 18th June [left]. She presented the poster '*Closing the Loop – Evidence-Informed Policymaking for Age Friendly Futures,*' highlighting the project's collaboration with Age Friendly Ireland and its focus on strengthening the connection between research evidence and policymaking to support more inclusive, age-friendly communities. This year's congress brought together global leaders, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from 76 countries, all dedicated to advancing age friendly initiatives worldwide.



Cork goes Green - virtually and in reality

IVI's GoGreen Next project team recently visited the project pilot site in Cork to examine the development plans for new green spaces along

Douglas Street and record pre-intervention data. This included testing novel virtual reality 'walking' which allows local residents a virtual experience of the Cork City Council's redevelopment along Douglas Street. Residents can explore the area using the VR headset and then share their opinions on the new look. Data collected cover topics including segregation from traffic, biodiversity, access to vegetation and nature, and safety. Learn more on the [GoGreen Next site](#).

New research on trustworthy AI

IVI doctoral researchers Fjolla Berisha and Leidiane da Silva, along with supervisory team Dr Peter Mooney, Dr Zohreh Pourzolfaghar and Prof Markus Helfert, recently published an important new paper on their novel model, the 'Sovereign Loop', allowing for trust-calibrated human-centered AI in data-scarce environments. The abstract is below:

The advancement of Human-Centered AI (HCAI) is dependent on access to large and diverse datasets. However, the mechanisms for acquiring this data are plagued by a

fundamental crisis of trust and a lack of respect for data sovereignty, creating a vicious cycle that starves AI systems. This paper introduces the Sovereign Loop, a novel model that resolves this tension by architecting systems where trust is not a prerequisite but a dynamically generated outcome of human-centric design. We argue that embedding sovereignty-by-design is the critical first step in a virtuous cycle: it enables trust calibration, which facilitates the flow of high-quality, consented data. This data fuels the development of robust HCAI systems that are, by architectural imperative, designed to amplify human agency through explainable, collaborative interfaces. The positive experience of this human-AI partnership feedback is to strengthen trust, justifying further data sovereignty. We formalize this feedback loop and conceptually validate its hypotheses through an agent-based simulation. Our work illustrates how sovereignty can be the human dimension of HCAI by embedding agency and consent directly into system design.

The full paper is available [here](#).

Dublin community health research with RCSI

IVI Digital Health & Wellbeing Cluster Lead Dr Marco Alfano is part of a new project on a community health needs assessment with Dublin's northeast inner city, led by Prof. Breda Smyth at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. Using AI and digital health technologies along with participation from community groups and residents, the research aims to assess and improve community health in this area of Dublin. **More information on the project is available [here](#).**



IVI Community Membership

As we expand our community, register your interest in becoming an IVI member by 7th August to gain your first six months of membership for free.

IVI Community Membership allows access to a range of benefits including:

- Access to the full 20+ year IVI Body of Knowledge, including the revised Capability Maturity Framework
- Discounted entry to IVI events
- Member-exclusive events and training
- Early access to the ATLAS AI-powered assessment platform
- Membership of Innovation Teams
- Networking with fellow members

- and more...

Interested in seeing what membership could do for you? [Click here](#)

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