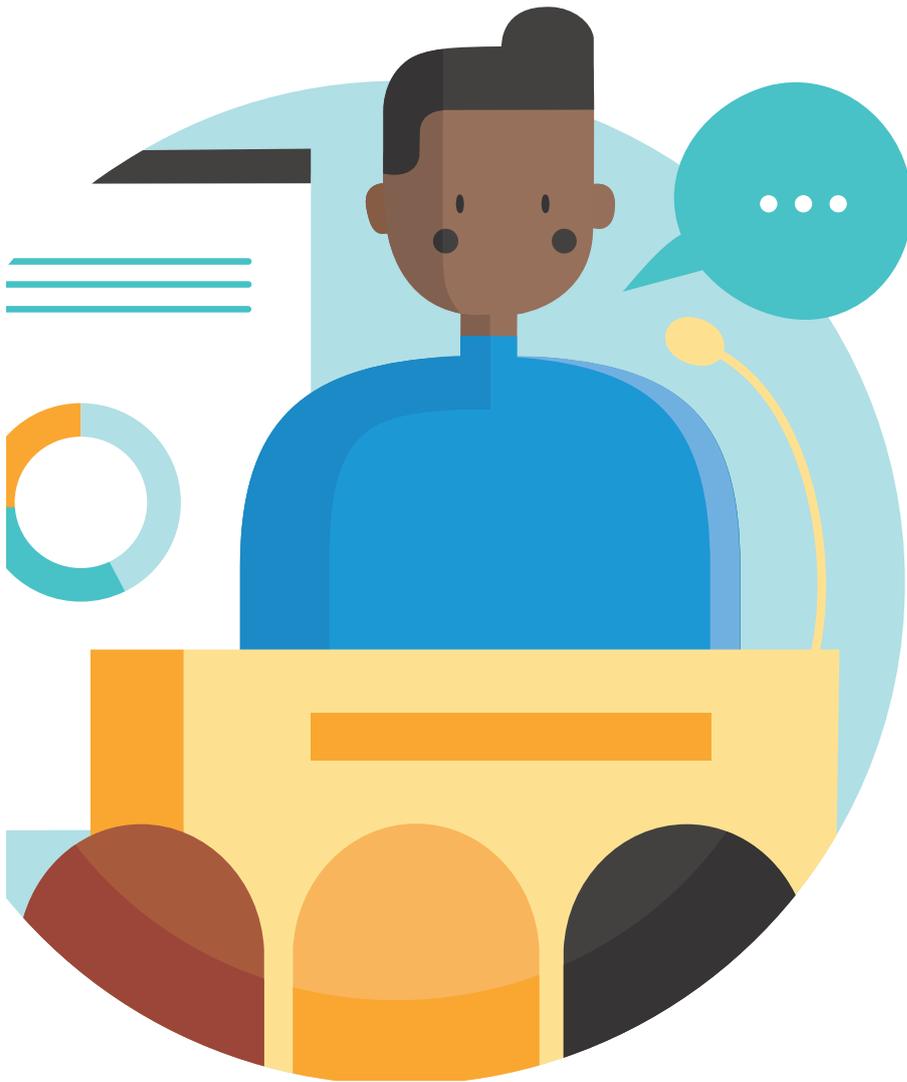
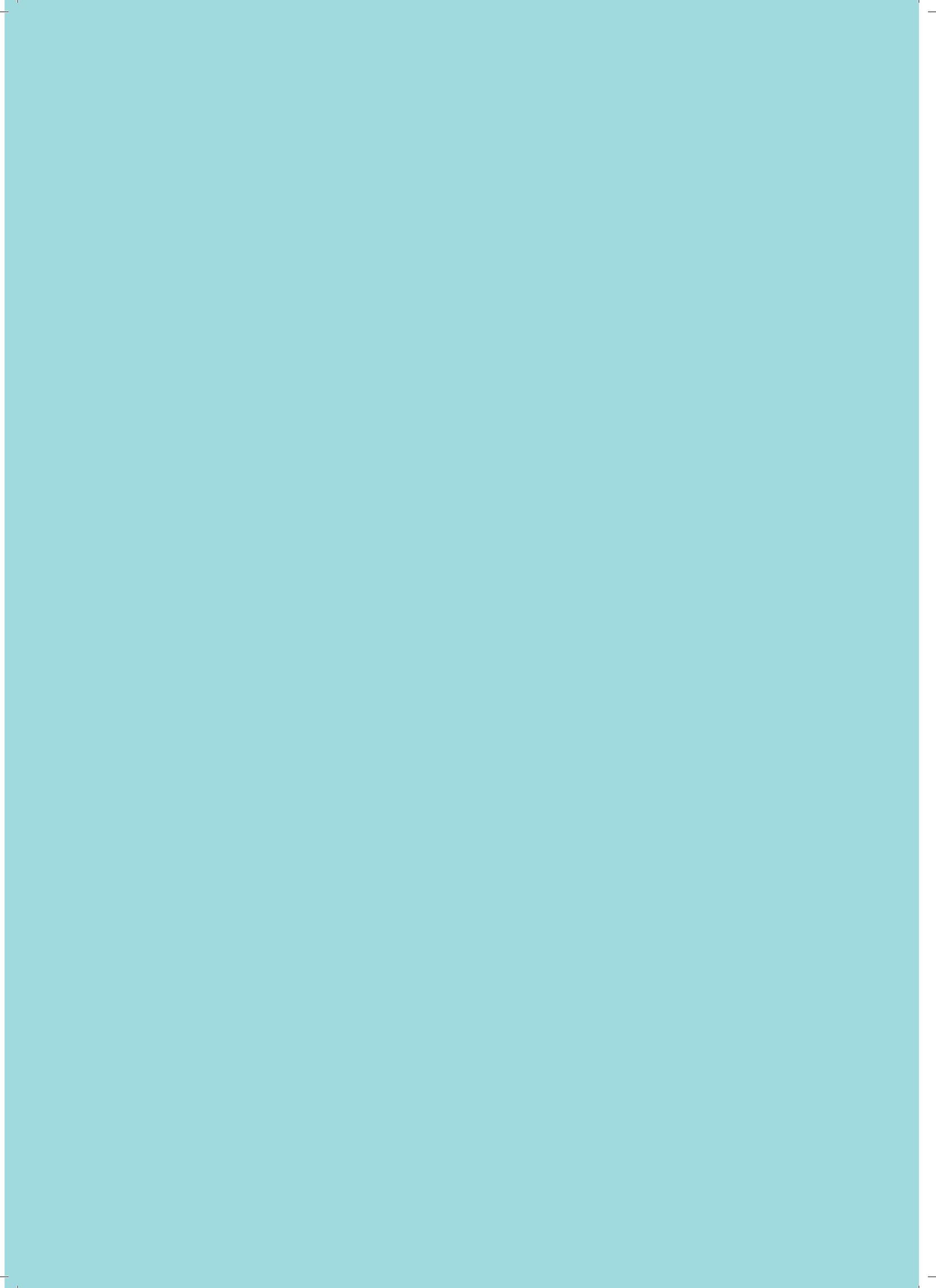




UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy
Research, Analysis, Evidence



STRATEGY ROADMAP 2022-2025



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INTRODUCTION

The UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy is a centre of excellence for policy-relevant, theoretically informed, empirically grounded research. The Institute supports policy relevant research in empirical social and behavioural sciences, and brings together researchers to stimulate discussion on theories, methodologies, and empirical results. The main disciplines at Geary include: demography, economics, education, law, political science, psychology, public health, social policy, and sociology. The Geary Institute complements and extends the core research expertise of schools, centres and institutes from across University College Dublin, interwoven with international and national research partnerships.

VISION

To position the Geary Institute for Public Policy at the forefront of policy relevant, empirically grounded, theoretically informed research in social and behavioural sciences in UCD, Ireland and Europe, with output centred on 3Ps of - people, papers and policy.

MISSION

To support policy relevant research in the empirical, social, and behavioural sciences, bring together researchers to stimulate cross-disciplinary discussion on theories, methodologies and empirical results, and deliver research impact across the policy lifecycle by disseminating high quality empirical research to inform significant academic and policy debates.



RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The Geary Institute currently has 80 active members and provides research facilities as well as administrative and IT support to over 30 researchers and 45 doctoral students. Between 2017 and 2021 Institute fellows published in excess of 1700 peer-reviewed research papers and other publications. In this same time period recurrent research income from both national and international funding agencies totalled in excess of €21.5M.

Research strengths at Geary map across the four key themes of ***Rising to the Future, UCD's Strategy 2020-2024***, and have particular relevance to ***Empowering Humanity*** and ***Creating a Global Sustainable Society***, especially at the interface between sustainability and equality. Contributions to ***Building a Healthy World*** are expected to grow with increased membership from the College of Health Sciences. With fellows drawn from over 20 schools and across four different colleges in the University, the Institute is well positioned to forge collaborations across programmes and funding streams.

By collaborating across these disciplines and building linkages with national and international initiatives, UCD Geary Institute researchers ensure that their contributions are relevant to a broad spectrum of academic, social, political and policy debates.

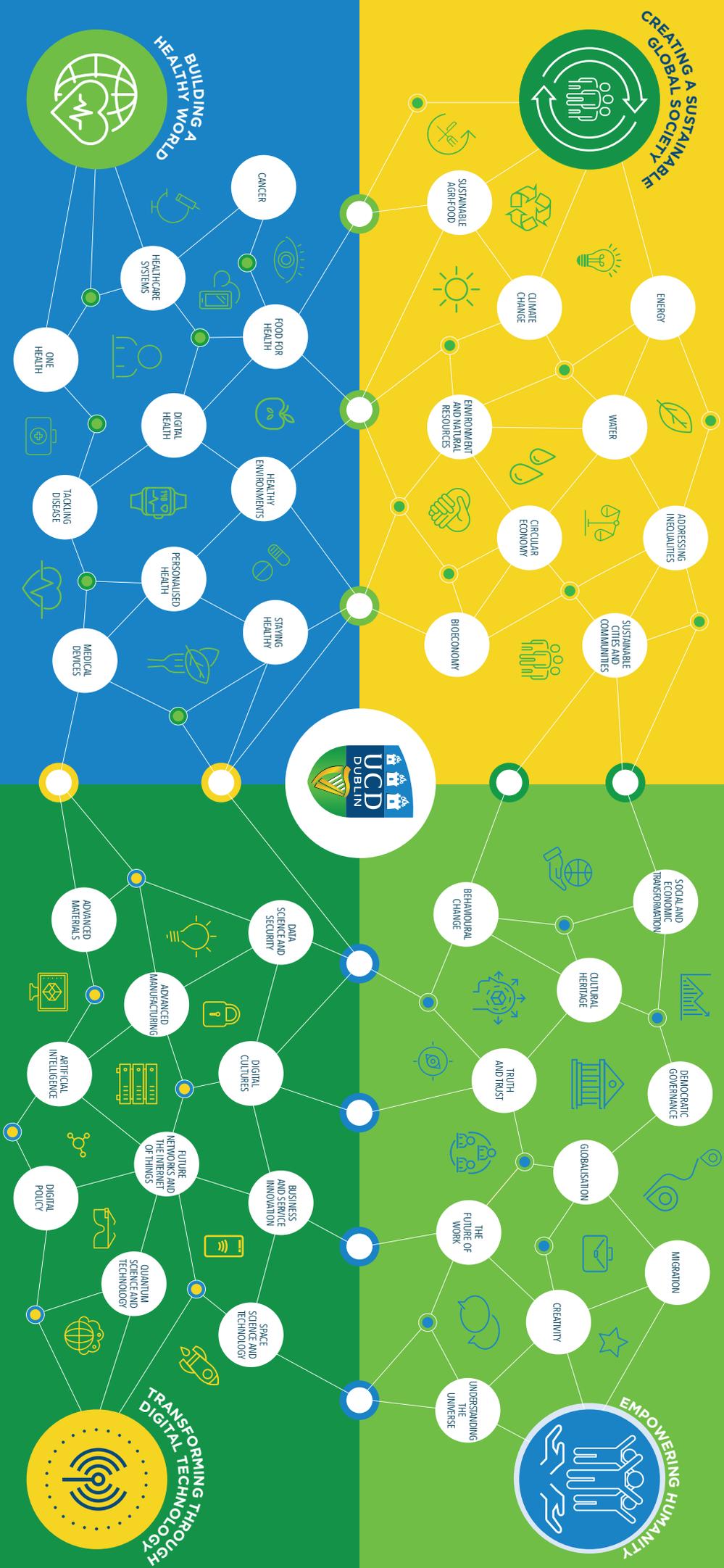
The work of the Geary Institute for Public Policy also complements key objectives of the national research and innovation strategy - Impact 2030 - which was recently launched by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

This includes:

- **Pillar One: Maximising The Impact Of Research And Innovation On The Economy, Society And The Environment** which aims to ensure that 'Research and innovation makes a real and positive impact – across society, the economy and the environment: improving social wellbeing, our economic prosperity, and sustainability' and
- **Pillar Five: All-Island, Eu And Global Connectivity** which aims to ensure that research and innovation contributes to a shared island and innovative Europe through strong all-island, European and global R&I collaborations.



RISING TO THE FUTURE 2020-2024



The Institute has extensive experience in attracting and hosting EU funded research, particularly Marie Curie Actions, Horizon Europe programmes, in addition to government, industry and philanthropic funding. The Institute has developed outstanding research expertise in the field of longitudinal birth cohort studies over several years and is coordinator of a major Horizon Europe project Growing up in Digital

Europe (GUIDE). The Institute has also hosted and coordinated Irish participation in the European Social Survey since 2018.

The table below outlines the main disciplinary strengths, along with associated expertise and specific capabilities and methodologies.

Table 1: Expertise within UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy

DISCIPLINE	EXPERTISE	CAPABILITIES
Behavioural Economics	Researchers in this area are at the forefront of research in environmental policy, health, and financial decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emphasis on measurement foundations, evaluation methods, and ethics - Time preferences, temptation and self-control, environmental behaviour, and soft paternalism
Business	Research expertise is focused on labour market, industrial relations and finance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Models for understanding vertical EU integration - New analytical approaches to transnational labour movement
Demography	Survey methods and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey management and development - Protocols and management systems for conducting national surveys - Expertise in the development of novel quantitative methodologies and qualitative studies
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geary fellows' expertise spans - Energy and Environmental economics - Labour market - Education - Health economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leading Economics School in Ireland - Internationally recognised research expertise
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research expertise in the areas of: - Child and adolescent wellbeing and engagement - Educational psychology - Schooling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GUIDE - Europe's first comparative birth cohort study tracking children's personal wellbeing and development, in combination with key indicators of children's homes, neighbourhoods, and schools, with 22 partners across Europe - Preparing for Life - Research synthesis (systematic review) - Interventions in real world settings (outcome and process), mixed methods and child-centred research
Environment and Planning	Research in this area is focused on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation - Energy and environmental economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International recognised research expertise and networking in this area

DISCIPLINE	EXPERTISE	CAPABILITIES
Health/ Public Health	Key research strengths include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child health and development - Health economics - Health policy and health services management - Health inequalities - Patient participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experimental, quasi-experimental and natural experimental approaches to research on childhood and human development - UCD Childhood & Human Development Research (CHILD) Centre evidence-based policy and practice for children and young people on the island of Ireland
Information and Communication Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encompassing the activity of UCD Centre for Digital Policy, research drawing on expertise in media, law, and computer science, activities include building digital policy capability among the public and private sectors in Ireland and across the wider EU - Cybersecurity - Networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microsoft-UCD Digital Policy programme to support government on digital legislation and policy - Balancing citizens' rights while advancing digital technologies - Mixed methods studies on peer review process
Politics and International Relations	Research areas of major interest among Geary fellows include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human rights - Labour market and industrial relations - Elections - Public opinion - Political economy - Institutions of the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expertise in survey research including the European Social Survey - Establishment and evolution of Irish state institutions through Mapping the Irish State database - New analytical approaches to transnational labour movement
Psychology	Child and adolescent psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UCD Childhood & Human Development Research (CHiLD) Centre evidence-based policy and practice for children and young people on the island of Ireland - Applied health research and evaluation - Research synthesis (systematic review, interventions in real world settings (outcome and process), mixed methods and child-centred research
Social Policy	Expertise is focused on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing policy - Migration - Social inequalities - Welfare states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Social Survey - UN Economic Commission advising on Housing 2030 - Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service (IGEES) – advice and training
Sociology	Expertise is focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identity and conflict - Poverty and inequality - Networks and computational social science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researchers participate actively in national and international networks on migration and integration as well as contribute to the work of NGOs working in the area.

GOALS 2022-2025

To achieve its mission, the Institute has identified the following four goals as strategic priorities to support these aims in the period 2022-2025:

- 1. Retain and build on research excellence**
- 2. Support research across all stages of the research life cycle**
- 3. Grow and diversify research funding base**
- 4. Strengthen research impact across all stages of the policy life cycle**

These priorities have been developed in consultation with key Institute stakeholders and align with UCD Research Strategy for Research, Innovation and Impact and are linked to activities which will achieve these objectives and performance indicators which will measure these achievements.



OBJECTIVES

A set of objectives is listed for each goal



ACTIVITIES

Activities undertaken to achieve these objectives



KPIs

KPIs mapped to goals and objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: RETAIN AND BUILD RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND ENHANCE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT THIS

The Institute aims to build on the existing strong cohort of active fellows and attract and retain exceptional new researchers who can contribute to our research capacity. With this in mind the Institute's membership policy will be revised to enable postdoctoral researchers and policy researchers outside of UCD to become fellows of the Geary Institute.

The recruitment of researchers who possess niche expertise, via transfer of knowledge/training programmes such as Marie Skłodowska Curie programmes, represents an excellent way to build

increased expertise and critical mass within the Institute. Researchers who are recruited on EU mobility programmes can also provide a nucleus for future projects and collaborations with EU and International Institutes. It is equally important that these researchers have adequate space, facilities, and pre and post award support in order to fulfil the potential of their research.

The following table outlines the objectives and activities that the Institute will undertake to realise this goal:

Table 2: Systems to Retain and Build Research Excellence and Capacity

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	KPIs
Appoint new Institute fellows in line with revised membership policy, to ensure active engagement. Reach out to new UCD faculty appointed under the Ad Astra programme and devise a membership programme for post doctoral fellows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised membership policy to widen membership base - Active engagement with newly appointed faculty and postdoctoral researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase of 20% in number of active Fellows by 2025, measured by working paper, seminar and supervision activity
Form links with non Geary Fellows in UCD who are engaged in related research areas and policy research to work with Geary fellows to contribute to 'grand challenges' programmes cross campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network meetings throughout UCD - Quarterly meeting with Colleges and Geary Executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two joint events with College of Social Science and Law per annum - Increase engagement with other UCD colleges - Run at least one joint event with other research Institutes per annum
Target funding streams within the Marie Curie (People) programme to attract high quality postdoctoral researchers to the GI. Principal Investigators will be encouraged to proactively identify high-potential candidates for this programme via their networks and conferences attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased Scientific collaborations and partnerships with universities, research organisations and international partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host two Marie Curie Fellowship programmes by 2025 - Host (as lead or partner) two Horizon Europe programmes

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	KPIs
<p>Deliver a solution driven research administration service to Fellows, PIs and teams, using management information systems and effective operational practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater liaison with UCD HR, UCD Agile for training, supports, employee engagement - Promote training and mentoring of staff to achieve this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased training and mentoring uptake for GI administrative staff - Increased use of Research Professional database - Quarterly bulletin of opportunities developed - Increase in number of pre and post awards supports available to Fellows
<p>Maintain and where possible enhance GI facilities and IT supports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement of meeting room facilities for events and conferences - Service improvements to post doctoral and principal investigator research space - Facilities for hybrid/Zoom meetings - Provision of grant funding for research software and expert research IT support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased satisfaction among research teams and PhD fellows, measured by survey - Increase in number of Fellows' events hosted and supported by the Geary Institute



OBJECTIVE 2: GROW AND DIVERSIFY THE RESEARCH FUNDING BASE

Researchers at the Geary Institute have been very successful in acquiring research grant income, winning a total of over €27M from 2017-2021. However the national funding landscape for social science research is such that Institute researchers must diversify their funding base and reduce dependency on exchequer sources. The EU's Horizon Europe research funding programme (with an €80 billion budget) represents a real opportunity for Institute researchers to diversify and grow their funding. In particular, Cluster 2, 'Culture, Creativity, and Inclusive Society' of Horizon Europe aims to meet EU goals and priorities on enhancing democratic governance, citizens participation, and to respond to and shape multifaceted social, economic, technological, and cultural transformations.

We are also mindful of the need to encourage collaborations among members across UCD and beyond in order to respond to the 'grand social challenges' which require interrogation by robust research if they are to be met. In particular, the climate action challenges which are key societal challenges and concerns for policy makers and also central to the current Horizon Europe themes. They will require Geary Institute researchers to collaborate with colleagues with environmental and climate scientists and other colleagues outside the social sciences.

The Geary Institute will strongly support its researchers in applying for funding from a diverse range of national and international, governmental and nongovernmental sources and in building the interdisciplinary research collaborations required to secure this funding and comprehensively research the most pressing societal challenges.

The following table outlines the objectives and further activities the Institute will undertake to realise this goal:

Table 3: Measures to Grow and Diversify the Research Funding Base

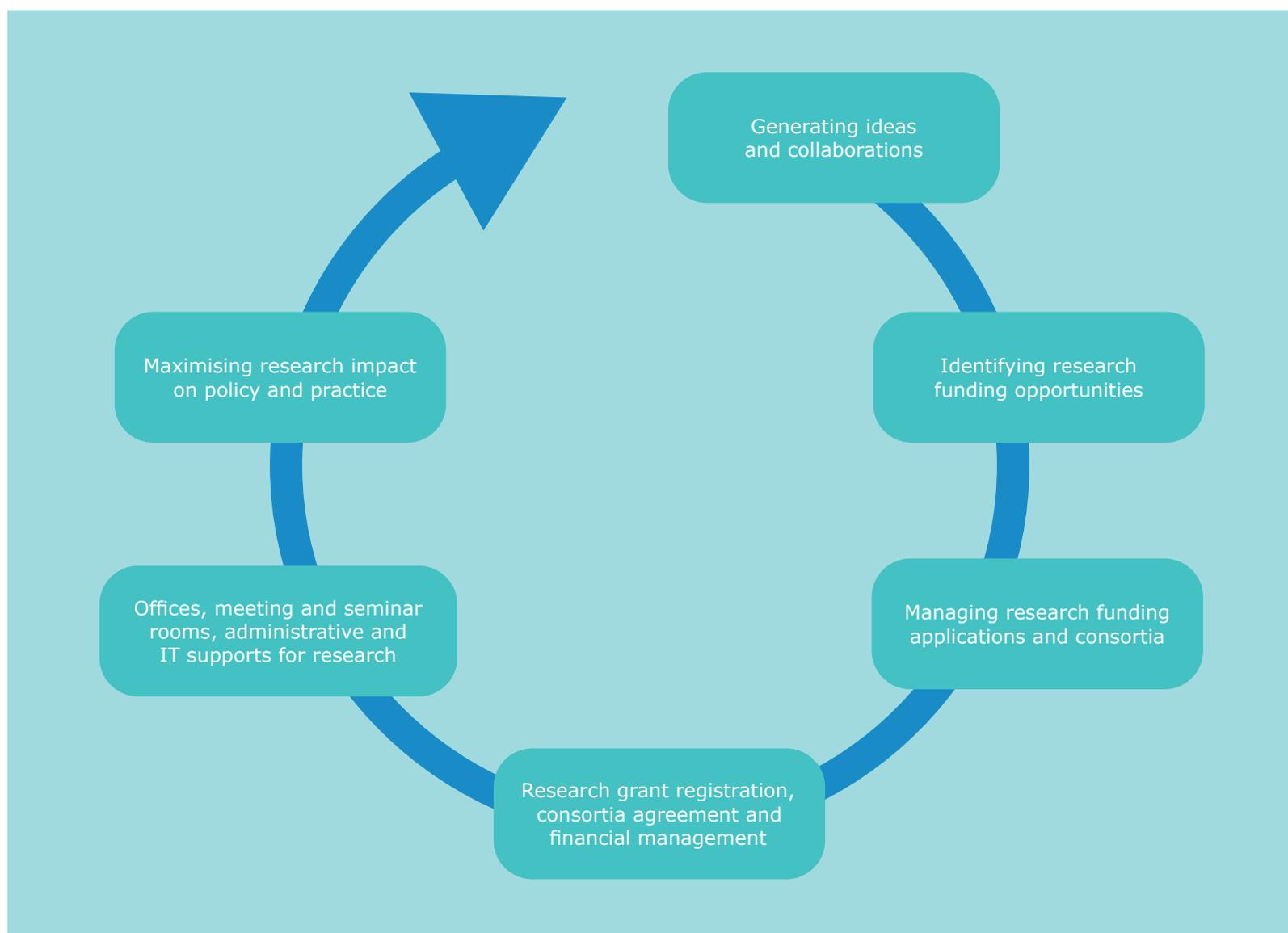
OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	KPIs
Increase the level of EU funding applications by Geary Institute fellows by encouraging and assisting them to either take co-ordinator roles or partner with larger consortia on 'grand challenge' programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Institute has initiated a series of seminars and hostings of training workshops around Horizon Europe funding calls - Partnerships with other institutes/ colleges for training and information and networking events - Improved liaison with new pre and post award staff/structures in UCD Research - Facilitation of increased networking of Geary fellows to build research consortia to address 'grand societal challenges' - Improved facilities for hosting large research grants at the Geary Institute - Increased mentoring by experience PIs to younger researchers - Extend support for scientific collaborations and partnerships with universities, research organisations and international partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support application of 2 MC Fellowship programmes by 2025 - Hosting (as lead or partner) of 2 HEurope programmes in Geary by 2025 - 1 ERC application in 2023 Call
Identify and target undersubscribed and less well known non exchequer funding programmes and funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a knowledge bank in relation to COST and DG actions - Explore other sources such as philanthropic grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 COST Action application by 2025 - 1 DG Action application by 2025

OBJECTIVE 3: SUPPORT RESEARCH ACROSS ALL STAGES OF THE RESEARCH LIFE CYCLE

To expand its research output and diversify its sources of funding the Geary Institute will put in place a comprehensive suite of support for research across all stages of the research life cycle. As explained in Figure 1 below these will include support for networking and hosting visiting researchers to enable ideas generation and support collaborations that are a vital first step in producing excellent research. Researchers will also be provided with information, training and specialist advice to enable

them to identify research funding opportunities and, when they are ready to make an application, Institute staff will provide the administrative and financial management support required. The Institute will also provide comprehensive post award support for research, including management of grant registration and consortia agreements, budgets and recruitment and provision of IT support office space for researchers, meeting and seminar rooms.

Figure 1: Support for Research Across all Stages of the Research Cycle



The following table outlines the objectives and activities that the Institute will undertake to realise this goal:

Table 4: Measures to Support Research Across all Stages of the Research Lifecycle

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	KPIs
Generating Ideas and collaborations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enable the Geary Institute to function as a laboratory for ideas generation. An example is the ongoing development of engagement with colleagues in the AI field. - To support collaborations within UCD and in the wider research community that are a key requisite in producing excellent research. - Support for networking and hosting visiting researchers. - To increase public engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visiting international scholars accommodated in the Institute - Increase visibility of Working papers, Public Policy digests and papers, IDEAS, RePEc, peer-reviewed papers and monographs. - Ongoing engagement with academic and other communities of research outputs through use of social media. - Engagement with graduate level students interested in research via provision of internships and training - Aim to increase visibility in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations.
Identifying research funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawing on a team that is both informed and effective, researchers will also be provided with information, training and specialist advice, from within Geary, to enable them to identify research funding opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in applications for funded research projects supported by the Institute - Funding applications reflect a broad range of competencies appropriate for the research element of an academic career.
Support for research funding applications and management of consortia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When researchers are ready to make an application, Institute staff will provide the administrative and financial management support required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and value of successful research applications supported by the Institute
Offices, meeting and seminar rooms, administrative and IT supports for research post award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Institute will provide comprehensive and timely post-award support for research to include management of grant registration and consortia agreements, budgets and recruitment and provision of IT support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of research projects and research staff accommodated in the Institute - To further develop a quality research environment that supports leading research as well as instilling a positive working culture. This culture aims to be supportive, inclusive and equitable.

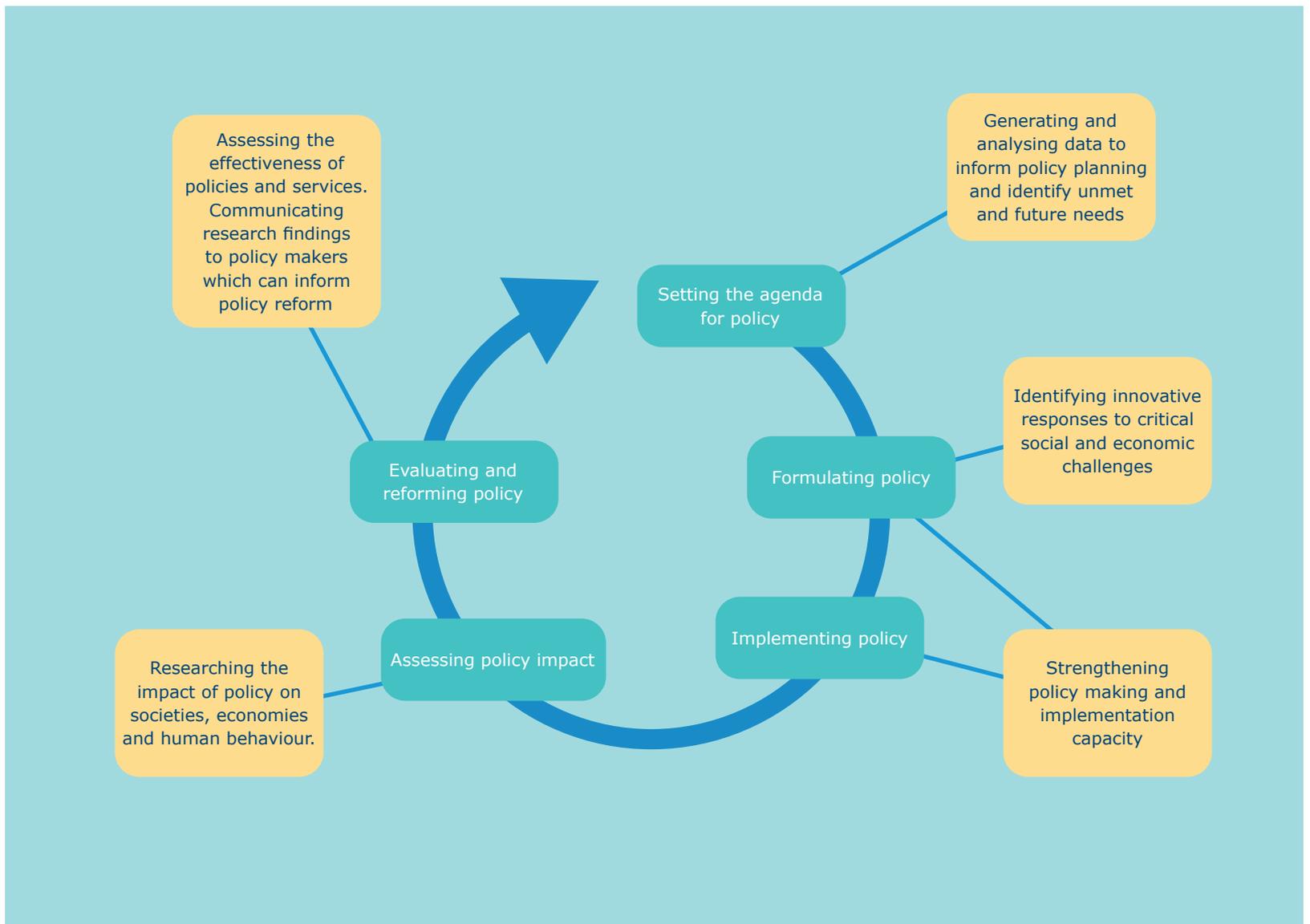
OBJECTIVE 4 STRENGTHEN RESEARCH IMPACT ACROSS ALL STAGES OF THE POLICY LIFECYCLE

The Geary Institute will increase efforts to give internal and external visibility to the Institute and its research, particularly among the policy community and to maximise the impact of Institute research on policy. This will include strengthening existing links with Irish government departments and agencies, regulatory bodies, hospitals, and international policy research institutes.

The Geary Institute will develop improved structures and systems to facilitate a smooth interface thereby ensuring a “sustained interactivity” between Institute researchers and the policy community. As explained in the diagram below it will encompass engagement across all stages of the policy cycle.

Generating and analysing data to inform policy planning and identify currently unmet needs and likely future needs will be central to Institute’s policy impact activities. This type of ‘policy agenda setting’ research is challenging for policy makers to conduct or commission. Consequently it is at this stage in the policy cycle that academic research can have the strongest impact. The Publicpolicy.ie online policy research dissemination portal, which has flourished since its incorporation into the Geary Institute in 2018, will also be central to the Institute’s policy engagement activities and in particular to enabling the communication of research findings to policy makers which can inform policy reform.

Figure 2: Research and Engagement Across the Policy Cycle

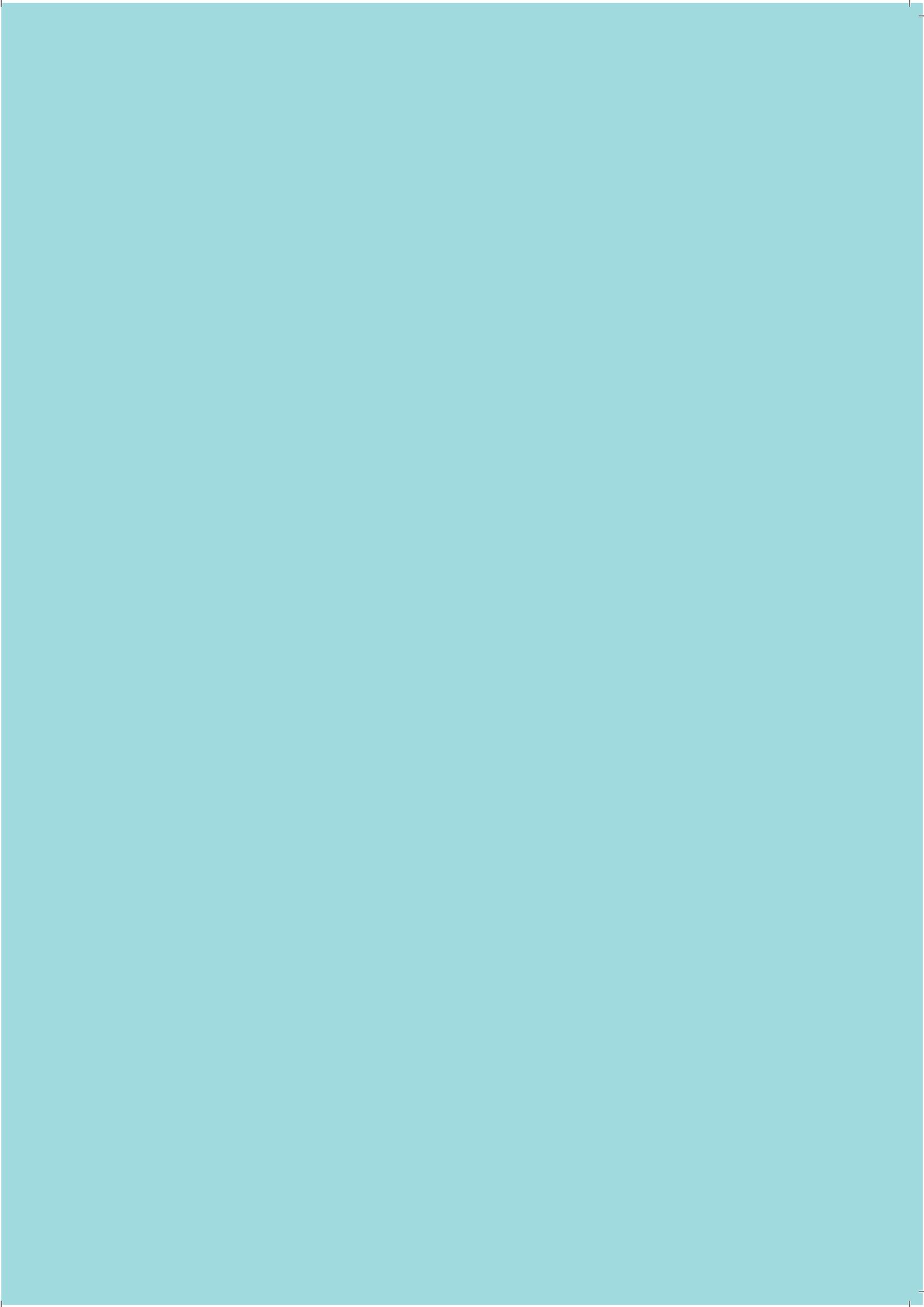


Working in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Institute plans to increase its efforts at raising awareness at local, national and international level of the quality of this research and how it can contribute to national economic and policy challenges and deliver impact for UCD and beyond.

The following table outlines the objectives and activities that the Institute will undertake to realise this goal:

Table 5: Measures to Strengthen Research Impact Across the Policy Lifecycle

Objectives	Activities	KPIs
The Institute will increase the promotion and visibility of the Institute's policy related work at the national and international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater GI representation on policy relevant national boards and policy advisory expert groups - Increased interaction between the Geary Institute researchers and EU policy bodies and agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% increase in Geary Institute fellows' representation on national policy board/ councils - Continued increase in following outreach metrics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - media references - use of findings in policy research - Cross referencing of Geary based research in policy debate - Prominence of social media portals - Attendance by policy practitioners at events and seminars
Develop a comprehensive communications programme aimed at profiling the Institute nationally and internationally amongst peers and policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host policy workshops aimed at connecting our research to the policy makers; nationally and internationally - Contribute to strengthening policy making capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure and deliver 20% increase in policy CPD workshops to an Irish public sector bodies by 2025
Ensure the Institute's research is utilised to assist policy development at both a national and international level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and develop the Geary Institute's research dissemination hub Publicpolicy.ie - Map policy related work among Geary Fellows and within their networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure ongoing funding for Publicpolicy.ie - Increase in Publicpolicy.ie Website/social media hits - 20% increase in fellows' papers released via Publicpolicy.ie





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