



NETWORK OF IRISH SCIENTISTS

*An All-Ireland Professional Network enabling connection,
communication and collaboration of the Irish scientific,
technological and engineering Diaspora.*

Research Careers and Mobility

Dublin, May 2013

Aims and Objectives

Goal: *An All-Ireland Professional Network enabling **connection, communication and collaboration** of the Irish scientific, technological and engineering Diaspora.*

The Network has a worldwide reach and welcomes as members individuals with an abiding and professional interest in the intersection of science, technology and engineering with policy, research and development of relevance to the island of Ireland.

- How can Diaspora Networks contribute to research career mobility ?
- **Advantages:** Mobility = Connectivity. Use web-site and LinkedIn for **communication**. Viral initiative but very cost-effective. Can take advantage of full range of networking tools. World-wide AGM is possible with VC and extendable to any event.

A Scientific Census

Goal: Provide, for the first time, a census of Irish scientific, technological and engineering expertise and achievement.

Provides data base of expertise (currently > 600) pre-selected for **collaboration**, reviewing, mentoring. Scientists around the world share “citizenship” in a scientific community embracing peer-review, transparency, and accountability to solve local, regional and global challenges. Act as voice of Diaspora in science

- Members are primarily from academia (58 %) and industry (25%)
- Government agencies and science communication sectors also represented
- Majority of members USA-based (55%) and Ireland (39 %). Also from Australia, Germany, UK
- Even spread of senior academics, early career scientists, post-doctoral fellows
- Within industry members at the director (45%), project manager (34%), & research scientist (21%) levels

Multiple Interactions

- **NODES** (Networks of Diasporas in Engineering and Science) is a new partnership between the U.S. Department of State, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) that seeks to support diaspora knowledge networks.
- **Euraxess**
<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>



Mobility = Connectivity

- ***Goal: Facilitate the engagement of Irish scientists abroad, and their institutions, in the knowledge-based development of the Irish economy.***

Undergraduate and graduate mentoring using pre-selected cohort of mentors enhances **connectivity**. Common language and experiences are ideal basis for mentoring and help build partnerships that promote scientific cooperation across countries.

For faculty, short-term research visits, joint grant proposals allows joint mentoring catalyzing **collaboration** and joint proposals. Dual appointments – can you direct research labs in different countries ? Link two different research groups. Gives different perspectives toward research priorities.

- ***Goal: Enhance transatlantic and European collaboration amongst the scientific Diaspora, linking higher education and enterprise. New sponsorship by Connect Ireland.***
<http://www.connectireland.com>.
- **Disseminate information on funding and employment opportunities.**

Diaspora Recognition

- *Goal: Promote and highlight the achievements of Irish scientists through regular updates on website and LinkedIn as well as with the Irish media*
- Following representations from WGNIS SFI Science Diaspora medal created – 1st medal to be awarded St. Patrick's Day 2014.
- <http://www.sfi.ie/international/sfi-st.-patricks-day-science-medal/>
- “The medal will recognize individuals who are not only outstanding in their fields of expertise but who also have demonstrably assisted researchers in Ireland in either academia or industry – *via* mentorship, supervision, collaboration, industrial development, entrepreneurship etc. Selection committee will consist of high ranking individuals, external to SFI, drawn from academia and industry and including at least one nominee as a non-voting member, from a relevant diaspora organisation e.g. **Wild Geese Network**, ITLG.”

Support

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Connect Ireland