



Photo courtesy of Maura Boyle.

Welcome to the latest edition of the information sharing newsletter from MaynoothWorks at Maynooth University. Our goal is to share relevant market news and activities on the commercialisation of Maynooth University research. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

MaynoothWorks now encompasses knowledge transfer, entrepreneurship innovation and enterprise partnership.

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/maynoothworks



DR NICOLA MOUNTFORD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Nicola Mountford joined Maynooth University School of Business in 2018. Nicola earned her PhD from University College Dublin, from which she also earned a BCL (Law), and taught postgraduate degrees in business.

Nicola's research interests are in the public organization of markets, in particular through the use of inter-organizational networks. To-date much of her research has focused on the re-organisation of the healthcare market in response to the increasing pervasiveness of technology. She has spent time in the USA examining the development of organisational networks in eHealth and how that impacts on adoption of eHealth technologies and connected health philosophies.

Prior to joining Maynooth University, Nicola was Director of Connected Health at University College Dublin. She has previously worked for start-ups and multinationals in marketing and strategic advisory roles in sectors such as retail, professional services, the arts and education. While working with IT Tallaght, she ran Synergy, their business incubation centre during which time she advised over 40 high technology start-ups and lectured ICT undergraduates in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Nicola has a strong emphasis on collaboration across boundaries – whether they be sectoral, disciplinary, or geographic. Her experience of working with multiple stakeholders in Ireland, connecting these to networks across Europe, creates long term collaborative relationships that lead to actionable outcomes. Nicola has a passion for healthcare advocacy and has significant experience of working in non-profit organisations. Nicola's research currently explores a number of areas, including healthcare and collaborative governance networks. Her work focuses on understanding the policy context of decisions and how actions could be taken to improve future policy making for the better provision of healthcare to patients.

MAYNOOTHWORKS AT THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

The MaynoothWorks team had a busy and productive 3 days at the National Ploughing Championships in Carlow. We joined Enterprise Ireland in their Innovation Arena, which showcases new start-up business and well-known companies introducing new designs to local and global markets. In conjunction with the NPA the Innovation Arena promotes the new innovations from a broad range of technologies that are driving innovation in the agricultural sector in Ireland.

For each of the 3 days we invited researchers from our institutes to attend the MaynoothWorks booth, see the show and answer queries from those coming into the Innovation Arena. While Maynooth University does not have specific programmes in agriculture our institutes such as Design Innovation (design led product innovation), Hamilton Institute (data analytics, complex mathematics) and the Human Health Institute (anti-microbial resistance, environment and health) have the expertise to help companies design and build innovative solutions in food and technology in the agri sector.

We fielded a broad range of queries: from how MaynoothWorks can help shape innovation in research proposals to maximise impact, to creating new connections with Local Enterprise Boards, companies and individuals, meeting and talking with politicians, all the way to questions about “what degree options are in Maynooth University for my son/daughter” and general advice on transferrable skills.

Given the level of engagement and the importance of the National Ploughing Championships as an international trade event in the agricultural sector, we would hope to be back next year to promote MaynoothWorks as a hub for regional innovation.



Aerial photo of the National Ploughing Championships.



Photo L – Dr Karen Griffin, MU; Dr Sean Gerrity, AIT; Dr Paul Tyndall, MU.
Photo R – Anna Marie McHugh, NPA and Dr Michael Hayden, MU.



THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT AT MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Maynooth University MaynoothWorks works hard to encourage regional development through several programmes. In parallel to our Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative (TTSI) partnership with regional IoTs (AIT, ITC and WIT), we have strong links with regional enterprise offices in Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. We run the Enterprise Ireland New Frontiers programme in partnership with Athlone IoT and are a key collaborator with Kildare county council in the development of MERITS, a new innovation centre in Naas, Co. Kildare.

We work closely with Meath county council on several programmes and we will continue to promote and develop these links. The Mid-East Regional Development Plan, published by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in February this year, outlines four key objectives for development in our region. Maynooth University and MaynoothWorks play key roles in the delivery of these objectives with a particular emphasis on the development of a network of innovation hubs within the region, the development of innovation and entrepreneurship skills and supports, and the support of the Boyne Valley agri-food sector.