



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION UNIT

Leading the generation and
mobilisation of knowledge



Research and Innovation Unit

RESEARCH

Define

What is the Problem?
Question, Measure,
Learn

EVALUATION

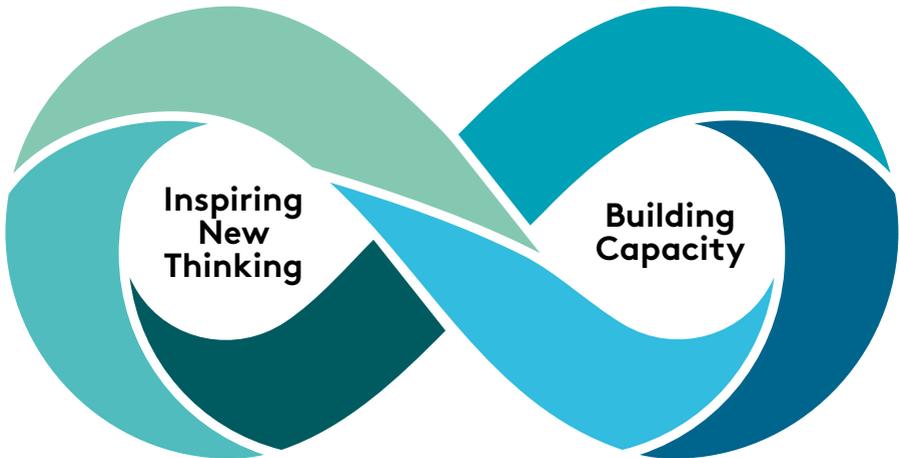
Understand

How do we approach it?
Formative evaluation,
theory of change, logic
models

INNOVATION

Innovate

How do we solve it?
Solution generation,
ideate together and
embrace diversity



Empathise

Why is it a problem?
Observe, Listen and
Acknowledge

Test

Does it work?
Implement, test
and refine

Develop

How do we do it?
Design, experiment
and proto-type in
partnership

*Our research vision is rich insights,
informed actions, for a worldclass
sporting sector.*

Who We Are

In January 2021, Sport Ireland's Evaluation and Innovation teams (earlier under the Directorate of Sport Ireland Participation) were integrated into the Research Unit to form a new Sport Ireland Research & Innovation Unit.

The Unit's ambition is to see our work in Research, Evaluation and Innovation broaden to develop insights and support solution generation in the areas of participation, performance and high-performance sport.



Our ethos to cultivate a culture of curiosity and progress unpinned by robust research and innovation across the sports sector.

Unit Members

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Key Areas of Work

- 1 Irish Sports Monitor (ISM)** is one of the world's longest running national surveys of sport participation and physical activity. It is administered each year by telephone to approximately 8,500 Irish people over the age of 16.
- The **Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) study** is an all-island research project funded by Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and Healthy Ireland. It provides rich insights into the experiences of primary and post primary school children around their participation in physical activity, sport and physical education. The study involves sampling over 8,500 students from schools across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- Sport Ireland Data Lake:** The Unit is currently building an online database to house and process relevant sport related data. The system will provide a centralised repository of all sport-related data collected on the island of Ireland, spanning a wide range of data sources including the ISM, CSPPA, membership databases, sporting infrastructure maps, and population demographics.
- Sport Ireland Systemic Evaluation:** The Unit remit is responsible to the collation and analysis for M1 evaluation data of Sport Ireland funded initiatives.
- Project Level Evaluations:** The Unit leads on a wide range of project level evaluations to explore an individual programme or funding stream in its totality to gather evidence on the way it was delivered, its relevance to its participants and other stakeholders, its impact and its potential for sustainability. These evaluations have brought a great level of depth and clarity on the value and impacts of programmes ran through the LSPs, NGBs and Sport Ireland funded bodies.
- Irish Sport Innovation Register:** The Irish Sport Innovation Register is a listing of creative and progressive innovation projects being implemented by Irish Sport Bodies. All sport bodies are invited to list creative development projects and initiatives on this register. The register will help inform policy and support innovation in Irish sport.
- Innovation for Sport Inclusion:** This is a Dormant Accounts funded initiative that is run by Sport Ireland. The unit provides mentoring and support to all innovation projects funded under this programme.

Funding Opportunities Available

Research Grants Scheme: This funding scheme supports research endeavours for the Irish sports sector. The aim of this fund is to provide opportunities for sporting bodies to undertake research on issues that are relevant to their own unique contexts and build relationships with the third level sector and research consultants. This fund is open to LSPs, NGBs and funded bodies to apply for. The next round of funding will go live in June 2023.

Evaluation Grants Scheme: This funding scheme provides an opportunity for sporting bodies to undertake evaluations to support and understand the development, implementation, and effectiveness of current, future or even past programmes or initiatives. This fund is open to LSPs, NGBs and funded bodies to apply for. The next round of funding will go live in February 2024

Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund: This fund is open to all Sport Ireland funded bodies to research, prototype and develop solutions to critical problems in the development of sports participation at national, local, community and individual levels. Sport Ireland funded bodies can apply on an individual basis, in partnership with other funded bodies or as a collective of funded bodies.

Capacity Building Opportunities

Innovation Ambassador Programme: This is a short online programme that aims to introduce practical innovation skills to people working in Irish sport. It involves one online session per week run twice annually (Spring and Autumn programmes). Further details on the programme and dates available on: www.sportireland.ie/research/innovation-ambassadors-programme



Leading Innovation Programme: This is a follow-on programme to the Innovation Ambassadors Programme that introduces further skills to help people progress and lead innovation projects within their organisations. Further details on the [programme website](#).

I-PARC Workshops and Toolkits: In addition to program evaluation and implementation resources, I-PARC has developed a workshop to help stakeholders from multiple sectors understand the interconnectivity of factors influencing physical activity levels of individuals and groups and the need to work together using a systemic approach.

CONTACT US

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Website: www.sportireland.ie/research

I-PARC Website: <https://i-parc.ie/>



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