

Ireland & the Arctic

International Polar Year Town Hall Event Held

On 6 September 2025, Trinity College Dublin hosted the 'Ireland in the Arctic Town Hall Session', convening 23 members of the Arctic research and policy community for a full-day programme of discussion and planning. The event co-organised between [the Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland \(NARI\)](#) and [the Trinity Centre for the Environment \(TCE\)](#) comprised a morning workshop and an afternoon stakeholder meeting, understanding Ireland's growing commitment to Arctic engagement in the lead-up to [the International Polar Year \(IPY\)](#).

Town-Hall

The meeting highlighted Ireland's unique connection to the Arctic through shared atmospheric and oceanographic systems, as well as historical and contemporary scientific and cultural linkages. The discussions confirmed broad interest in establishing clear priorities and structures for Ireland's participation in IPY in 2032.

The meeting brought together a wide cross-section of representatives from across the Irish research and policy landscape, including Katrina Devine from [the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#), Fiona Grant from [the Marine Institute](#), Tido Semmler from [Met Éireann](#), and Oliver Wilson of [BlueMissionAA \(Mission Blue Atlantic and Arctic\)](#). Academic expertise was represented from institutions including the University of Galway (including Peter Croot and Audrey Morley and Brian Ward), Trinity College Dublin, Maynooth University, University College Cork and the National Maritime College of Ireland and the Halpin Centre for Research & Innovation.

International participation was equally strong. Ambassador Aslak Brun attended from the Embassy of Norway in Ireland, alongside a representative from the Embassy of Denmark. Dr. Malgorzata (Gosia) Smieszek-Rice, Deputy Secretariat of [the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme \(AMAP\)](#), emphasised that Ireland can contribute to Arctic Council Working Groups despite not holding observer status. Henry Burgess, Head of the UK NERC Arctic Office and President of the [International Arctic Science Committee \(IASC\)](#), spoke about opportunities within IASC for collaboration across interdisciplinary Arctic research, while Stephen Heal of [the University of the Arctic \(UArctic\)](#) highlighted avenues for engagement through UArctic's thematic networks.

Workshop on Knowledge Co-Production

The morning session, led by Michaela Louise Coote, Research Associate at the University of Galway, explored approaches to knowledge co-production as part of a Research Ireland-funded [project](#) conducted in collaboration with the [Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network \(IACN\)](#), the [Scottish Arctic Network \(ScAN\)](#), and [ArcticNet](#). The workshop used an adapted Network Compass framework by Schneider et al. (the "snowflake compass") to analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of using knowledge co-production in research networks. The results will form part of an academic article assessing whether

knowledge co-production is the most effective medium for communication in research networks, building directly on workshop results from Scotland and feeding into further workshops scheduled in Iceland and Canada before the end of 2025.

Hyperlinks

- NARI: <https://www.nari.ie/>
- TCE: <https://www.tcd.ie/environment/#:~:text=The%20TCE%20acts%20as%20a,as%20visiting%20and%20affiliate%20members.>
- International Polar Year: <https://iasc.info/cooperations/international-polar-year-2032-33>
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: <https://www.dfa.ie/>
- Marine Institute: <https://www.marine.ie/>
- Met Éireann: <https://www.met.ie/>
- Mission Blue Atlantic and Arctic: <https://bluemissionaa.eu/>
- the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP): <https://www.amap.no/>
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) - <https://iasc.info/>
- the University of the Arctic (UArctic): <https://www.uarctic.org/>
- Project: <https://www.nari.ie/about-5>
- the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network: <https://www.arcticiceland.is/>
- ScAN (the Scottish Arctic Network): <https://arctic.scot/>
- ArcticNet: <https://arcticnet.ca/>