



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Survey — Public Consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Research and Innovation Strategy — Public Consultation

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has set out a vision of a climate neutral, sustainable, and digitally connected Ireland. This will involve leading ambitious climate and environment action across Government and society together with a fundamental shift in sustainable resource use and a transformation of our energy system while at the same time delivering world-class connectivity and cyber security. The Department has identified research and innovation as important enablers of its goals, and is one of a group of five Government Departments which invest significantly in research and innovation. Impact 2030, the national research and innovation strategy, outlines a strong role for the Department in delivering on Strategic Objectives in Climate, Environment and Sustainability (including Energy), and in Digital Transformation (including cyber security). During 2023, the Department is now developing its inaugural Research and Innovation Strategy.

Please complete this survey by 5:30 pm on Friday 11th August.

Note 1: There are no mandatory consultation questions. Fields can be left blank if you do not wish to answer a particular question.

Note 2: Responses to each of the consultation questions is limited to 2000 characters.

Note 3: Copying and pasting text into the boxes directly from Microsoft Word may cause user experience issues. To avoid this, it is recommended to 'paste as plain text'.

Note 4: You can download a PDF copy of your completed survey after you have submitted it.

* Please enter your name

Text of 5 to 200 characters will be accepted

* Please enter your email address

* Please enter your occupation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please enter the name of that organisation.

200 character(s) maximum

Job Title (if applicable)

What gaps do you see in the Department's current research and innovation activities? How should we address those gaps in the Department Research and Innovation Strategy?

2000 character(s) maximum

NSAI's work across standards, certification, and metrology is both vital and significant to an effective economy, and impacts on many aspects of everyday life for citizens and businesses. NSAI provides a channel for Irish businesses and societal stakeholders to engage and influence European and International Standards development that supports today's innovative and regulatory environment.

NSAI's statutory functions and contribution to supporting a sustainable Irish economy and addressing challenges are recognised in several significant Government strategies such as Ireland's Industry 4.0; AI - Here for Good; National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for Ireland; Climate Action Plan; and Future Jobs Ireland. In national policies NSAI has been assigned strategic actions as part of a framework to help Government achieve its vision of Ireland as a leader in Digital Transformation and the Green Agenda ensuring Ireland's enterprise sector remains highly successful and resilient in the face of global challenges. The Department's consultation paper does not call out or refer to the standardisation process and the role of standards in supporting DECC's objectives and policy. It is NSAI's view that it is important that DECC's research and innovation strategy includes recognition of the contribution and interplay of standards and RDI. See inputs under Q7 below also

What actions can the Department take to identify future trends in the areas under our remit?

2000 character(s) maximum

New international standardisation initiatives are a strong and credible indicator that new and emerging technologies are gaining market traction and have the potential to scale globally, e.g. European & international standardisation work programmes on Quantum Technology, Blockchain, Cyber Security, AI, Green Hydrogen etc.

NSAI would welcome DECC staff, and staff from its agencies (SEAI, GSI, EPA), to participate (at no cost) in our national standards committees in such new and emerging areas, to both influence the development of new international standards of key relevance to the twin digital & green transitions, and to inform your internal policy and operational programmes. DECC and its agencies can also add value in making different industry sectors aware of the importance of standards and the opportunities for Irish businesses to participate in standardisation.

Are there specific thematic areas relevant to the Department's remit which you would like to see more research and innovation activity in? How can this be achieved?

2000 character(s) maximum

Research to inform planned and future standards in key twin transition areas including:

- Cyber Security
- AI
- Blockchain
- Quantum Communications
- 6G Networks
- Green H2
- Renewable Energy
- Circular Economy
- Environmental Protection

The ongoing provision and development of these programmes, linked to national and European Union policy targets, will be key enablers of the twin green and digital transition and support research and innovation.

Funding pre normative research and standardisation engagement in these areas would be hugely beneficial to policy development and implementation.

Have you views on the impact of disruptive technologies such as AI, Quantum and 6G as part of the digital transformation agenda and the implications of these technologies for the Department?

2000 character(s) maximum

R&I activities in the areas listed in the previous question are key and should be integrated with related standardisation activities in order to get real impact at scale from R&I funding.

Standardisation activities are already well underway in these areas and should be more closely linked to policy.

NSAI would welcome DECC staff, and staff from its agencies (SEAI, GSI, EPA), to participate (at no cost) in our national standards committees in such new and emerging areas, to both influence the development of key new international standards of key relevance to the twin digital & green transitions, and to inform your internal policy and operational programmes. NSAI would also support DECC in active dissemination and awareness of standardisation in key areas.

How can the Department better communicate its research and innovation needs?

2000 character(s) maximum

The EU Commission recently published a European Code of Practice on Standardisation for Researchers.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023H0498>

This Code of Practice has been developed at European level to strengthen the link between standardisation and research/innovation through the European Research Area (ERA). It can be used to guide researchers on how to valorise research projects through standardization. DECC might consider how this new Code can support its policy objectives and through its new strategy, encourage research to include and contribute value to standardisation activities.

How can the Department work more effectively to source evidence from the national research and innovation community to support its work in policy development, policy implementation, and the uptake of new technologies?

2000 character(s) maximum

How can the Department engage more effectively with all stakeholders in the national research and innovation system? If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state how the Department could more effectively engage with your organisation.

2000 character(s) maximum

Standards help bridge the innovation gap between research and global market impact by building trust and confidence in new innovative solutions – such that early standards development enables faster mass-market adoption of new technologies, products and services. In summary, standards help enhance the economic value and impact of research and innovation projects and initiatives.

The European Commission launched a new EU Strategy on Standardisation in February 2022 which aims to strengthen the EU's global competitiveness, to enable a resilient, green and digital economy and to enshrine democratic values in technology applications. The Commission is proposing to better tap into the potential of EU-funded research to create impact and real value from R&I projects through standardisation activities and anticipate early standardisation needs. To deliver on this objective, the Code of Practice for researchers on standardisation has been developed at European level to strengthen the link between standardisation and research/innovation through the European Research Area (ERA).

In this context, NSAI would welcome an opportunity to work in collaboration with relevant colleagues in DECC and its R&I funding agencies (SEAI, GSI, EPA), and related National Contact Points, to raise awareness about this new code on standardisation across the broad R&I community network of the DECC and its agencies - so that more Irish researchers engage in strategic standards development - via NSAI and our European and International standardisations networks - to help deliver on the twin green and digital transitions for Ireland and Europe.

Should the Department seek to grow its capacity to carry out in-house research? If yes, how can this be achieved?

2000 character(s) maximum

Are there examples internationally of Government strategies on research and innovation in climate, communications / digital, circular economy, cyber security, energy or environment that we should examine? If so, can you provide details?

2000 character(s) maximum

Are there any other matters you wish to raise in relation to the development of the research and innovation strategy?

2000 character(s) maximum

Thank you to DECC for the opportunity to contribute to developing its research and innovation strategy. NSAI looks forward to working with the Department to maximise the contribution of standards and R&I to achieving Ireland's policy objectives.

Contact

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