

AGEING RESEARCH IN IRELAND: NORTH & SOUTH

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Context

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- One island, two different demographics
- One island, two different systems : politically and administratively
- One island, two research communities

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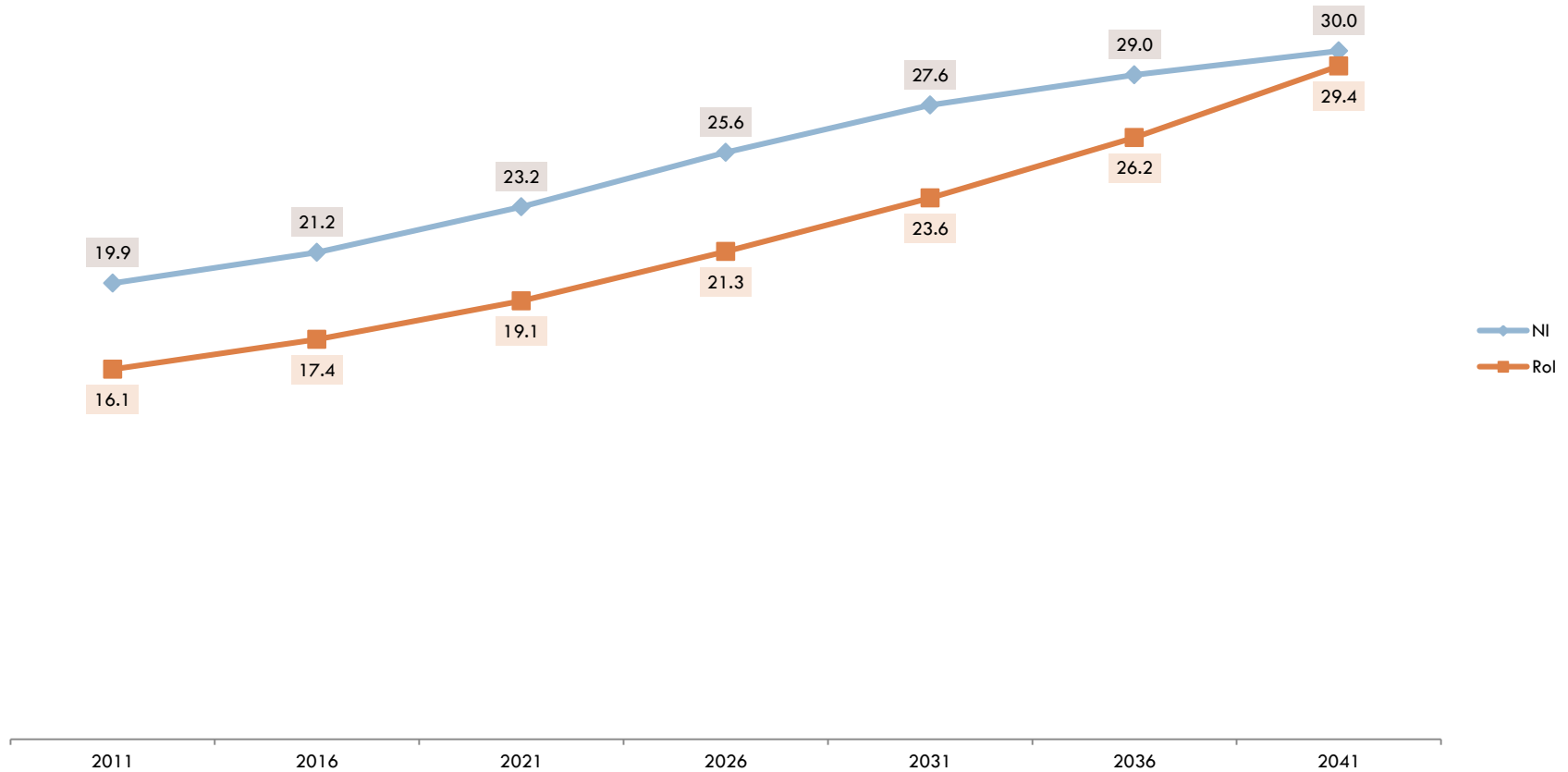
Demography of Ageing in Ireland

Population is ageing

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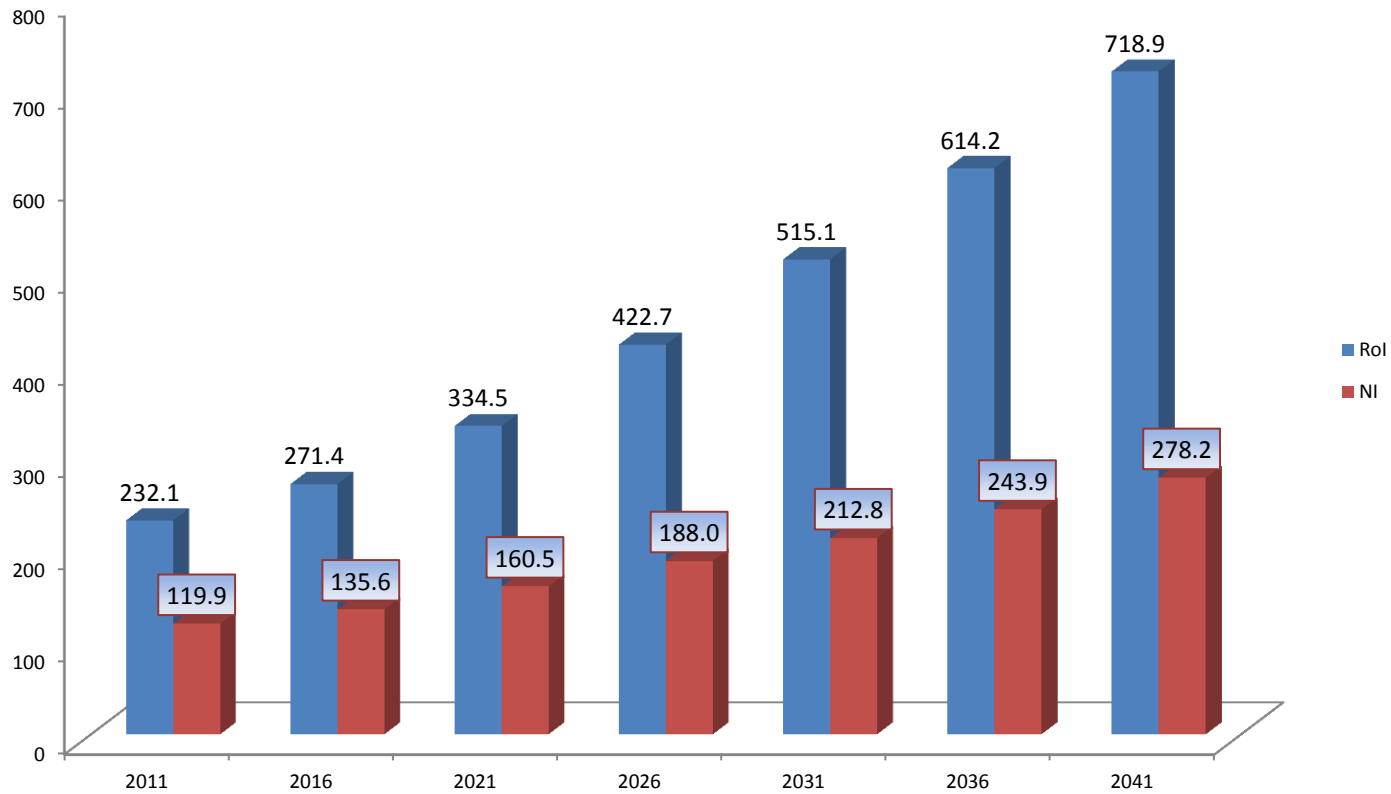
- 1.1 million people aged 60 and over now live on the island of Ireland
- By 2041:
 - In RoI there will be 1.4 million people aged 65+, three times more than in 2010 (462,000).
 - Number of people aged 65+ in NI will reach almost half a million (496,000) , almost one quarter of the total population (24.5%).
 - In Ireland, as a whole, there will be 1.89 million people aged 65+ and 2.44 million over 60, nearly one third of the population.

People aged 60+ as % of total population 2011 – 2041



Old age groups: 75+

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North/South comparisons of Households

Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
8% of all households are pensioners living alone (CSO, 2006).	13% of all households in 2008-09 were pensioners living alone (men 3%;women 10%) (NISRA.)
49.4% of people aged 65+ live in rural areas compared to 50.6% in urban areas (CSO 2011).	32% of people aged 60 to 74 live in rural areas, and 28% of people aged 75+ live in rural areas (McGee et al., 2005).

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One Island – two systems

Two different systems : politically

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	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
Legislative branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dáil Éireann has 166 elected Teachtaí Dála (TD's). There are 60 nominated or elected members of Seanad Éireann. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Northern Ireland (NI) Assembly is made up of 108 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) across 18 constituencies.
Executive branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The executive branch is a Cabinet which consists of the Taoiseach and Ministers. There are 15 Government Departments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The powers of the Northern Ireland Assembly do not cover “reserved” matters or “excepted” matters (policy areas which are the responsibility of the UK government including issues such as tax, immigration and foreign affairs). There are 11 Government Departments including the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 29 Local Authorities or County Councils, five Borough Councils and five City Councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 26 Local Authorities or Councils in Northern Ireland.

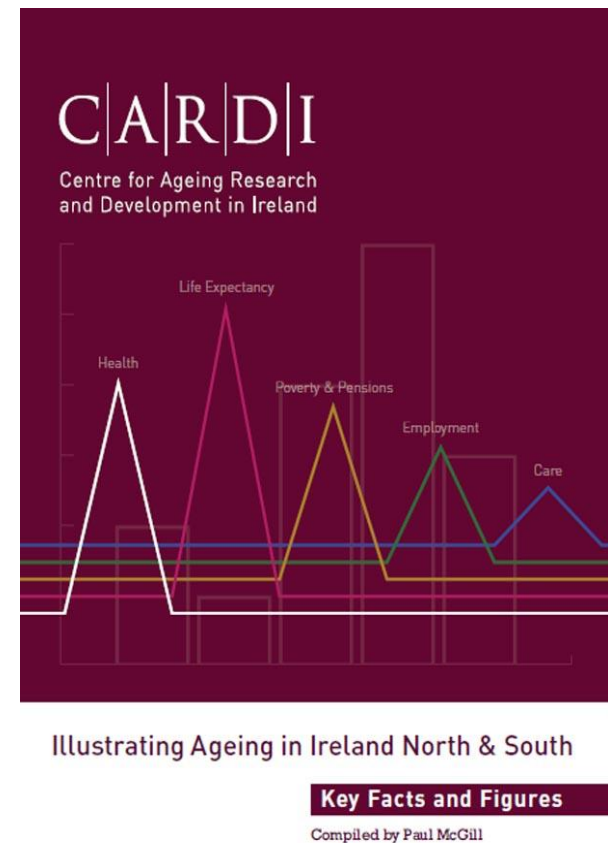
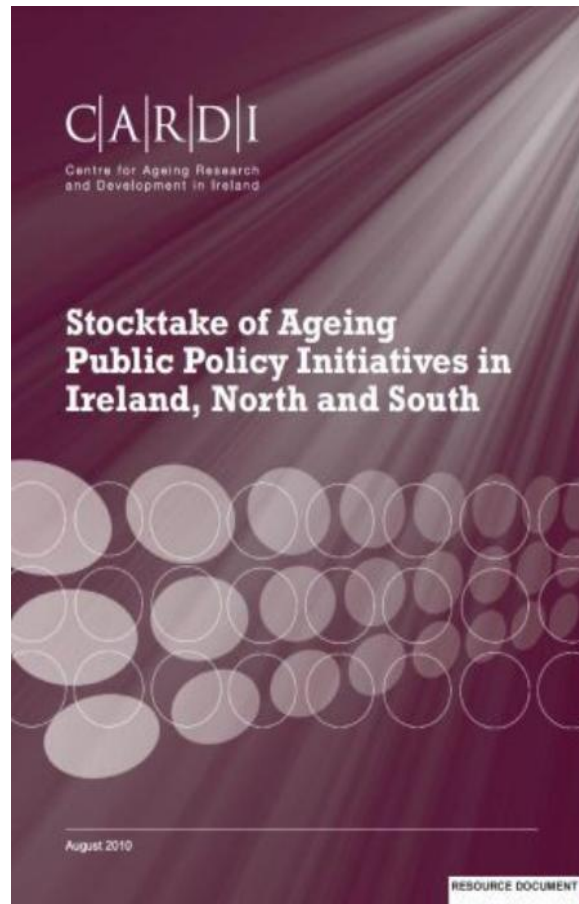
Two different systems : administratively

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Health system	<p>A mix of public and private health service provision. Older people (70+) apply for a means tested medical card for free GP care and prescriptions, hospital care.</p>	<p>NI is part of the overall UK health system but responsibility is locally devolved to NI. The UK operates a universal public healthcare coverage system – free at point of access.</p>
Long term care	<p>The Nursing Homes Support Scheme “Fair Deal”, provides financial support to people who need long-term nursing home care. €36,000 will not be counted in the Financial Assessment The HSE then pays the balance of your cost of care.</p>	<p>If have over £23,250 in capital (savings, investments and property including the value of your home), your local Health and Social Care Trust will assess you as being able to meet the full cost of your residential care or nursing home. If you do not have any assets in NI when requiring residential care, it will be provided for free.</p>
income	<p>Contributory pension ROI: EUR 230.30 The rate of pensioners in ROI at risk of poverty has fallen from 30% in 2003 to 11.1% in 2008</p>	<p>Basic state pension NI: £107.45. The number of single pensioners at risk of poverty in NI has risen by 10,000 (57%) in the last six years and pensioner couples by 8,000 (26%).</p>

Three publications covering these areas

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Development of ageing research

Academic /Research Institutions in Ireland

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- NI - 2 Universities
- ROI - 7 Universities
- ROI - 13 Institutes of Technology
- Others - e.g. ESRI, NCAOP, RCSI, IPH

Development of Ageing Research & Gerontology in Ireland – north and south

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- NI - Geriatric Medicine developed in Northern Ireland at the onset of the NHS in 1948.
 - The Queen's University of Belfast Department of Geriatric Medicine established in 1976.
 - Irish Gerontological Society (IGS) established in 1951.
 - First appointed consultant in Geriatric Medicine (St James*) ROI 1964.
 - Irish Society of Physicians in Geriatric Medicine, founded in 1979.
 - The National Council for the Aged – 1981 - renamed NCAOP
 - Mercer's Institute for Research in Ageing was founded in 1987 – St James Dublin.
 - The St James Trinity Department of Geriatric Medicine established 1999.
 - The Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre established in Trinity in 2005
 - Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, established NUI Galway, 2006
- Ageing Research in Ireland

Ageing Research

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- Traditionally, ageing research in Ireland
 - Small but enthusiastic research ‘community’ working in silos of research in terms of disciplines and sectors
 - Handful of island of Ireland research initiatives on ageing - estimated at just over 2% of the total research on ageing and older people (CARDI 2008)

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One island – one research community

CARDI's Mission

To advocate and advance the ageing research agenda by identifying, coordinating, stimulating and communicating strategic research on ageing and older people as a means to improve the lives of older people in Ireland (North and South) especially those who are disadvantaged.

CARDI's Role/Activities

- Promote all Island interdisciplinary approach to ageing research
- Show how research can affect policy and services to improve the lives of older people
- Disseminate ageing research and explain its relevance
 - Translation briefings, reports, commission research
- Build the research community - seminars and networking events

Oiling the wheel

The all Ireland collaborative research grant programme was launched in January 2009 with three objectives:

- To support and enable cross-border and interdisciplinary research collaboration on ageing and older people
- To stimulate research activity on the priority needs of older people within a policy and practice context in Ireland
- To increase the capacity of the ageing research community in Ireland

Criteria

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- Collaboration in terms of geography and disciplines
- Comparative information
- Relevant to policy frameworks and strategies
- Involvement/engagement of older people
- Cross-sectoral research partners – work with those of special interests
- To build research capacity by involving new researchers

Specific Data Mining Programme

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- August 2010 - a specific programme focused on data mining launched.
- The objectives and criteria for this programme were distinct from CARDI's previous funding programmes
 - ▣ To support analysis of existing quantitative data from an all-Ireland perspective, where appropriate supplemented by analysis of qualitative data
 - ▣ To stimulate research activity on the priority needs of older people within a policy and practice context in Ireland

Results

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- Between January 2009 October 2010
 - 4 calls
 - Total of 150 applications
 - In excess of €6,000,000 requested
 - Oversubscribed by ten times the amount available.

Results

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- In Call 1: **3** researchers per application but this more than doubled to **7** researchers per application in Call 3.
- 39 were new to ageing, 27 were new researchers
- **10/25** grants were given to people who were new to ageing research/emerging researchers
- Increase in NGO involvement - Call1: 12.9%, Call 2: 27.7%; Call 3: 20.8%
- Economics, Public Health, Nursing and Medicine were most likely to be part of a successful interdisciplinary collaborations
- Rise of economics and social policy of ageing

Projects Supported

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- 25 projects were funded:
 - Breadth of ageing studied - poverty - physical activity
 - 6 focused on data mining, 5 networks
 - Awards ranged between €2000 and €85,000
 - Time scale ranged between 3 and 18 months.
 - 3+ disciplines per application

Story To date

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- All 25 projects completed
- 3 applicants were able to secure second round funds from CARDI
- 18/25 teams indicated they had or were in the process of producing a journal article
- 20 policy briefings produced
- Specific launch events and profiling - top TV news, ministerial meetings, evidence

Key learning

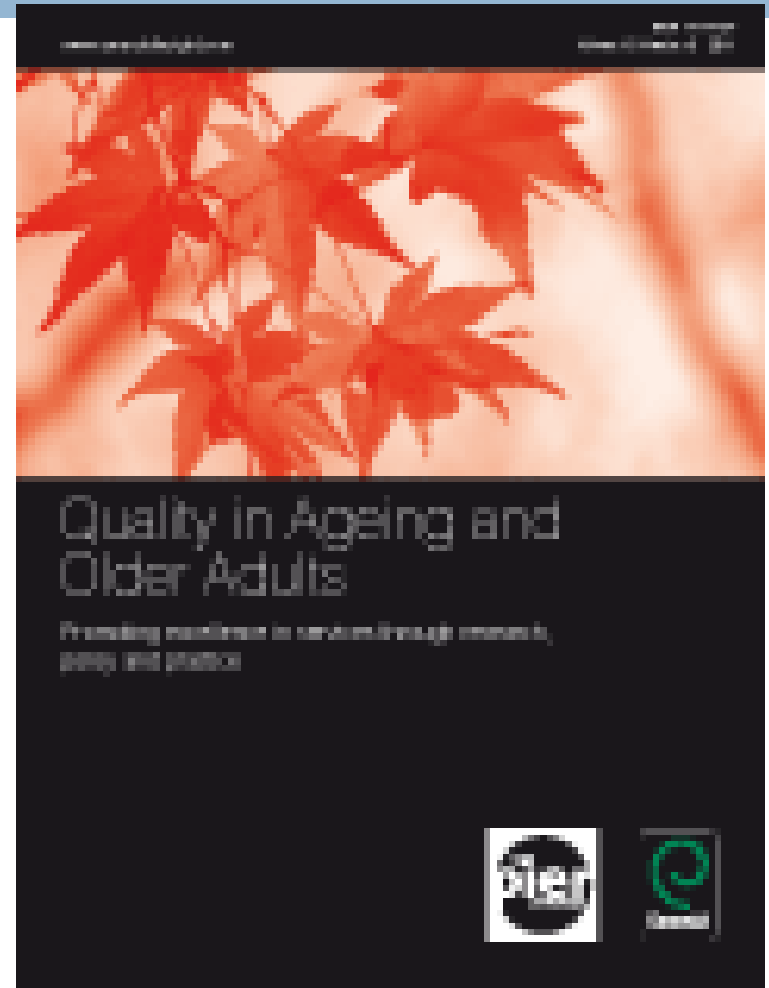
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- A small amount of money was able to stimulate interest but to help build a research community with a new paradigm requires a parallel support framework – involving a building of momentum, communication & profiling, advocacy, facilitation of connections and networking events.

Special journal edition on CARDI

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- 2012:
 - Volume 13 issue 1
- Special edition:
Insights into ageing in
Ireland
- Learning from grant
programme
- 5 grants featured



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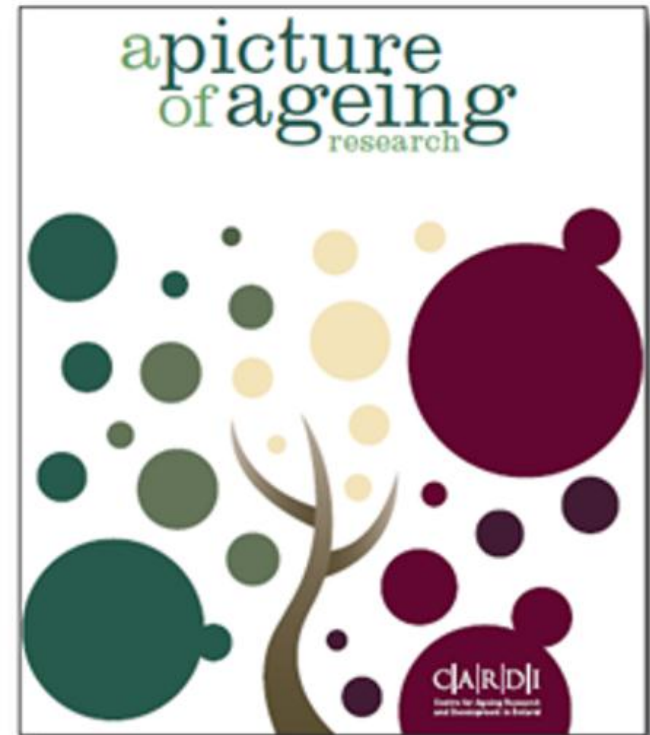
Ageing Research - Present

A picture of ageing 2010

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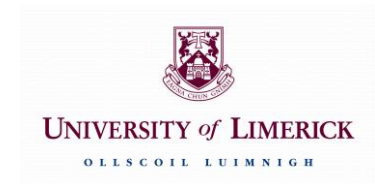
In 2010 CARDI audited the Universities and Higher Institutions across Ireland results:

- 15 institutions and major programmes



Academic Institutions involved in ageing research in Ireland – north and south

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Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

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The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), a study of a representative sample of 8,000 people living in Ireland over the age of 50, charting their health, social and economic circumstances over a 10-year period.



Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

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The TRIL (Technology Research for Independent Living) Centre was established in 2007. It is an initiative to explore the physical, cognitive and social consequences of ageing and develop technology solutions to address them. Largest interdisciplinary research team in Europe.



Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

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Plans for a Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing – NICOLA - are building momentum.

A comprehensive, long-term study of adult development and ageing in Northern Ireland.



Ageing research in Ireland – major projects

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The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a longitudinal, multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of more than 40,000 individuals aged 50 or over across 16 countries in Wave 3.



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Where to in the future?

Ageing Research – Moving Forward

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Ageing Research in Ireland

Follow-up

For more information on CARDI or on ageing research in Ireland generally see www.cardi.ie

Email me at roger@cardi.ie

Thank you for your time and interest