



This Country Profile is based on desktop research and answers from the Irish Department of Health (DoH), the Health Research Board (HRB) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). There are other Irish R&I Funders that could be activated but have not yet contributed to this Country Profile response; so this Country Profile can be updated. If you would like to complement the country profile, do not hesitate to contact us.

Ireland's response to COVID-19 was centrally coordinated. A National Public Health Emergency Team for COVID-19 was formed in January 2020, chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and comprising more than 30 medical, scientific and health service professionals and experts. The Team was supported by a multidisciplinary Coronavirus Expert Advisory Group and 10 subgroups that focused on areas including epidemiological modelling, vulnerable groups, acute hospital preparedness, medicines and health care workers. The Team also worked closely with the HSE National Crisis Management Team and Crisis Communications Group. A trans-partisan Special Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 chaired by the Taoiseach and supported by government officials from all departments and other agencies was also formed to ensure implementation of a whole-of-government response (from State of Health in the EU - Ireland - Country Health Profile 2021 see https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021_chp_ir_english.pdf)

During COVID the Health Research Board (HRB) established a new data governance approach (<https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/access-covid-19-data-for-research/>) to provide researcher access to patient COVID data, however not linked to EU infrastructure.

HRB also maintain a COVID publication collection on its open publication platform, HRB Open Research (<https://www.hrbopenresearch.org/collections/coronavirus>).

HRB clinical trials infrastructures pivoted in response to the COVID pandemic and have used funding flexibly for COVID and for MPOX, however there is no enduring national mechanism in place for flexible funding across all stakeholders (similar to the that in the EU Horizon Europe programmes).

More info on HRB CT infrastructure :

<https://www.hrb.ie/news/press-releases/single-press-release/article/hrb-announces-e6-million-investment-for-clinical-trial-networks-on-the-eve-of-international-clinical/>;

<https://www.hrb.ie/news/press-releases/single-press-release/article/hrb-invests-e3-million-to-make-clinical-trials-more-relevant-accessible-and-influential-for-all/>;

<https://www.hrb.ie/news/press-releases/single-press-release/article/hrb-invests-e22-million-to-enhance-patient-focused-clinical-research-infrastructure-in-ireland/>

A memo was brought to the Government on establishing a stand-alone entity to oversee Emergency Preparedness, and a Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group has been established in 2022 to identify learning from the public health components of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ireland. Its objective is to strengthen health protection generally and our preparedness for future public health pandemics specifically. The Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group published in September 2023 a report with key lessons and recommendations on Public Health (see <https://assets.gov.ie/268874/7bacbda9-cf87-49c3-a804-3b343235c49c.pdf>).

R&I Policies and Strategies

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat?

The Irish government is reviewing the Health Services Executive (HSE) Pandemic Plan and the Office of Emergency Planning Cross-Government Plan which includes a focus on strategic national risks.

The Report of the Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group was published in September 2023.

Ireland's Research and Innovation strategy, IMPACT 2030, positions research and innovation at the heart of addressing Ireland's social, economic and environmental challenges, and strengthens support for EU research collaboration. The Irish Department of Health Statement of Research Priorities 2023-2025 includes a specific section on health systems Resilience and Pandemic Preparedness. Also, the HRB Strategy 2021-2025 includes a strategic objective on 'Productive international partnerships'.

R&I strategy URL Impact 2030
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/27c78-impact-2030-irelands-new-research-and-innovation-strategy/>
DoH Research Priorities:
<https://assets.gov.ie/247098/86b01ad5-34b9-466a-934d-489cdd8e86da.pdf>

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research? No national approach

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
COVID-19 (SFI)	https://www.sfi.ie/covid-19/	SFI Response to the Covid-19 Crisis
COVID-19 Data Research Hub	https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/access-covid-19-data-for-research/about/the-covid-19-data-research-	In partnership with the HRB, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the Department of Health (DoH), an application process has been established to enable registered researchers apply for access to reuse the COVID-19 data.
HRB Open Research Coronavirus Collection	https://www.hrbopenresearch.org/collections-coronavirus	The Coronavirus Collection provides a venue for rapid dissemination of the latest research related to coronavirus, making the information publicly available so that others can respond effectively.

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? The Report of the Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group was published in September 2023 and includes recommendations around strengthening public health and the appointment of an expert to design a new emerging health threats

R&I Infrastructures

Country has the following research Clinical trial units

Name Infrastructure	Type Infrastructure	URL	Available for	Open to
Health Protection Surveillance Centre whole genomic Sequencing (HPSC)	National SARS-CoV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)	https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/wholegenomesequencingsurveillanceprogramme/		
Health Research Board-funded infrastructure	Clinical Trials Research Facilities	https://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-awarded/clinical-research-infrastructure/	Yes	Yes
Infectious Diseases Network (ID CTNI)	Structured network of researchers, facilities, and infrastructure to improve the quality of clinical trial design in infectious diseases nationally	https://www.ucd.ie/medicine/research/researchcentres/ucd-centreforexperimentalpathogenhostresearch/idctni/		
National Virus Reference Lab (NVRL)	virology diagnostic service	https://nvrl.ucd.ie/		
UCD Centre for Experimental Pathogen Host Research (CEPHR)	Researchers (clinical, translational, statistical and biomedical) working interactively on aspects of host and pathogen research	https://www.ucd.ie/medicine/research/researchcentres/ucd-centreforexperimentalpathogenhostresearch/		

Country supporting the participation ECRIN
to the following ESFRI initiatives
relevant for infectious diseases

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

<https://eu-response.eu/>

<https://ecrin.org/>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/solidarity-clinical-trial-for-covid-19-treatments>

<https://www.remapcap.org/>

<https://vaccelerate.eu/>

Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources

Basic Research

url [research.ie](https://www.sfi.ie/research)

<https://www.sfi.ie/>

funding for basic research accessible for industry? SFI works with industry

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Applied Research

url <https://www.hrb.ie/funding/approved-awards/>

<https://www.sfi.ie/>

funding for applied research accessible for industry? SFI works with industry

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Translational Research

url <https://www.hrb.ie>

funding accessible for industry?

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Clinical Research (in general)

url <https://www.hrb.ie>

funding accessible for industry? No

source of funding Public (research) agencies

phase funded?

Clinical Research (in pandemic phase)

url <https://www.hrb.ie>

accessible for industry?

source of funding Public (research) agencies

phase funded ?

Innovation Projects

url <https://www.sfi.ie/>

<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/>

funding for innovation projects accessible industry? Yes

source of funding Public (research) agencies

Flexible funding in case of emergency possible : HRB provided funding and support for COVID-19 and MPOX research; however there is no enduring national mechanism in place for flexible funding across all stakeholders

R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat

Name	Description	url
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science is the lead Department for national R&I policy in Ireland. They fund and create policy for the higher and further education and research sectors. They also oversee the work of the state agencies and public institutions operating in these areas.	https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments/higher-education-innovation-and-science/
Department of Health	The Department of Health is the lead Department for health policy in Ireland	https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments/department-of-health/
Health Research Board	HRB funds translational-applied, clinical, population health and health services research	https://www.hrb.ie/
Irish Research Council	key national funder of basic research across all disciplines,	research.ie
Science Foundation Ireland	SFI funds oriented basic and applied research in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics works jointly with industry	sfi.ie



BE READY is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-06 "Building a European partnership for pandemic preparedness" under grant agreement 101057795. Starting date: 01.06.2022. | End Date 31.05.2025

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This country profile is based on input received via https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BEREADY_Questionnaire_Observatory and desktop research and does not contain any private information