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# Building Community to Coordinate Ireland's Fragmented Open Repository Network

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Stephanie Ronan (Marine Institute)

Open Repositories 2024  
4 June 2024



University  
ofGalway.ie



# What we'll cover



Overview &  
Goals



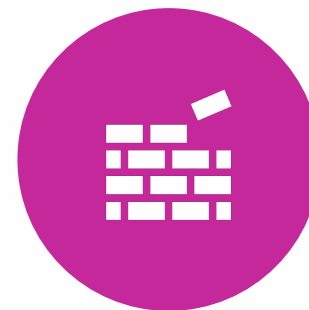
Community  
Engagement



Challenges &  
Way forward



Community  
Solutions



Progress &  
Impact



Future  
Directions



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An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science

## National Action Plan for Open Research 2022-2030



# Project Overview and Strategic Goals



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# NORF

FÓRAM NÁISIÚNTA NA HÉIREANN  
UM THAIGHDE OSCAILTE  
NATIONAL OPEN RESEARCH FORUM

HEA | AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS  
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

*The National Open Research Forum is a Government of Ireland initiative, funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, through the Higher Education Authority*



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# Project Objectives & Strategy

**Objective:** To transition from a fragmented to a unified national repository system.

**Goals:** Align Ireland's open repositories with international best practices and enhance metadata quality

**Community-Centric Approach:** Adopt a sustainable, community-focused strategy that integrates feedback from all stakeholders.

**Significance:** A critical project in the broader context of Ireland's Impact 2030 research and innovation strategy.

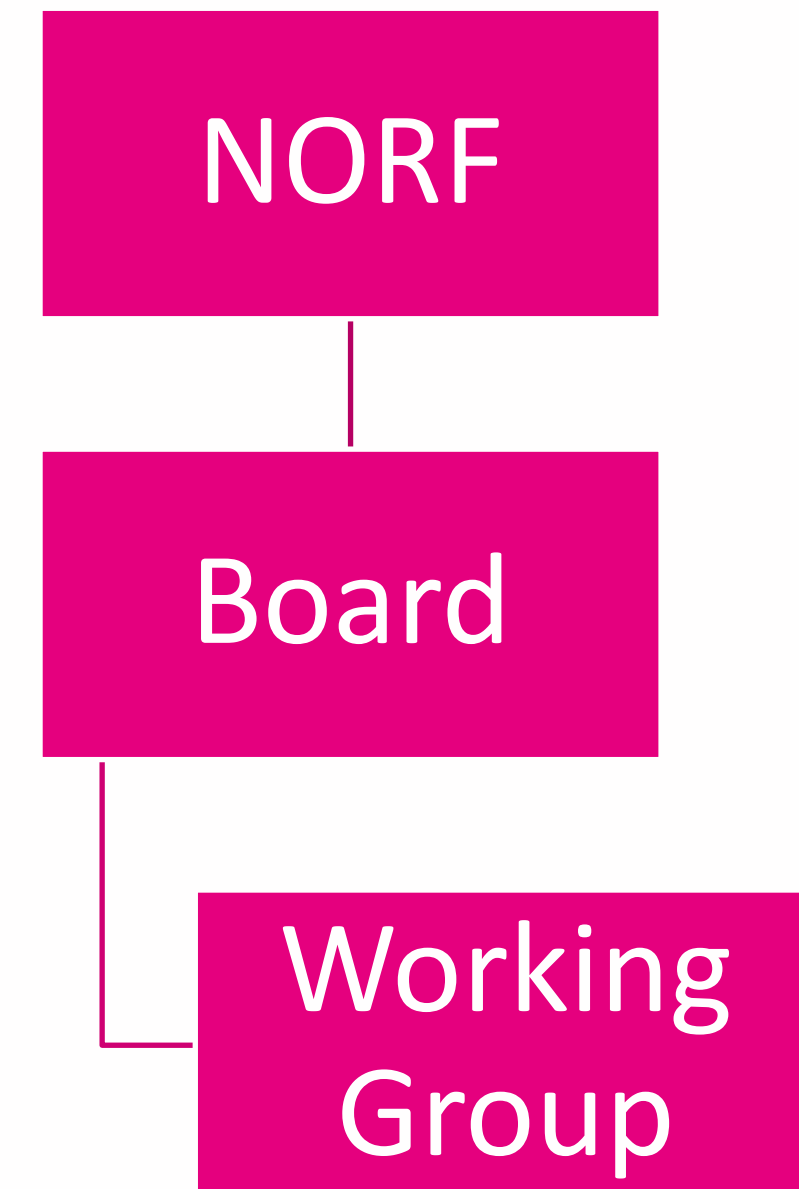


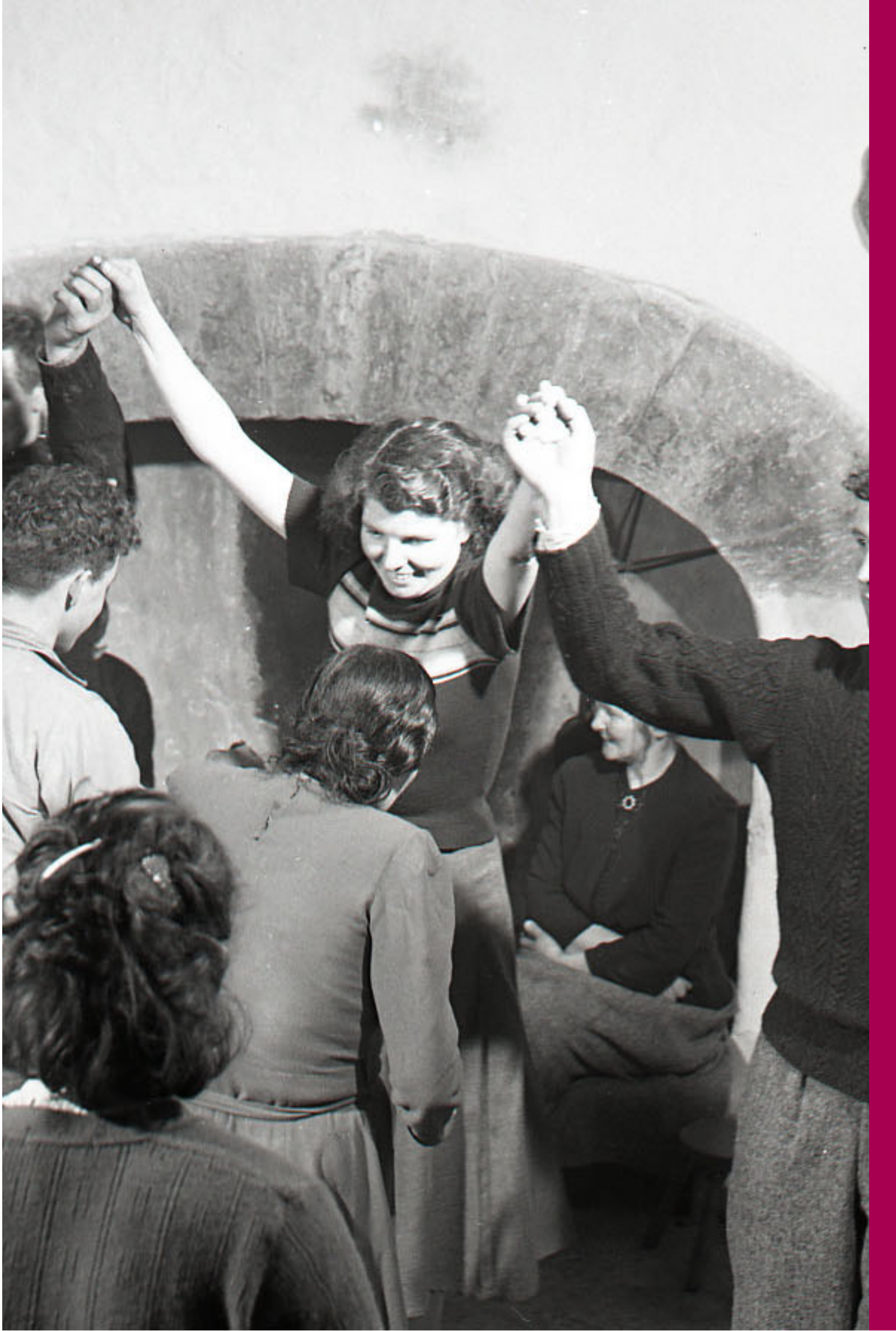
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# Project Team and Partners





# Community Engagement



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# Community Approach: Data Collection

**Desk Research:** History and policies of Irish repositories. Previous reports and related work from NORF and other national initiatives.

**Peer engagement:** Other NORF projects, Open Access Monitor project

**Survey:** National inventory and survey of ORs in Ireland

**Interviews:** 13 semi-structured interviews with repository managers and strategists.

**Stakeholder Dialogues:** National and international stakeholders (COAR, IRel, OpenDOAR, openAIRE, Rioxx, NORF, ...)

**Self-Assessment Tools:** Plan S Self-Assessment Tool, the OpenAIRE Validator tool.



# Community Approach: Data Processing

**Analysis of Interviews:** Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and anonymised for analysis. This provided qualitative depth, helping to understand the specific needs and challenges repository managers and strategists face.

**Data Analysis:** Analysed survey responses, self-assessment results, and interview transcripts to identify patterns, trends, and areas needing improvement. This included a gap analysis to pinpoint specific areas requiring intensified efforts.

**SWOT Analysis:** Conducted a SWOT analysis to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats specific to the Irish repository landscape. This helped in forming a comprehensive understanding of the local and international context.



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# Community Approach: Highlights



1. The survey indicates a standardised approach to address metadata and support challenges at the repository level. This strategic focus prioritises practical solutions without requiring extensive new technical infrastructure.

## Primary metadata deficiencies

Access rights	Project or funder information	Publication type	Licensing conditions
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**48%** compliance with OpenAIRE

**38%** planning immediate Updates

**93%** use Dublin Core

**21%** use DataCite



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# Community Approach: Highlights

## Overall Repository Manager Insights



1. The environment for repository management is markedly varied, with a wide range of platforms in use. Institutions face distinct challenges and operate within unique contexts, reflecting the **diversity of approaches to repository management**.

## Overall Repository Strategists Insights



1. Recognition of the **pivotal role of repositories** in preserving diverse scholarly outputs and offering a trusted and viable alternative to commercial publishing routes

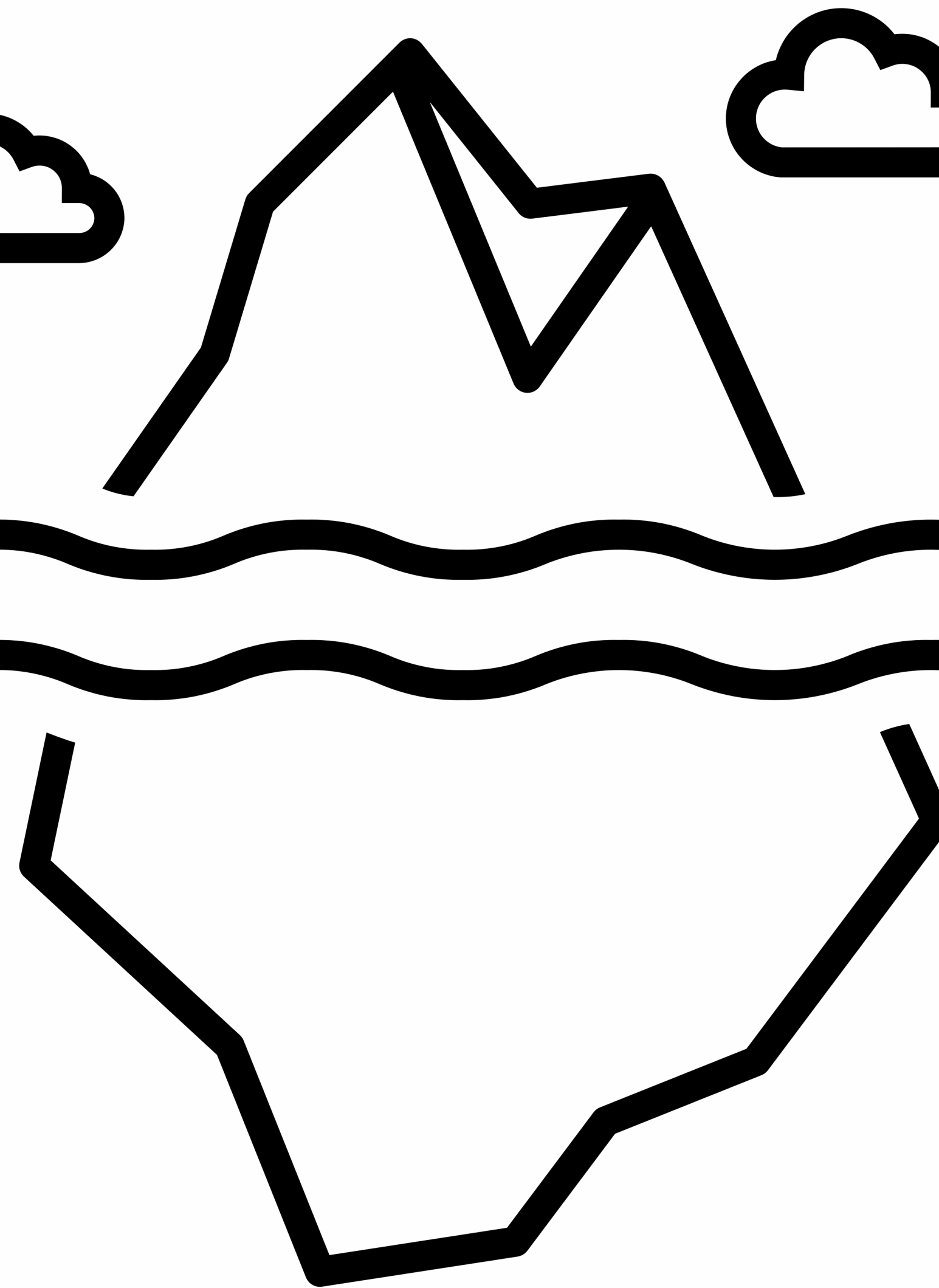
“Common priorities include metadata challenges, advocacy for Green OA, and a desire for community networks”



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# Key Challenges & Recommendations Identified



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# Challenges Identified



**Metadata quality and compliance** issues challenge Irish open repositories, as fragmented metadata efforts hinder national coordination and open research monitoring. Difficulty aligning with international standards impacts resource discovery and reuse. Inconsistent metadata practices restrict resource discoverability and OA monitoring, affecting interoperability and compliance with international guidelines.



**Staffing shortages and limited resources** significantly impact repository managers, hindering their access to necessary training in metadata compliance, technical operations, and best practices, thereby affecting repositories' effective operation and sustainability.



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# Challenges Identified



**Visibility issues and limited user engagement** challenge repositories. This lack of visibility impedes outreach and engagement efforts, while repositories face content recruitment challenges.



**Cultural, strategic, and inadequate national collaboration** challenges within the Irish open repository landscape highlight the critical need for enhanced coordination and alignment with institutional and national priorities to ensure the effective dissemination and management of research outputs.



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# Recommendations



**Developing a sustainable funding model** is essential for ensuring repositories' long-term viability and sustainability, highlighting the critical need for reliable financial support for staffing, maintenance, and upgrades.



**Standardising metadata quality** is crucial for improving research outputs' discoverability and interoperability. Adopting international standards and creating a national framework, particularly aligning with OpenAIRE versions 3.0 or 4.0, ensures compatibility and compliance with open research mandates.



# Recommendations



**Fostering national collaboration** enhances repository effectiveness through shared resources and best practices. Establishing a community of practice among repository managers promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration while providing technical support and resources to address common challenges, supporting repository growth.



**Clearly defining the purpose of open repositories** is recommended to ensure that all stakeholders understand their role in supporting open access, enhancing discoverability, and facilitating the broader dissemination of research outputs, guiding strategic planning and resource allocation towards shared objectives in the open research landscape.







# Community Solutions



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# Community-Driven Solutions



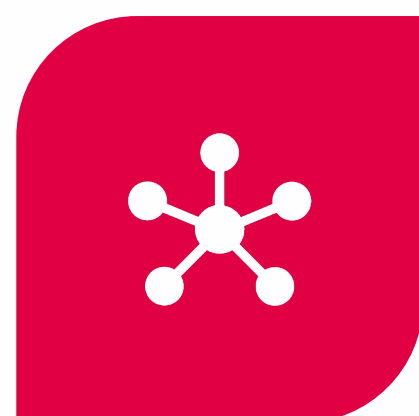
STRENGTHENING  
INFRASTRUCTURE



ENHANCING METADATA  
QUALITY



PROMOTING OPEN  
MANDATES



EMERGING  
TECHNOLOGIES



CAPACITY BUILDING AND  
TRAINING



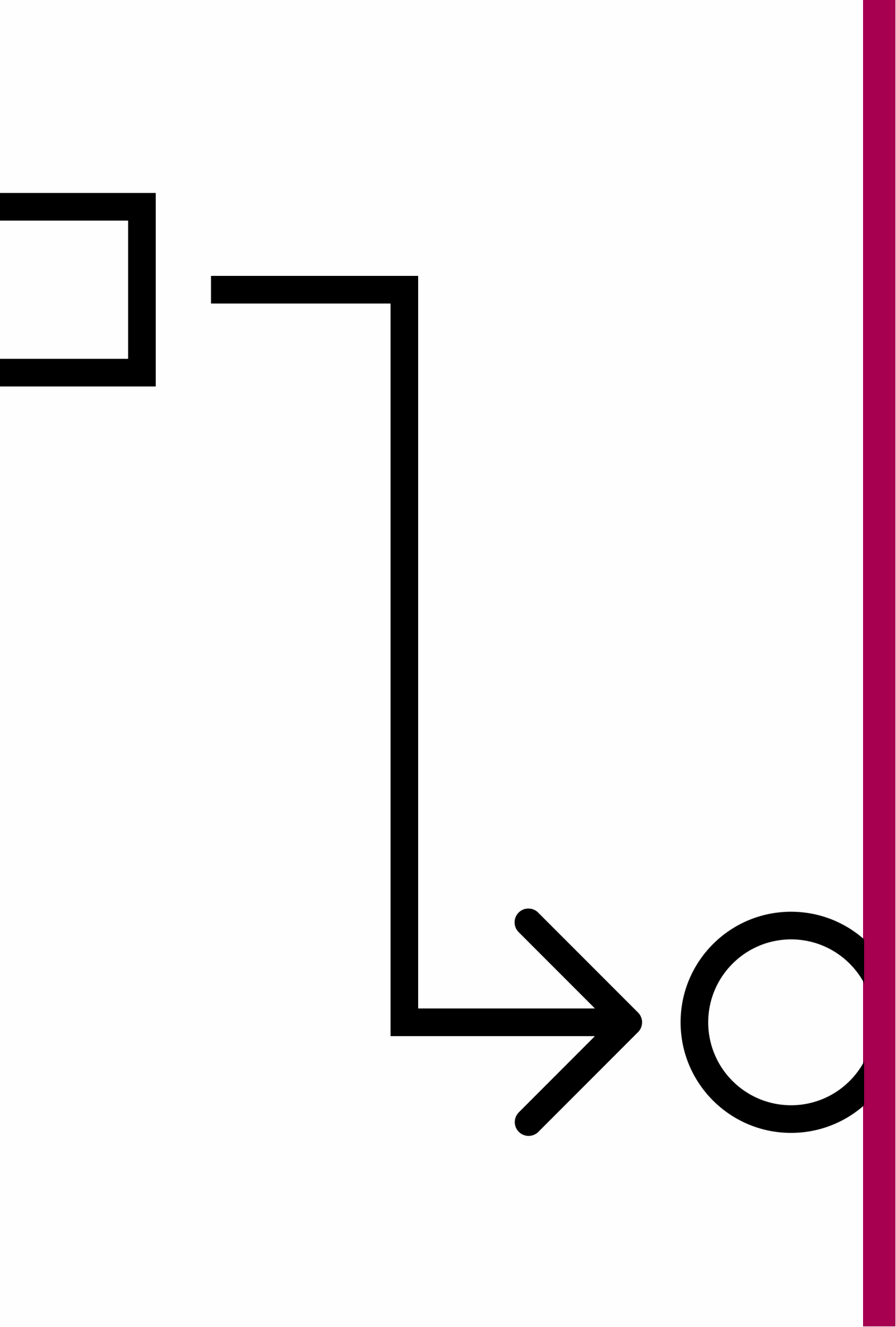
COLLABORATIVE  
PARTNERSHIPS



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# Implementation and Community Impact



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# Working group



# Strengthening repository infrastructure



Pilot test of four  
repositories



Metadata improvement



Upgrade repositories



OpenAIRE Compliance



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# Pilot impact



Document process



Reusable code



Cost benefits



Knowledge bank



Compliance



# Enhancing metadata quality

Implementing OpenAIRE v4.0 Metadata Scheme  
in Open Repositories

Repository Onboarding Guide for OpenAIRE  
Version 4

Technical Guide: Implementing OpenAIRE  
Guidelines for Repository Managers 4.0



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# Capacity building and training



Working group



Open Repository  
Engagement Plan



Community  
engagement



Community  
agreement



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Fostering collaborative partnerships



What's next

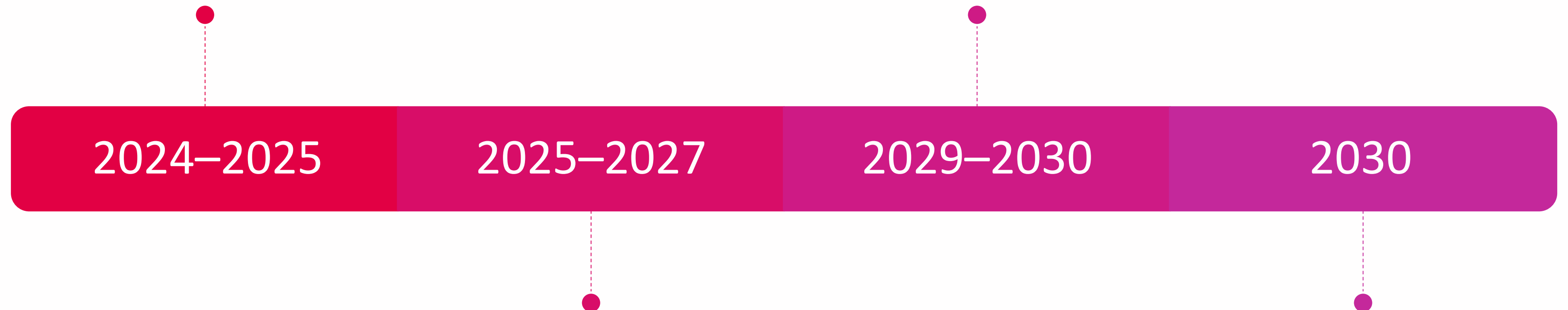


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# Draft Roadmap (2024-2030 & Beyond)

Complete Current Project  
Activities

Evaluation and Planning



Strengthening the Network

Beyond 2030 Sustaining  
Leadership and Innovation

# Conclusion and summary

Enhanced  
Collaboration

Standards and  
Interoperability

Sustainable  
Infrastructure



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# Thank *you*

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@StephanieRonan

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/openrepositories/>

Loughnane, C. et al (2024). Advancing Ireland's Open Repository Landscape: A Strategic Roadmap. University of Galway.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10810233>

## Advancing Ireland's Open Repository Landscape: A Strategic Roadmap

### Funders



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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This project has received funding from Ireland's Open Research Forum (NORF) under the Open Research Fund Call.



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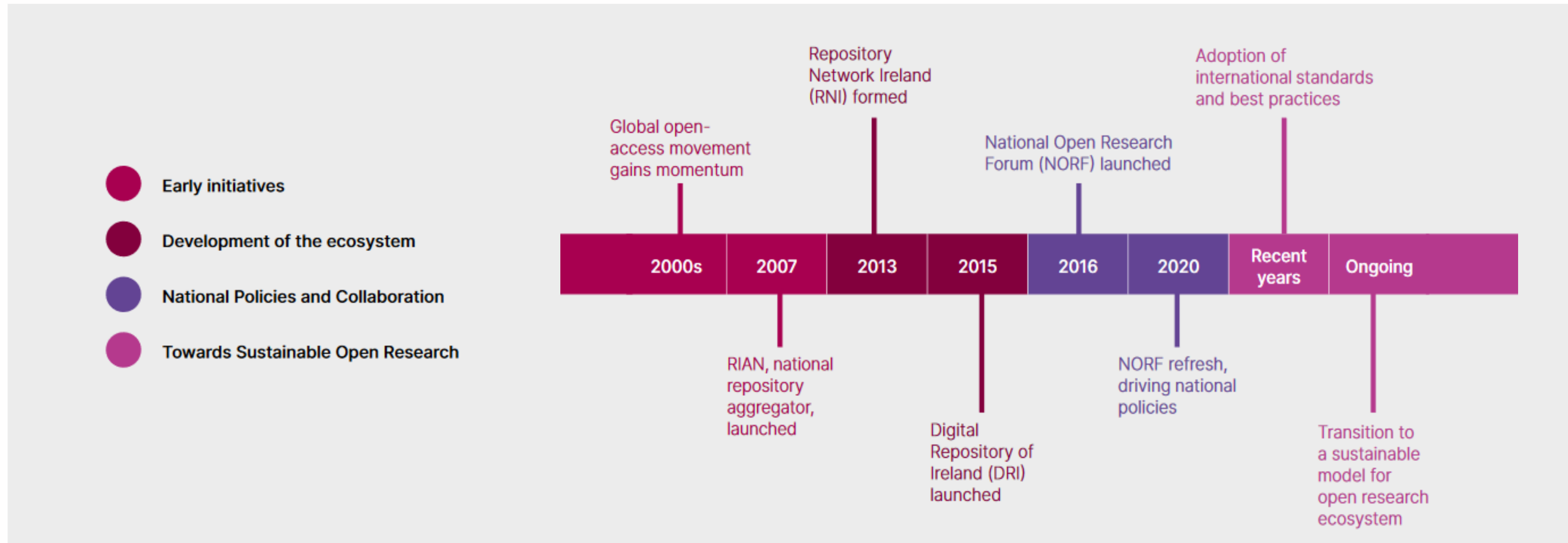
# Extra



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# National & NORF Timeline



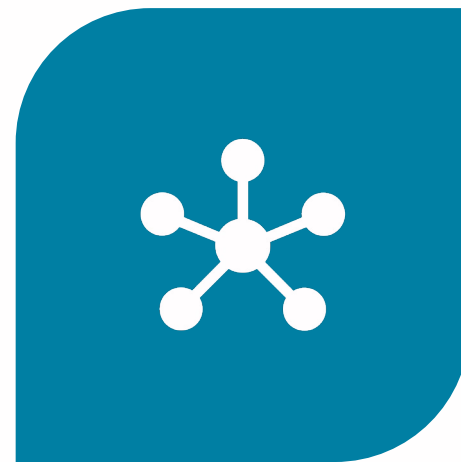
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# Vision: Potential Future ORs

Open Repositories in a Globally Connected World



LOCALLY DECENTRALISED AND  
GLOBALLY CONNECTED



INTEGRATE DIAMOND INTO THE  
EXISTING GREEN OA INFRASTRUCTURE



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