TU-NET: A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR OPEN RESEARCH

Libraries and Research-associated Offices Collaborating to Support Open Research

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Background

49% increase in Scholarly Outputs

70% increase in Research Expenditure in the last 5 years [2].

Ireland's five technological universities[1], Technological University Dublin, Technological University of the Shannon, South East Technological University, Munster Technological University and Atlantic Technological University have formed a strategic alliance, called TU-NET, that aspires to be at the forefront of the open research movement, creating a more transparent, collaborative, and impactful research environment.

Initiated in the summer of 2022, TU-NET is unique in the Irish landscape as a grassroots initiative from library and research-associated staff to share expertise, develop common infrastructure and to ensure that future investments in Open Research in the sector can have the widest possible impact.

TU-NET's ambition is that all staff and students in Irish technological universities have the skills and knowledge to perform their research to the highest level of research excellence and have access to appropriate expertise to support their endeavours, ensuring that excellence in open research is a reality.

Next Steps

Future plans include, but are not limited to, sourcing funding for shared human and technical resources to develop support infrastructures for our research communities. The network will also act as one of fifteen national pilots for the Horizon Europe-funded OSTrails project, coordinated by OpenAire and supporting the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

2024 Implement ARGOS DMP Software across the partner institutions with shared standards

2025 - 2026 OSTrails Participation
- Training researchers
- Developing templates
- Datasets shared

References

1. Technological Universities, Policy, Higher Education Authority, https://hea.ie/policy/he-reform/technological-universities/
2. Source: AKTS Survey and SciVal, https://www.knowledgetransferireland.com/Reports-Publications/
3. TU-NET Joint Statement on Open Research, TU Dublin, https://arrow.tudublin.ie/liboth/10/
4. TU-NET Repository, https://tunet.openaire.eu/

Achievements to Date

The transition to an effective open research environment presents challenges to many universities, particularly providing adequate support, training and infrastructure to ensure research data, software, scholarship and other research outputs are FAIR. To date, TU-NET has delivered on a shared statement on Open Research, endorsed by all TU Presidents, and launched a shared repository containing almost 30,000 discoverable items, reflecting the breadth of TU research.
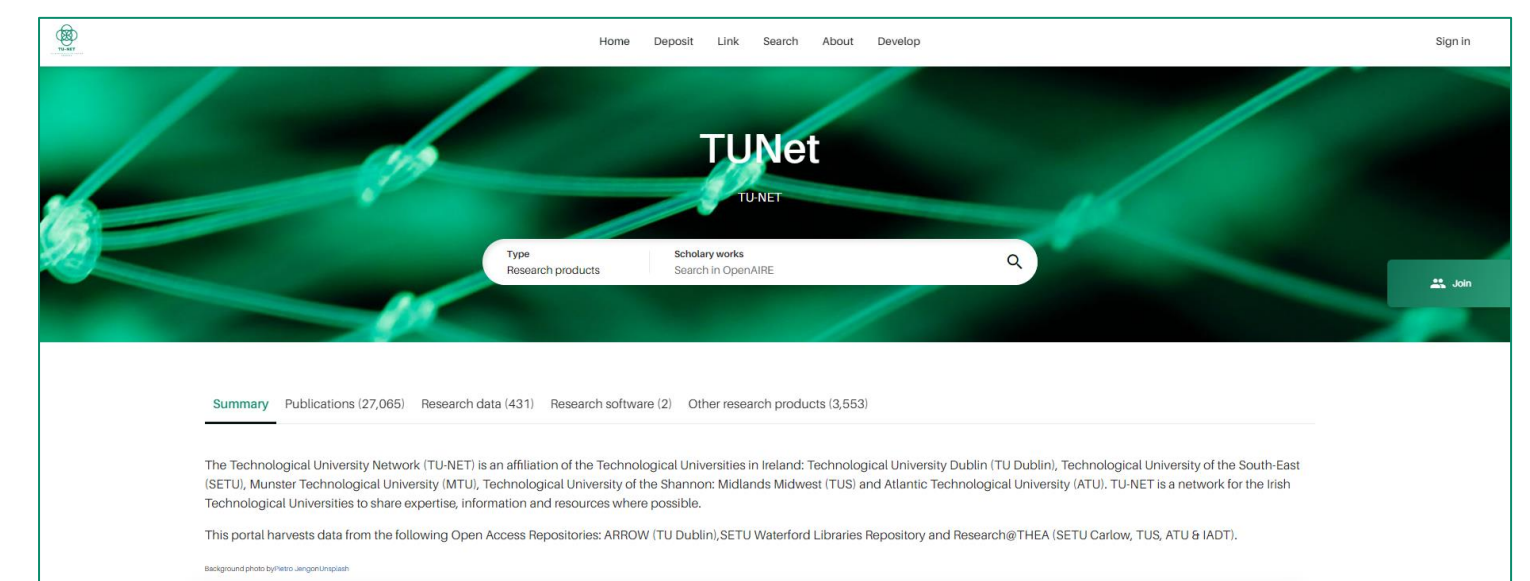
Timeline to Date

July 2022
- First group meeting held (hybrid)
- Survey of open research capabilities and needs across the sector

October 2022
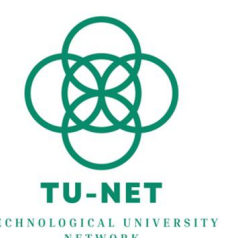- First in-person meeting hosted by ATU
- TU-NET name agreed

January 2023
- MoU signed with OpenAIRE to design and implement a shared repository

March 2023
- Logo designed
- OSTrails Application submitted
- TU-NET Irish National Pilot

September 2023
- Endorsement of joint statement on Open Research by all TU Presidents [3]
- TU-NET Launch Event
- Shared repository go-live [4]

Read the Statement here

February 2024
- OSTrails 'Kick Off' Meeting in Athens

plan · track · assess