

- **No.27**
- **Leveraging policy to promote Community-Based Research in Higher Education Institutions – a workshop on what should and could work for you.**

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- **Abstract:**

- This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences and explore possibilities for leveraging organisational and government policy to foster and develop collaborative research with communities through the curriculum in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The workshop will target HEI staff, but may interest civil society organisations and students. It will be based on work carried out through the PERARES project which seeks to support the embedding of Science Shops and publicly engaged research. The workshop will be collaboratively facilitated by staff from three HEIs on the island of Ireland, each with different structures for, and experiences in, developing CBR projects. The Queen's University Belfast Science Shop in Northern Ireland has been involved in community engaged research projects for over 20 years, operating under United Kingdom and Northern Irish policy influenced by innovation and engagement criteria, the graduate skills agenda, and more recently public engagement. The Dublin Institute of Technology's Programme for Students Learning With Communities has promoted community-based learning and CBR for over three years, as part of a Widening Participation, Community Engagement, and Learning and Teaching agenda, with dedicated full-time staff. University College Cork have worked for five years to develop a Science Shop, without dedicated funding or staff, yet have found creative ways to set up and operate a science shop. Both DIT and UCC have sought to exploit a new National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 (Hunt 2011) which for the first time identifies community engagement as the third mission for HEIs in the Republic of Ireland, although it doesn't explicitly mention collaborative research with Civil Society Organisations. All three institutions are operating in a context of economic recession and staff cutbacks. In this workshop we will begin by setting the scene, explaining the format and encouraging participants to share their goals for the workshop. We will work with participants to reflect on key institutional, local and national policies utilising a useful template which we have developed, which can also help promote this work. We will provide brief relevant case studies, sharing our experiences of attempting to leverage relevant policies to enhance and fund our work. This will be followed by an open discussion of concerns and issues emerging from the interests of workshop participants. Participants will take away a relevant set of approaches which they can try out, in their own policy contexts, to promote collaborative curriculum-based research between HEIs and communities.