The Living Knowledge 7 (LK7) Conference held at the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland was absolutely incredible! I was astounded by the multitude of ways community-based researchers were collaborating across sectors and engaging multiple stakeholders—both locally and globally—to take action on the many pressing issues affecting various communities. I am immensely grateful to have participated in LK7 by the very generous funding provided by the European Commission as part of the project – Enhancing Responsible Research and Innovation through Curricula in Higher Education.

I was awe struck while attending the preconference workshop, “Engaged Practice Learning Exchange” at the diversity of participants and the entities they represented. Including, the Research Councils of the U.K., Community-based Research Canada, Technion, Institute of Technology in Israel, Corvinus, University of Budapest and Wageningen University in The Netherlands, to name a few. Despite all of the possible differences among participants, through deep and respectful dialogue we identified common challenges in our practices, and the various tools and resources we draw on to continue to do our best work possible!

A site visit to St. Michael’s Parish Youth Project, Inchicore was an inspiring example of how the Dublin Institute of Technology was applying Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI) principles in a community-based setting. The clearly mutually beneficial collaboration led to outstanding multi-year and high quality projects that met community needs and simultaneously supported rich student learning and solid research outcomes.

I was asked to share my LK7 reflection as part of the final conference panel led by Dr. Réka Matolay, which I happily agreed! In light of the urgent global issues facing us today RRI in community-based research and practice is critical as it supports deep listening, creativity, and collaboration that fosters novel ideas, practices, and policies in pursuit of the creation of a more inclusive and equitable world for all!