



Research Stay, Trinity College Dublin

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Meeting	Research Stay
Date	April 1 – April 30, 2023
University	Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

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1. About Trinity College Dublin

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's leading university offering courses in varying disciplines ranging from arts, humanities, engineering, business, law, mathematics, and science to social sciences. Regarding research, Trinity is ranked 98 in the World by the QS World University Ranking 2023 and is the only Irish member of the League of 23 European Research Universities (LERU), indicating the renowned character of the research university. However, it is foremost the expertise of Prof. dr. Hevey in ionizing radiation research that made Trinity College the ideal institute for this short-term research stay.

2. Report after research stay

The main objective of the research stay was to work closely with the research team at Trinity College to design the communication intervention and field study that will take place in the upcoming months regarding ionizing radiation behaviour. I had various meetings with Prof. dr. Hevey to discuss the field study and the approach we would take, the partners that could inform us with their expertise and the next steps of my PhD. We also had a meeting with dr. Gary Bradley to discuss the approach of the stakeholder-part of the field study.

A lot of meetings were organized to provide expertise useful for designing the field study. We had a meeting with Prof. dr. Geertje Schuitema of University College Dublin. She is an environmental psychologist and focuses on the processes behind behavior change, such as social norms. She has experience with ionizing radiation research as well. Another meeting was with dr. Shane Timmons, who is a senior researcher at the Economic & Social Research Institute in Dublin. He focuses on behavioral research with a focus on behavioral economics and nudges and he has experience with ionizing radiation research as well. Finally, we organized a meeting with the research team and the communication team of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland, to discuss future collaboration. The EPA Ireland is one of the pioneers when it comes to communication research regarding ionizing radiation, so they had a lot of expertise to share with us. We will collaborate in the field study, and they will help us with data collection of the field study.

Expertise in ionizing radiation communication specifically and environmental communication more broadly was gained through these various meetings, as well as knowledge about behavioral economics and how to apply it to the context of ionizing radiation communication. This resulted in a broadened perspective on how to plan and design the field study and the communication intervention.

This PhD, under supervision of Prof. dr. Heidi Vandebosch and dr. Tanja Perko, is focused on designing a mass media intervention targeted at the individual level. The research team at Trinity College Dublin, under supervision of Prof. dr. David Hevey, is focused on the other stakeholders involved in ionizing radiation.

Up until now, the collaboration existed mostly out of informing each other about the research and the progress in both teams. However, in February 2023 the next stage of the project started, meaning that communication materials will be tested in controlled lab settings, both for the at-risk population (UA) and the stakeholders separately (TCD).

From April 2023 onwards, preparations for the integrated field study in multiple European countries will start. In other words, during this research stay we started designing a field study combining both levels (at-risk population, and stakeholders) in one intervention that we will test in multiple European countries.