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Practical Information Note

European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

National Maritime College of Ireland, 22 09 2026

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Introduction

The Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026 looks forward to welcoming you to Cork for the 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum Meetup and for the 97th ESFRI Forum Meeting on 22 – 24 09 2026. We are pleased to share this Practical Information Note (PIN) to assist you in preparing for the meeting.

Please note that the information contained in this PIN may be subject to change. Updated information, including any updates to the meeting programme, practical arrangements or meeting documentation, will be shared through the online Accreditation Platform. Registered delegates will receive email notifications when updated material is shared on the Accreditation Platform.

If you have any queries, please contact esfri_eu26@dfheris.gov.ie

Timelines

Date	What you need to do	Where to go/Who to contact
30 07 26	Accreditation platform opens	esfri_eu26@dfheris.gov.ie
11 09 26	**Deadline for registration of delegates**	**Via the Accreditation Portal**
22 09 26	The 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum meeting	National Maritime College of Ireland, Cork
23 09 26	97th ESFRI Forum Meeting	National Maritime College of Ireland, Cork
24 09 26	97th ESFRI Forum Meeting	National Maritime College of Ireland, Cork

Location

The 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum meeting and the 97th ESFRI Forum Meeting will take place in County Cork, Ireland.

Known as the "Rebel County", County Cork is Ireland's largest county and is celebrated for its vibrant culture, stunning coastline, rich maritime heritage, and warm hospitality. Located in the south-west of Ireland, Cork offers a unique blend of bustling urban life, picturesque harbour towns, rolling countryside, and world-renowned food and tourism experiences.

At the heart of the county is Cork City, often referred to as Ireland's "second city". Built on the River Lee, the city is renowned for its lively atmosphere, historic architecture, independent shops, and excellent restaurants. Beyond the city, visitors can explore some of Ireland's most spectacular landscapes, from the dramatic coastline of West Cork and the scenic beauty of Kinsale, Clonakilty, and Bantry, to the picturesque harbour of Cobh, the final port of call for the RMS Titanic.

County Cork has a strong international reputation for its food culture and is home to the famous English Market, one of Europe's oldest covered food markets. The county is also known for its thriving maritime, pharmaceutical, technology, and life sciences sectors, making it an important economic hub for Ireland.

Venue 1 (Meeting Venue)

The working sessions will be hosted in National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI).

The National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), located in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork, is Ireland's leading maritime education and training centre and a constituent college of Munster Technological University (MTU). Established in partnership with the Irish Naval Service, NMCI provides specialist education and professional training for the shipping, marine engineering, logistics, offshore energy, and maritime sectors. The purpose-built campus is situated on a 10-acre waterside site and is recognised as one of the most advanced maritime training facilities in Europe.

NMCI boasts an impressive range of specialist facilities, including full mission bridge simulators, engine room simulators, vessel traffic services simulators, and marine communications training systems. Practical training areas include a full-sized ship's engine room, seamanship workshops, sea survival and lifeboat facilities, firefighting and damage-control training units, a jetty, and advanced marine engineering workshops, creating a comprehensive learning environment for both academic and professional maritime training.

Venue 2 (Site Visit)

(Research Infrastructure site visit – open to ESFRI delegates only) *

Lir National Ocean Test Facility (Lir NOTF), also based in Ringaskiddy, County Cork and managed by University College Cork (UCC), is Ireland's national centre for the testing and development of offshore renewable energy and marine technologies. Recognised internationally for its expertise, the facility supports the advancement of offshore wind, wave and tidal energy devices through laboratory-scale testing in controlled environments. Lir NOTF houses Ireland's only dedicated infrastructure for small to medium-scale testing of ocean and maritime systems and has been supporting research and industry innovation since 1977. It works closely with technology developers, researchers and commercial partners to accelerate the deployment of emerging marine energy solutions.

The facility features advanced testing infrastructure, including wave basins, wave and current flumes, a deep ocean basin and specialised electrical laboratories capable of simulating real ocean and grid conditions. These facilities enable the testing of floating offshore wind platforms, wave energy converters, tidal devices, coastal structures, marine vessels and other offshore systems. Supported by experienced engineers, technicians and researchers, Lir NOTF plays a key role in reducing technological risk, improving device performance and helping innovators progress marine energy technologies from concept validation through to real-sea deployment.

LIR National Ocean Test Facility | University College Cork

** Please note that the cultural site visit is exclusively reserved for ESFRI Delegates attending the ESFRI Forum Meeting (Day 2 & 3).*

Venue 3 (Networking Dinner venue)

22 09 The evening networking dinner will be hosted at Clayton Hotel Cork City, located in the heart of the city centre along the banks of the River Lee.

Clayton Hotel Cork City

Venue 4 (ESFRI Forum Dinner venue)

23 09 The evening networking dinner will be hosted at Maldron Hotel South Mall, Cork City overlooking the River Lee.

Our 4-Star Hotel in Cork | Maldron South Mall Cork City

Programme

The programme for the 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum Meetup is available on the ESFRI website. Please note that the programme may still be subject to change.

The programme for the 97th ESFRI Plenary meeting (23-24 September) will be announced to Delegates closer to the event.

Interpretation

This meeting will be conducted through English. Simultaneous interpretation will not be provided.

Accreditation badges

Accreditation badges can be collected at NMCI on the morning of each event.

Delegates will be requested to provide a photo ID document when collecting their badge. Delegate badges are strictly personal and non-transferable and must be visible at all times within the meeting venue and at all events within the meeting programme.

If you lose your accreditation badge, please immediately notify your meeting host. Please also notify the accreditation team by sending an email to EUPresidency.accreditation@dfa.ie

Transport

Entering Ireland

Please note that Ireland is not part of the Schengen Area. Therefore, **EU citizens must present a valid passport or national identity card to enter Ireland.** Full details are available here.

Citizens of other countries must present a valid passport or recognised travel document to enter Ireland and may also need a visa. You can find out if you need a visa to enter Ireland here.

Transport options

Delegates are invited to make their own travel arrangements for transfer to and from the airport. Information on public transport and taxi options to and from Dublin Airport are available here.

Airport	Transport Option	Typical Duration to Cork City Centre	Timetable	Booking
Cork Airport (ORK)	Bus Éireann Route 225	25 minutes to Cork Bus Station	Timetable	Link
	Bus Éireann Route 236	30 minutes to Cork City Centre	Timetable	Link
Shannon Airport (SNN)	Expressway Route 51	2hr 40 min to Cork Bus Station	Timetable	Link
Dublin Airport (DUB)	Aircoach 704X Express	3hr 30 min to Cork City Centre	Timetable	Link
	Citylink 707 Express	3hr 30 min to Cork City Centre	Timetable	Link
	Bus & Train	30 mins to Hueston Train Station	Timetable	Link
	*Requires Transfer	2hr 40 min to Cork Train Station	Timetable	Link

The Irish EU Presidency will provide coach transfers for group transfers *between the hotel and the meeting venue.* Coaches will be scheduled for the following journeys:

Day	From	To	Departure Time
22nd Sept: 4th ESFRI Stakeholder Forum Event	South Mall Street, Cork T12 A2YT	National Maritime College of Ireland, NMCI, T12 XN7C	08:30
	National Maritime College of Ireland, NMCI, T12 XN7C	Imperial Hotel, T12 A2YT	18:45
23rd Sept: 97th ESFRI Forum Day 1	South Mall Street, Cork T12 A2YT	National Maritime College of Ireland, NMCI, T12 XN7C	08:15
	National Maritime College of Ireland, NMCI, T12 XN7C	Imperial Hotel, T12 A2YT	18:15
24th Sept: 97th ESFRI Forum Day 2	South Mall Street, Cork T12 A2YT	National Maritime College of Ireland, NMCI, T12 XN7C	08:15
	National Maritime College of Ireland, NMCI, T12 XN7C	Imperial Hotel, T12 A2YT	13:15

If delegates do not avail of these scheduled coach transfers, they will be obliged to manage their own transfer arrangements.

Please advise the event organisers of any relevant accessibility requirements, through the Accreditation Platform.

Accommodation

Hotel Name	Address	Star Rating	Website	Distance from bus pick up point
Imperial Hotel Cork	76 South Mall, Cork	4★	imperialhotelcork.com	0.0 km
Clayton Hotel Cork City	Lapp's Quay, Cork	4★	claytonhotels.com/cork-city	0.4 km
Leonardo Hotel Cork	Anderson's Quay, Cork	4★	leonardohotels.ie/cork	0.5 km

Maldron Hotel South Mall	South Mall, Cork	4★	maldronhotelsouthmall.com	0.2 km
Hotel Isaacs Cork	MacCurtain Street, Cork	3★	hotelisaacscork.com	0.9 km
The Metropole Hotel	MacCurtain Street, Cork	4★	themetropolehotel.ie	0.9 km
Premier Inn Cork City Centre	Morrison's Quay, Cork	3★	premierinn.com	0.6 km
Residence Inn by Marriott Cork	Camden Place, Cork	4★	marriott.com	0.7 km
The Dean Cork	Horgan's Quay, Cork	4★	thedean.ie/cork	1.1 km
Maldron Hotel Shandon	John Redmond Street, Cork	4★	maldronhotelshandon.com	1.2 km
The Address Cork	Military Hill, St. Luke's	4★	theaddresscork.com	1.8 km
The Montenotte Hotel	Middle Glanmire Road, Cork	4★	themontenottehotel.com	2.1 km
The River Lee Hotel	Western Road, Cork	4★	doylecollection.com	1.3 km
Hayfield Manor	Perrott Avenue, College Road	5★	hayfieldmanor.ie	2.0 km
The Kingsley Hotel	Victoria Cross, Cork	4★	thekingsley.ie	3.7 km
Ambassador Hotel	Military Hill, St. Luke's	4★	theaddresscork.com	1.8 km
Clayton Hotel Silver Springs	Tivoli, Cork	4★	claytonhotels.com/silver-springs	4.3 km
Moxy Cork	Camden Quay, Cork	3★	marriott.com/moxy	0.8 km
Cork Airport Hotel	Cork Airport Business Park	4★	corkairporthotel.com	7.5 km
Cork International Hotel	Cork Airport Business Park	4★	corkinternationalhotel.com	7.5 km

Security

The Irish Presidency will ensure security during the meeting in close cooperation with An Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police and security service.

Media

Video footage and photographs

Photographs and video from the official Irish EU Presidency multimedia team will be available in high resolution format on www.esfri.eu and ESFRI Social Media pages.

Social media

Content from the Irish EU Presidency is available on our social media accounts:

- @Ireland2026eu
- Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026
- @DFATIRL
- @ireland2026eu
- @Ireland2026EU

General Information

Useful contacts

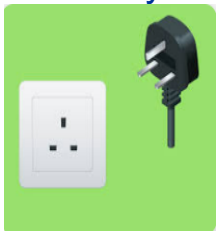
For general queries relating to the meeting logistics or content: info@str-esfri.eu

Emergency services (police, ambulance, fire): 112 or 999

Internet/WiFi

Wireless internet access is available throughout the meeting venue. The network name and password will be available on signage in the venue.

Electricity



The standard electricity supply in Ireland is 230V at a frequency of 50Hz (the same as in other EU Member States). Three-pin power plugs and sockets of Type G are used. Delegates travelling from EU Member States will require a power plug adaptor in order to use electronic devices safely in Ireland.

First Aid and Medical Assistance

If you require medical assistance during the meeting, please alert a member of venue staff.

Accessibility

At the time of accreditation, the platform will ask for relevant information on allergies, dietary restrictions and dietary preferences, and invite sharing of any meeting-related accessibility requirements. It is important that this information is provided so that delegates may receive all appropriate supports.

Lost and Found

If you have lost or found an item in the meeting venue, please bring it to the attention of your meeting host. Please note that the Irish EU Presidency is not liable for personal injuries, losses or damage to the personal property of registered delegates. All delegates should make their own arrangements with respect to personal insurance for their property.

Weather

Temperatures in Cork in September typically range between 13°C and 15°C. Rain can be expected at any time of year.

Links of interest

1. Tourism Ireland – https://www.ireland.com
   Official tourism website with destinations, itineraries, and travel inspiration.
2. Transport for Ireland – https://www.transportforireland.ie
3. Iarnród Éireann – https://www.irishrail.ie
   Train schedules and ticket booking.
4. Bus Éireann – https://www.buseireann.ie
   Regional bus services across the country.
5. Met Éireann – https://www.met.ie
   Official weather forecasts and alerts.
6. Tourist SOS Ireland – https://www.touristsos.ie
   Free assistance service for tourists who lose documents or need support.
7. Wild Atlantic Way – https://www.wildatlanticway.com
   Information on Ireland's famous coastal scenic route.

Irish Presidency Sustainability Policy

The Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union provides a significant opportunity to demonstrate Ireland's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. Ireland is committed to embedding sustainable practices across all aspects of planning and delivery of our EU Presidency.

To reaffirm our commitment, Ireland has developed a Sustainability Policy for our EU Presidency, applying it directly to official EU Presidency meetings and events held in Ireland. The objective of the policy is to support the organisation and delivery of EU Presidency meetings as sustainably as possible. We wish to encourage the implementation of initiatives that are environmentally, socially and economically responsible throughout the organisation and delivery stages.

We hope that our efforts will be visible across our meetings and events and that you will be inspired to continue making sustainable and environmentally conscious choices. More information about the Sustainability Policy will be available on the official website of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

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Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh 2026
Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026