



## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### SETU Recognition of Service Excellence Awards

The President's Office is delighted to support and present a new pilot staff recognition award scheme for PMSS staff titled; SETU Recognition of Service Excellence Award. The scheme was launched on 22 March 2024 with a nomination deadline of 5pm on Friday, 12 April 2024.

Awards will be made based on contributions made by PMSS staff to the unit, department, school/faculty, and the university. It will consider activities undertaken by PMSS staff member/s who demonstrate excellence, innovation and inclusivity as an individual/team.

In terms of eligibility, the scheme is open to all PMSS staff employed by SETU across all campuses. The Excellence Awards in Staff Recognition reflect SETU's commitment to excellence and recognise staff who;

- demonstrate inclusivity, impact, innovation and excellence in their work at SETU.
- illustrate contributions and commitment to the university, its goals and core values.
- foster collaboration, communication, and cooperation among colleagues, university constituents and external partners.

This scheme aligns with four of our six SETU core values: promotes excellence (1), rewards working collaboratively (2), embraces inclusivity (3), and rewards those who treat others with respect and behave with integrity (4). Through this scheme SETU can effectively acknowledge and celebrate the valuable contributions of its PMSS staff, fostering a positive and supportive work environment.

A scheme relating to Teaching Excellence is in development and more details are to follow in the coming months. Results will be announced in an awards ceremony later this year, date and venue to be confirmed.

If you have any queries concerning the scheme or guidance provided, please contact Jo Holohan via [staffawards@setu.ie](mailto:staffawards@setu.ie). For more information and to submit a nomination, please [click here](#).





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### Technological Sector Advancement Fund (TSAF)

The Technological Sector Advancement Fund (TSAF), which will run until June 2026, will provide targeted support for initiatives that are central to SETU delivering on its mission and strategic plan. The key objectives of TSAF are to enable sustainability and self-sufficiency, support further landscape reform, focus on quality, excellence, and capacity building. The SETU programme plan was based on our 'Connecting for Impact' strategy and is aligned with other major cross campus projects like N-TUTORR and TU-RISE.

TSAF will operate through the Programme Management Office (PMO) to support activities including change management, capacity building, organisational design, staff support, ICT integration, engagement, branding, internationalisation, the learner experience, the SETU academic portfolio and sustainability. For more information, please email [pmo@setu.ie](mailto:pmo@setu.ie).

### SETU Academic Council

The new SETU Academic Council had their first meeting on 5 March, 2024, following elections which took place in December 2023 and January 2024. This is an important decision-making and approving body for SETU and is a forum for key debates and discussions, as Academic Council controls the academic affairs of the University. The Academic Council is chaired by the President.

The design for the new Academic Council is based on work undertaken by an externally-chaired University working group, which was brought to Governing Body in May 2023. Members of the new Academic Council come from across SETU, with representatives from PMSS, academic staff, Heads of Department and students as well as ex-officio members. A new committee structure is also being implemented, which will provide opportunities for staff who may wish to be involved in the work of Academic Council.

Academic Council and its committees will be addressing many different areas in the coming months, including:

- Institutional Review
- Research strategy
- Development of a new Academic Delivery Framework
- The impact of artificial intelligence
- Policy development





## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### SETU's brand shortlisted for prestigious Transform Awards Europe 2024

SETU's brand has been nomination in two esteemed categories of the Transform Awards Europe 2024. The university's chosen brand agencies, Red Dog and M CCP have been recognised for their outstanding achievements in corporate rebranding following a merger or acquisition, as well as for its remarkable visual identity within the education sector.

The Transform Awards Europe 2024, a hallmark event celebrating excellence in rebranding and brand strategy, aims to spotlight exemplary work in corporate, product, and global brand development across Europe. The brand award nomination underscores SETU's commitment to excellence and innovation in brand evolution.

The agencies are shortlisted for both 'Best Corporate Rebrand following a merger or acquisition' and 'Best Visual Identity from the Education Sector' awards at this year's ceremony. SETU has been recognised amongst fellow nominees for its excellence in driving high-end creativity and strategy across its brand development process.

In response to the news, President of SETU, Prof, Veronica Campbell, commented "The SETU brand embodies the excellence and core values of our organisation, serving as a true reflection of who we are. It has become instantly recognisable, not just within our local community, but also on a national and international scale. We take immense pride in the widespread recognition our brand has garnered. It is a testament to our commitment to delivering outstanding education and making a meaningful impact worldwide."

Dr John Power, SETU Brand Manager, added, "Being shortlisted for the Transform Awards Europe 2024 is a tremendous honour for us. It validates our dedication to strategic brand development and underscores our continuous efforts to push boundaries and set new standards in the education sector."

The Transform Awards is Europe's only dedicated celebration of rebranding, repositioning, and brand development. It recognises best practice in the brand development work of businesses and organisations across the continent. The 2024 winners will be revealed at a special awards ceremony on 17 April 2024 in London.

For more information, [click here](#).





## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### Teaching and Learning – CPD

SETU Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Week took place from Monday 19 to Friday 23 February. This year saw one of the biggest line-ups to date, with over 40 sessions across the week, exploring a range of pedagogical and technological related themes, as well as a broad range of development sessions. The sessions provided a great opportunity for colleagues to learn from each other, to share practice and to hear about the experiences of others across the sector, both nationally and internationally.

### SETU Strategic Plan

SETU's strategic plan, 'Connecting for Impact', was published in May last year. Since that time, the Executive Management Team has been focussed on executing the actions listed in the plan and on progressing towards the objectives set out there. There are 95 high level actions listed in the Strategic Plan and by the end of this academic year it is expected that about a third of these actions will have been completed.

As one might expect, the early stages of implementation of the plan are focussed on developing a range of sub-strategies that will empower and enable the delivery of the objectives. In development currently are a number of critical sub-strategies, the Research and Innovation Plan, the Apprenticeship Strategy and the Strategic Plan for Global Engagement and Internationalisation.

Elements in organizational restructuring that better enable the achievement of our goals are also flagged in the plan for completion in the coming period. A schedule of formal reports on strategy implementation has been agreed with Governing Body who will receive reports in December, April and June each year.

Queries on the Strategic Plan and on strategy implementation can be directed to [strategy@setu.ie](mailto:strategy@setu.ie).





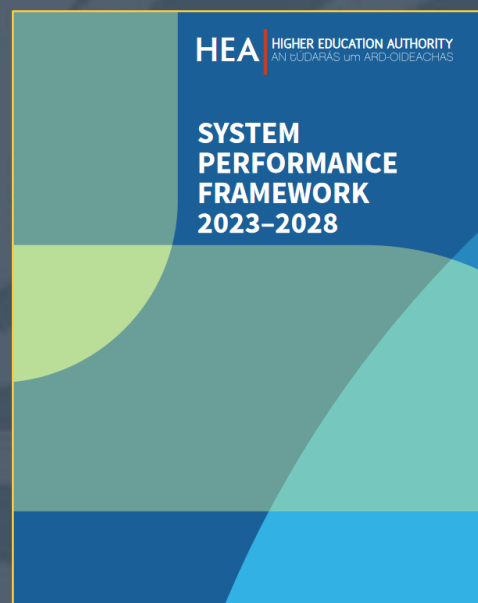
## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### Centre for Organisational Data, Research & Analysis (CORDA)

As signalled in the Strategic Plan, SETU has established a new institutional office with responsibility for university data. This office, called CORDA (Centre for Organisational Data, Research and Analysis), is located within the Strategy section of the President's Office. Part of the role of CORDA is to act as a single point of contact for university data to ensure consistency and coherence in reporting. The unit assists the President and the EMT with the aim of supporting a more data-informed approach to university decision-making. CORDA also assists with reporting on institutional KPIs, whether for the purposes of reporting on the Strategic Plan or for more general uses. Colleagues are invited to direct queries on university data to CORDA at [data@setu.ie](mailto:data@setu.ie).

### HEA / SETU Performance Agreement

SETU is currently engaged with the HEA on the development of a Performance Agreement between the Authority and the university under the [Higher Education Performance Framework](#) launched by the HEA in SETU last year. The process involves SETU identifying its particular contribution to the achievement of national strategies in areas such as access, innovation and research, internationalisation, regional development and others areas. The Agreement SETU will reach with the HEA involves the university setting performance targets for the period to 2028 under multiple headings. The achievement of the university will be monitored on an annual basis by the HEA. As the HEA indicates in its Framework document, the Agreements that will be reached with all Irish HEIs "will provide robust evidence on institutional and system health and inform the development of national policy." It is anticipated that SETU's agreement with the HEA will be finalised and published in May. You may direct questions on the System Performance Framework and SETU's agreement to [strategy@setu.ie](mailto:strategy@setu.ie).



To read the full report please [click here](#).





## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### New SETU website

The new SETU website, designed to reflect our vision of a young, vibrant university, will go fully live on Tuesday, 2 April 2024.

This is a milestone for our new University as we deliver a truly unified platform that showcases all that SETU has to offer to local, national and global stakeholders. The site brings together our full SETU course offering with almost 550 courses, 1,500 staff profiles, research and innovation, global recruitment, staff and student information, administrative processes and procedures and much more. The project is managed by a cross campus team from the marketing and communications offices and draws on the expertise of staff from across the University.

### SETU Research Strategy

The creation of our Research Strategy is well underway with our cross-campus, multi-disciplinary workgroups having met and agreed on clearly defined high level research objectives, recommendations and mixed methodologies to attain these.

There have been many lively and informative discussions on how to build on our strengths and capabilities, elevate our research and innovation activity, translate our research into meaningful impact for the region and beyond and provide development opportunities for our research staff and students, all while embracing the vision and mission of SETU to become a leading global technological university.

The workgroups are currently in the process of drafting documents for their relevant areas and hope to have discussion documents ready in the next couple of weeks with a view to a combined report by the end of March and the final draft Research Strategy by April 2024.

The time and effort made by all who have contributed to the Research Strategy is greatly appreciated and the hope is for continued collaboration and partnerships into the future.





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### TU RISE

Through the Technological University Research and Innovation Supporting Enterprise Scheme (TU RISE) SETU has secured €13.6 million in research funding available over a four-year (2024-2028) period. The funding was established with two key outcomes:

- Establishment and/or development of central research functions in institutions to support research capacity building and further engagement with regions.
- Enhancement of institutional research capacity through increasing researcher human capital in research areas that have potential to facilitate stronger engagement with regional enterprises aligned to Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy and the Regional Enterprise Plans.

The funding available through TU RISE will have a significant impact on research at SETU. This funding will see the significant strengthening of this eco-system through facilitating elevated research and innovation performance in areas of key economic importance for the region, as identified in the regional enterprise plan.

We welcome this funding which will enable us to achieve our research ambitions and position SETU at the centre of a regional quadruple helix model of innovation, training staff and industry partners to drive increased funding acquisition and meet policy imperatives.

### SETU Global Strategy

The global team are progressing with strategic planning, aiming to deliver a comprehensive plan for SETU's Global Partnerships and Internationalisation for 2024-2029. Aligned with SETU's ambition to be a distinguished 'global' Technological University, our planning will focus on a range of key areas including cultivation of a diverse student body and faculty, enhancing global collaborations, expanding exchange programmes, excelling in transnational education, fostering a multicultural campus, offering globally relevant programmes, and equipping students for a globalised future.

The newly established steering group held its first meeting on Monday, 26 February, and will welcome all valuable inputs and ideas for making SETU a truly global university.



## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### Change Network

A new format Change Network is now in operation and open to all staff. The Change Network provides an engaging platform for updates and discussions through a variety of speakers on our strategic plan implementation.

Dr Richard Hayes, VP for Strategy provided an update to the Change Network regarding strategic plan progress on Thursday 14 March.



Facilitation skills workshop held during PD week



SETU Change Management Toolkit

For those who wish to get more involved we will shortly host a series of in-person sessions with our Senior Change Management Professional for training in workshop skills and change management techniques along with toolkit talks, think tanks or simply 'get togethers'. We encourage our staff to join the Change Network to keep informed and to be engaged in our change and transformation initiatives by emailing [change@setu.ie](mailto:change@setu.ie).







## SETU NEWS & UPDATES

### EU-CONEXUS

EU-CONEXUS, a European University, offering joint education, training, and study programmes, alongside collaborative research and professional development opportunities for all staff, researchers, and students.



SETU is part of EU-CONEXUS European University alliance with La Rochelle University, France; Catholic University of Valencia, Spain; University of Zadar, Croatia; Agricultural University of Athens, Greece; Frederick University, Cyprus; Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania; Klaipeda University, Lithuania and University of Rostock, Germany.

EU-CONEXUS is themed “Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability”, focusing education, research & innovation, and knowledge-sharing activities on defining, understanding and addressing societal challenges experienced by communities from urban and semi-urbanised coastal regions (rivers, seas and oceans).

#### Current EU-CONEXUS Offerings:

- Seed Funding Call invites applicants to develop small-scale internal collaborative projects (max. €4,400) between EU-CONEXUS partners that address challenges related to Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability. An information webinar was held on 26/02/2024 at 12pm Irish Time. Deadline for applications is 30/04/2024. For further details [click here](#).
- EU-CONEXUS Research Mobility Fund is now open for applications to support travel to encourage various forms of collaboration and exchange both within the Alliance and internationally. Three types of mobilities are supported - Research Mobility for EU-CONEXUS Alliance members; Invitation of External Experts; Participation in international conferences on Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability. For full details please [click here](#).





## CROSS CAMPUS INITIATIVES

### N-TUTORR Transforming Learning

N-TUTORR is a national collaborative project focused on transforming learning, teaching, and assessment in the technological higher education sector. The project is organised across three streams, Students, Staff and Systems while embedding the themes of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI), Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Academic Integrity, Digital Transformation and Employability.

During the period (26 February – 1 March 2024) over 30 events took place across all SETU campuses as part of the national N-TUTORR Week with staff and students participating a diverse range of events across all of the N-TUTORR themes.



One unique event was the “Co-creation of a Native Irish Tree Hedgerow” where students and staff from the forestry and horticulture programmes planted native Irish trees and shrubs at the SETU campus in Carriganore a living learning resource that will be available long after the N-TUTORR project ends. Other highlights of the week included webinars on employability and a swap and repair workshop in the Summerhill Campus in Wexford.

For more information about N-TUTORR please contact Ken, Caitriona or Corina at [ntutorr@setu.ie](mailto:ntutorr@setu.ie) or visit [setu.ie/ntutorr](https://www.setu.ie/ntutorr).





## CROSS CAMPUS INITIATIVES

### SETU staff choir showcased their musical talents with two concerts

The inaugural SETU staff choir concerts took place on Saturday, 23 March, featuring well-known songs performed by staff from across the University.

Conceived as an integration project by the Music School, with the support of the University Executive and the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, the initiative aimed to encourage collaboration and music-making between disciplines, campuses, and colleagues.

Under the direction of SETU lecturers Sinéad Crowley and Regina Hanley, the choir had been busy rehearsing fortnightly since September, meeting for combined Saturday rehearsals in Kilkenny twice that year.



Building on the choir's hard work, two concerts were planned for Saturday, 23 March. The choir performed music by Leonard Cohen, Bruno Mars, and more. They were joined by two guest choirs, Carlow Voices in Carlow and the SETU Children's Choir in Waterford. SETU BA in Music guitarist, Oísín O'Neill, performed solo.

The two concerts took place at St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Church Street, Carlow and St. Patrick's Gateway Centre, Patrick Street, Waterford.





## CROSS CAMPUS INITIATIVES

### Extended Reality at SETU

SETU's Extended Reality experts gathered at Walton Institute on 30 January 2024. Walton Institute was delighted to host members of South East Technological University (SETU)'s Extended Reality (XR) community at a recent event to explore the future of technology and opportunities for further collaboration.

21 researchers from Waterford and Carlow attended this first meeting of SETU's XR experts sharing knowledge of the innovative work taking place across the University, including representatives from Walton Institute's Extended Reality Research Group, the Faculty of Engineering, the Department of Computing, the Department of Humanities, the SABRE Centre (Department of Architecture & Built Environment) and SEERLab (School of Education and Lifelong Learning).

"The day consisted of a highly productive session of research presentations and interactive discussions showcasing cross sector cutting-edge Extended Reality innovations currently being worked on in SETU, and demonstrating the limitless possibilities that lie ahead in the virtual realm," explained Frances Cleary, Head of Division MEPS at Walton Institute. "It was also an important opportunity for us to come together and examine ways to disseminate and promote this expertise to the wider community."

Dr Frances Hardiman, Head of SETU's Faculty of Engineering added, "the key focus for this event was to determine the range and depth of knowledge, expertise and experience in XR that SETU can offer, both in research and to industry. Sponsored by the Project Office, activities like this bring together a cohort of experts that may not always have the forum to do so. I would highly recommend repeating this activity in other domains across SETU."

Attendees were provided with a special tour of Walton Institute's MR and Digital Photogrammetry Labs. Funded by the Enterprise Ireland Capital Call the MR Lab features state of the art Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technology. While the Digital Photogrammetry Unit consists of a Botsan NEO 3D, a 3D scanner solution for high volume full body scans, and a Teslasuit, a full body haptic feedback and motion-capture tracking VR suit.

With the knowledge, skills, and facilities available, SETU is primely positioned to be a key player and major contributor in the XR technology space in Ireland. The team look forward to working together to progress AR/VR/XR for the benefit of society, academia, and industry.



## CROSS CAMPUS INITIATIVES

### Library staff integration day in Wexford

SETU Library staff met at SETU's Summerhill Road campus in Wexford recently. The visit marked the third in person library staff integration day within the 23/24 academic year and provided the first opportunity for many Waterford and Carlow campus-based staff to visit SETU's campuses in Wexford. The agenda included time for informal discussion between library colleagues as well as updates on live and upcoming projects. A key focus of the day was an introductory session to the SETU Change Management Toolkit, delivered by Lynne Whelan, Senior Change Management Specialist. After a campus tour, the day concluded with a visit to the Wexford town library, where SETU and Wexford public library staff discussed common themes within the academic and public library sectors as well as potential collaborative opportunities for both staff, students and stakeholders within the south east.



### Meeting of Academic Heads of Department

A meeting of academic Heads of Department took place in the ArcLabs Research and Innovation Centre, West Campus, Waterford on Friday 8 March. Although online meetings occur regularly, this was the first time that this particular group had met in person since designation day. The group discussed strategic and operational matters of mutual concern and used the occasion to get to know their respective departmental counterparts better. It is hoped that these meetings will become a regular feature of the academic calendar.

