

Better Decision Making

Insight 

SFI RESEARCH CENTRE FOR DATA ANALYTICS

A Message From Our CEO

Since the foundation of Insight in July 2013, the research and commercial sectors have changed dramatically. There is now widespread awareness of the potential of data science to generate commercial value and market competitiveness, leading to a greater appetite for data analytics across many sectors. Data-related courses are available from every university, and data scientists are among the most sought-after employees. Inexpensive sensors, social media, user-generated content, cloud computing and ever-cheaper processing power have combined to create the perfect storm of data. Advances in machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) provide the tools to navigate this immense ocean of information to find value in the data offering hitherto impossible socio-economic benefits.

Insight's research has been a key driver of this transformation nationally. At Insight, our mission and leadership vision is to continually advance the relatively nascent discipline of data science in an industry informed manner to ensure that Ireland continues to be a leader in the ongoing global trend of digitalisation. We achieve this by bringing together recognised world class research leaders in core data analytics research topics. Amongst our research leadership team, we have world renowned researchers in their fields who have made an impact globally through roles in many important international initiatives such as the High-level expert group on AI and The Big Data Value Association in the EU. We have researchers who are successful serial entrepreneurs and researchers who are passionate about STEM education and training the next generation of leadership in research and innovation.

At Insight, we continue to advance the scientific state-of-the-art to reinforce and maintain our strong stakeholder relationships and demonstrate world leading scientific leadership for the good of society. We look forward to continuing to work closely with our partners and welcome the opportunity to explore new developments in the field of data analytics over the coming years.



Prof. Noel O'Connor
CEO

Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics

Our Mission

Enabling Better Decision Making.

We undertake high impact research in data analytics that has significant benefits for the individual, industry and society.

Our Vision

Empowering Citizens. Smarter Societies.

We empower citizens and support the development of smarter societies by advancing the field of data analytics.

European Leader in Data Analytics

Insight is one of the largest data analytics research centres in Europe with a presence in eight Irish universities. Strategic relationships with Universities in Northern Ireland, Irish Technological Universities and European research centres further strengthen our capabilities.

Co-Lead Universities



Partner Institutions



20+

years of research in
data analytics and AI

160+

collaborative projects
with industry partners

13+

Spin Outs

450+

researchers

300+

research awards

72+

license agreements

Partner Benefits

When you collaborate with Insight you get access to the best researchers available. It is a front door into the entire data analytics and AI ecosystem in Ireland.

We will listen to your business challenge and collaborate with you to achieve fundamental ground-breaking research in your area of interest.

We will inspire you with new ideas and methods, ensuring a positive impact in your business and society.



Expertise

Access world-class data analytics and AI experts



EU Access

Partner on EU funding applications and gain access to Insight EU network



Capacity

Build internal capacity to progress innovation and new product development



Commercial

Get maximum value out of your data and build awareness of how data analytics can add value to your business



Networking

Network and gain access to experts in all of our partner institutions as well as other SFI research centres



Recruitment

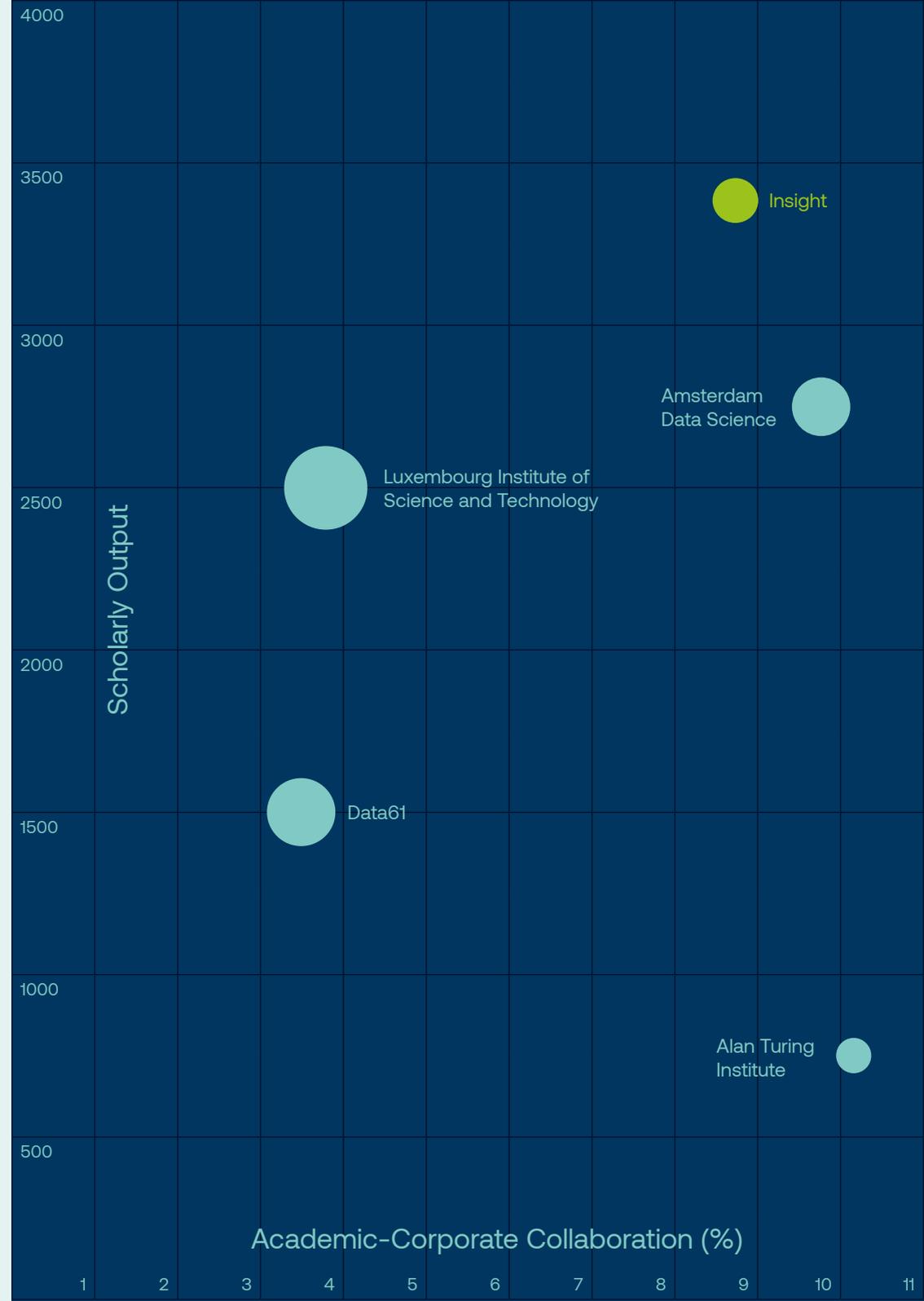
Meet and recruit Insight's excellent early-career researchers

Benchmarking

Insight compares well internationally with peer centres producing high levels of scholarly output and significant impactful academic-corporate collaborations.



This graph shows that roughly 9% of Insight's total relevant scholarly output (papers classified as computer science) within Scopus were published with corporate collaborations for the period 2013-2019

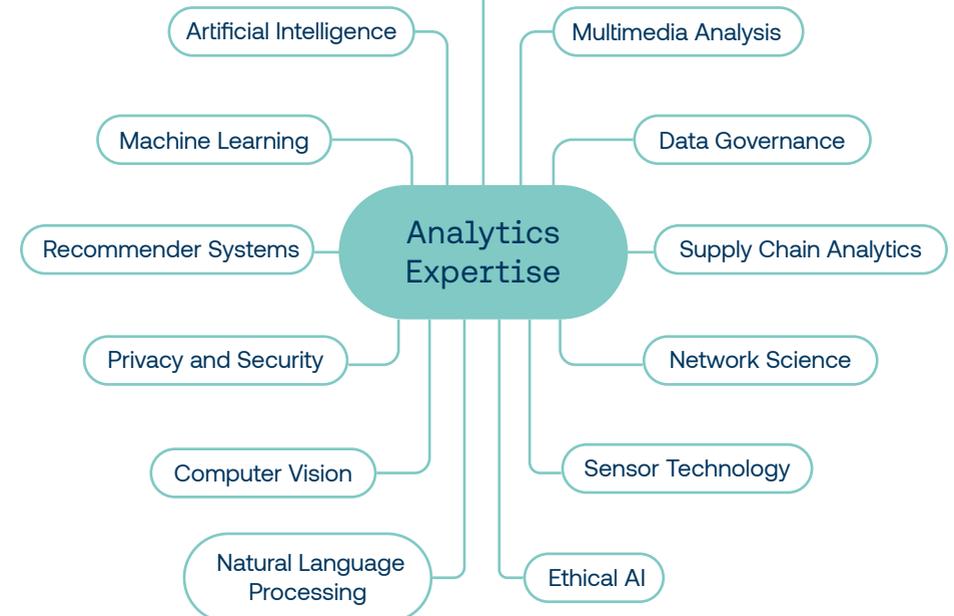
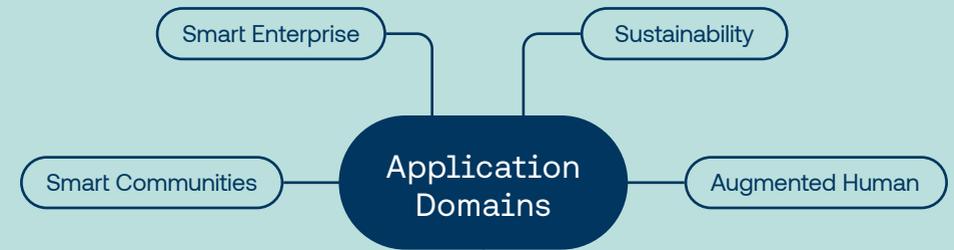


Research Programme

Insight is one of the largest data analytics centres in Europe. We enable better decision-making by providing innovative technology solutions to industry and society.

Insight is driven by €150m in funding, supporting 450+ researchers across a broad range of areas in the field of data analytics.

As the national centre for data analytics in Ireland, Insight has delivered a large number of industry collaborations, won substantial funding from the EU and supported comprehensive Education, Public Engagement, and Communications programmes. Our alignment with current and future national priorities and industry sectors is evident from our involvement and support of key strategies from SFI, Horizon Europe, Enterprise Ireland, Project Ireland, the IRC and DTIF.



Working with Insight

Insight, through the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centres programme, offers unprecedented opportunities for industry, government and other institutions to collaborate with leading data analytics researchers. Our focus is on advancing the field of data analytics while collaborating with companies that allow all aspects of data analytics and AI to be applied to real world problems.

Insight's expertise covers the whole data value chain, from the integration of multiple heterogeneous data sources to discovering patterns and trends in data and making explainable sense of them.



Ways to Engage

There are many ways for industry groups to engage with Insight, with options including:



- wholly industry funded collaborations,
- partly SFI funded industry collaborations,
- industry funded PhD programmes,
- collaborations on European grant applications,
- collaborative projects with other SFI research centres through the SFI Spokes programme



We facilitate Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnerships and Commercialisation Fund projects, IP licensing and the setting up of spin out/in companies. We also work closely with IDA clients to develop their R&D capacity in Ireland.



Our focus is on finding the most competitive funding mechanisms within our network for our industry partners. By working with us there are further opportunities for R&D tax credits as outlined on Revenue.ie.



We have developed flexible models of engagement, for both larger corporates and small enterprises, ranging from shorter engagements through to multi-year, multi-site research programmes.

Engagement Process

In order to develop collaborative industry projects, Insight engages with potential partners using a structured engagement process. Initially, meetings are held to understand the specific research challenge our industry partner is interested in addressing. Once the research challenge is defined, researchers with the relevant expertise are drafted into the process to facilitate in-depth scoping exercises. This enables us to develop a project proposal and contract that includes clear project milestones and key deliverables. Continuous engagement takes place throughout the project execution phase to ensure responsiveness and transparency with our partners.

1

Initial Meeting

Research capabilities

Engagement options

2

Scoping

NDA

Workshop

Data sets

Business challenge

3

Proposal

Objectives

Team

Deliverables

Milestones/Costs

4

Contracts

Team sheet

Research agreement

GDPR/Ethics

5

Execution

Team mobilise

Design/Develop

Deliverables

Review

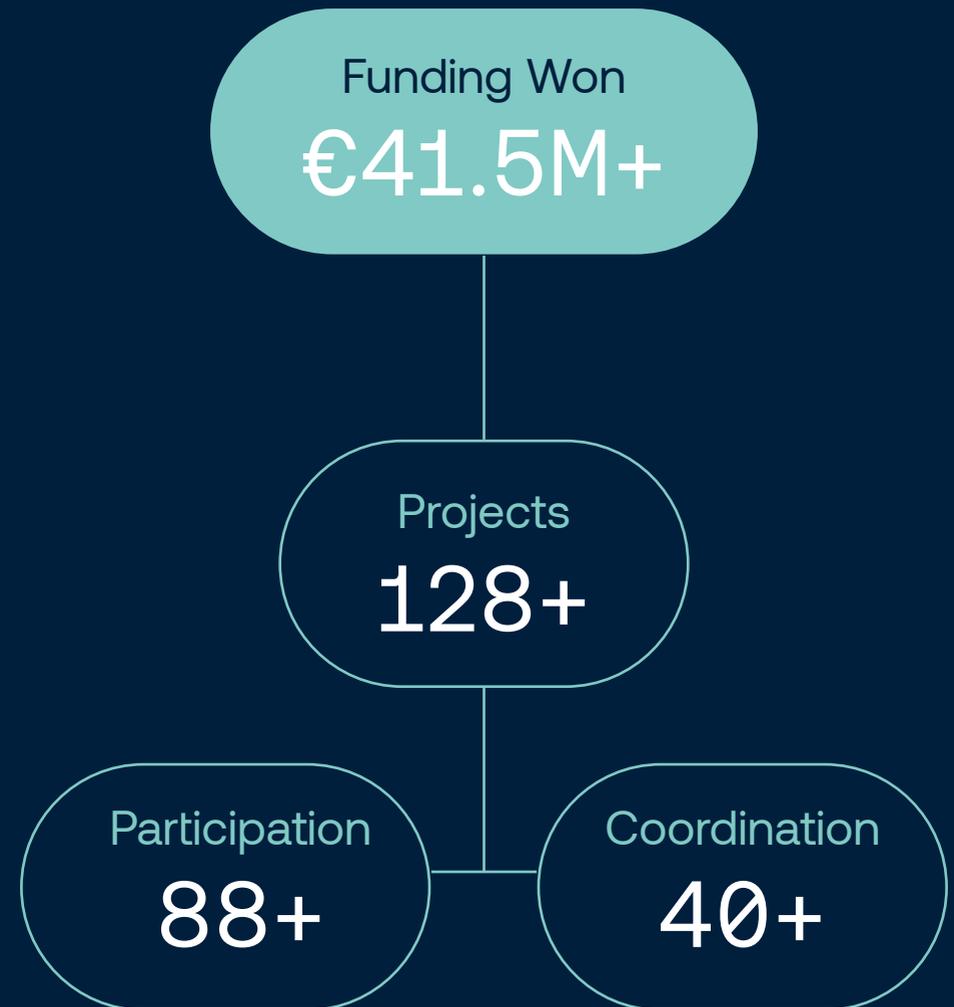
Engagement with Funding Agencies

Insight's large and diverse group of researchers continues to build on our long-standing success in European funding. We welcome the opportunity to engage with new partners seeking to collaborate on projects addressing some of Europe's leading scientific, societal and industrial challenges.

In Horizon 2020, Insight coordinated, and was a leading partner in a diverse range of projects aligned with our strategic goals. This included collaborations in Industrial Leadership, and Societal Challenges under the topics of Health, Food, Climate, Environment, and Security. Insight researchers also have a strong track record in the Pillar of Excellent Science, with projects in the European Research Council, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and the Future and Emerging Technologies programmes.

In the current Horizon Europe programme, Insight continues to engage strongly with local and European partners to develop projects that demonstrate excellent science and achieve industrial and societal impact. Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion.¹

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en



Education and Public Engagement

Education & Public Engagement is a strategic priority for Insight, and our vision is to build an empowered, scientifically engaged, inclusive and creative society, underpinned by a commitment to involve citizens in data science and embed a culture of engagement within Insight.



Objective



Our objective is to address national inequalities in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) participation and to enable an open, participatory dialog between citizens, organisations, public bodies and Insight.

Activities



Our activities include working with community groups on the development of engaged research projects that are relevant and applicable to that community, engaging with students and youth groups of all ages to undertake stimulating STEM activities and visiting schools nationwide, especially in geographically isolated areas.

Curriculum Reform



We have also been involved in the development of the IT curriculum in Irish schools, advocating for the inclusion of computer coding as a key skill for students to develop.

Impact



We offer opportunities for organisations with a corporate and social responsibility agenda to partner with us to sponsor and deliver meaningful and impactful changes in the communities in which the companies are operating.

Emerging Research Areas

We expect to see rapid developments in the following areas of data analytics, with major implications for research and industry. We would be delighted to further explore these emerging areas with our industry partners over the coming years:

 Trustworthy AI

 Explainable AI

 Data Governance

 Data Privacy and Security

 Data Ethics

 Sensor Technology

 Digital Twins

 Edge AI

 Cultural Analytics

Get in Touch

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A World
Leading SFI
Research
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