INDEPENDENT LIVING & ACCESSIBLE AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

EPR, DUBLIN 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

JOAN O'DONNELL

FOCUS OF SESSION

1. Developments in Technology & Policy

2. Irish response

3. Learning forward

1.
DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY & POLICY

DIGITAL ACCESSIBLE AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN FOCUS

Assistive technology - umbrella term covering the systems and services related to the delivery of assistive products and services.

Assistive technology: Hearing aids, wheelchairs, communication aids, spectacles, prostheses, pill organizers and memory aids are all examples of assistive products.

Digital assistive technologies rely on more recent scientific and technological advances to help disabled people access digital services including smart home technology

Assistive products maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence, thereby promoting their well-being.

1 billion people need 1 or more assistive products

This will double by 2030

1 in 10 people in need have access to assistive products they need now

WHO: **https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/assistive-technology**.

UNCRPD: ARTICLE 19

AT promotes an equal and effective enjoyment of the right to live independently and participate actively in the community by promoting inclusion and reducing isolation.

AT for independent living includes products which, among others, assist in daily living, communication, computer access, and environmental control systems.

Emma M. Smith, Stephanie Huff, Holly Wescott, Rebecca Daniel, IkennaD. Ebuenyi, Joan O'Donnell, Mohamed Maalim, Wei Zhang, Chapal Khasnabis & MalcolmMacLachlan (2022): Assistive technologies are central to the realization of the Convention onthe Rights of Persons with Disabilities , Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology
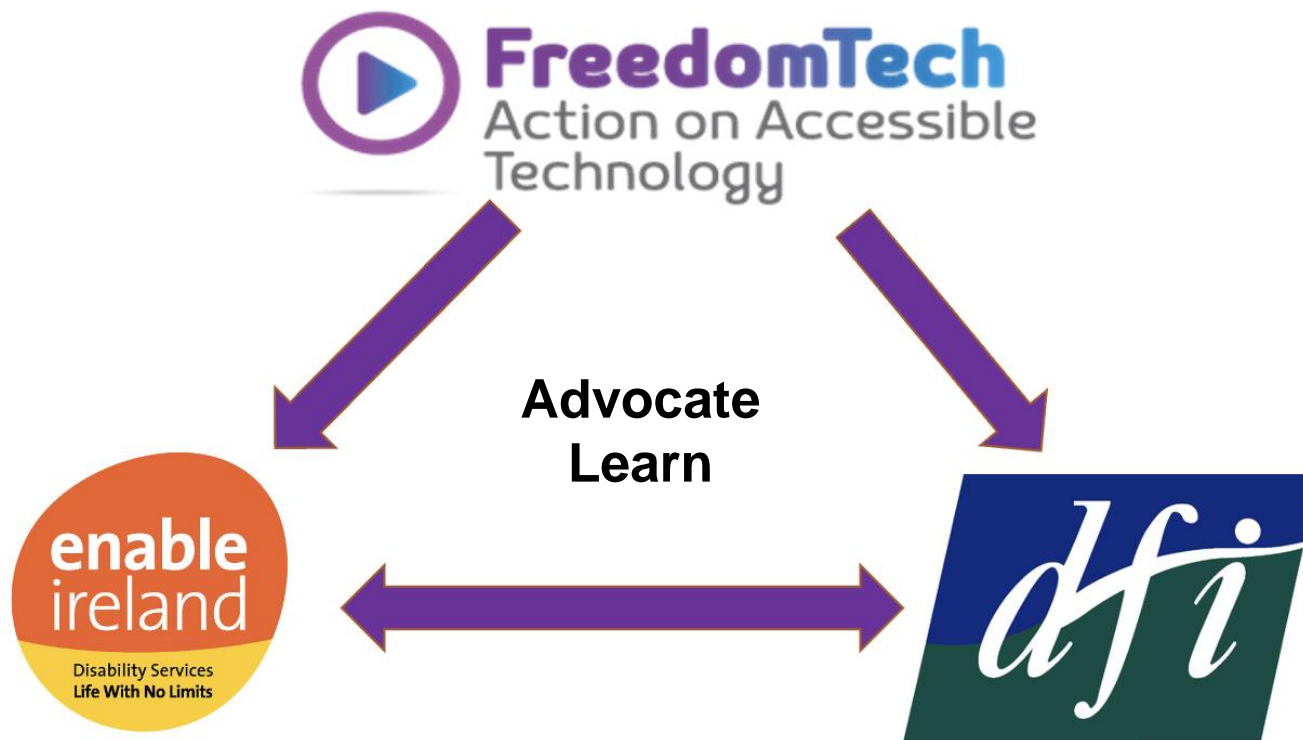
EU STRATEGY

"Accelerated digital transformation and the green transition offer opportunities, using information and communication technology (ICT), artificial intelligence and robotics to design on-site and remote services tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities. Effective use of these technologies requires the removal of accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities and investing in their digital skills".

2.   IRISH RESPONSE

ADVOCATE

Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities and Older People
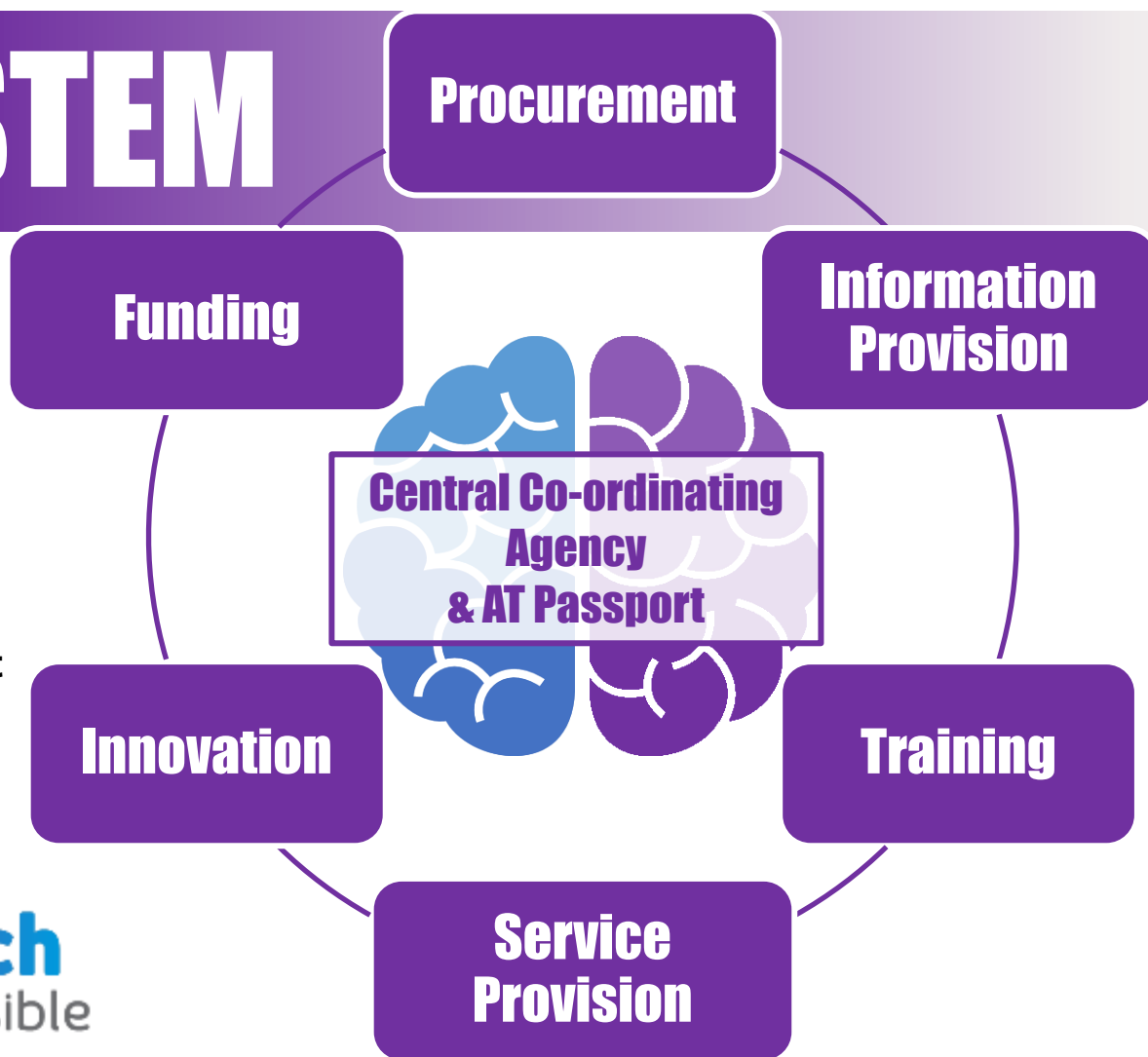**A Discussion Paper**

November 2016

https://freedomtech.ie/assistivetechnologypaper/

AT ECOSYSTEM

- 650,000 Irish people: 13.5% have a disability

- Effective **AT Ecosystem** essential to embed AT use across lifespan

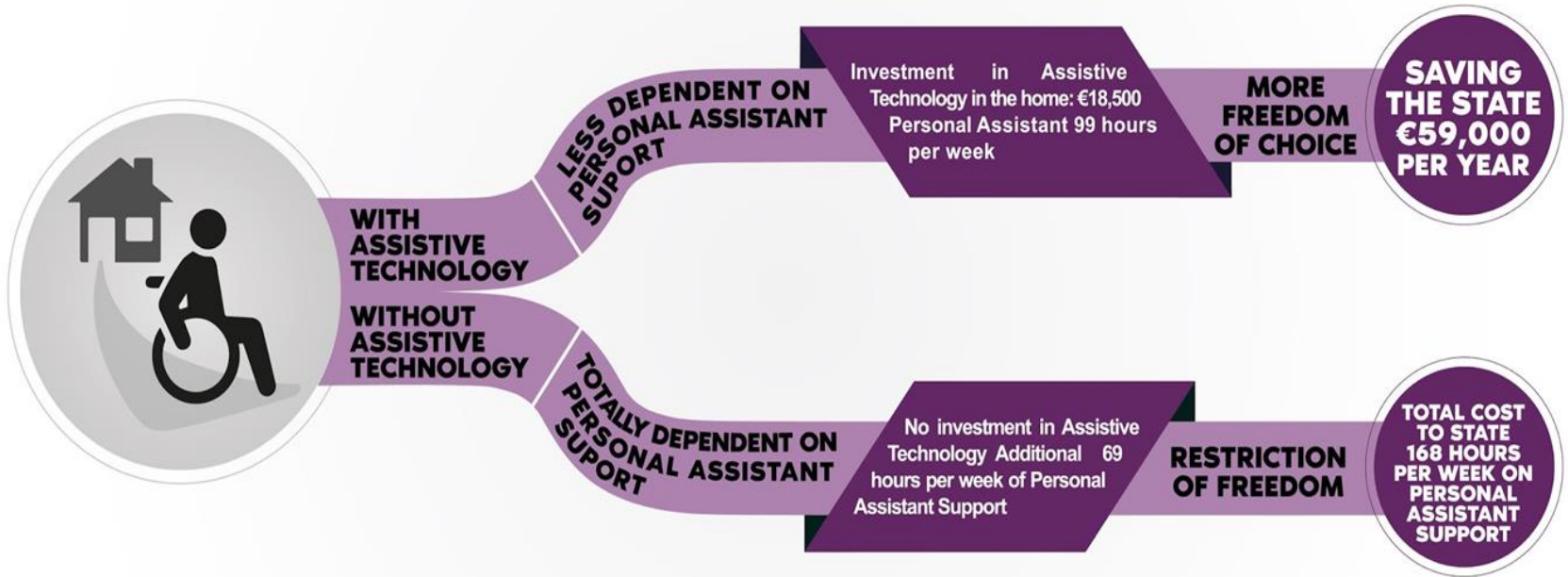- **Assistive Technology Passport** foundation stone of AT Ecosystem

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Procurement

Funding

Information Provision

Central Co-ordinating Agency & AT Passport

Innovation

Training

Service Provision

AT PASSPORT : GLOBAL IMPACT

INDEPENDENT LIVING

WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

WITHOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

LESS DEPENDENT ON PERSONAL ASSISTANT SUPORT

Investment in Assistive Technology in the home: €18,500 Personal Assistant 99 hours per week

MORE FREEDOM OF CHOICE

SAVING THE STATE €59,000 PER YEAR

TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON PERSONAL ASSISTANT SUPORT

No investment in Assistive Technology Additional 69 hours per week of Personal Assistant Support

RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM

TOTAL COST TO STATE 168 HOURS PER WEEK ON PERSONAL ASSISTANT SUPPORT

3. LOOKING BACK & LEARNING FORWARD

LEARNING
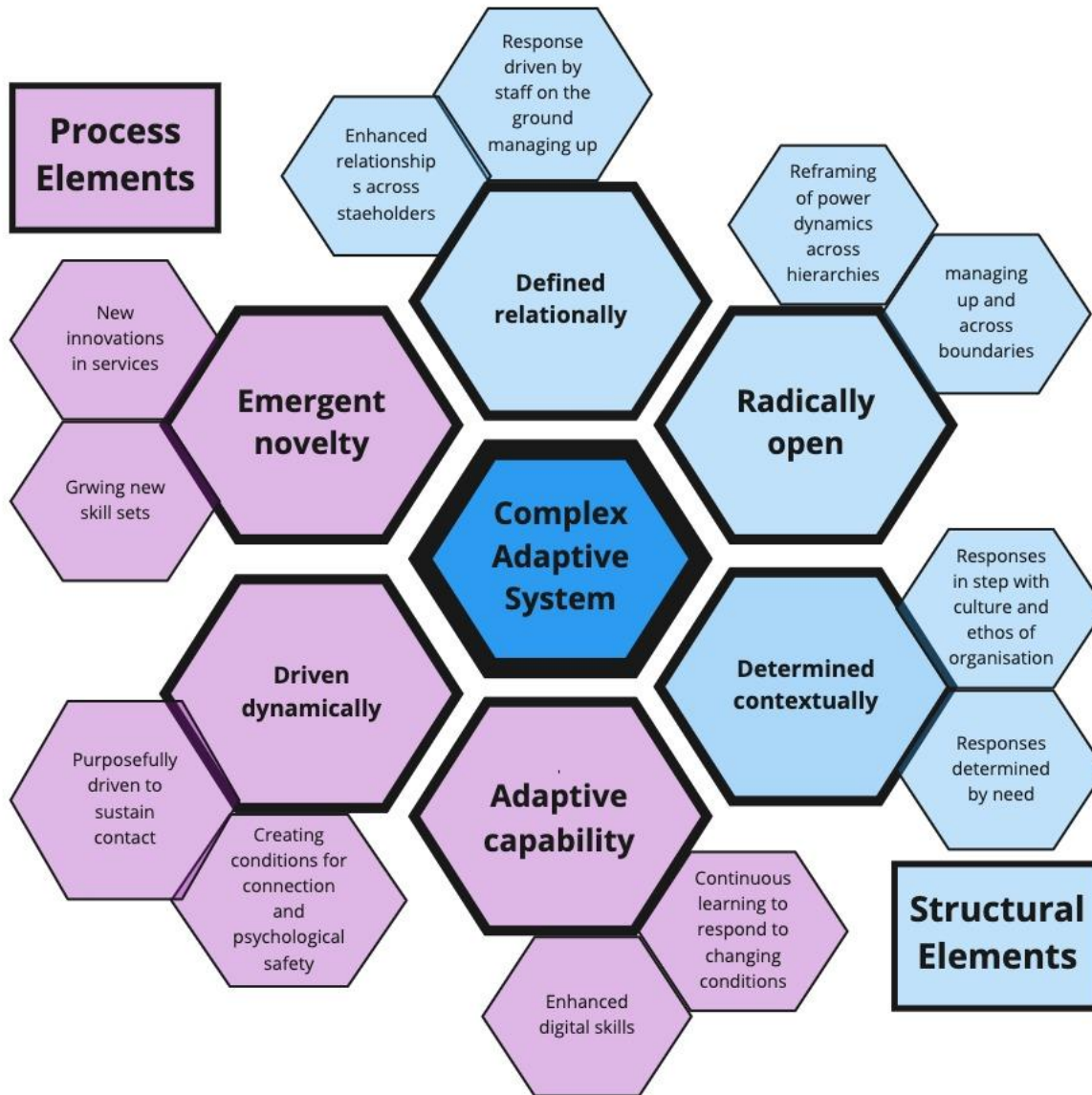
COMMUNITY HUB FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

@FREEDOMTECH_IRL

#AT4LOCKDOWN

HOW CAN ACCESSIBLE TECH
SUPPORT EVERYONE DURING
COVID-19

CHAT GOES ONLINE DURING COVID TO SUPPORT SERVICES GOING VIRTUAL
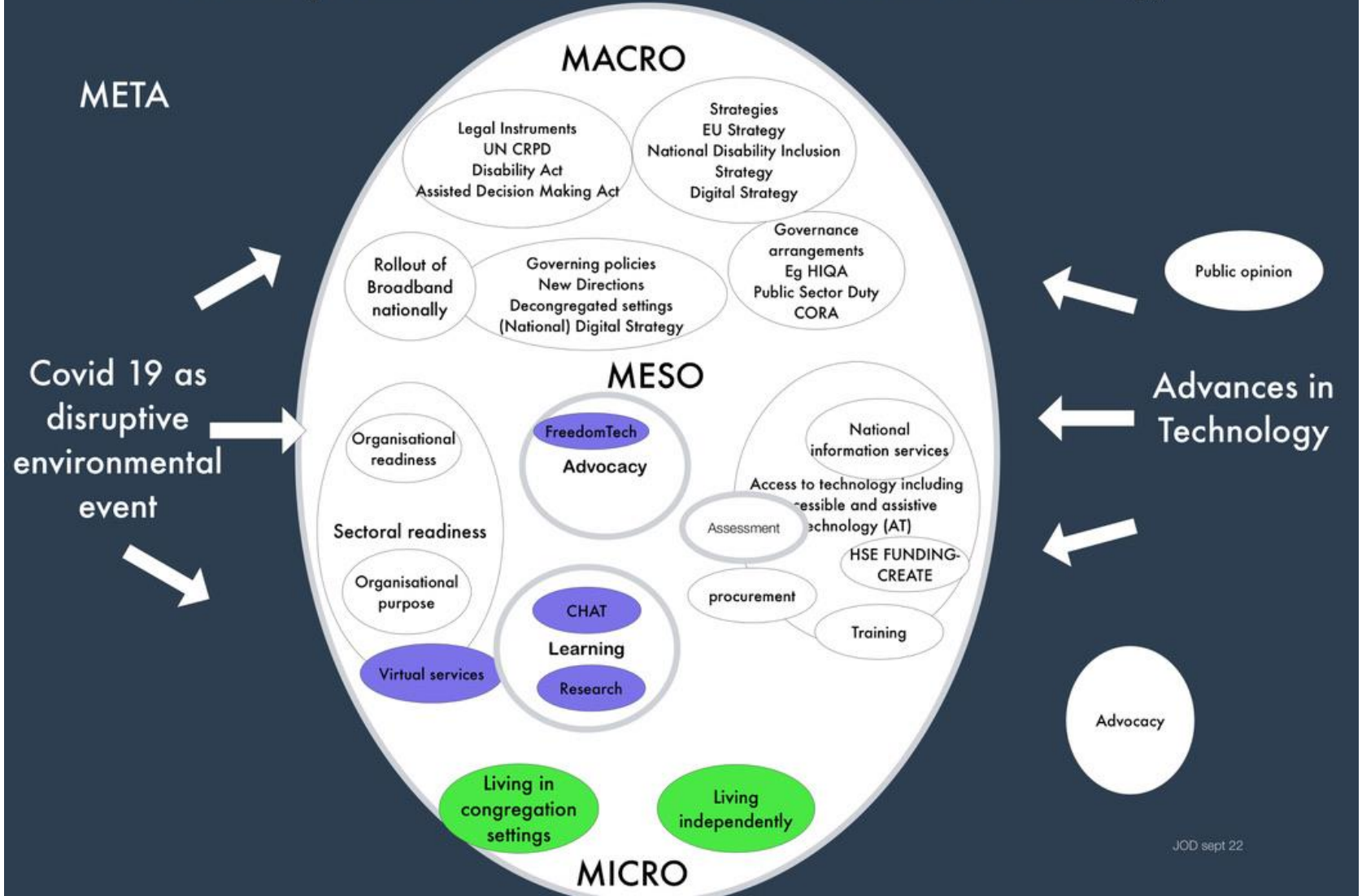
Virtual services acting as a Complex Adaptive System

Learning forward together:
How to create safe virtual spaces
How staff can create the conditions
for psychological safely,
meaningful connection
through their online presence

https://qrco.de/joanodonnell.

Joan.odonnell.2020@mumail.ie

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Disability Services and Accessible and Assistive Technology

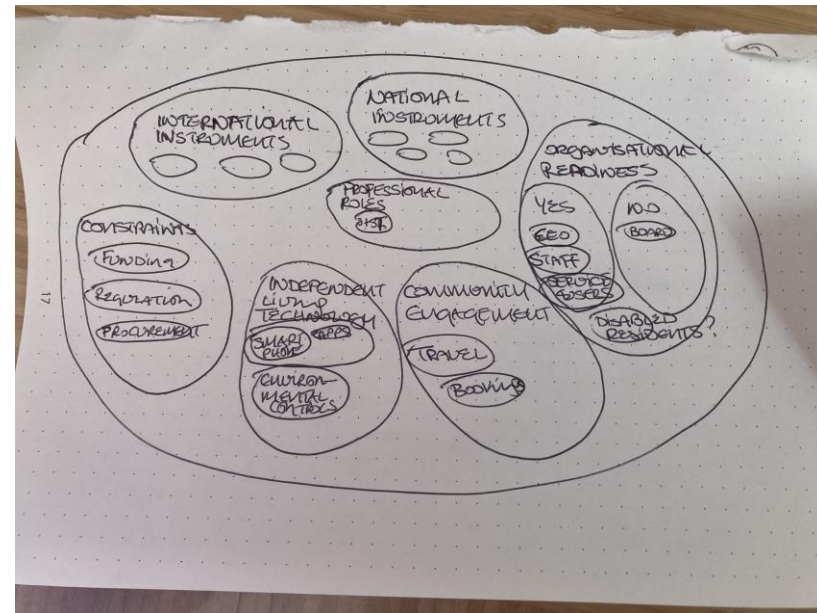**Q1 WHAT IS YOUR SYSTEM AND YOUR ROLE WITHIN IT?**

MAP YOUR SYSTEM

A systems map is a diagram to show what is in and outside of your system from your perspective

Plenty of paper!

Draw a big oval shape - not boxes!
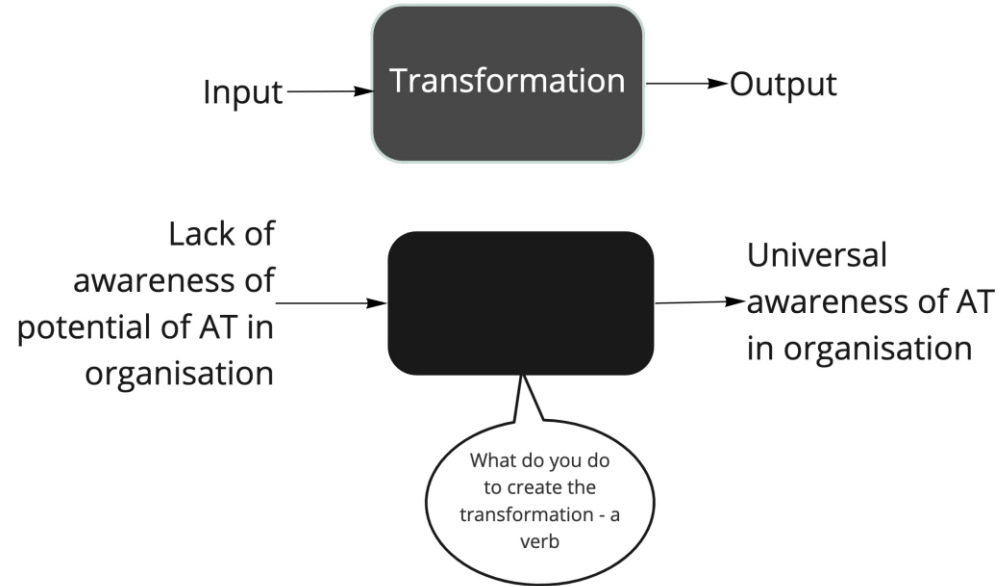It helps to put everything in and group them

Also important to know what is outside of your boundary

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WHAT IS THE TRANSFORMATION YOU SEEK?

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TRANSFORMATION

Input → **Transformation** → Output

Lack of awareness of potential of AT in organisation → ■ → Universal awareness of AT in organisation

What do you do to create the transformation - a verb

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WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST AND BOLDEST ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO LEARN FORWARD?

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Technology

Learning forward together:
How to create safe virtual spaces
How staff can create the conditions
for psychological safely,
meaningful connection
through their online presence

https://mailchi.mp/328e877148f
9/joanodonnellresearch.

Joan.odonnell.2020@mumail.ie

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THANK YOU!!!!!

@joanode