The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) was launched in November 2006 by the Minister for Health and Children Mary Harney, TD. TILDA, the most ambitious study on ageing ever undertaken in Ireland, will provide comprehensive information on the health, social and economic circumstances of up to 10,000 Irish adults, aged 50 years and over and how these circumstances change over a 10-year period. The study is being undertaken by a cross-institutional, multidisciplinary team of experts from the Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Economic and Social Research Institute, the National University of Ireland Galway, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork and University College Dublin. TILDA’s funders are Atlantic Philanthropies and Irish Life.
By 2036, one in five Irish people will be 65 years old or older. The greatest increase will occur in the over-65 age group. Ageing on this scale is an unprecedented phenomenon in Irish history. In stark contrast to the epidemic importance of ageing, there is an acute shortage of social, economic and health information on older persons in Ireland. In addition, we need to have a better understanding of the economic, social and health changes that have taken place in Ireland in recent years. The data from TILDA will help to fill this gap and will provide policymakers in the fields of social care, social policy, pension planning and biotechnology with a unique knowledge base. TILDA is essential to underpin future planning and to ensure a healthy and happy life span for the people of Ireland.

TILDA Aims

- The study is designed to understand the current status and change of needs of older people, in particular
  - Using a range of quality-of-life indicators of older people's lives
  - Physical and psychological needs of older people
  - Social activities and social contacts of older people
  - Health and social needs of families and care of older relatives
  - Understanding environmental and socioeconomic aspects of healthy ageing
  - Contributions that older people can make to society and the economy
  - How the findings of the TILDA study can be used to plan the future of older people and how will promote healthy aging and support
  - What other factors affect the older people's lives

ANNUAL REVIEW

Towards making Ireland the best place to grow old

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Major Developments in 2007

- The following have been made in 2007:
  - A high-quality research team, including a variety of experienced researchers
  - Cross-sectional research
  - A longitudinal research stream
  - The plans for the future study, including research on an additional longitudinal study in the area of housing
  - Collaboration with Cometis to research in health-related areas, including the role of older people in society, in particular in the area of healthy aging research on personal health and research on the measurement of performance and evaluation
  - Collaboration to continue to collaborate with Cometis to develop a longitudinal study of age-related processes at an international level in collaboration with the European Commission
  - The continuation of this high-level investment in research with the aim of making the study required to national policy and research

Facts about Ageing

- The proportion of people aged 65 years or older is projected to grow from 19% of the total population to 23% of the total population by 2016. The National Ageing Strategy aims to promote the health, well-being and quality of life of older people.
- The project will provide for an increase in the number of people aged 65 years or older from 19% of the total population in 2001 to 23% of the total population by 2016.

TILDA Lead Funders

- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Irish Life

The Atlantic Philanthropies

Through our work in ageing, we seek to support programmes, organizations and communities that help create independent lives with dignity, choice and meaning.

Iris Hanafin, T.D.
By 2030, one in five Irish people will be 65 years old or older. The greatest increase will occur in the oldest age group, ageing on this scale is an unprecedented phenomenon in Irish history. In stark contrast to the evident importance of ageing, there is an acute shortage of social, economic and health information on older persons in Ireland. In addition, we need to have a better understanding of the economic, social and health changes that have taken place in Ireland in recent years. The data from TILDA will help to fill this gap and will provide policymakers in the fields of health, social care, pension planning and biotechnology with a unique knowledge base. TILDA is essential to underpin future planning and to enhance the health and happy life span for the people of Ireland.

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TILDA Lead Funders

The Irish Life Charitable Trust.

Facts about Ageing

The proportion of people in Ireland aged 65 years or over is projected to increase from 15% of the population in 2009 to 24% by 2050. The Irish National Centre for Ageing Research at UCD (INCRU) estimate that over 1.1 million people aged 65 years and over will need informal care in 2050. The OECD estimates that Ireland is one of 12 countries in Europe with the highest risk of low-income in retirement.

The Irish Longevity Study on Ageing (TILDA) has been launched by the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney TD. TILDA, the most ambitious study on ageing ever undertaken in Ireland, will provide comprehensive information on the health, social and economic circumstances of up to 10,000 Irish adults, aged 50 years and over, and how these circumstances change over a 10-year period. The study being conducted by a team of experts from the Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Economic and Social Research Institute, the National University of Ireland Galway, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork and University College Dublin. TILDA’s funders are the Atlantic Philanthropies and Irish Life.