LegacyNet Publications Policy

Version 4: 19th February 2025

Version control – summary of changes

Version 1 to 2 **14th Nov 2024**	Revised Appendix 1 added to reflect PhD and MSc theses Added text in Section 1.1 of policy text to reflect agreement that designated lead statisticians (members of the Statistics Working Group) on specific manuscripts who are located at a field site are not included in the nomination of the lead author for a paper from a site i.e. authorship for statistical expertise is possible and is independent of site. In Section 1.1, LegacyNet Directors can expect authorship on all-site papers because of their role in developing and framing the research questions, as well as co-ordination of the whole network. Added section 1.4 to reflect approval needed for LegacyNet data in PhD and MSc theses. Sections 2.4 to 2.6 modified to better reflect the experience to date in communicating about planned papers.
Version 2 to 3 **9th Nov 2024**	Section 1.2 has been updated to include text that must be added as an acknowledgement for single or subset of sites papers.
Version 3 to 4 **19th Feb 2025**	Section 1 has been updated to note that when a planned publication or output using LegacyNet deviates substantially from the original approved proposal, that an updated publications proposal must be sent for re-approval by the Publications Committee.

Publications Committee: Terms of Reference

Roles of the Publications Committee:

- advances the quality of the science and scientific outputs from LegacyNet
- supports co-ordination across LegacyNet publications through communication with lead authors e.g. to avoid overlap of manuscripts ,
- works to provide guidance on procedures and authorship guidelines, and
- serves as the body of last resort for resolution of authorship disputes within LegacyNet.

Members of Publications Committee (March 2022):

Martijn Bezemer,

Caroline Brophy, (LegacyNet Director)

Olivier Huguenin,

John Finn (Chair of Publications Committee, LegacyNet Director),

Carsten Malisch, (LegacyNet Director)

Sebastian Meyer,

Marie-Noëlle Thivierge

The committee should meet a minimum of two times per year. An Agenda to be prepared and circulated in advance by the Chair. Meetings will be minuted, and circulated among the Committee only (not to wider LegacyNet participants, to protect anonymity when sensitive discussions take place).

The LegacyNet Directors will email a summary of the Committee's activities to the LegacyNet participants, at least once per year

Role of LegacyNet Directors to support Publications Committee

Undertake network-scale communication on behalf of the Publications Committee.

Receive manuscript proposals and forward them to the Publications Committee.

Review the final Publication Submission checklist and give final approval that the manuscript accords with LegacyNet Publications policy.

Publications policy

Publications from LegacyNet

The willingness of many scientists to cooperate and collaborate is what makes LegacyNet possible. Because LegacyNet encompasses a diverse group of people from all over the globe, and relies on many data contributors to create datasets for analysis, writing scientific papers can be more challenging than with more traditional projects. We have attempted to lay out ground rules to establish a fair process for establishing authorship, and to be inclusive while not diluting the value of authorship on a manuscript. Please engage with the LegacyNet manuscript-writing process knowing you are helping to forge a new model of doing collaborative international ecology.

1. LegacyNet data and publication

The data arising from each LegacyNet individual experiment will be compiled into a common database for use in multi-site analyses and joint multi-site papers. The database will ultimately be published fully Open Access. LegacyNet was open for new members until early 2022.

Data from each site must be provided to the LegacyNet Directors in the data recording spreadsheet that has been provided on the LegacyNet website. Other formats will not be accepted. Do not make alterations to the template except those directed to. By contributing data into the common database, member sites must confirm that they have followed the LegacyNet protocol and declare any deviations from the protocol. Publication of LegacyNet data will be guided by the principles outlined in the following sub-sections.

When LegacyNet data is planned to be used for example, in a journal publication or presentation at a conference, there is a requirement to contact the Publications Committee in advance for approval using the publications proposal form (https://legacynet.scss.tcd.ie/publications.php).

NB: when a planned publication or output using LegacyNet data deviates from an original approved proposal, then an updated publications proposal must be sent for re-approval by the Publications Committee.

1.1. Authorship on journal publications of LegacyNet data from all sites

It is anticipated that there will be multiple 'all-site' journal publications and high impact journals will be targeted. LegacyNet members wishing to lead or propose ideas for an 'all-site' paper will prepare a proposal for the Publications Committee for approval (Appendix 1: Manuscript Proposal). The LegacyNet website will show the current priority topics for 'all-site' journal publications.

The nominated scientific lead from each member site that has contributed data or contributed to the analysis of data will be included in the authorship of a given multi-site paper, provided they also contribute to the scientific development of the paper. We expect no more than one author per site.

Every all-site paper will have at least one associated statistician that is on the Statistics Working Group. Such statisticians should be clearly identified and agreed by the lead author as part of the planning of an all-site paper. Significant contribution to the statistical analysis by a member of the Statistics Working Group is sufficient for authorship. For members of the Statistics Working Group who are geographically based at a field site, their authorship on an all-site paper does not prohibit

another contributor from the field site being a co-author. (Members of the Statistics Working Group are considered to be independent of the site.)

There is also the option for individuals at one site to agree locally on how they distribute their effort and authorship across LegacyNet all-site papers to which that site contributes data. For example, one person may lead the local effort for a selected paper, and be the sole author from that site; another person at that same site may lead the local effort for a different paper, and be the sole author from that site. The securing of funding and/or provision of technical assistance alone is not sufficient justification for authorship.

LegacyNet Directors can expect authorship on all-site papers at least because of their role in developing and framing the research questions, as well as co-ordination of the whole network. They will also review and give feedback on the draft papers.

1.2. Journal publications of LegacyNet data from a single site or sub-sets of sites

Before the multi-site papers are published, it is not allowed for individual sites to publish (in peer review journals) data from their own individual site, or a sub-set of LegacyNet sites, on the topics that will be covered by multi-site papers, i.e. on the grassland yield or quality or follow-on crop data. However, papers from individual sites (or a sub-sets of sites) addressing different scientific questions to those addressed in the multi-site papers from the core experiment are permitted. For example, if an individual site (or a subset of sites) has taken measurements beyond the ones required in Section 1.2, or has sown additional plots to test extra treatments, they could publish these data as a stand-alone site paper. Such papers will be likely to (justifiably) have more than one author from the same site.

NB: Proposals for papers using LegacyNet data from individual sites or sub-sets of sites, must be submitted to the Publications Committee for approval prior to the development of the paper (Appendix 1: Manuscript Proposal). This is imperative to protect the joint 'all-site' publications of the network and coordinate subsets of sites that wish to address similar additional questions.

Acknowledgement of LegacyNet data usage

Single or subset of sites papers that using LegacyNet data must include the following text in the acknowledgements of the paper:

> We acknowledge use of the experimental design and elements of the sampling protocol developed by LegacyNet (https://legacynet.scss.tcd.ie/).

1.3. Conference presentation and publication of LegacyNet data

LegacyNet members are encouraged to present the results from their site at conferences, however, a coordinated approach needs to be taken with this to protect the all-site publications from the whole network. Please communicate any intentions to present LegacyNet results to the LegacyNet Directors well in advance of submission (of an abstract or paper) to a conference using the Manuscript Proposal template (Appendix 1). The guidelines are:

- Presentation at a national conference
  - with no published proceedings is allowed, but please notify the LegacyNet Directors before the conference with the details of your presentation;

- o with published proceedings in full paper length (2 pages or more) <u>requires approval</u> from the LegacyNet Directors prior to submission.
- Presentation at an international conference
  - o <u>with no published proceedings</u> please <u>notify</u> the LegacyNet Directors before submitting an abstract to the conference to coordinate potential multiple LegacyNet abstracts to the same conference;
  - o <u>with published proceedings in full length paper</u> (2 pages or more) <u>requires approval</u> from the LegacyNet Directors. This is necessary to maintain the group's possibility to publish these data in prestigious peer reviewed journals.

Generally, we intend to target high impact journals for LegacyNet all-site publications and need to make sure we don't jeopardise this by prior (uncoordinated) conference publication. We absolutely want to promote our network and its outputs, and encourage presentation at conferences, but please communicate conference presentations as directed – this will benefit us all in the long run!

1.4 PhD and MSc theses

It is expected that some postgraduate research theses (PhD or Masters) will use data from an individual LegacyNet site, or from a subset of LegacyNet sites, or from all LegacyNet sites. This requires approval from the LegacyNet Publications Committee using the Manuscript Proposal template (Appendix 1). Note that approval to publish as a PhD thesis chapter or MSc (by research) thesis does **NOT** equate to approval to publish in a journal. Separate approval is required for journal publication. However, if appropriate, the approvals for thesis chapter or MSc thesis and journal article can be submitted in the same document.

2. Overview of the LegacyNet authorship process

Our primary goals in the LegacyNet authorship process are to consistently, accurately and transparently attribute the contribution of each author on the paper, to encourage participation in manuscripts by interested scientists, and to ensure that each author has made sufficient contribution to the paper to warrant authorship.

2.1. **Read these authorship policies** and guidelines.

2.2. **Consult the LegacyNet Directors** for current proposals and active manuscripts, and contact the listed lead author on any similar proposal to minimize overlap, or to join forces. Also carefully read the LegacyNet authorship guidelines.

2.3. **Prepare a manuscript proposal**, and submit it to the three LegacyNet Directors who will forward it to the Publications Committee. Your proposal will list the lead author(s), the title and abstract body, and the specific data types or fields from LegacyNet dataset that you wish to use. You can also specify more detail about response and predictor variables (if appropriate), and indicate a timeline for analysis and writing.

Manuscript proposals will be reviewed by the Publications Committee to ensure there is sufficient distinction from proposed and ongoing LegacyNet papers. The Publications Committee may suggest altering or combining analyses and papers to resolve issues where overlap occurs.

2.4. **Circulate your publication plan and confirm authorship**. For approved proposals, the lead author will communicate with the network to outline the plan for the publication and to invite sites to nominate their author for the paper. At this stage, expressions of interest will also be invited for deep involvement in developing and writing the paper by 'core authors.

2.5. **Circulate your publication plan and manuscript for author contributions**.

For <u>network-scale analyses</u>, the lead author should arrange to circulate the draft manuscript to the authors.

For <u>sub-network-scale analyses of more limited scope (e.g. subset of sites or focus on additional responses)</u>, the lead author should circulate the manuscript to network collaborators who have indicated interest at the abstract stage, those who have contributed data, and any others who the lead author deems appropriate (and see Section 3 for further guidance).

In both cases, the subject line of the email should include the phrase "LEGACYNET PAPER." This email should also include a *deadline* by which time co-authors should respond.

The most appropriate timepoint to share your working draft with co-authors is different for each manuscript, but in general:

- sharing early drafts or figures allows for more effective co-author contribution. While ideally this would mean circulating the manuscript at a very early stage for opt-in to the entire network, it is acceptable and even typical to share early drafts or figures among a smaller group of 'core authors.'
- circulating essentially complete manuscripts does not allow the opportunity for meaningful contribution from co-authors, and is discouraged.

2.6. **Lead authors should** keep an email list of co-authors and **communicate** about progress (to co-authors and Publications Committee), including sharing drafts of analyses, figures, and text as often as is productive and practical. At a minimum, this should occur at the concept stage, mid-point, and close to final version of the manuscript.

2.7. **Lead authors should** circulate complete drafts among co-authors and consider comments and changes. Given the wide variety of ideas and suggestions provided on each LegacyNet paper, co-authors should recognize that the final decisions belong to the lead author.

2.8. **Final manuscripts should be reviewed and approved by each co-author before submission.**

2.9. **All authors and co-authors should** fill out their contribution as indicated in the Authorship Contributions (Appendix 3) and attach it as supplementary material to any Publications manuscript. Lead authors are responsible for ensuring consistency in credit given for contributions, and may alter co-author's entries in the table to do so. An easy way to manage the author table is with an online spreadsheet.

Note that the last author position may be appropriate to assign in some cases. For example, this would be appropriate for advisors of lead authors who are graduate students or postdocs and for papers that two people worked very closely to produce.

2.10. **The lead author should** carefully review the authorship contribution table to ensure that all authors have contributed at a level that warrants authorship and that contributions are consistently attributed among authors. Has each author made contributions in at least two categories? Did each

author provide thoughtful, detailed feedback on the manuscript? Authors are encouraged to contact the LegacyNet coordinators (Brophy, Finn or Malisch) or the Publications Committee about any confusion or conflicts.

2.11. **The lead author should** provide a Manuscript Submission checklist (Appendix 2) to the LegacyNet Directors before submitting the final manuscript. The lead author should notify the LegacyNet Directors of the submission and decision on the manuscript.

3 Who should be included?

3.1 Authorship must be earned through a *substantial contribution.* Traditionally, project initiation and framing, data analysis and interpretation, and manuscript preparation are all authorship-worthy contributions, and remain so for LegacyNet manuscripts. However, LegacyNet collaborators have also agreed that collaborators who lead a site from which data are being used in a paper can be included as co-authors, under the following conditions:
(1) the collaborators' site has contributed data being used in the paper's analysis; and
(2) that this collaborator makes additional contributions to the particular manuscript, including data analysis, writing, or editing.

For co-authorship on papers with sub-network-scale analyses of more limited scope, each individual must be able to check **at least two** boxes in the rubric, including contribution to the writing process. *These guidelines apply equally to manuscripts led by graduate students.*

3.2 Manuscripts published by LegacyNet will be accompanied by a supplemental table indicating authorship contributions. For all-site papers, a co-author is expected to have at least two of the categories checked in the Statement of Contributions (See Appendix 3).

Appendix 1: Manuscript Proposal

Please:

- Complete Section A to indicate the type of publication.
- Complete the relevant accompanying information template in Section B.
- Send the completed form by email to the LegacyNet Directors (Caroline, John and Carsten; email addresses at: https://legacynet.scss.tcd.ie/leaders.php).

The LegacyNet Directors will acknowledge receipt of requests that are for notification only. For requests requiring approval, the LegacyNet Directors will liaise with the Publications Committee on your behalf and will respond with a decision as soon as possible. **IF THE TYPE OF PUBLICATION YOU WISH TO PURSUE IS NOT LISTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIR OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (John Finn, john.finn@teagasc.ie) TO CLARIFY THE APPROVALS PROCESS.**

NB: when a planned publication or output using LegacyNet data deviates from an original approved proposal, then an updated publications proposal must be sent for re-approval by the Publications Committee.

Section A

Please indicate (✓) the publication type that best matches your submission

Publication type	Action	Tick (✓) where applicable
MAGAZINE		
Popular article (in a magazine)	Notify the LegacyNet Directors with the details of the article prior to submission. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 1**.	
CONFERENCE		
Presentation at a *national* conference with no published proceedings	Notify the LegacyNet Directors before the conference with the details of your presentation. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 2**.	
Presentation at an *international* conference with no published proceedings	Notify the LegacyNet Directors before submitting abstract to coordinate potential multiple LegacyNet abstracts to the same conference. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 2**.	
Presentation at a *national* conference with published proceedings	Requires approval from the LegacyNet Directors prior to submission. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 2**.	
Presentation at an *international* conference with published proceedings	Requires approval from the LegacyNet Directors prior to submission. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 2**.	
JOURNAL ARTICLE – please seek approval *prior* to the manuscript development		

Journal article using data from an individual LegacyNet site or from a subset of LegacyNet sites	Requires approval from LegacyNet Publication Committee. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 3**. It is important to provide a justification as to why using data from a single site or subset of sites is appropriate.	
Journal article using data from all LegacyNet sites	Requires approval from LegacyNet Publication Committee. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 3**.	
PHD THESIS CHAPTER OR MSC (BY RESEARCH) THESIS – please seek approval *prior* to the development / planning of the work. *Please note that approval to publish as a PhD thesis chapter or MSc (by research) thesis does **NOT** equate to approval to publish in a journal. Separate approval is required for journal publication. However, if appropriate, the approvals for thesis chapter or MSc thesis and journal article can be submitted in the same document (with both Information templates 3 and 4 completed).*		
PhD thesis chapter or MSc (by research) thesis using data from an individual LegacyNet site or from a subset of LegacyNet sites	Requires approval from LegacyNet Publication Committee. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 4**. It is important to provide a justification as to why using data from a single site or subset of sites is appropriate.	
PhD thesis chapter or MSc (by research) thesis using data from all LegacyNet sites	Requires approval from LegacyNet Publication Committee. Please provide the details requested in Section B **template 4**.	

Section B – information templates, delete those not applicable to your request

Information template 1: Magazine

Magazine name	
Article title	
Authors	
Any other relevant information (if any)	

Information template 2: Conference

Conference name	
Conference date	
Conference type	National / International (delete as appropriate)
Published proceedings	Yes / No (delete as appropriate and indicate length of publication if answering Yes)
Title of submission	
Authors	
Draft abstract	

Information template 3: Journal article

Manuscript title	
Lead author	
Intended author list	
Lead statistician (if already agreed)	
Target journal	
Data to be used	(Include which site(s) and what responses / additional treatments etc are to be analysed and included. Site numbers are available at https://legacynet.scss.tcd.ie/sites.php.)
Description of the research aims (research questions, type of analysis, likely scientific impact) **(250 – 400 words)**	
Justification as to why suited to individual site or subset of sites analysis	(Answer 'not applicable' if proposing an 'all site' paper.)
Indicative timeline (Estimated in each case)	Date for first draft ready for feedback: Date for advanced draft ready for feedback: Date for submission to journal: Any other relevant information regarding timeline:

Information template 4: Thesis chapter or MSc (by research) thesis

Type	PhD thesis chapter or MSc (by research) thesis (delete as appropriate)
Chapter or thesis title	
PhD or MSc thesis owner	
Supervisor(s)	
Data to be used	
Description of the research aims (research questions, type of analysis, likely scientific impact) **(250 – 400 words)**	
Justification as to why suited to individual site or subset of sites analysis	
Thesis submission timeline	
Additional comments	

Appendix 2. Example of Manuscript Submission checklist

Before **your manuscript is submitted:**

_____ Keywords include "Legacy Network (LegacyNet)"

_____ The Acknowledgments section contains the standard text:

> This work was generated using data from the LegacyNet (https://legacynet.scss.tcd.ie/) experiment, funded at the site-scale by individual researchers. Coordination and data management have been supported by funding to [Name] from [Funding Agency].

_____ Statement of Contribution has been included as supplementary material (headers should be those in the categories in Appendix 3.

_____ Cite the first major methodology paper XXXXX et al. 2024 as standard methods for LegacyNet (note: this will be clarified in due course). Be sure your paper's Methods section is reasonably consistent with this.

_____ The LegacyNet Directors approved the submission of the manuscript

After **your manuscript is submitted:**

_____ E-mail the LegacyNet Directors (Caroline Brophy, John Finn, Carsten Malisch) and the Publications Committee to notify them of the submission.

Once your manuscript has been *accepted*:

_____ Notify the LegacyNet Directors and the Publications Committee

Appendix 3. Authorship contributions

Each publication must have a Statement of Contribution as a supplement, and should indicated the contribution of each author to the following authorship categories.

Category	Example contribution
Developed and framed research question(s)	Originated idea for current analysis of LegacyNet data; contributed significantly to framing the ideas in this analysis at early stage of manuscript
Analysed data	Generated models (conceptual, statistical and/or mathematical), figures, tables, maps, etc.; generated a Network-scale dataset being used in this manuscript's analysis (e.g. soil chemistry, root biomass, etc.)
Contributed to data analyses	Provided comments, suggestions, and code for data analysis
Wrote the paper	Wrote the majority of at least one of the sections of the paper
Contributed to paper writing	Provided suggestions such as restructuring ideas, text and citations linking to new literature areas, copy editing
Site level coordinator	Coordinated data collection, proofing, and submission of data for at least one site used in this manuscript
LegacyNet Co-ordinators	Contributed substantially (i.e., more than 300 hours per year) to network level activities such as management of network data, recruiting and assisting new sites, finding funding for network level management activities

Example of a Statement of Contribution:

Co-author	Address	email	Developed and framed research questions	Analysed data	Contributed to data analyses	Wrote the paper	Contributed to paper writing	Site co-ordinator	LegacyNet Co-ordinator
A.N. Other1	Dept., Line1, Line2, line3	ANOther1@gmail.com	*		*		*	*	*
A.N. Other2	Dept., Line1, Line2, line3	ANOther2@gmail.com	*				*	*	
A.N. Other3	Dept., Line1, Line2, line3	ANOther3@gmail.com					*	*	
A.N. Other4	Dept., Line1, Line2, line3	ANOther4@gmail.com					*	*	