



NEW FOUNDATIONS SCHEME 2024

in partnership with:

Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid;
Department of Education and the
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth;
Department of Rural and Community Development;
Policing Authority;
The Heritage Council.

CALL DOCUMENT



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY



Cistithe ag

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

The Irish Research Council reserves the right to amend this call document.

Call document amended on 14.05.2024

Title of Strand 15 amended to 'Social Enterprise Impact and Skill Requirements New Foundations Award'

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1. Overview of the scheme

The mission of the Irish Research Council is to support excellence in research talent, knowledge and engagement, including by responding to emerging research and societal challenges and proactively assisting stakeholders to address these complex issues.

Our [Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#) seeks to position us as a partner of choice nationally and internationally by supporting excellent research that addresses the challenges of our time. It also emphasises the importance of facilitating the sharing of research and innovation to the maximum extent possible.

New Foundations is a key driver in progressing these strategic priorities by enabling awardees to pursue research, networking or dissemination activities within and across the diversity of disciplines. The scheme provides support for:

- research actions;
- the development of networks and consortia;
- conference and workshop development; and
- capacity building for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Since 2015, over 250 community, voluntary and charity organisations have engaged across our programmes with 479 funded projects and an associated investment in excess of €9,000,000. This vibrant sector plays an important role in supporting different groups in society, including the more vulnerable or marginalised. Through partnerships with researchers, diverse community organisations can bring new evidence and insights to enhance their services and impact for those that need them.

The New Foundations scheme also includes strands supported by government departments and agencies. In each of the past six years, a dedicated strand of the call has provided opportunities for researchers to work on important areas of policy, including global development, our shared island, crime, creativity and children. The collaboration between researchers and policymakers represented in these awards aligns with the ambitions of [Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy](#) to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and deliver enhanced outcomes for citizens and society.

New Foundation Awards are governed by the information contained in the call document, the [General Terms and Conditions for Principal Investigator-led Awards](#), and the Letter of Offer which is sent to successful applicants. Please read this call document carefully before submitting your application.

The Research and Innovation Bill 2024 provides for the establishment of a new National Research and Innovation Funding Agency through the amalgamation of the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). Subject to the completion of the legislative process, it is expected that Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland will be established in 2024.

2. Strand descriptions

This year, the call features two open strands together with five strands run in partnership with government departments and agencies, and the civil society sector. These seven strands are summarised below with further detail included in the appendices.

Please take note that the IRC has introduced a new strand, Strand 1c, details of which are captured in this call document. Questions can be submitted to newfoundations@research.ie and will be addressed in the FAQ document.

Strand	Title	Funder	Description	Further information	Maximum award amount	Duration
Strand 1a	Enhancing Civic Society	Irish Research Council	Supporting small, discrete collaborative projects between researchers and civic society groups in the community and voluntary sector	Appendix 1	€12,000	9 or 12 months
Strand 1c	Interdisciplinary Research Networking Awards	Irish Research Council	An interdisciplinary research networking strand building capacity for research to solve societal problems and challenges relating to the green transition, digital transition, demographic change and societal shocks.	Appendix 2	€10,000	9 or 12 months
Strand 4	'A Better World' New Foundations Awards	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)	Networking awards to form consortia for prospective global north-south research partnerships focused on areas of strategic importance to Ireland's Policy for International Development	Appendix 3	€10,000	9 months
Strand 4b	Education for Global Citizenship & Education for Sustainable Development	Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Children, Equality, Disability,	Supporting research, networking and collaboration for the purpose of enhancing understanding and influence attitudes, behaviours, and beliefs to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4.7 . This includes issues such as equity, poverty	Appendix 4	€10,000	12 months

		Integration and Youth, Department of Education	reduction, economic growth, social exclusion, hunger, and climate change. Research can be of a global, national or local level as action is needed across all levels of society from early years through to adult education			
Strand 10	Exploring Policing and Community Safety New Foundations Award	Policing Authority	Supporting research seeking to bring the needs or experiences of communities to life in a manner that contributes to enhancing police and community relations.	Appendix 5	€20,000	9 months
Strand 15	Social Enterprise Impact and Skill Requirements New Foundations Award	Department of Rural and Community Development	Supporting pioneering research on social enterprise in Ireland, towards: developing mechanisms to measure the social, and economic impact of social enterprises across the full spectrum of social enterprise, on their environmental impact, and on better understanding the skills they currently require in line with the current National Social Enterprise Policy and international best practice.	Appendix 6	€20,000	9 months
Strand 17	The Heritage Council New Foundations Award	The Heritage Council	Supporting research and innovation in all aspects of built, cultural and natural heritage and the application of emerging technologies in heritage contexts.	Appendix 7	€10,000	9 months

Strands 4, 4b, 10, 15 and 17 are funded by a government department, agency or independent statutory body, and, accordingly, there will be a strong partnership in place for the duration of the research and in the dissemination of the results. New Foundations awards are led by an individual principal investigator (PI) who is named in the application. Applicants are encouraged to integrate intersectoral partnership across the project lifecycle from design stage through to dissemination.

The various strands aim to foster ‘engaged research’. In the Campus Engage report, [Engaged Research Framework](#), this is described as ‘a wide range of research approaches and methodologies that share a common interest in collaboration with societal partners. [Engaged research](#) aims to improve, understand, or investigate an issue of public interest or concern, including societal challenges and sustainable development goals. It is advanced *with* community partners rather than for them’.

3. Key dates

Call open	Thursday 9 th of May 2024 at 4pm
Briefing Webinar	Thursday 16 th of May 2024 at 10am
FAQ deadline	Thursday 13 th of June 2024 at 4pm
Applicant deadline	Thursday 20 th of June 2024 at 4pm
Endorsement deadline	Thursday 27 th of June 2024 at 4pm
Outcome	October 2024
Project Start Date	Q4 2024

4. Eligibility

- Applicants must be based at an [eligible higher education institution \(HEI\) or research-performing organisation \(RPO\) in Ireland](#).
- Applicants must hold a doctoral degree.
- Applicants must, on the call deadline, hold a contract of sufficient duration with their eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.
- Applicants may only make **one application** to the scheme in a given year.
- Current New Foundations award holders are eligible provided their proposal is clearly distinct from their current New Foundations award.
- While postgraduate scholars are not eligible to apply, their involvement in the proposed projects is encouraged.
- Note there are additional eligibility criteria specific to each strand (see appendices), and the research project must address the required thematic focus of the respective strand.

5. Applying to the scheme

All applications must be submitted and endorsed via the Irish Research Council's [Smart Simple application system](#) on or before the stated deadlines. Please refer to the guide for applicants for assistance with SmartSimple and creating and submitting an application, which is available on the Irish Research Council's [website](#).

For the following strands, applications to New Foundations should have an appropriate project partner(s):

Strand Number	Strand Detail	Letter of support Y/N	Note
Strand 1a	This must be a civic society partner with a CHY number that is registered with the Charities Regulator .	Y	Applicants to strand 1a must include the name and endorsement of the civic society partner as part of the application. The signed endorsement form must be uploaded to SmartSimple with the application using the template endorsement form available on our website.
Strand 1c	The PI can be from any discipline and may apply for funding along with a named applicant (Co-PI) from another discipline.		Applicants to strand 1c must include the name of the Co-PI as part of the application. There is a requirement to upload a signed letter of endorsement from the Co-PI's host institution as part of the application.
Strand 4	This must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education or research institution in an eligible partner country (see Appendix 2 for more information).	Y	Applicants to strand 4 must include the name and endorsement of the partner higher education or research institution as part of the application. The signed endorsement form must be uploaded to SmartSimple with the application using the template endorsement form available on our website.
Strand 4b	This must be an organisation that provides a contribution to the proposed activities such as advice, support, networking, or	N	Applicants to strand 4b must include the name of the relevant network of practitioners as part of the

	acting in an advisory or facilitating capacity. Partners/relevant network of practitioners may be statutory, non-statutory or voluntary organisations involved in developing, promoting or delivering the project		application. There is no requirement to upload a signed endorsement form as part of the application.
Strand 10	This must be an organisation that provides a contribution to the proposed activities such as advice, support, networking, or acting in an advisory or facilitating capacity. Partners may be statutory, non-statutory or voluntary organisations involved in developing, promoting or delivering the project.	N	
Strand 15	No project partner required	N	
Strand 17	No project partner required	N	

The terms of any partnership should be determined early, and relevant written agreements should be in place prior to the onset of the award. Consideration should be given to issues such as relative roles and responsibilities and governance arrangements when establishing partnership agreements.

An application will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding if:

- it has not been submitted via the online system by the stated deadline
- it has not been endorsed by the applicant's higher education institution by the stated deadline
- it is incomplete or exceeds the word limit
- it is not within the remit of the scheme
- it includes additional materials other than those requested
- it includes materials in a format other than those requested
- it is in a language other than English or Irish¹
- the applicant does not meet the relevant eligibility criteria for the scheme
- the applicant submits more than one application to the scheme
- the research project as proposed in the application does not meet the relevant eligibility criteria and thematic focus of the specific strand to which it has been submitted
- any section of it has been plagiarised

¹ Applicants submitting Irish language applications are invited to submit an English language translation to newfoundations@research.ie. Should an English translation not be provided by the applicant, the Irish Research Council may provide a translation to the assessors.

- any information supplied is false, misleading or unverifiable with appropriate documentation
- the research project as proposed in the application has previously been funded in full, or in part, by the Irish Research Council
- canvassing on behalf of applicants occurs

For reasons of transparency and fairness to all applicants, the Irish Research Council will not enter into written or telephone correspondence with any individual about the assessment process or their eligibility to apply.

If you do not find the answer to your query in the call documentation, you should contact the research office in your proposed institution, which will provide information and clarification on the call. Research offices can send any queries they are unable to clarify to newfoundations@research.ie. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers will be posted on the Irish Research Council’s website and updated once the call opens until 13th of June 2024.

6. Eligible expenditure

Awards are not intended to substitute or augment funds available under national and international programmatic research actions.

Only eligible costs as set out in the table below will be considered. All costs sought must be sufficiently detailed and justified in the proposed budget. Value for money is a criterion in the assessment process. All expenses must be incurred within the lifetime of the project. Where fully justified, costs for partner involvement can be included on the award in accordance with HEI/RPO institutional rules and with relevant local employment practices. Costs should be appropriate to the career stage of the partner and should be included in ‘Staff costs’ category in the budget.

Travel	Requests for travel and accommodation should provide details of the number and duration of trips proposed. Travel, accommodation and subsistence, where required, will only be permitted on a vouched basis. Requests for travel, accommodation and subsistence should be in line with institutional norms. Every effort must be made to ensure that air travel, where used, is economical. Business class travel is not an eligible cost.
Research consumables (maximum of €1,000)	An outline of all consumables that will be used during the course of the research should be provided alongside a detailed justification for all costs, e.g: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • books and journals • archival research costs • software • pay-as-you-go access to national research infrastructure

	Please note that equipment is not an eligible research expense under this scheme.
Training	Expenditure to be incurred as a result of general and/or specialist disciplinary skill training can be included.
Dissemination	Research dissemination is a vital component of the New Foundations scheme. Accordingly, it is expected that the budget will reflect costs associated with the dissemination of research e.g. conference attendance (provide details of name and location where possible), leaflets, reports, websites and other knowledge exchange activities. The Irish Research Council fully endorses the principle of open access , noting its important role in promoting the exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of research findings.
Staff	All staff costs must be specified and fully justified. Institutional rates should be used for all staff costs sought. The recruitment of staff must be done openly, through public advertisement. Teaching buyout/academic replacement costs are an eligible cost and may be pro rata. PhD stipends are not an eligible cost.
Other	Where not covered by the categories above, and relevant to the viability of the research, other costs can be considered. All costs must be specified and fully justified.

7. Sex/gender dimension

The Irish Research Council supports gender equality in the research and innovation system. All applicants are required to give careful consideration to whether there is a potential sex or gender dimension that may arise in the course of their research. While there are research projects in which biological sex and/or gender may not be relevant in terms of the research content, it is well established that, where relevant, not integrating sex and gender analysis into the design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of the research can lead to poor results and missed opportunities. The [Gender Toolkit in EU-funded research](#), aims to give the research community practical tools to integrate gender aspects into their research, including gender equality (equal outcomes for women and men) and integration of sex/gender analysis in research content.

Where the applicant is involved in the organisation of conferences, networking or dissemination activities connected with their research project, due regard should be given to gender balance within panel(s).

8. Evaluation process

The Irish Research Council is committed to rigorous peer review of its funding programmes in line with international best practice. As such, all eligible applications will be internationally peer reviewed. The assessors will evaluate applications on the basis of the materials supplied, arrive at an overall judgement of standard and make final recommendations to the Irish Research Council. All awards will be made on the basis of excellence.

Qualitative feedback will not be provided to applicants under this scheme. Quantitative feedback will be provided upon request.

All applications will be evaluated under four criteria as outlined in the below table:

Criteria	Description	Maximum score
Quality of proposal and applicant	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent is the proposal original, innovative and significant in the context of relevant research?• To what extent does the applicant's research track record, outputs to date and relevant skills match the proposal?• To what extent is the proposal relevant to the strand topic?• Have the relevant ethical and sex/gender dimension issues been considered?	40
Impact and outcomes	<p>What is the value of the planned outputs, outcomes and deliverables, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the development of conferences, workshops or networking and collaboration activities• the quality, engagement and merits of the proposed partnerships or networks• the contribution of the proposal towards future research funding applications or opportunities• the clarity, quality and innovativeness of plans for public dissemination of research outputs and/or promotion of academic research within and across the diversity of disciplines <p>The impact of the proposal should be demonstrated by applicants. A range of impact categories for consideration are listed in the Campus Engage guide Engaged Research Planning for Impact</p>	40

Project management and implementation	Is the proposal feasible and credible, i.e. are the practical arrangements implementable, coordinated and manageable?	10
Value for money	Is the funding sought justified and good value for money?	10

Appendix 1
Strand 1a: Enhancing Civic Society
Funded by the Irish Research Council
These awards will be 9 or 12 months in duration

Background

Ireland faces key social, environmental and economic challenges, the complexity and scale of which have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy crisis and geopolitical conflict. A number of challenges are specific to Ireland, whilst others are shared with other nations in Europe and globally. The [various challenges](#) we share as nations are well-articulated, particularly in the form of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Horizon Europe has integrated societal challenges as a key pillar of the framework, in continuation of the Horizon 2020 approach.

Ireland has a cross-governmental challenge-based approach through the [National Planning Framework \(Ireland 2040\)](#) and the associated [National Development Plan](#). The framework sets out ten national strategic outcomes, the achievements of which are necessary to ensure prosperity, equality, a sustainable future, and protection of our natural environment. As stated in the framework, there is strong alignment between the national strategic outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals; there is also a strong relationship between the national strategic outcomes and [Horizon Europe](#) societal challenges.

The achievement of national goals will be challenging in themselves and will require an unprecedented level of collaboration and coordination both within the State and on an interjurisdictional basis. Given the myriad agencies that will be at the 'coal-face' in implementation of the National Development Plan, major opportunities for researchers to form new connections and links will emerge, regionally and locally, and in doing so will further demonstrate the value of the Irish research system as a national resource.

Excellent research across all disciplines has a major role to play in developing new knowledge and evidence, which policy and decision-makers and practitioners can utilise to guide action and interventions on the path to successfully achieving national societal challenges. [Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy](#) highlights the importance of strengthening evidence-based policymaking and aims to make the public research and innovation system more accessible to policy makers. Maximising the contribution of the research system in this regard requires a strong emphasis on building robust mechanisms to ensure the exchange of knowledge between policy and practice environments, including building the necessary relationships with the public sector, civil society, or elsewhere, to support this process.

Strand description

This strand will support small, discrete collaborative projects within a national context between researchers and civic society partners. The civic society partner must be a charity with a CHY number and registered with the [Charities Regulator](#).

Civic society partners are not required to financially contribute to the project. This may however be a feature of some proposals, where appropriate. The charity and researcher will work out an agreement between them where both parties are satisfied. This is additional funding to the award provided by the IRC and would not be governed by our terms and conditions, rather it is at the discretion of the civic society partner.

A civic society partner can support more than one application to the New Foundations strand 1a provided the research projects proposed are clearly distinct. Please note that, in the event that more than two proposals per civic society partner under Strand 1a are deemed fundable, the Irish Research Council will only be in a position to fund the two top-ranked proposals per civic society partner under this strand.

The objectives of this strand are to:

- Develop networks between academia and civic society partners in the community and voluntary sector
- Encourage knowledge exchange between these groups
- Develop expertise to support the engagement of civic society partners
- Develop networks between academia and civic society partners
- Develop expertise to support the work of these organisations within the higher education community

Civic society partners interested in participating in this strand must collaborate with an eligible researcher. Those seeking to participate in the scheme can send a description of their organisation and potential area for collaboration along with contact details to newfoundations@research.ie. They will then be added to an updated spreadsheet and posted on the Irish Research Council's [website](#). These details should be submitted as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for a partnering researcher to submit a proposal.

Applications to this strand should develop a research idea or project, test a concept or theory, and/or develop partnerships through activities. Applications should clearly indicate why the project is important and how it speaks to the issues and concerns of the civic society partner with a focus on national collaboration.

It is a condition of acceptance of strand 1a awards that the awardee will contribute details of project outputs for dissemination activities and/or publications undertaken jointly by the Irish Research Council.

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit a final report on completion of the project. IRC will provide a final report template in advance of the project end date.

Appendix 2

Strand 1c: Interdisciplinary Research Networking Awards

Funded by the Irish Research Council

These awards will be 9 or 12 months in duration

Up to 5 awards will be made

Background

Ireland faces key social, environmental and economic challenges, the complexity and scale of which have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, technological change, demographic change, the energy crisis, geopolitical conflict and other societal shocks. A number of challenges are specific to Ireland, whilst others are shared with other nations in Europe and globally. The [various challenges](#) we share as nations are well-articulated, particularly in the form of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Horizon Europe has integrated societal challenges as a key pillar of the framework, in continuation of the Horizon 2020 approach and the IRC's COALESCE Scheme is the flagship all-disciplinary scheme for funding Irish applied research. Policy makers in Ireland and the EU seek to develop new approaches to the green transition, the digital transition, demographic change and societal shocks that are informed by evidence-based research findings and recommendations.

An important steppingstone for many researchers, for accessing funding under schemes such as COALESCE, is the need for funding opportunities such as the role New Foundations has in the research landscape in providing seed funding for small-scale research actions; the development of networks, consortia and workshops; and creative approaches to the communication of scientific concepts or complex societal challenges for a lay audience.

This year the IRC is introducing a new interdisciplinary strand to its New Foundations Scheme where it is envisaged researchers will use this opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary research, as well as availing of this opportunity in building networks that they can then carry onto further applications while building up their record and reputation. As such this new strand encourages both new and existing collaborations between two principal investigators from different disciplines (a PI and a Co-PI), in order to build research teams with capacity to tackle societal challenges that require interdisciplinary knowledge, methodologies and experience.

Strand description

This new IRC funded strand provides a unique opportunity to make interdisciplinary research networking connections, building capacity for research to solve societal problems and challenges, specifically the green transition, the digital transition, demographic change and societal shocks.

Applicants from all AHSS and STEM disciplines are encouraged to apply. The strand is open to either AHSS or STEM leadership, with any combination of an AHSS and STEM co-partnership. The PI must name a Co-PI on their application who will add their expertise to specifically target interdisciplinary research addressing national societal challenge. IRC welcomes applications from an AHSS-led or STEM-led applicant. Evidence of an existing partnership between the PI and Co-PI is not a prerequisite to applying to the scheme and as such, this strand offers the opportunity for new partnership and consortia building however existing pairing between disciplines can be built on also.

Team members may reside in different institutions or the same institution, further lending the opportunity to researchers to build partnerships outside their own departments and/or institutions and affording researchers the opportunity to bridge academic and policy realms so to have a greater impact on the public and for widening academic engagement.

Funding will be provided by the IRC to the lead PI's HEI/RPO and will be governed by our PI-led terms and conditions. The lead PI and their host institution are responsible in making sure the correct Data Sharing Agreements and interinstitutional agreements are in place with the institution of the Co-PI.

A Co-PI can only support one application to the New Foundations strand 1c.

The objectives of this strand are to:

- Develop interdisciplinary networks to solve societal challenges
- Encourage knowledge exchange between these networks
- A challenge-based focus which can widen the kinds of impact that Irish research can have beyond research solving problems which are very technical or industrial-focused to research that solves problems that are at the very heart of how we live and interact as human beings.
- Develop the PI and Co-PI's track record and networks to apply for other larger awards

Applications to this strand should develop a research idea or project, test a concept or theory, and/or develop partnerships through activities. The focus of the research will be to address societal challenges relating to the green transition, the digital transition, demographic change or societal shocks, with a view to developing evidence-based policy advice. Applications should clearly indicate why the project is important and how the interdisciplinary aspect will bring added value to the project.

It is a condition of acceptance of strand 1c awards that the awardee will contribute details of project outputs for dissemination activities and/or publications undertaken jointly by the Irish Research Council.

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit a final report on completion of the project. The IRC will provide a final report template in advance of the project end date.
- Awardees will be required to provide a policy brief (5 – 10 pages) to the IRC outlining recommendations for policymakers with respect to the societal challenge that they choose to address in the research proposal.

Appendix 3
Strand 4: 'A Better World' New Foundations Awards
Funded by Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)
Up to 4 awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 9 months in duration

This strand will provide researchers with an opportunity to carry out networking activities or to form consortia for prospective global north-south research partnerships. Successful proposals will be funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and will be in areas of strategic importance to Ireland's development cooperation programme.

This strand is designed to build a pipeline of research collaborations for the IRC COALESCE call, focusing on innovative responses to global challenges within the framework of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(Agenda 2030\)](#). It is envisaged that up to four such networking grants will be awarded, of up to a maximum of €10,000 each, to support collaboration between Irish and partner research institutions, with a view to making a submission under COALESCE in future calls. Proposals may be bilateral or multilateral in nature. The lead applicant must be based in an eligible HEI or RPO in Ireland. The RPO in the eligible partner country must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education/research institution. In exceptional circumstances, other RPOs will be considered.

Eligible partner countries: any Official Development Assistance (ODA)-eligible country on the African continent; any ODA-eligible Small Island Developing State (SIDS); Vietnam; Palestine; Laos; Cambodia; Myanmar.

It is anticipated that successful 2024 awardees of New Foundations strand 4 may apply to COALESCE strand 2B at the next available cycle. Successful awardees of strand 4 of New Foundations must be at least 3 years post-PhD at the time of applying to COALESCE and cannot already hold a COALESCE award at the time of application.

The DFA strand of COALESCE seeks to cultivate and to grow high-quality development research capacity both in Ireland and eligible partner countries in response to the key societal challenges and policy priorities outlined in [A Better World, Ireland's Policy for International Development](#). It is designed to encourage interdisciplinary approaches for knowledge generation that will produce rigorous and influential evidence and learning, with a view to impacting at a societal level in partner countries, as part of the implementation of *A Better World*.

Applicants may wish to consult the [2024 COALESCE Call Document, specifically the Better World Strand](#) for further information on the DFA research activities.

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit to the IRC a final report on completion of the project. The IRC will provide templates for this report.

- Awardees will be required to submit a short report (15-20 pages) and a presentation on the outcomes of the project to DFA (Irish Aid).

Appendix 4

**Strand 4b: Education for Global Citizenship and Education for Sustainable Development
Funded by Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid),
Department of Education and
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Up to 7 awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 12 months in duration**

This strand will support implementation of both the [Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy \(2021-2025\)](#) and the [Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development](#) – ESD to 2030.

Irish Aid defines Global Citizenship Education as a life-long educational process, which aims to increase public awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, inter-dependent and unequal world in which we live. By challenging stereotypes and encouraging independent thinking, GCE helps people to critically explore how global justice issues interlink with their everyday lives and how they can act to build a better world. This is particularly important in an increasingly globalized world faced with immense challenges, such as the effects of climate change, the COVID 19 pandemic, conflict in Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza and other locations across the globe, entrenched poverty and growing inequality, as well as misinformation-fuelled radicalization.

The [Global Citizenship Education strategy](#) is underpinned by the Code of Good Practice for Development Education (IDEA 2019) and covers a wide range of global themes including global poverty and hunger, migration, conflict, climate change, human rights and inequality.

The strand will also support implementation of the Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – ESD to 2030. ESD spans the continuum of education from early learning and care to third level research and beyond. ESD to 2030 will aim to ensure that, “all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.” (SDG 4.7).

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education are closely linked, sharing a focus on global justice, solidarity and interconnectedness as well as focusing on both the local and global dimensions of issues affecting the people and planet. Global Citizenship Education is sometimes called Development Education. At least one grant will be awarded for projects focused on GCE/ ESD in the Early Learning and Care sector.

The objectives of this Strand are to support research actions; develop networks and consortia; support conference and workshop development; and build capacity for interdisciplinary collaboration. DFA, DoE and DCEDIY are particularly interested in funding partnerships between researchers and practitioners in both formal, non-formal and informal education as well as partnerships between academia and other sectors, including civil society and private sector actors. Applicants will need to demonstrate they have coordinated with the relevant networks of practitioners such as the Irish Development Education Association, the Irish Environmental Network, Early Learning and Care Stakeholder Forum, Education and Training Boards as appropriate, in planning the research in order to ensure co-ordination across the sector, to encourage dialogue and to support linkages and synergies.

Research projects should focus on GCE/ ESD in both formal and non-formal education from early years to adult education on one or more of the following themes:

- Building capacity of teachers, educators and other practitioners at all levels of education, including youth workers and people working in the further education and training / adult and community education sectors.
- Supporting whole provider/ whole school/whole of institution approaches.
- Innovative solutions including use of new technologies to support teaching and learning.
- Engaging with new learners and audiences of all ages including empowering and mobilising youth, engaging with marginalised communities, and building links with diverse sectors including the private sector.
- The learning outcomes of GCE/ESD related interventions in both formal, non-formal and informal education with a focus on GCE/ESD approaches that bring about social and behavioural change for transformative action.

Proposals must be directly related to one or more of the themes outlined above.

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit to the IRC a progress report 6 months after the award commences and a final report on completion of the project. The IRC will provide templates for these two reports.
- Awardees will be required to submit a short report (15-20 pages) and a presentation on the outcomes of the project to DFA (Irish Aid), DoE and DCEDIY on completion of the project.

Appendix 5

Strand 10: Exploring Policing and Community Safety New Foundations Award

Funded by the Policing Authority

Up to two awards will be made under this strand

This award will be 9 months in duration

Background

“The concept of community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe in their own community. At the heart of this policy is the principle that every community has the right to be and feel safe in order to thrive and flourish.”² It is by its nature, a broad concept, potentially encompassing any policies, initiatives and programmes that might impact on a given community’s sense of safety or actual safety.³

The concept of a community safety model for policing has come to the fore in Ireland following recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI). The Report of the Commission stressed that while crime is a top priority for police, in practice the majority of police time is spent on harm prevention – providing service to people with mental health and addiction conditions, homeless people, children, elderly and others at risk. It recommended that this broader concept of community safety needs be embedded in legislation, and this is coming to fruition through the [Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill 2023](#) (PSCS)

The PSCS Bill provides for a community safety-oriented approach in a number of respects:

- The prevention of harm will be a specific statutory objective of the Garda Síochána;
- The establishment of a new framework at national and local level to improve community safety including the establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships, replacing the existing Joint Policing Committees. [Local Community Safety Partnerships](#) (LCSP) are being piloted in three areas around the country, in Dublin’s North Inner City, Waterford and Longford;
- The establishment of a National Office for Community Safety;
- A focus on the need for collaboration and coordination between various State agencies and other public service bodies in relation to improving community safety;
- The establishment of a Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) with a role in providing oversight of the Garda Síochána’s performance in relation to policing and community safety, including its activities aimed at preventing crime and preventing harm to people at risk;

Strand description

In light of the relevance of community safety to the current work of the Authority and its future transition to the Policing and Community Safety Authority, the Policing Authority wishes to support a collaborative project between researchers and community

² Department of Justice (October 2022) *Community Safety Policy Paper*

³ Ibid.

organisations to inform evidence-based policy and strategies in relation to policing and community safety. The objectives of this strand are to support research actions; develop networks and consortia; and build capacity for community and academic collaboration at community level.

The project can focus on any theme relevant to policing and community safety, which could include any of the following:

- Community collaborations with artists and creative practitioners to develop creative approaches to enhancing community voices, particularly amongst seldom heard communities;
- The use of existing data sets or the development of survey methodologies to assist in developing data informed approaches to community safety;
- Development of researcher and community collaborations or networks, in order to develop co-designed solutions to key policing or community safety challenges;
- Evidence based initiatives for reducing fear of crime, improving feelings of safety, or building confidence and trust in police at community level;
- Innovative approaches to enhancing community input into determining policing priorities, either locally or nationally;
- Engaging people with lived experience of addiction, mental health problems or homelessness in the community safety policy process.

While the Authority is open to a wide range of thematic and methodological approaches, applications need to clearly demonstrate how the project speaks to issues and concerns around policing and community safety in the context of the national and local policy landscape.

Applications should also demonstrate strong evidence of collaboration (across disciplines or Universities, and/or involving police or local communities).

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit to the IRC a progress report 6 months after the award commences and a final report on completion of the project. The IRC will provide templates for these two reports.
- Awardees will be required to submit a short final report (15-20 pages) on completion of the project. In the case of an arts-based project, specific alternative deliverables may be agreed with successful applicants.

Appendix 6

Strand 15: Social Enterprise Impact and Skill Requirements New Foundations Award Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Up to 2 awards will be made under this strand

This award will be 9 months in duration

Introduction

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) was established in July 2017 to provide a renewed and consolidated focus on rural and community development in Ireland. The Department's mission is "to promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland". In line with this mission, a key objective of the Department is to develop a strong policy framework and provide a full range of appropriate supports to improve the capability of organisations that deliver services to individuals and communities, tackle social issues, and contribute to a fairer and more inclusive society. Social enterprise comes within the policy remit of DRCD.

Objectives of DRCD:

The first [National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019 - 2022](#), launched was the first such policy for Ireland. Its successor, the National Social enterprise Policy for Ireland 2024-2027 is at an advanced stage of development and is expected to be published in Q1 2024. Similarly to the first policy, the new policy will lay out a policy framework with concrete actions under 5 core objectives in order to grow and sustain the social enterprise sector in Ireland over its lifetime. The new policy has a number of actions which define areas on which research is required to deliver on its policy objectives.

The main purpose of the Department's Irish Research Council's (IRC) New Foundations Scheme is to support pioneering research on social enterprise in Ireland. In partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development, this strand seeks to fulfil one (or more) of the following three policy commitments in the new policy, where research is required to deliver on policy objectives. Two awards will be made. Please note, wording in the final policy text may differ slightly from that presented here:

1. Undertake a research project to identify best practices in Social Impact Measurement.
2. Undertake research to better understand the potential or actual contribution / impact made by social enterprises in delivering on green transition / climate action targets.
3. Undertake research to identify specific skills, knowledge and competency requirements for social enterprises, to support the development of more focussed supports in this area.

Detail:

1. Undertake a research project to identify best practices in Social Impact Measurement

Stakeholders in Ireland have universally recognised the need for improved capacity for social enterprises to measure and communicate their social impact as reflected in recently published OECD and NESC reviews of social enterprise. Social impact measurement can demonstrate the value of a social enterprises work to the public, stakeholders and funding partners, and ensure intended objectives have been met.

Research for this action is encouraged towards:

- Developing mechanisms to measure the social and economic impact of social enterprises across the full spectrum of social enterprise in line with the current National Social Enterprise Policy and international best practice.
- Developing a framework / plan on how impact measurement might be more universally implemented across the full spectrum of social enterprise in Ireland in line with the current National Social Enterprise Policy and international best practice.

2. Undertake research to better understand the potential or actual contribution / impact made by social enterprises in delivering on green transition / climate action targets.

The potential contribution of the social economy, including social enterprises, in fulfilling our climate goals and achieving the twin green and digital transition to a low carbon economy is recognised by the EU Transition Pathway for the Proximity and Social Economy. This highlights the potential of the social economy business models to build community resilience to climate events and drive the twin green and digital transition. The new national social enterprise policy also recognises this potential, in the line with the Government's circular economy policy. However, the extent to which social enterprises are delivering on, or could deliver on climate action targets is currently not well understood. More research in this area is required.

Research for this action is encouraged towards delivering research on the potential or actual contribution / impact made by social enterprises in delivering on green transition / climate action targets.

3. Undertake research to identify specific skills, knowledge and competency requirements for social enterprises, to support the development of more focussed supports in this area.

The OECD review of social enterprise in Ireland⁴ notes that business, leadership, and management skills for social enterprises require further development. These include strategy, business planning, finance, risk management, marketing and human resources. Stakeholder engagement has also revealed that there is a need for skills in the areas of volunteer management, digital skills as well as new technologies such as AI. Stakeholders have also highlighted a need for training and development of board members within social enterprises and have noted issues relating to recruitment and retention. Over the lifetime of the new policy, tailored training and mentoring measures will be supported for social enterprises to ensure they have the skills needed for the future. To ensure this can be done effectively, research identifying the skill needs and organisational development needs of social enterprises is required.

Research for this action is encouraged towards:

Identifying specific skills, knowledge and competency requirements that social enterprises currently need to support the development of more focussed supports in this area.

Outputs

Awardees will be required to submit to the IRC a progress report 6 months after the award commences and a final report and presentation on completion of the project. IRC will provide templates for these two reports.

Awardees will be required to submit a short final report (15-20 pages) to DRCD on completion of the project.

⁴ <https://www.oecd.org/publications/boosting-social-entrepreneurship-and-social-enterprise-development-in-ireland-3115bcb6-en.htm>

Appendix 7

Strand 17: The Heritage Council New Foundations Award. 1 award will be made for a duration of 9 months.

Introduction

The Heritage Council was established under the [Heritage Act](#), 1995. It is an independent body which has a statutory responsibility pursuant to section 6 of the Heritage Act, 1995, "*to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage*". National heritage is defined in the Act as including monuments, architectural heritage, wildlife habitats, geology, archaeological objects, flora, landscapes, heritage gardens and parks, heritage objects (museum objects and archives), fauna, wrecks and inland waterways.

The Heritage Council's strategic plan [Our Place in Time \(2023-2028\)](#) outlines a firm commitment to supporting research in all aspects of heritage. Research is key to maintaining a true evidence-based vision for the Heritage Council. Research will become an integral part of the Council's engagement with society, adding value and richness to all aspects of the Council's work.

Objectives of the strand:

Ireland has a rich and varied tangible and intangible heritage. This strand seeks to fund research and innovation in the broad arena of heritage science, encompassing the arts, humanities, social science, science and technology. It aims to foster and develop academic and civil society networks and to promote collaborative approaches to the challenges and opportunities facing the heritage sector.

The project can focus on any aspect of built, cultural and natural heritage broadly outlined in the thematic descriptions below:

1

Climate Change and Heritage

UNESCO has described climate change as 'the one of the most significant threats to world heritage properties, potentially impacting their outstanding universal value, including their integrity and authenticity, and their potential for economic and social development at the local level.' Climate change, as revealed by gradual changes in environmental conditions coupled with changes in the occurrence of extreme weather events, is already affecting cultural and natural heritage sites and species. Research under this theme could include:

- An examination of ways the heritage sector can adapt to climate change
- An impact analysis of climate change on Ireland's heritage leading to evidence based policy recommendations
- Exploration of ways in which heritage may mitigate climate change for example through traditional skills and building materials, nature-based

	<p>solutions to extreme weather and cultural institutions contributing to heritage engagement and action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of guidelines for the protection of outdoor and indoor heritage assets in a changing climate • Examining appropriate and sustainable storage environments for heritage objects • Developing evidence-based solutions to the threat to heritage posed by increased flooding, changes in water levels, erosion, fires and other climate emergencies • Developing an evidence base for the efficacy of nature-based solutions to address climate threats including flooding, extreme heat, drought etc
2	<p>Archaeology and Built Heritage</p> <p>Recent years have seen significant advances in the archaeological discipline through developments in digital technology, advanced scientific analysis in the fields of genetics, chemistry and diet as well as landscape scale approaches to the past.</p> <p>In parallel with this, in the Irish context, we see a changing regulatory environment, e.g. new legislation, and a greater focus on avoidance or mitigation of any impact on historic assets faced with development. Nonetheless, numerous challenges remain. Alongside this, in an urban context we have seen the development of the practice of heritage-led regeneration. While much work has been carried out pertaining to this, this has been with a ‘hands-on’ project-based focus rather than with an overview of its efficacy, success or outcomes. In other jurisdictions, we have seen the promotion of well-being approaches to the historic environment, however, research on this area in Ireland has not progressed significantly.</p> <p>Research proposals concerning the following would be welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing impacts on archaeological monuments from land use such as agriculture or forestry (i.e. forms of land use change largely outside of the planning process) • Examination of the issue of the setting of monuments and how this can best be defined and managed • A review of interpretative and public realm strategies for monuments/historic buildings, especially in an urban context • An examination of the success of heritage-led regeneration in the urban context • The role of the historic environment on the well-being of individuals and communities • Measures to sustain local communities in protected heritage areas, e.g. World Heritage Properties
3.	<p>Intangible cultural heritage</p> <p>In December 2015, Ireland ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), which aims to safeguard, appreciate and raise awareness of intangible cultural heritage</p>

while also providing for international cooperation and assistance in this area.

Intangible cultural heritage refers to the practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities and groups recognise as part of their cultural heritage. It is passed from generation to generation and is recognised under one or more of the following categories:

- Oral traditions and expressions;
- Performing arts;
- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and
- Traditional craftsmanship.

Research in this area could explore:

- Innovative methods including application of digital technologies for the protection and transmission of intangible cultural heritage
- Examination of active involvement by individuals and communities with intangible cultural heritage, in physical or digital form
- Examination of the intersection of intangible cultural heritage, memory and identity

Proposals must be directly related to one or more of the themes outlined above.

Applications for funding will need to demonstrate that the project:

- Uses the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability) to ensure maximum value is realised from publicly funded research projects.
- Has collaborative potential with the stakeholders in the heritage sector
- Applicants are encouraged to adopt interdisciplinary approaches and collaborations between academic institutions, national and local government agencies, and community organisations.

Outputs The successful awardee will submit a short report (15-20 pages) and presentation on the outcomes of the project to the Authority.

- The successful awardee will be required to submit a progress report to the Heritage Council after 6 months and final report after 9 months.