Taighde Éireann Research Ireland

COALESCE Research Fund
Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges

in partnership with

Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid
Cuan: The Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

CALL DOCUMENT
2025

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland reserves the right to amend this call document.

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

CUAN
An Ghníomhaireacht um Fhoréigean Baile,
Gnéasach agus Inscnebhunaithe
The Domestic, Sexual and
Gender-Based Violence Agency

Terms of Reference

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Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland ("Research Ireland") is the national research and innovation funding agency which was established on 1 August 2024. Research Ireland amalgamates the activities of the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland.

Please note the following:

1. All awards made under this call will be Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland awards and will be subject to the provisions of the Research and Innovation Act 2024.

2. All pre-existing policies of the Irish Research Council are applicable to awards made under this call.

3. Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland reserves the right to amend or replace the terms and conditions and/or award policies at any time during the term of the award.

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1. **Overview of the scheme**

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland ("Research Ireland") is the national research and innovation funding agency which was established on 1 August 2024. Research Ireland amalgamates the activities of the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland.

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1. All awards made under this call will be Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland awards and will be subject to the provisions of the Research and Innovation Act 2024.

2. All pre-existing policies of the Irish Research Council are applicable to awards made under this call.

3. Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland reserves the right to amend or replace the terms and conditions and/or award policies at any time during the term of the award.

The **COALESCE Scheme (Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges)** was conceived with the ambition to fund excellent research addressing national, European, and global challenges by bringing together researchers and Government and policy makers, enterprise, and civil society. The scheme aims to integrate the knowledge and evidence borne through robust research into the sphere of public policy, creating tangible and enduring links between the publicly funded research system and policy makers.

The scheme incorporates thematic strands funded by strategic partners including Government Departments and agencies, reflecting specific policy priorities. The scheme also includes strands funded solely by Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland specifically targeting interdisciplinary research addressing national or global societal challenges.

Since the COALESCE scheme was introduced, there have been a number of developments in the research landscape. The transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe continues the focus on challenges and mission-orientated research, while in May 2022, the national strategy for research and innovation, **Impact 2030** was published. COALESCE strongly aligns with the mission focus at European level and also with a number of core objectives within Impact 2030 such as enhancing the links between the research system and public policy; fostering interdisciplinary research; and a challenge-based focus. The various challenges we face, nationally and internationally, are well-articulated in the form of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, incorporating 17 goals.

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 10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs, see **Appendix 1**), the achievements of which are necessary to ensure prosperity, equality, a sustainable future, and protection of our natural environment. Impact 2030 outlines some of the key economic and societal challenges facing Ireland, including climate change and the need for decarbonisation; economic transformation fuelled by technological and other change; greater international competition and geopolitical instability; increased mobility of talent; and the need to build societal resilience. Research is essential to address these and other challenges, and to achieve the aims of the National Development Plan.

The achievement of national or global 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 'coalface' in implementation of national plans, 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 policymakers and practitioners can utilise to guide action and interventions on the path to successfully achieving national or international societal challenges. Maximising the contribution of the research system in this regard requires a strong emphasis on building robust mechanisms to ensure the transmission and integration of knowledge and evidence into the policy and practice environment, including building the necessary relationships with the public sector, civil society, or elsewhere, to support this process.

2. **Strand descriptions**

COALESCE seeks to fund excellent research addressing national and European/global national challenges as set out in the challenge frameworks now in place. This year, COALESCE features an open strand together with two strands run in partnership with government departments and agencies. These three strands are summarised below with further detail included in the appendices.

Strand	Title	Funder	Description	Further information	Maximum award amount	Duration
Strand 1M	DSGBV Research Awards 2025	Cuan: the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) Agency	Developing new insights, knowledge, and evidence through high quality research to support the implementation of Irish government policy and the generation of evidence to inform a zero tolerance response to Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Ireland.	Appendix 2	€240,000	24 months
Strand 2A	Strand 2A Open call for interdisciplinary research	Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland	Open call for interdisciplinary research addressing national or global societal challenges, led by AHSS PI with STEM co-PI		€220,000	24 months
Strand 2B	Better World Awards 2025	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)	Providing opportunities for new collaborations between researchers in Ireland and researchers in eligible partner countries, based around excellent research projects aligned to the policy priorities set out in **A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development**.	Appendix 3	€350,000	36 months

Strands 1M and 2B are each funded by a government department or agency, and, accordingly, there will be requirements in place to produce updates on the progress of and outcomes of the research for the strategic funding partner. Applicants are also encouraged to integrate intersectoral partnership across the project lifecycle, from design stage through to dissemination.

COALESCE Strand 2

Strand 2 has been designed to support the development of interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration/capacity in the context of national or global challenges. Awardees will expand their research activities and will build the sustainability of their research agenda through enhanced competitiveness for future success in European or international collaborative funding programmes, including Horizon Europe.

Strand 2 will support researchers to form new connections and to consolidate existing national and international knowledge networks as part of a challenge-based approach. A challenge-based approach will bring together resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies, and disciplines, including social sciences and the humanities, and indeed beyond academia, into new sectors.

Lead applicants for Strand 2A will be AHSS researchers, with a STEM co-PI. **The PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.**

Strand 2B is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, addressing research collaboration and capacity building between Ireland and target global south countries. The lead applicant will be based in an eligible Irish HEI/RPO, with a co-PI from one of the target countries. **The PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.**

Objectives of Strand 2A

Strand 2A is an open strand funded by Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland and seeks to fund projects aligning to national challenge frameworks and/or the UN Sustainable Development Agenda (see Appendices 1 and 6). The specific objectives of Strand 2A are as follows:

- To cultivate excellent interdisciplinary research addressing national or global societal challenges – in so doing, bringing value to Ireland and/or internationally.
- To enhance collaboration between researchers in Ireland and policymakers and/or civil society, nationally or internationally.
- To support the development of capacity in the research system for interdisciplinary and challenge-based collaboration.
- Through capacity-building, to boost the success rate of Irish researchers in applications to Horizon Europe.
- To support the development of AHSS research leadership within an interdisciplinary context.
- To provide new opportunities for early-career researchers, under the guidance of the Principal Investigator (applicant) to develop skills and experience in intersectoral and interdisciplinary research collaboration.

Research for Impact

The various strands aim to foster 'engaged research'. In the Campus Engage **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 societal partners rather than for them. Societal partners include service users, product users, policymakers, civil and civic society organisations, industry partners, members of the public, and other relevant stakeholders."

Taking an engaged research approach, from the design of the research proposal, and throughout its implementation, can lead to **highly impactful research** that benefits society in a variety of ways.

3. Key dates

Call open	11th October 2024 at 4pm (Irish time)
FAQ deadline	28th November 2024 at 4pm (Irish time)
Applicant deadline	5th December 2024 at 4pm (Irish time)
RO Endorsement deadline	12th December 2024 at 4pm (Irish time)
Outcome	May 2025

4. Eligibility

On 25 September 2024, the Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Board approved an interim Eligible Research Body Policy for the agency. The policy is guided by the Research & Innovation Act 2024, which provides for the establishment and functions of Research Ireland. Although the Act refers to the Eligible Research Body as 'the applicant', for the purpose of this call, the applicant will be deemed to be the individual submitting an application on behalf of the Eligible Research Body.

4.1 Eligibility for Strand 1M

In order to be eligible to apply for Strand 1M, the applicant must:

- Be a Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project ends.
- Be at least five years post-PhD, **or** if the applicant is 3 years post-PhD and has won a New Foundations grant, the applicant will be deemed eligible. The lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2019 [or 31st of May 2021 with a New Foundations award]. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.
- Have a track record in research pertinent to DSGBV and relevant to achieving objectives of Zero Tolerance: The Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

- **Note: If currently funded under a Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland PI-led award (specifically a Laureate, COALESCE, HERA, CHIST-ERA or UKRI Digital Humanities award), the applicant's existing award must finish by the project start date in 2025.***

* This is without prejudice to future policy on applicants' eligibility to COALESCE.

The experience and expertise of the applicant is an evaluation criterion under Strand 1M. Further details can be found in **Appendix 4.**

Please note that co-PIs are not permitted under Strand 1M

4.2 Eligibility for Strand 2A

In order to be eligible to apply for Strand 2A, the applicant must be:

- From any AHSS discipline (see **Annex A** with call documentation **here**); and may apply for funding along with a named applicant from any STEM discipline (see **Annex B**).
- An AHSS Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

WITH

- A mandatory and named STEM co-PI (co-applicant) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

Both AHSS Lead PI and STEM Co-PI must:

- Have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 31st May 2023. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.*

- **Note: If currently funded under a Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland PI-led award (specifically a Laureate, COALESCE, HERA, CHIST-ERA or UKRI Digital Humanities**

award), the applicant's existing award must finish by the project start date in 2025.

* If you have not yet graduated, you must have all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis within the required timeline.

**This is without prejudice to future policy on applicants' eligibility to COALESCE.

The experience and expertise of the applicants is an evaluation criterion under Strand 2A. Further details can be found in **Appendix 4**.

Please note that the PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.

4.3 Eligibility for Strand 2B

In order to be eligible to apply for Strand 2B, the applicant must be:

- A lead Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible research body to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end date.

WITH

- A mandatory and named co-PI (co-applicant) employed by an HEI or research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs' partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.
- The RPO in the partner country must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education/research institution. In exceptional circumstances, other RPOs will be considered. The RPO must have the capacity and infrastructure to support the research, should be research active and be able to demonstrate the standard of academic rigour required for a large research project.

The lead applicant will:

- Be at least five years post-PhD, **or**, if the applicant is 3 years post-PhD and has won a New Foundations grant (DFA Strand), the applicant will be deemed eligible. The lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2019 [or 31st of May 2021 with a New Foundations award]. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.
- Applicants who are eligible under the latter caveat will need to demonstrate that they have the skills and experience to manage a project of this scale.
- Have experience of collaboration within research consortia with an international development focus and/or international project.
- Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand.
- Not be in receipt of any other Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland funding at the proposed start date, with the exception of New Foundations and/or Ulysses or similar travel award(s).

The co-applicant will, at minimum:

- Be at least three years post PhD (or possess equivalent research qualifications/experience). The co-PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2021. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.
- Have experience of international research collaboration with an international development focus and/or international project/s.
- Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand.

The experience and expertise of the applicants is an evaluation criterion under Strand 2B. Further details can be found in **Appendix 4**.

Please note that the PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.

5.   General Application Conditions

5.1   Collaboration Statement

Applicants under Strand 2A and Strand 2B are required to upload a statement (1 page

PDF) outlining their track record and previous history (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project and how the collaboration will benefit the two parties or provide opportunity for further collaboration or capacity building in the research area.

Furthermore, the statement should outline the co-PI's intention to participate in the project, their role in the project and their commitment to same.

5.2   Time Commitment

The lead applicant and any co-PIs must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. The PIs are advised that, by submitting an application in their own name, **they personally undertake to develop the project**, with due attention and viable commitments of time and without sub-contracting the project to another party or parties. In addition, the requirements set out by the Strategic Funding Partners are part of the general rules of this scheme.

5.3   Number of applications per applicant

Applicants may only submit one application to COALESCE 2025.

5.4   State aid and Research Ireland Grant funding

As per Research Ireland's Grant Conditions, all Research Ireland funding granted is subject to, and must be compliant with, State aid legislation based on Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)[1].

Namely, research activities undertaken as part of a Grant awarded under the Research Ireland COALESCE Scheme, and agreed to subject to Research Ireland's Grant Conditions, must be "non-economic" in nature and be designed to ensure that any funding received does not, directly or indirectly, give rise to the granting of State aid.

Where a proposed programme of research involves collaboration with an 'undertaking'[2] or industry party, the activities must comply with the definition of "effective collaboration" and the conditions relating to the allocation between the parties of the results and/or intellectual property rights arising from the collaboration

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[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0719(05)&from=EN
[2] The concept of an "undertaking" under EU competition law rules is an entity that is engaged in an "economic activity" regardless of its legal status or the way that it is financed. An activity is economic in nature when it involves offering goods or services on a market.

as per the 2022 Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/01) (the "Framework"[3]). Research Ireland has set out guidance to support how the programme of research or project is developed and undertaken in accordance with these conditions[4].

Applicants are advised to seek independent legal advice in advance of applying to Research Ireland for funding where further clarification is sought.

6. Important information for Strand 2A and Strand 2B applications

The min-max personnel costs for the lead HEI and partner HEI/RPO under Strand 2A and Strand 2B are as follows:

Personnel Costs Strand 2A (Inc. Overhead 25%)	
AHSS lead HEI	STEM co-PI HEI
Min 30% - Max 70%	Min 30% - Max 70%
Personnel Costs Strand 2B (Inc. Overhead 25%)	
Lead HEI	Partner RPO co-PI
Min 30% - Max 70%	Min 30% - Max 70%

The maintenance of the minimum 30% personnel costs will be the responsibility of the lead HEI.

Only one application per lead applicant on any strand is permitted.

Only one application per named co-PI on Strand 2A and Strand 2B is permitted.

7. Eligible Items of Expenditure/Costs

7.1 General Conditions

All costs sought under an application must be detailed and justified. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposed research programme and that such facilities are not available to the researcher(s) via any other means. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration

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[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2022.414.01.0001.01.ENG
[4] https://www.sfi.ie/funding/sfi-policies-and-guidance/state-aid

under the evaluation and assessment process. Applicants should confirm their budget calculations and seek guidance from their Research Office when preparing their budget to ensure all calculations are correct and adhere to the eligible costs set out below and in accordance with their institutional guidelines and policies. Overheads can be requested up to a maximum rate of 25% (of direct costs less equipment).

The budget for staff costs as proposed in the application must be clearly justified. The recruitment of staff (e.g., research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement. Staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only.

Strand 1M and Strand 2A applications may include provision for team membership of researchers from institutions and organisations that fall outside the eligible institutions, including both national and international participation. However, only collaboration costs (not personnel costs) may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the added value of such costs must be **strongly** demonstrated. **Costs for subsistence and accommodation may be requested; however, honoraria such as vouchers are deemed an ineligible research expense.** For a Strand 2A application, only the AHSS lead PI and STEM co-PI are required to be named specifically.

7.2 Pension costs

The Government is continuing to examine the provisions of the Single Pension Scheme and the implications for research funders in relation to the provision of pension costs as part of the total employment costs of researchers. In the context of budgeting for the 2025 call and in order to ensure that budgets are complete, applicants are requested to include pension costs in the calculation of employment costs for postdoctoral researchers and research assistants. Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland is keen to ensure long-term certainty for all stakeholders in relation to the pension funding of single pension scheme members, and HEIs/RPOs should note that further changes to guidance may occur when a definitive position is issued or confirmed by government. If such definitive guidance confirms that pensions are to be paid centrally Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland will require any pension costs budgeted in each COALESCE proposal to be returned to Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland. In this scenario no adjustment to overheads will be required.

7.3 Strand 1M and 2A – Staffing and other eligible costs

Costs may include staff-replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be clearly justified.

Staff Costs	
Academic replacements (can be pro-rata)	These are used to alleviate the awardee's commitments and to facilitate their participation as a principal investigator. Costs may be requested to facilitate the reallocation of existing commitments of the awardee (e.g., teaching) in order that they can devote appropriate time and effort to successfully completing the award. A value equal to point 1 on the IUA salary scale for postdoctoral researchers may be charged to the project to facilitate the awardee's leadership of the project. If the existing academic commitments of the awardee are fully replaced, this money can be charged to the project in order to recruit one whole-time person, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow, to discharge the awardee's commitments. As part of the reporting requirements, the awardee will be required to report on how the replacement costs have been allocated.
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata) Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)	HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form. The salary requested must include provisions for PRSI, and Employer Pension Contribution, if applicable. As part of the award acceptance process, the Research Office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.

7.4 Strand 1M and 2A - Eligible Research Expenses

All costings must be clearly justified. Only costs incurred during the lifetime of the award will be eligible.

Cost Area and Guidance	Strand 1M	Strand 2A
Staff costs See above for more detail.	Yes	Yes
Travel costs Costs for travel, subsistence and accommodation may be requested. Details on the number of trips, location, purpose and duration of the trips and the team members involved should be provided. Requests for travel and accommodation should be in line with institutional rates and norms for travel and accommodation. Business class travel is not an eligible cost.	Yes	Yes
Collaboration Costs to support the integration of policy-makers and other partners (national or international) in the proposed research project.	Up to a max. of **10%** of total project costs	Up to a max. of **10%** of total project costs
Consumables Non-IT equipment with a value of less than €2,000 can be included here.	Max. allowable: €2,000	Max. allowable: €2,000

Access to research infrastructure Only research infrastructure outside the host institution is valid for costs.	Yes	Yes
Publications and research outputs, including: Costs in respect of data management, archiving, digitisation, and open access storage.	Yes	Yes
Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange Costs associated with the dissemination of the research, seminar/conference attendance (provide details of name and location where possible) and other channels of dissemination and material e.g., reports, website, etc. and other knowledge exchange activities.	Yes	Yes
Consultancy Must be relevant and clearly justified.	Up to a maximum of **€20,000**	Up to a maximum of **€10,000**
Overheads Overhead applies to all direct costs except equipment costs. Overheads are available in respect of direct costs incurred in both the Ireland-based and partner-based institution.	Max. of 25%	Max. of 25%

Equipment Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. Research Ireland will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g., laptops, voice recorders, etc.). Any such requests will require a strong rationale and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from any other source.		Yes	Yes

7.5   Strand 2B – Staffing and other eligible costs

Costs may include staff-replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be clearly justified. **The PI/institution in Ireland is responsible for the overall coordination of the project, including in the partner country, inclusive of the transfer of funds and the monitoring of expenditure.**

Staff Costs - Ireland	
Academic replacements (Ireland-based PI only) (can be pro-rata)	These are used to alleviate the awardee's commitments and to facilitate their participation as a principal investigator. Costs may be requested to facilitate the reallocation of existing commitments of the awardee (e.g., teaching) in order that they can devote appropriate time and effort to successfully completing the award. A value equal to point 1 on the IUA salary scale for postdoctoral researchers may be charged to the project to facilitate the awardee's leadership of the project. If the existing academic commitments of the awardee are fully replaced, this money can be charged to the project to recruit one whole-time person, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow, to discharge the awardee's commitments. As part of the reporting requirements, the awardee will be required to report on how the replacement costs have been allocated.
Research Assistant	HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must

(can be pro-rata) **Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)**	be clearly justified in the application form. The salary requested must include provisions for PRSI, and Employer Pension Contribution, if applicable. As part of the award acceptance process, the Research Office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.

Staff Costs – Partner Country	
Employment costs of co-PI	Up to 50% of employment costs of the co-PI in the partner country can be sought. Costs sought must be fully justified and align with the proposed time commitment to the project from the co-PI applicant. Any employment costs sought for the co-PI must be in line with relevant local salary scales applicable to the career stage of the co-PI.
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata) **Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)**	Participating RPOs in partner countries can use their own institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form.

7.6   Strand 2B - Eligible Research Costs

Strand 2B applications may include provision for team membership of researchers from institutions and organisations that fall outside the institutions of the PI and co-PI. However, only collaboration costs (not personnel costs) may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the added value of such costs must be **strongly** demonstrated. Only costs incurred during the lifetime of the award will be eligible.

Cost Area and Guidance	Strand 2B
Staff costs See above.	Yes
Travel costs Costs for travel, subsistence and accommodation may be requested. Details on the number of trips, location, purpose and duration of the trips and the team members involved should be provided. Requests for travel and accommodation should be in line with institutional rates and norms for travel and accommodation. Business class travel is NOT an eligible cost.	Yes
Collaboration Costs to support the integration of policy-makers, civil society, and other partners in the proposed research project, particularly in the partner country or countries.	**Yes** **Max. of 10% of total project costs**
Consumables Non-IT equipment with a value of less than €1,000 can be included here.	**Max. allowable: €5,000**
Access to research infrastructure Only research infrastructure outside the host institution is valid for costs.	Yes
Publications and research outputs, including: Costs in respect of data management, archiving, digitisation, and open access storage.	Yes
Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange Costs associated with the dissemination of the research,	Yes

seminar/conference attendance (provide details of name and location where possible) and other channels of dissemination and material, e.g., reports, website, etc. and other knowledge exchange activities.	
Consultancy Must be relevant and clearly justified.	**Up to a maximum of €10,000**
Overheads Overhead applies to all direct costs except equipment costs. Overhead applies to institutions of both the PI in Ireland and the co-PI in the Irish Aid partner country.	Max. of 25%
Equipment Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. Research Ireland will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g., laptops, voice recorders, etc.). Any such requests will require a strong rationale and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from any other source.	Yes

8.   Preparing a Proposal

8.1   DORA Principles

With the adoption of the **San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment** (DORA) principles, and Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland's commitment to the CoARA membership, the mention of Journal Impact Factors is no longer accepted, and the use of H-Index is discouraged among the field relevant bibliometric indicators that may be included as part of the publications track record. Instead, applicants are encouraged to briefly note the significance of the publications they have chosen to include in the track record.

a)   Research monograph(s) and any translations thereof;

b)   Granted patent(s);

c)   Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;

d)   Other forms of peer-reviewed recognition of achievement (prizes, awards, academy memberships).

Applicants are also invited to use the track record section of their application to outline their broader contribution to research through teaching, public engagement, academic administration, etc. Applicants may also provide a short narrative description of the scientific/scholarly importance of the research outputs submitted as part of the proposal.

8.2   Data management plans

In 2016, the European Commission adopted three goals for EU research and innovation policy: open science, open innovation, and open to the world. An important aspect of open science is a move towards open access to research results funded with public money. Facilitating access to those results encourages the re-use of research output. Science and research have always been open, but some of the processes for producing research and disseminating its results are not. It is now widely recognised that making research results more accessible to all societal actors contributes to better and more efficient science, and to greater innovation in the public and private sectors.

Applicants are required to address the data management needs of their research project. **As part of the application, applicants will furnish an outline Data Management Plan (DMP) appropriate to their project and, if successful, a detailed DMP will be submitted to Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland along with the first progress report at six months.** If a DMP is not required, applicants must justify why this is so.

A DMP is a key element of good data management. A DMP describes the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed and/or generated by a research project. As part of making research data *findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable* (FAIR), a DMP should include information on:

- the handling of research data during and after the end of the project;
- what data will be collected, processed and/or generated;
- which methodology and standards will be applied;
- whether data will be shared/made open access. If data cannot be made available, explain why;
- how data will be curated and preserved (including after the end of the project).

Further information on is contained below.

Applicants should be cognisant of the **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** and funded proposals should meet the required standards in this regard. **Appendix 7** has links to further resources on DMPs and FAIR principles.

8.3   Ethical Statement

Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland is committed to the maintenance of high ethical standards in the research that it funds. It is the responsibility of the Research Body to ensure that the proposed research shall comply with ethical principles and relevant national, EU and international legislation including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols. Awardees should adhere to the recognised ethical practices and fundamental ethical principles appropriate to their discipline(s), as well as to ethical standards as documented in the different various national, sectoral, or institutional Codes of Ethics.

The host institution must have in place clear ethical guidelines and assurance procedures designed to manage research under its direction. The host institution and awardee must ensure that the research complies with all national and international regulation requirements governing the use of sensitive materials or processes: for example, radioactive isotopes, ionising radiation, laboratory animals or other animals, pathogenic organisms, genetically manipulated organisms, toxic and hazardous substances, and research on human subjects and human embryos. The aforementioned examples do not constitute an exhaustive list.

Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland is unable to award funding for research activity under any of the following prohibited areas:

a)   human cloning for reproductive purposes;
b)   genetic modification of human beings that could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be funded);
c)   creation of, or use of, human embryos or human embryonic stem cells/tissues for the purpose of research, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

The ethics self-assessment table serves to identify any ethical aspects of the proposed work and must be completed via the online application system, even if there are no

issues (simply confirm that none of the ethical issues apply to the proposal). Please note that, if you answer YES to any of the questions, you are requested to provide an ethics self-assessment. The aim of the ethics self-assessment is to provide guidance for discussion of ethical issues that may arise in the proposal and to identify how the applicant will deal with the identified issues.

Common ethical issues include:

a)   the involvement of children, patients, vulnerable populations;
b)   the use of human embryonic stem cells;
c)   privacy and data protection issues;
d)   research on animals and non-human primates.

Ethical concerns also include the avoidance of any breach of research integrity, which means, in particular, avoiding fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other research misconduct.

Where an awardee's research proposal requires approval by the Host Institution Ethics Committee or equivalent, written evidence of such ethical approval is required by Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland within six months of the commencement date of the award.

Applicants are advised to consult the Horizon Europe guidance document **How to complete your ethics self-assessment**, before completing the ethics self-assessment.

If access to archival material in private custodianship or archival material with restricted access is required for the project, written evidence of appropriate permission to consult such material must be furnished to Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland at the award acceptance stage.

8.4   Sex / Gender Dimension Statement

It is a requirement for all applicants to demonstrate that they have given full consideration to whether there is a potential sex and/or gender dimension in their proposed research. Applicants should consult **Appendix 5** for further information.

Where applicants have indicated that there is no sex/gender dimension to their research, they will be asked to justify this assertion.

The integration of the sex-gender dimension in research is commonly mistaken for the integration of gender balance in research teams. These are two distinct matters, and the gender balance of a team should not be used to answer the sex-gender dimension in research question.

8.5   Application process

An application will be submitted using the online submission portal (**SmartSimple**) by the lead Principal Investigator. Prospective applicants who do not already have a user profile will need to create one before submitting an application. Please refer to the online **Guide for Applicants** which is available on the COALESCE funding page

Applicants must inform the Research Office (or other appropriate office) of their institution of their intent to submit an application to the scheme. **Canvassing** by or on behalf of applicants will render an application automatically ineligible. When this occurs, the application will not proceed to the competition proper.

Applications under Strand 2B and Strand 1M will be accepted in English only. Applications under Strand 2A will be accepted in either the Irish or the English language only. In order to facilitate evaluation by the International Assessment Board in English, applicants submitting Irish language applications are invited to submit an English language translation of their application. If an English translation is not provided by an applicant, Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland will provide a translation to the International Assessment Board.

Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland strongly encourages applicants to submit through the online system **well in advance** of the closing date for the competition on the day that the call closes. There is likely to be heavy traffic on the server, which may slow down the submission of your proposal. **To prevent problems with heavy server traffic, do not wait until the final day of the call to submit your application.** If you need to upload materials, allow the upload to fully complete.

8.6   FAQs

Any queries relating to this Call Document, or the operation of the scheme generally, should be submitted to the relevant Research Office/Officer of the HEI or RPO in the first instance. In the interest of transparency and fairness to all applicants, the Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Executive will not discuss queries over the telephone.

A list of all queries not resolved by the Research Office should then be submitted as a batch to **projects@research.ie** by the designated Research Officer within an eligible research body. The FAQ document on the COALESCE funding page will be updated on a weekly basis until the FAQ deadline.

For details of evaluation procedures and criteria for COALESCE, please see **Appendix 4.**

Appendix 1

National Challenge framework: Ireland's National Strategic Outcomes

The Government describes the **National Planning Framework (NPF)** as its "high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country out to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for our people, and to protect and enhance our environment - from our villages to our cities, and everything around and in between" (p. 10).

> "The NPF is a long-term Framework that sets out how Ireland can move away from the current, 'business as usual' pattern of development" (p. 20).

Ireland 2040 is predicated on "a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs)" (p. 10). The COALESCE research fund adopts the set of National Strategic Outcomes to underpin a national challenge-based approach.

The NSOs are as follows:

1. Compact Growth
2. Regional Accessibility
3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
4. Sustainable Mobility
5. A Strong Economy
6. High Quality International Connectivity
7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage
8. Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society
9. Sustainable Management of Water, Waste, and other Environmental Resources
10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health services

Overleaf is provided a contextual statement, drawn from the National Planning Framework, on each of the NSOs. Applicants should consult **Ireland 2040** and the National Development Plan for further information on each of the NSOs.

National Strategic Outcomes 1-6

Compact Growth

Carefully managing the sustainable growth of compact cities, towns and villages will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work. All our urban settlements contain many potential development areas, centrally located and frequently publicly owned, that are suitable and capable of re-use to provide housing, jobs, amenities and services, but which need a streamlined and co-ordinated approach to their development, with investment in enabling infrastructure and supporting amenities, to realise their potential. Activating these strategic areas and achieving effective density and consolidation, rather than more sprawl of urban development, is a top priority.

Enhanced Regional Accessibility

A co-priority is to enhance accessibility between key urban centres of population and their regions. This means ensuring that all regions and urban areas in the country have a high degree of accessibility to Dublin, as well as to each other. Not every route has to look east and so accessibility and connectivity between places like Cork and Limerick, to give one example, and through the Atlantic Economic Corridor to Galway as well as access to the North-West is essential.

Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Rural areas play a key role in defining our identity, in driving our economy and our high-quality environment and must be a major part of our country's strategic development to 2040. In addition to the natural resource and food sector potential as traditional pillars of the rural economy, improved connectivity, broadband and rural economic development opportunities are emerging which offer the potential to ensure our countryside remains and strengthens as a living and working community.

High-Quality International Connectivity

This is crucial for overall international competitiveness and addressing opportunities and challenges from Brexit through investment in our ports and airports in line with sectoral priorities already defined through National Ports Policy and National Aviation Policy and signature projects such as the second runway for Dublin Airport and the Port of Cork - Ringaskiddy Redevelopment.

Sustainable Mobility

In line with Ireland's Climate Change mitigation plan, we need to progressively electrify our mobility systems moving away from polluting and carbon intensive propulsion systems to new technologies such as electric vehicles and introduction of electric and hybrid traction systems for public transport fleets, such that by 2040 our cities and towns will enjoy a cleaner, quieter environment free of combustion engine driven transport systems.

A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills

This will depend on creating places that can foster enterprise and innovation and attract investment and talent. It can be achieved by building regional economic drivers and by supporting opportunities to diversify and strengthen the rural economy, to leverage the potential of places. Delivering this outcome will require the coordination of growth and place making with investment in world class infrastructure, including digital connectivity, and in skills and talent to support economic competiveness and enterprise growth.

National Strategic Outcomes 7-10

Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

This will ensure that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and can offer a good quality of life. It will require investment in well-designed public realm, which includes public spaces, parks and streets, as well as recreational infrastructure. It also includes amenities in rural areas, such as national and forest parks, activity-based tourism and trails such as greenways, blueways and peatways. This is linked to and must integrate with our built, cultural and natural heritage, which has intrinsic value in defining the character of urban and rural areas and adding to their attractiveness and sense of place.

Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society

The National Climate Policy Position establishes the national objective of achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This objective will shape investment choices over the coming decades in line with the National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework. New energy systems and transmission grids will be necessary for a more distributed, renewables-focused energy generation system, harnessing both the considerable on-shore and off-shore potential from energy sources such as wind, wave and solar and connecting the richest sources of that energy to the major sources of demand.

Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources

Ireland has abundant natural and environmental resources such as our water sources that are critical to our environmental and economic well-being into the future. Conserving and enhancing the quality of these resources will also become more important in a crowded and competitive world as well as our capacity to create beneficial uses from products previously considered as waste, creating circular economic benefits.

Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

Good access to a range of quality education and health services, relative to the scale of a region, city, town, neighbourhood or community is a defining characteristic of attractive, successful and competitive places. Compact, smart growth in urban areas and strong and stable rural communities will enable the enhanced and effective provision of a range of accessible services.

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Appendix 2

Strand 1M: Cuan: the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) Agency Research on DSGBV Awards 2025

This strand is funded by Cuan: the Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency

Introduction:

Established in 2024, Cuan is the statutory agency responsible for coordinating on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) in Ireland. The agency will deliver quality services to victims and lead on research to inform, develop and implement policies that will increase awareness and reduce the incidence of DSGBV in Ireland.

[Zero Tolerance: the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence 2022-2026](#) underpins the need for evidence informed developments and the co-ordination of data and information nationally, and is structured to align with the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention: 1. Prevention 2. Protection 3. Policy Co-ordination 4. Prosecution. As part of a wider range of functions, Cuan now seeks to commission research to deliver essential support for policy development and implementation, and to support broader decision making.

Requirements of Programme:

Research funded by Cuan must be

- Governed by international safety and ethics guidelines.
- Engage with the community being researched where possible.
- Inform policies, services, programmes, research methods and tools.
- Provide policy focused outputs.

Cuan encourages collaboration in research and as such invites applications from individual researchers who demonstrate a collaborative focus through engagement with key stakeholders.

The **objectives** of the Cuan Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Research Award programme under the COALESCE 2025 are to:

I.   Provide opportunities for researchers to bring forward excellent research that reflects priorities in Zero Tolerance: the Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

II.   Support consistent and ongoing evidence-informed strategic insights in the domain of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland that reflect the complexity and intersectional nature of the issues.

III. Enable progressive development of knowledge that may prevent and can improve the experience and outcomes for victim-survivors of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, with a particular focus on the lives of those at high risk and/or who experience multiple disadvantages.

IV.   Encourage collaboration and/or partnerships between researchers and practitioners that reflect principles of co-design and focus on victim-survivor experiences to the greatest degree possible, as relevant to areas of research.

> Cuan invites applications for research proposals with a focus on **one** of the following themes. The specific areas have been identified through a process to identify knowledge gaps, particularly those most closely related to priority areas for developments under Zero Tolerance.

Theme 1 – Pathways and access to justice

Project areas:

1.1   Building on prior research and policy reviews and in light of legislative reforms, enhance our knowledge base of the prosecution pillar and effective pathways to justice. This could range from research to better understand attrition in cases involving sexual violence, or differential court experience for victims of domestic violence. It could also examine the effectiveness of support services such as court accompaniment.

1.2   Research on effective interventions with perpetrators or those identified to be at risk of perpetrating domestic violence or sexual violence and generating insights from research that identify effective primary or secondary prevention initiatives, highlighting the features of engagement with perpetrators that can achieve the best outcomes for victim-survivors.

Theme 2 – Generating in-depth insights towards achieving equal and equitable access to supports and better outcomes for victim-survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence.

Project areas:

2.1 Identification of evidence-based responses to improve outcomes for victims-survivors with multiple vulnerabilities, complex needs and/or those who may experience barriers in reporting or seeking support because of individual characteristics or identity as part of a particular community or communities.

2.2 Research on quality services and effective and sustainable interventions for children and young people who have experienced or are vulnerable to becoming victims of sexual violence/domestic violence so as to inform evidence-based responses and service developments that incorporate the lived experience of the child / young person.

All applications must demonstrate:

An awareness of existing research in the area and outline how the proposal will build upon existing published research and other relevant national and international research.

A focus on engagement with practitioners, and participation of victim-survivors where it is appropriate and/or relevant to the research question(s) identified.

An approach to describing and capturing the impact of the research particularly in relation to policy implementation.

Award-Holder Requirements:

In addition to the standard reporting requirements outlined in the Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Grant Conditions (to include General Terms and Conditions and Letters of Offer), award-holders under this strand will be required to fulfil the following:

- Liaise with a specified contact person nominated by Cuan from the Cuan Research and Data Team.
- Undertake a minimum of one bilateral meeting with Cuan per year.
- Agree plans on launch and dissemination of findings with Cuan.
- Complete a project report with a policy focus of relevance to stakeholders (15-20 pages), suitable for publication. The report should be planned with Cuan in advance and submitted to Cuan and Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland following project completion.
- Adhere to reporting requirements as outlined in the Taighde Éireann- Research Ireland Grant Conditions (to include General Terms and Conditions and Letters of Offer).

Reports will be prepared by the grant recipients who are conducting the research (as requested by Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland) in a format agreed in advance with Cuan and will include reference to all contributions received in the period under review in respect of the strategic partnership programme to confirm that there has been no duplication of funding.

All projects funded by the Cuan DSGBV Research Programme are required to ensure open access to all peer-reviewed publications and bibliographic metadata resulting from Cuan funding, subject to prior agreement with Cuan. Please note, Gold Open Access may only be budgeted in exceptional circumstances, subject to prior approval by Cuan.

To this end:

Applications are invited for:	
Time frame	24 months from commencement of project
Funding limit per project	Max €240,000 (including overheads at 25%)

Appendix 3

Strand 2B: Department of Foreign Affairs Better World Awards 2025

This strand is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs

Introduction:

- The Development Cooperation and Africa Division (DCAD) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is responsible for the management of the Irish Government's programme of international development, more generally known as Irish Aid. Ireland's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance has been integral to our overall foreign policy for over 50 years.

- The work that Irish Aid carries out in fighting global poverty and hunger and advancing human rights is integral to Ireland's policy for International Development, A Better World. The policy focuses on 4 key policy priorities framed by the SDGs; Reducing Humanitarian need, Climate Action, Strengthened Governance and Gender Equality.

- These priorities, and our development programme overall, are framed by a commitment to delivering for those furthest behind. This commitment is an evolution of Ireland's longstanding focus on the poorest of the poor.

Requirements for COALESCE Research Fund 2025:

- The Irish Aid funded COALESCE awards seek to cultivate and to grow high-quality development research capacity both in Ireland and eligible partner countries[5] in response to key societal challenges linked to one of the four policy priorities outlined in _A Better World_, Ireland's Policy for International Development. The Programme 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._

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[5] Any ODA-eligible country on the African continent; any ODA-eligible Small Island Developing State (SIDS); Vietnam; Palestine; Laos; Cambodia.

- The Programme seeks to elicit proposals from senior researchers with a proven research track record in development, in established Irish research institutions, leading consortia that must comprise of at least one research institution in an eligible partner country, working with at least one Irish research institution. Proposals must demonstrate how they will build research capacity in the partner countries; the consortium's collective capacity to address a key challenge linked to one or more of the SDGs; and the consortium's ability to generate new knowledge that will contribute to one or more of the four policy priorities in *A Better World.* Proposals should consider the needs of vulnerable or marginalised communities, with an approach to reaching those furthest behind built into the project.

The aims/objectives of the Programme in supporting this research funding scheme are to:

- provide opportunities for new collaborations between researchers in Ireland and researchers in eligible partner countries, based around excellent research projects aligned within one or more of the four policy priorities in *A Better World* and its overarching goal to reach those furthest behind first;

- enable the development of collaborative research capacity in the partner countries through partnerships with Irish researchers, and to use this capacity to leverage success in Horizon Europe;

- generate impact on global development policy, particularly within the policy community of the partner country and in line with *A Better World* priorities;

- enhance the contribution of the Irish research system to the sustainable development agenda;

- encourage a challenge-based approach to research, building national and collaborative capacity in this regard, with resulting outcomes for poor and vulnerable target groups.

This 'open call' for research proposals should consider how a strategic approach to dissemination and policy impact will be established from the outset, including the identification of key stakeholders and communication channels, in line with DFA's objective to increase policy uptake of research. In addition to the standard reporting requirements outlined in the Taighde Éireann- Research Ireland Grant Conditions (to include General Terms and Conditions and Letters of Offer), award-holders under this strand will be required to undertake one bilateral meeting with DCAD per year and a larger dissemination event at the end of the project (with a range of DFA colleagues/stakeholders).

The Programme has identified the following four policy priority areas, all of which come under the wider goal of **reaching those furthest behind first:**

- *Gender Equality*
- *Reduced Humanitarian Need*
- *Climate Action*
- *Strengthened Governance.*

Proposals must be directly related to the requirements outlined above. Further information on Ireland's work in these areas is detailed in *A Better World*.

The Programme requires that proposals made in response to the DFA strand 'open call' for non-predefined projects should demonstrate awareness of existing research in the area and outline how the proposal will build upon existing published research and other relevant national and international research.

Application Requirements

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will develop their existing portfolio of research skills and expertise and inform their teaching or practice.

Applicants must also demonstrate the value of their proposal to the policy and/or service communities. Please see Section 3 for details on eligible costs.

Please note that the PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.

Please note that applications will be assessed for thematic alignment as outlined above prior to Outer Board Assessment. Applications considered not to fall within the strand remit will be deemed ineligible and applicants will be notified.

The funded project must start in Q3 2025 and be completed in 36 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to link with the Programme:

- A specified contact person will be nominated by DFA (Research Lead, Policy Unit, DCAD)

- DFA must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings.

- Awardees must comply with acknowledgement requirements as set out by Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland and DFA. Updated requirements (e.d., Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland branding) will be provided in due course.

- Awardees must adhere to reporting requirements as outlined in the Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Grant Conditions. Reports will be prepared by the grant recipients who are conducting the research (as requested by Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland) in a format agreed in advance with DFA and will include reference to all contributions received in the period under review in respect of the strategic partnership programme to confirm that there has been no duplication of funding.

To this end:

Applications are invited for:	
Time frame	36 months from commencement of project
Funding limit per project	Max €350,000 (including overheads at 25%)

Appendix 4

Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

All applications to the Scheme will be evaluated on a competitive basis under a two-stage process. Stage 1 will comprise of a remote peer-review assessment whereby applications will be sent for remote evaluation as part of a peer-review process. A shortlist of applications will proceed to Stage 2 and will be evaluated by an international assessment board (IAB) who will select proposals for funding.

The primary purpose of the IAB is to arrive at a *qualitative* ranking of the applications. The IAB will rank the applications on the basis of the information supplied and will arrive at an overall judgement of standard. All IAB members are subject to an agreed Code of Conduct.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following five-stage process:

1. Eligibility and adherence to call requirements as laid out in this call document;

2. Evaluation by peer review;

3. Pre-meeting evaluation of shortlisted applications by IAB members;

4. IAB meeting to qualitatively rank each application and determine suitability for funding;

5. Feedback to eligible applicants.

Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland's decision on whether to award a grant under this Scheme shall be final. Applicants will be informed of the outcome in writing and anonymised feedback will be provided to all eligible applicants. Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland Executive are precluded from discussing the results of the competition over the telephone.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for each of the strands is set out below.

Strand 1M Evaluation Criteria		
Evaluation Criterion	**Detail**	**Mark/100**
Quality of proposal	Suitability of the proposal's concept and objectives in relation to the parameters of the strand, to include the following: ➢ the potential of the proposed research to inform policy in the partner strand theme; ➢ the potential of the project to contribute to the future development of research in the topic area. Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted, including: ➢ research methodology; ➢ data management; ➢ consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues; ➢ limitations of the approach to be adopted. The experience and expertise of the applicant relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.	45
Policy collaboration and impact	Evidence of the identification and integration of key stakeholders, including: ➢ engagement with relevant policy community; ➢ national and/or international research partners; ➢ strategic approach to collaboration, including in dissemination; ➢ other resources committed by stakeholders/ partners.	25
Feasibility of the implementation and management of the proposed project	Feasibility of project plan including timeline; Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones and feasibility and suitability of timescales.	20
Proposed cost and value for money	Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources.	10

Strand 2A Evaluation Criteria		
Evaluation Criterion	**Detail**	**Mark/100**
Quality of proposal	Suitability of the proposal's concept in relation to the intention of the scheme, to include the following: ➢ The significance and contribution of the proposed project to the specific field of research or research topic. ➢ The interdisciplinary approach and its relevance to national and/or global challenges addressed by the proposal. Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted including: ➢ research methodology; ➢ data management; ➢ consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues; ➢ limitations of the approach to be adopted. The experience and expertise of the applicants relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.	45
Collaboration and impact	Potential for further capacity-building (for example, consortia building on interdisciplinary projects for European funding programmes). Evidence of the integration of cross-sectoral collaboration, including: ➢ non-academic partners secured; ➢ coherence, credibility of collaboration, innovative aspects; ➢ co-funding from partners; ➢ other resources committed by cross-sector partners.	25
Feasibility of the implementation and management of the proposed project	Feasibility of project plan including timeline; Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones and feasibility and suitability of timescales.	20

Proposed cost and value for money	Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources.	10

Strand 2B Evaluation Criteria		
Evaluation Criterion	**Detail**	**Mark/100**
Quality of proposal, including policy impact	Suitability of the proposal's concept in relation to the intention of the scheme, to include the following: ➢The significance and contribution of the proposed project to the chosen DFA thematic focus; ➢The potential of the project to contribute to the development of global development policy, particularly in partner country/ies. Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted, including: ➢ research methodology; ➢ data management; ➢ consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues; ➢ limitations of the approach to be adopted. The experience and expertise of the applicants relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.	45
Collaboration and capacity	Potential for the project to support enhanced research capacity in partner countries; Potential for the project to enhance global north-south partnership targeting future applications to FP9 and/or other international funding opportunities; Evidence of the integration of cross-sectoral policy or civil society partners.	25
Feasibility of the implementation and management of the proposed project	Feasibility of project plan including timeline; Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones and feasibility and suitability of timescales.	20
Proposed cost and value for money	Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources on a transnational basis.	10

Appendix 5

Guidance on the Sex-Gender Dimension in Research Content

Introduction

Excellent research fully considers the potential biological sex and social gender dimensions as key analytical and explanatory variables. If relevant sex-gender issues are missed or poorly addressed, research results will be partial and potentially biased. Full consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research content is a requirement for all Taighde Éireann-Research Ireland awards and for Horizon Europe funding.

The following is provided to help applicants complete the Sex-Gender dimension statement in the application. This is taken from the Toolkit **Gender in EU-funded research**, which aims to give the research community practical tools to integrate gender aspects into their research, including equal opportunities for women and men and the sex-gender dimension of research, thereby contributing to excellence in research. Please also refer to **http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/** for examples of case studies in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment.

A summary from the 'Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research'

The best possible research validity: Investing in a sex-gender-sensitive approach to the research content makes for higher quality and validity. If research takes into account the differences between men and women in the research population, the results will be more representative. General categories such as 'people', 'patients' or 'users' do not distinguish between men and women.

Research based on such categories may well draw partial conclusions based on partial data. For example, research on a new breast cancer treatment should include male patients, so as to draw a complete picture. Most basic research with animal models focuses on males to the exclusion of females (Zucker et al., 2010; Marts et al., 2004). Research on economic migrants cannot limit itself to male points of view if it wants to understand the whole migrant population.

How to consider the potential gender dimension and implications for your research

Research ideas and hypotheses: The relevance of sex-gender for and within the subject matter needs to be analysed and an assessment made of the state of knowledge in this respect. The formulation of hypotheses can draw upon previous research and existing

literature. Indeed, the body of knowledge on sex-gender issues has been steadily growing over recent decades and can serve as interesting reference material to build new hypotheses for future research.

Project design and research methodology: While research methodologies may vary, they all strive to represent (aspects of) reality. Whenever this reality concerns humans, any sound methodology should differentiate between the sexes and take into account the men's and women's situations equally. Groups such as 'citizens', 'patients', 'consumers', 'victims' or 'children' are therefore too general as categories.

Research implementation

Data collection tools (such as questionnaires and interview checklists) need to be gender-sensitive, use gender neutral language, and should make it possible to detect the different realities of men and women. This will help to avoid gender bias. For example, answers to be provided by the 'head of household' are not necessarily valid for all household members.

Data analysis: In most research concerning human subjects, data are routinely disaggregated by sex, which would logically lead to analyses according to sex. However, to date, this is still not common practice. Systematically taking sex as a central variable and analysing other variables with respect to it (e.g., sex and age, sex and income, sex and mobility, sex and labour) will provide significant and useful insights. Involving gender-balanced end-user groups in the course of the research is also a good way of guaranteeing the highest impact.

Dissemination phase – reporting of data: Collecting and analysing sex-gender-specific data is not enough if they are omitted from the published results. Sex-gender should be included in 'mainstream' publications as it is as much part of daily reality as any other variable studied. Specific dissemination actions (publications or events) for sex-gender findings can be considered. Institutions and departments that focus on gender should be included in the target groups for dissemination. Publications should use gender-neutral language.

CHECKLIST FOR SEX-GENDER IN RESEARCH CONTENT

Research ideas phase:

- If the research involves humans as research objects, has the relevance of sex-gender to the research topic been analysed?
- If the research does not directly involve humans, are the possibly differentiated relations of men and women to the research subject sufficiently clear?
- Have you reviewed literature and other sources relating to sex-gender differences in the research field?

Proposal phase:

- Does the methodology ensure that (possible) sex-gender differences will be investigated: that sex-gender differentiated data will be collected and analysed throughout the research cycle and will be part of the final publication?
- Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how sex-gender issues will be handled (e.g. in a specific work package)?
- Have possibly differentiated outcomes and impacts of the research on women and men been considered?

Research phase:

- Are questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, etc. designed to unravel potentially relevant sex and/or gender differences in your data?

- Are the groups involved in the project (e.g. samples, testing groups) gender-balanced? Is data analysed according to the sex variable? Are other relevant variables analysed with respect to sex?

Dissemination phase:

- Do analyses present statistics, tables, figures, and descriptions that focus on the relevant sex-gender differences that came up in the course of the project?

- Are institutions, departments and journals that focus on gender included among the target groups for dissemination, along with mainstream research magazines? Have you considered a specific publication or event on sex-gender-related findings?

Appendix 6

The UN Sustainable Development Agenda

In 2015, the United Nations set 17 goals aiming to **end poverty**, **protect the planet** and **ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. Below are the Goals and a brief comment on what they relate to. Each Goal has several specific and complex targets. The Sustainable Development Goals expect everyone to get involved: governments, the private sector, civil society, and all people. More information is available **here**, and the UN Resolution can be read **here**.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Since 1990 the world has seen remarkable progress in reducing poverty. However, one in five people in developing regions still live on less than $1.90 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount, plus many people risk slipping back into poverty. This Goal aims at reducing poverty and inequality and eradicating extreme poverty.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Globally, one in nine people in the world today (815 million) are undernourished. The food and agriculture sector can offer key solutions for development and is central for hunger and **poverty eradication. This Goal reflects on how we grow, share, and consume our food.**

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. This Goal focuses on reducing risks in children and maternal health and **HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.**

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. This Goal focuses on ensuring essential education for everyone, particularly children.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Clean, accessible water for all is essential for the world we want to live in. While there is sufficient water to cover the whole world's population needs, every year millions of people die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Reducing the carbon intensity of energy is a key objective in long-term climate goals.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US$2 a day. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This Goal aims at rethinking economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology – are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. Growth in productivity and incomes, and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

There is a growing consensus that economic growth is not sufficient to reduce poverty if it is not inclusive and if it does not involve the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

While income inequality between countries may have been reduced, inequality within countries has risen.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The challenges cities face - such as congestion, lack of basic services, shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure - can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Sustainable consumption and production are about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs, and a better quality of life for all. This Goal focuses on producing and consuming water, food, and energy sustainably.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts:

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities, and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow.

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties (or "COP") to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris on 12 December 2015. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents, and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. **Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future.**

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/

Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national, and local level.

Urgent action is needed to mobilize, redirect, and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/

Appendix 7

Resources on Data Management Plans and FAIR Principles

- DMPonline, including templates
- Science Europe (2018) Practical Guide to the International Alignment of Research Data Management
- H2020 Programme (2016) Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020
- H2020 Programme (2016) Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020.
- OpenAire - The OpenAIRE2020 project
- FAIR data principles FORCE 11
- ROAR - Registry of Open Access Repositories
- OpenDoar – Directory of Open Access Repositories
- Registry of Research Data Repositories