



# IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL

An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

## RESEARCH FOR POLICY & SOCIETY AWARDS

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

2016

#### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Launch of Call	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Expressions of Interest deadline	<b>4pm, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b>
FAQ deadline	4pm, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
<b>APPLICANT DEADLINE</b>	<b>4pm, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>
Research Office endorsement deadline	4pm, 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Outcome of scheme	End November 2016
Project commencement date	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2016



AN ROINN | DEPARTMENT OF  
OIDEACHAIS | EDUCATION  
AGUS SCILEANNA | AND SKILLS

## Introduction & Aims

The Irish Research Council seeks to enrich the pool of knowledge and expertise available and accessible for addressing Ireland's current and future needs, whether societal, cultural or economic, by funding excellent research and researchers. In order to deliver on this part of its mandate, the Council has set out a strategic objective to maximise partnering and collaboration with societal stakeholders, including enterprise, and with a particular focus to be given to government and civic society so as to address their needs.

In 2015, the Council launched a pilot Research for Policy and Society Programme. The aim of this programme is to build partnerships with government departments and agencies in order to enable peer-reviewed research to underpin policy decisions, and to assist cultural and societal development. All partner departments/agencies identify research topics in areas relevant to their respective remits and, with the Irish Research Council, will fund successful proposals addressing these topics.

Since the Council launched the pilot programme in early 2015, Innovation 2020 (the national strategy for research and development) has stressed the necessity of research to address societal challenges facing Ireland, at a national and global level: "Over the coming decades, we will face profound challenges, and innovation and research will be centre-stage in developing our national responses".<sup>1</sup> The strategy acknowledges that it is imperative to foster a broad-based research capacity to support national and international policy goals. The Council has been assigned a number of actions in Innovation 2020 to increase the engagement of public entities and civic society in public policy and societal challenge-based research, which will ultimately strengthen public policy and societal impact. As part of its overall mandate and to deliver on the objectives of Innovation 2020, the Council is continuing the Research for Policy and Society programme in 2016. In response to the increasing emphasis on research to address national societal challenges, the 2016 Call includes an open strand.

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<sup>1</sup> *Innovation 2020: Ireland's strategy for research and development, science and technology* (2015), 44.

## SECTION A: RESEARCH FOR POLICY & SOCIETY STRANDS

This document sets out details of the 2016 Research for Policy & Society Programme. Included here are the Terms and Conditions of application, the application process, evaluation criteria, and advance information for successful applicants.

It is expected that successful applicants will be notified by the end of November 2016. All awards will be conditional on the ability of the Principal Investigator (PI) to commence the project on schedule. Commencement is defined as the setting up of a project code and account for project administration. All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material available to the Council at the time of the application deadline. This call for applications is managed by the Irish Research Council (the Council) in partnership with the following departments and agencies.

Strand	Funded by/in collaboration with	Description	Maximum project duration	Funding limit per project
1	Health Service Executive – Crisis Pregnancy Programme	Crisis Pregnancy and Sexual Health Research	15 months	€100,000
2	Irish Human Rights Equality Commission (co-funded with IRC)	Intercultural Understanding and Diversity in Ireland	15 months	€100,000
3	Teaching and Learning Forum	Enabling Technology-Enhanced Assessment OF/FOR/AS Learning in Higher Education: The Evidence	12 months	€70,000
4.1	Geological Survey of Ireland (co-funded with IRC)	Public Perception of Geoscience in Ireland	24 months	€100,000
4.2	Geological Survey of Ireland (co-funded with SEAI and IRC)	Public and health policy in relation to groundwater resources	24 months	€100,000
4.3	Geological Survey of Ireland (co-funded with IRC)	Economic and public policy for the development of geothermal energy resources in Ireland	24 months	€100,000
5	Irish Research Council	Open call for research addressing national societal challenges	24 months	€100,000
6	Tusla and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs	Feasibility study of conducting a longitudinal study of young people in care /leaving care within an Irish context	12 months	€50,000

## **SECTION B: ELIGIBILITY**

A successful application shall, on the call deadline (**28<sup>th</sup> October 2016**), be submitted by:

- A PI who already holds a contract of sufficient duration with a HEI (as defined in 1.6 in Appendix 2) or an RPO (as defined in 1.9 in Appendix 2) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date (12<sup>th</sup> December 2016) until project end.

A successful PI must:

- Have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014. For this condition, the date of graduation should be taken into account.
- Not be recipients of Irish Research Council Research Development Initiative, Collaborative Research Project or Research Project Grant funding in 2014 or 2015;
- Not be in receipt of any other Council funding at the proposed start date of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, with the exception of New Foundations and Ulysses awards.

### **General Application Conditions**

The lead applicant must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. The PI is also advised that, by submitting applications 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 Partners are part of the general Terms and Conditions of this scheme.

Applicants **may concurrently apply** for an Irish Research Council 'New Horizons Interdisciplinary Research' award. In the event of an applicant submitting a successful application to both schemes, s/he must clearly indicate a time-management strategy and must receive approval for same from the Irish Research Council in order to be permitted to accept both awards

## **SECTION C: ELIGIBLE ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE / COSTS**

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 under the evaluation and assessment process. Applicants should ensure that their budget calculations are correct and adhere to the eligible costs set out below.

### **Staff Costs & Staffing Requirements**

Costs may include staff-replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be clearly justified. All staff replacements ('buy-out' costs) must be accounted for according to approved Irish Research Council staff rates for academic replacements.

IRC Staff Costs	1 calendar year	1/2 calendar year
Academic Replacements	€20,443 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%)	€10,222 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%)
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata)	HEIs can use their own 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 10.75% & Employer Pension Contribution 20%. 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.	
Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)		

The recruitment of any staff must be done openly, through public advertisement. Staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only.

An Employment Control Framework for the higher education sector was issued to the sector on 11th March 2011. Discussions with the Department of Education and Skills in relation to a new Delegated Sanction Agreement to replace ECF for the period 2016 to 2019 will shortly be concluded. In the interim, institutions must continue to adhere to the principles of the ECF. The HEA will inform institutions of any new arrangements as soon as clarification is received from the DES.

All 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.

### Eligible Research Expenses

<b>Staff Costs</b>	Applicants may apply for teaching buyout, up to a certain maximum, as well as postdoctoral and research assistance costs.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Please provide details of expenditure to be incurred in terms of collaborative activities, where relevant. These will primarily consist of travel, networking and/or dissemination activities and must be <b>strongly justified</b> . Collaboration costs cannot exceed 20% of the total project budget.
<b>Dissemination</b>	Details of costs proposed and channels to be used.
<b>Travel Costs</b>	Travel and accommodation costs may be included as part of the proposal. Details on the number and duration of trips being proposed are required.

	Every effort must be made to ensure that travel expenses are minimised (e.g. economy fares only). Subsistence or <i>per diems</i> are not an eligible cost.
<b>Consumables</b>	Maximum of €1,000
<b>Overheads</b>	These must NOT exceed maximum of 25%. Overhead applies to all direct costs except equipment costs.
<b>Equipment</b>	Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. Computer equipment, fieldwork, data collection, archival and digitisation costs may be included under this heading. The Council will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g. laptops, voice recorders, etc.). Any such requests will require <b>a strong rationale</b> and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from any other source.

## SECTION D: APPLICATION PROCESS

A **single application** will be submitted using the online IRC submission portal (*Smart Simple*) by the Principal Investigator. Intending 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 Council website.

Applicants affiliated to a recognised higher education institution or recognised RPO **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 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, the Council will provide a translation to the International Assessment Board.

The Council 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 your application on the closing day, please allow **at least 6 hours** before the 4pm (GMT) on 28<sup>th</sup> October to allow the upload to fully complete.

### **Expression of Interest Form**

All applicants must submit an Expression of Interest template (available on the Council's website) by **4pm, Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016** to [projects@research.ie](mailto:projects@research.ie). The Council will acknowledge receipt of all submitted Expression of Interest forms by email. Applicants are advised not to telephone the office to seek confirmation of receipt of their Expression of Interest form.

The purpose of the Expressions of Interest form is to facilitate the Council in selecting peer reviewers for the evaluation process. Applicants will be required to provide a short description (max. 50 words) and keywords. **It is mandatory to submit an Expression of Interest form: failure to submit an Expression of Interest form will render an application ineligible.**

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### **FAQs**

Any queries relating to these terms and conditions, 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 Council 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](mailto:projects@research.ie) by the designated Research Officer within eligible institutions. The FAQ page on the IRC website will be updated on a weekly basis (Friday) up until **21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**.

## **SECTION E: EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

All applications to the Scheme will be evaluated on a competitive basis by an International Assessment Board (IAB) on the basis of the evaluation criteria.

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 four-stage process:

1. Eligibility and adherence to Terms and Conditions;
2. Pre-meeting evaluation by IAB members;
3. IAB meeting (if required) to qualitatively rank each application and determine suitability for funding; and,
4. Feedback to eligible applicants.

The Council'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. The Council Executive are precluded from discussing the results of the competition over the telephone.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

<p>Quality of proposal</p>	<p>Suitability of the proposal's concept and objectives in relation to the intentions of the scheme, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the significance and contribution of the proposed project to the specific field of research or research topic;</li> <li>• the potential to inform policy and/or practice or contribute to the future development of research; and, the potential to inform policy and practice around the specified themes identified.</li> </ul> <p>Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted including research methodology and consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues and the limitations of the approach to be adopted.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>60/100</b></p>
<p>Feasibility of the implementation and management of project</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>20/100</b></p>
<p>Research and Teaching and/or Professional Impact</p>	<p>Potential for longer term sustainability and future plans.</p> <p>Potential for further capacity building.</p> <p>Interaction with the research and teaching strategy of their HEI/ RPO where appropriate</p>	<p><b>10/100</b></p>



Costs 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.

10/100

## SECTION F: INFORMATION FOR SUCCESSFUL AWARD HOLDERS

### **General responsibilities of Principal Investigators**

Award holders are bound by the Council's Terms and Conditions, letter of offer and acceptance form including specific requirements of partner funding bodies, grant monitoring and recruitment procedures, and financial controls. Should an award holder be in breach of the Scheme's Terms and Conditions, conditions of the letter of offer, acceptance form, grant monitoring or financial control procedures, then the named grantee may be prohibited from applying for further Irish Research Council funding awards in the future. The Council will work with the named single Principal Investigator both in terms of project management and reporting.

### **Financial Accountability**

The Irish HEI/RPO is responsible for and accountable for the proper use of the Award Fund. The Council reserves the right to ask for confirmation from External Auditors of the HEI/RPO of the following:

- that the annual accounts of the HEI/RPO are up to date and have been approved by the Auditors without qualification.
- that the management letter from the Auditors raised no matters that did or could significantly affect the administration of awards awarded by the Council.
- that the monies received under the award have been used for the purpose for which they were awarded.

The Council also reserves the right to commission audits of the participating Irish HEI/RPO for financial or other compliance. The Irish HEI/RPO undertakes to fully facilitate these reviews.

The Council accepts no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or liabilities arising out of work carried out under the award, and the Irish HEI/RPO must fully indemnify the Council against all such expenditure or liabilities and against any actions, proceedings, costs, damages, expenses claims and demands arising from them including, in particular, but without limitation, any claims for compensation for which the Irish HEI/RPO may be liable as an employer or otherwise, or any claims by any person in relation to any intellectual property. The Irish HEI/RPO will return all unspent funds to the Council at the end of the funding term.

All awards under this scheme are subject to receipt of funding by the Irish Research Council from the Department of Education and Skills. In the event of such funding being reduced or discontinued, neither the Department nor the Irish Research Council will be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate an awardee or their host institution for any reduction or cessation of such funding. All amounts payable in respect of the award are paid directly to the host institution which co-ordinates the payments under the award. Any disbursements by a host institution of this scheme may only be made in accordance with usual institutional

practice and Department of Finance guidelines.

### **Review of Progress**

The Council attaches considerable importance to procedures for monitoring this scheme. Funding will be dependent on the demonstration of sufficient progress through regular written reports. It is the sole responsibility of the principal investigator to ensure that such reports are filed by the due dates. Failure to file these reports by the required dates or submission of an unsatisfactory report may result in the Council freezing and/or cancelling a grant. Where a grant is cancelled, the Council will have leave to seek recovery of monies which have been awarded under this Scheme. In any event, a certain percentage of the Award will be held back to ensure satisfactory completion of the project.

All projects may be subject to external research and financial audit. The key aim of this audit is to verify the original aims of the project and determine progress as specified. The research audit may include independent peer review, site visit and project presentation during and post-completion of the project. The principal investigator will be required to maintain a complete research record and vouched expenditure receipts.

### **Indicative reporting requirements:**

<b>Award Type</b>	<b>Reporting requirements</b>
<b>Irish Research Council Research for Policy and Society</b>	Progress Reporting: First report 6 months after commencement & bi- annually thereafter (depending on the duration of the award). Final Report on completion.

### **Deferral of an award**

Awards may not be deferred, other than for eligible career breaks (e.g. maternity or parental leave) or in exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness). The decision is at the discretion of the Council whose decision on the matter will be final. Where there is an agreed suspension of the Award, the Council can consider awardees' requests for no-cost extensions beyond the Funding Term.

### **Termination of Award**

Should an awardee be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue his/her project in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, s/he must, as soon as possible, inform the Council and the research office or its equivalent in the Irish HEI/RPO. The awardee must do this within no later than two weeks of such a situation coming to her/his attention. In such situations, the Council will have regard to the usual conventions of the awardee's Irish HEI/RPO. However, given the basis on which awards are awarded, the Council reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the award.

The Council reserves the right to suspend or terminate the award and/or require reimbursement by the Irish HEI/RPO, as the recipient of the award fund, of some or all payments as have already been made to the awardee, if in the opinion of the Council there has been a material breach of the Terms and Conditions as outlined in this document.

### **Acknowledgement of the Council**

It is an explicit requirement for successful awardees to acknowledge funding received from the Irish Research Council. All publicity, including public lectures, interviews, email signatures, letterheads, office signs, publications, monographs, print materials, online materials, press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, film, video and audio recordings

associated with or arising from the research undertaken by the awardee while in receipt of a Council award must contain acknowledgement of funding received from the **'Irish Research Council'**. In this instance the awardee will utilize the Irish Research Council Research for Policy and Society award title when communicating in any format on the project. Where possible the Council logo (s) should always be included in any such acknowledgement (the logo is available to download from the Council website).

Awardees are also required to notify the Council ([communications@research.ie](mailto:communications@research.ie)) in advance of their participation in any significant events, for example, attaining an award of significant merit or substantial participation in events of national interest or impact that is connected to their IRC-funded research.

### **Ethical Approval**

The Council is committed to the maintenance of high ethical standards in the research that it funds through this award. The Host Organisation must have in place clear ethical guidelines and assurance procedures designed to manage research under its direction. All awardees are required to give careful consideration to ethical issues which may arise in the course of their research.

If ethical issues arise in their research, awardees are required to submit a written statement to the Council to the effect that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal. This statement must further demonstrate the awardee's proposed resolution of the ethical issue arising. Where an awardee's research proposal requires approval by the University Ethics Committee, or the equivalent body in her/his Host Organisation, written evidence of such ethical approval is required by the Council before the award can commence.

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 national, sectoral or institutional Codes of Ethics. The Host Organisation 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 (and not intended to be a complete list): 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.

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 the Council.

### **Research Integrity**

The Host Organisation must ensure that the highest quality of research conduct is maintained. The Host Organisation must ensure that systems are in place to manage research misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, falsification of data, improper data selection). The systems must be clearly publicised, together with agreed procedures for investigating allegations of research misconduct. The systems should align with the basic principles that underpin all research integrity and good practice as outlined in the national policy statement on ['Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland'](#) and the ['European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity'](#).

### **Sex/Gender Dimension**

All awardees are required to give careful consideration as to whether there is a potential sex/gender dimension that may arise in the course of their project. Where the awardee is involved in the organisation of conference, networking or dissemination panels connected with IRC-funded research, due regard should be given to gender balance within any such panel. The Council's Gender Strategy & Action Plan 2013-2020 is available on the Council's website.

### **Intellectual Property/Knowledge Transfer**

The Council does not make any claim to intellectual property arising from the award.

Where appropriate, the Council encourages the commercialisation of research output as outlined in '[Inspiring Partnership - the national IP Protocol 2016](#)' and '[Putting public research to work for Ireland: Policies and procedures to help industry make good use of Ireland's public research institutions \(2012\)](#)'. On that basis, for projects funded under this scheme, foreground intellectual property generated will be owned by the HEI. The Council requires that background IP is captured clearly prior to the initiation of the project, that there is clarity on who has access to background IP and declarations made on the basis of the same. Good practice through the maintenance of notebooks and records must be adhered to. Preferential terms may be negotiated if the HEI is of the view that the best interests of the State are advanced. The Host Organisation(s) must establish rules and procedures for protecting and managing any intellectual property arising during the award. These rules and procedures must be in accordance with national guidelines.

In the case of collaborative research where more than one Host Organisation is involved, a research agreement (including reference to intellectual property rights and confidentiality) must be in place before the award can commence. The terms of any such agreement must not conflict with those outlined in this document. A copy of any research agreements established in relation to awarded projects under this scheme must be made available to the Council.

### **Open Access Policy**

The Council has established and will promote the following policy relating to the placement of research publications and outputs in Open Access Repositories. (It is accepted that there will be recognised instances in which the following might not be feasible; in such circumstances, the PI should contact his/her Research Office or equivalent, where relevant, for advice):

- All PIs must lodge their publications and other research outputs, resulting in whole or in part from Council-funded research, in an Open Access repository and should make such publications publicly discoverable, openly accessible and re-usable as soon as is possible.
- All peer-reviewed journal articles and conference publications should be deposited as soon as possible: ideally, at the time of acceptance by the journal/conference and no later than the date of formal publication.
- Other research outputs such as monographs, books, book chapters, research theses and reports should be deposited where possible.
- The repository should ideally be a local institutional repository to which the appropriate rights must be granted to replicate to other repositories. However, suitable repositories are those, both local and other, that provide free public access to, and make provision for long-term preservation of, published research findings.

Repositories should release the metadata immediately upon deposit. Open access to the full text paper should be made immediately upon deposit or once access restrictions, as required by certain publishers, have expired.

Researchers should agree terms of deposit with publishers. Clarity should be sought on copyright, licensing and embargo policies, and agreed policies with publishers must be respected. Access restrictions to full text articles may be applied as required by certain publishers, however these restrictions should not normally exceed 6 months after publication for scientific, technical and health science research publications and 12 months for arts, humanities and social sciences research outputs. However, the Council recognises that this may not be a feasible option in all cases, and in such a case, an expected embargo of up to 24 months may be facilitated in the arts, humanities and social sciences, but this will be subject to on-going review. More information on the Open Access Policy is available on the Council's website ([www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)).

Whenever data is to be collected with the support of a grant awarded by the Council and/or partners, applicants must specify the means by which that data will be made available as a public good for use by other researchers, via the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) or other appropriate channels.

#### **Additional Awards**

A Research for Policy and Society award is not intended to substitute for or to augment funds available under programmatic research actions. It may be held in conjunction with other externally funded travel bursaries, equipment grants or awards provided that:

- should the awardee apply for further funding to another source, they will state as part of that application (whether or not they are required to do so) that they hold a Council Research for Policy and Society award and will notify the Council prior to submitting the application.
- the value of other funding is not more than €100,000 in any given year during the life of award. However, the Council recognises that, from time to time, awards which exceed this limit may independently recognise the outstanding merit of an awardee during the term of the award. In such circumstances, awardees are advised that in exceptional cases, and then only on a case-by-case basis, they may hold such major personal awards in conjunction with the funding provided by Council. The acceptance of such further awards is subject to the prior approval of Council.
- awardees, who have other sources of funding (other than through paid employment) such as travel grants etc., must inform the appropriate offices in their Irish HEI/RPO, and the Council about the amount and source of the funding in writing. This information must also be recorded in the required progress reports. This applies to research funding received before or during the life of the Fellowship.
- the other funder(s) agree that the Council Research for Policy and Society award can be held alongside their award. The Council will not involve itself in the decisions of other funding agencies/local authorities in this regard.

Tax issues which may arise from such bursaries or awards are of concern to the individual awardee and not the Council or the Irish HEI/RPO.

### **Responsibilities of the Host Organisation (HEIs/RPOs)**

The Host Organisation must obtain and comply with all necessary and statutory permissions laid down by local and national authorities in relation to protecting the environment, preventing pollution and ensuring wider societal health and safety protection.

Applications will need to be endorsed via the online Smart Simple application portal by the Host Organisation within a week of the deadline of the call.

The HEI/RPO is responsible for providing the facilities and access to the equipment needed for the awardee to carry out the research, ensuring that all items of equipment and materials provided for the award are adequately maintained.

### **Dignity in the Conduct of Research**

The Council supports a research system in which individual researchers are enabled to reach their full potential at all stages of their career. Scholars and their supervisors are entitled to carry out their research free from any form of harassment, victimisation, or bullying. HEIs have the responsibility to ensure an appropriate work environment and to deal with any complaints or issues speedily, in line with agreed grievance procedures. The Council's full statement on dignity in the conduct of research is available [here](#).

All Council staff are entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times and, accordingly, are encouraged to report any instances of infractions to management. In cases where staff experience abusive or inappropriate behaviour, the Council reserves the right to report any such behaviour to the relevant personnel in the HEI or other organisation connected with the individual.

### **General Award Conditions**

These Terms and Conditions will be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of Ireland and all parties will expressly and irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the Irish Courts.

Following the policies of the Irish Government in relation to the development of the Information Society, properly authenticated electronic communications will be treated as legally equivalent to paper submission. The Council and the HEI/RPO must follow good practice on data protection, management and security. The Council cannot be held legally liable for interference by any third party.

It is a condition of acceptance of an award that awardees grant permission to the Council to share data about the application with government departments and other national funding agencies for statistical and policy formation purposes.

The Council reserves the right to revise the Terms and Conditions of this award at any time. Any such revisions will be notified to participating HEI/RPOs and will also be posted on the Council's website.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Strand 1: Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Research Award**

Supported by: HSE Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme

#### **Introduction**

The HSE Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme (the Programme) is a national programme tasked with implementing two national strategies. These strategies set the national priorities of the Programme, to improve sexual health and wellbeing, to prevent unplanned and crisis pregnancies and the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and to improve access to information and services for those living in Ireland.

The first strategy sets out to address the issue of crisis pregnancy by working towards priority actions at strategic, policy, governmental and community levels to address the issue of crisis pregnancy.

<http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/PPP-Strategy-FINAL1x1.pdf>.

The second strategy sets out to improve sexual health and wellbeing and reduce negative sexual health outcomes by improving education and prevention supports, sexual health services, and the quality of intelligence and information.

<http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/National-Sexual-Health-Strategy.pdf>.

#### **HSE Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme and Research**

The Programme places a strong emphasis on evidence-informed planning and evaluation. Research and knowledge transfer have been significant components of how the Programme conducts its business across a range of areas, including service planning, funding projects at local level, development of practice guidelines and improvement of service standards and initiating and monitoring prevention and communications initiatives. The existing body of research and publications is available at: <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/publication/research-reports/>

#### **Requirements for Research for Policy and Society Award 2016**

The Programme seeks to benefit from supporting the *Research for Policy and Society 2016* research awards by building on the evidence-base that directly relates to its work.

The Programme seeks to elicit proposals from the research community, drawing on new ideas and trans-disciplinary developments in academic fields relevant to crisis pregnancy and sexual health, in line with the national strategic direction.

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

- Ensure the Programme keeps abreast of emerging trends and factors related to crisis pregnancy, STIs, sexual activity and condom/contraceptive-use, reproductive decision-making and sexual health services.
- Build upon the range of research commissioned by the Programme and fill knowledge gaps.
- Stimulate and further strengthen research in the areas of sexual health and sexual health policy, sexual decision-making and crisis pregnancy.
- Ensure that the Programme's research portfolio continues to be used and is part of emerging developments in the field.

- Further build academic capacity and expertise in areas related to the Programme's work.

This 'open call' for research proposals should consider the function of the Programme and its existing body of evidence. It should seek to identify new perspectives or information gaps in the evidence or relevant areas of interest.

Proposals must be directly related to the requirements outlined above, have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues.

The Programme requires that proposals made in response to the '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 C for details on eligible costs. The funded projects **MUST** start by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and be completed in 15 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to link with the Programme

To this end,

- a specified contact person will be nominated by the Programme.
- The Programme should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.
- The Programme must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	15 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%)



## Strand 2: Intercultural Understanding and Diversity in Ireland

Supported by: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

### Introduction

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (the Commission) was set up on 1 November 2014 as an independent public body. Our purpose is to protect and promote human rights and equality in Ireland and build a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding across Irish society.

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, specifies that the overall functions<sup>2</sup> of the Commission are:

- to protect and promote human rights and equality,
- to encourage the development of a culture of respect for human rights, equality, and intercultural understanding in the State,
- to promote understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights and equality in the State,
- to encourage good practice in intercultural relations, to promote tolerance and acceptance of diversity in the State and respect for the freedom and dignity of each person, and
- to work towards the elimination of human rights abuses, discrimination and prohibited conduct.

In its Strategic Plan 2016-2018 the Commission places a strong emphasis on robust research evidence and analysis as key to authoritatively influencing policy change and to creating a deeper culture of human rights and equality.

### IHREC participation in Research for Policy and Society Award 2016

As part of its objective to build the evidence base that directly relates to human rights and equality, the Commission seeks to benefit from supporting the Research for Policy and Society 2016 research award. Specifically, it seeks to elicit proposals from the research community for studies on intercultural understanding and diversity in Ireland that: (a) draw on new ideas and inter-disciplinary developments in academic fields relevant to interculturalism, equality and human rights; and (b) seek to identify gaps in policy thinking and strategy and to develop frameworks to address such gaps.

The Commission's Strategic Plan 2016-18 sets out five strategic goals including ***“Goal 5: Intercultural understanding and diversity - to promote and contribute to effective, positive intercultural relations in Ireland”***. This is further elaborated as follows:

“by 2019 the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission will, through a series of positive interventions, have enhanced public recognition of diversity and intercultural relationships as a positive factor in Irish life. We will achieve this by:

- Delivering and articulating an understanding of interculturalism based on human rights and equality;
- Active engagement with different groups in society;
- Promoting good practice in interculturalism, including promoting intercultural and inter-faith dialogue;
- Opposing racism and related forms of intolerance;
- Promoting pluralism and acceptance of differences, encouraging a culture of respect for freedom and dignity and understanding of human rights and equality in the State.”

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<sup>2</sup> Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014, Section 10 (1)

Proposals must be directly related to this Strategic Goal and must have an applied focus that will result in new insights on key issues and assist the development of national strategies and policies that support public recognition of diversity and intercultural relationships as a positive factor in Irish life.

### **Requirements**

Proposals made in response to this call should demonstrate awareness of existing national and international policy and research in the area. Building on existing research, proposals should outline how they will develop new perspectives on key issues and/or address identified information or policy gaps in the relevant area of interest.

Successful awardees will be expected to consult regularly with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. To this end:

- A specified contact person will be nominated by the Commission
- The Commission should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.
- The successful awardee should agree a schedule of meetings with the Commission
- The Commission must be consulted with regard to any publications and/or dissemination of findings from the research.

Final reports will be subject to a process of review under the Terms and Conditions of the award. This includes review by external peer reviewers and review by the sponsoring agency.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	15 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%)

**Note:** The above award will be co-funded by the Irish Research Council and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

### **Strand 3: Enabling Technology-Enhanced Assessment OF/FOR/AS Learning in Higher Education: The Evidence**

Supported by: The Teaching and Learning Forum

#### **Introduction**

The **National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education** (*National Forum*) supports the enhancement of teaching and learning in the Irish higher education sector. Key aspects that contribute to enhancement in the sector are in assessment and the role and use of technology.

Technology's role in the learning environment has been emphasised in recent European and national policies. In 2014, the European Commission stated that the '*integration of new technologies and pedagogies needs to be placed at the heart of institutions' teaching and learning strategies, and they should become an integral component of everyday institutional business*' (European Commission, 2014. p. 27). The National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 (Hunt Report) maintains that higher education students of the future should have an excellent teaching and learning experience, informed by up-to-date research and facilitated by a high-quality learning environment, with state-of-the-art learning resources and e-learning facilities. Students should be facilitated to develop the generic skills needed for effective engagement in society and in the workplace ([Department of Education and Skills, 2011](#)).

In 2015, following an extensive national consultation process, the National Forum launched a national [Digital Roadmap](#) which set out some key priorities for the sector including:

- Prioritise the development across the sector of high-impact practices that leverage the potential of digital technologies to support student learning and substantially contribute to evidencing pedagogical excellence (p49)
- The barriers to the development, acquisition and application of digital skills and knowledge among academic staff and students need to be addressed and the relevant structures to actively support such development need to be put in place (p43).

The current [National Forum's assessment enhancement theme \(2016-2018\)](#), launched in December 2015, aims to explore the sector's understanding and implementation of assessment of, for and as learning. In particular, the aim of the theme is to consider the interplay between ideal assessment practices, actual assessment practices in operation and the mediating role of institutional policy and regulatory processes to understanding the push/pull factors for assessment practice change and development.

#### **Study**

The intended focus of this study is an evidence-based exploration of how technology can be used effectively and efficiently for assessment of/for/as learning across the Irish higher education sector. In particular, the study should investigate and make recommendations on questions identified during the earlier consultation with the sector regarding assessment, i.e.

- How can technology enhance staff efficiencies in the assessment OF/FOR/AS learning process?
- What approaches could address staff concerns on the issue of student plagiarism that are often associated with technology-enhanced assessment of learning?
- What models of assessment design can assist staff to harness the potential of technology to enhance student learning?
- What types of learning environments do institutions need to provide to support technology-enhanced assessment OF/FOR/AS learning?
- What exemplars of good practice of technology-enhanced assessment OF/FOR/AS learning (Irish and international case studies) can be identified to support staff

assessing higher order thinking, i.e. critical and creative thinking?

### **Requirements and Scope**

The investigation should consider international as well as national developments in technology-enhanced assessment. At a national level, its results should be representative of the cross-section of institutions within the Irish higher education sector, i.e. universities, institutes of technology, HECA, colleges of education. It is important to note that the main focus of the study is to gain a deeper understanding of existing evidence (literature and best practice) and the creation of any primary data should only be conducted with a view to complementing this focus.

This research project should draw on and complement the existing and current research and projects of the National Forum. In particular, it needs to align closely with the Assessment Enhancement Theme's research activities and draw on the findings of the Profiling of Assessment of/for/as Learning across Disciplines study. Reports should provide considerations, based on research evidence, for implementing recommendations pertaining to aspects such as: national and/or institutional policies/procedures; strategic, discipline and/or individual assessment practices and policies. In addition, where relevant, they should identify case studies of good practice.

### **Outputs and Liaison**

The successful awardees will be expected to consult and work regularly with the National Forum. To this end:

- A specified contact person will be nominated by the National Forum.
- The successful awardee will be provided with a schedule of meetings, interim reports and final outputs required by the National Forum as part of the award contract.
- The National Forum must be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.
- Liaison on proposed publications and dissemination of research findings with the National Forum will be required.
- Acknowledgement of funding from the National Forum must be included on all communications associated with the project. All reports should comply with the requirements of the National Forum's communication strategy.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	12 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €70,000

## **Strand 4: Geological Survey of Ireland awards**

Supported by: Geological Survey of Ireland

### **Strand 4.1 Public Perception of Geoscience in Ireland**

#### **Introduction**

The Geological Survey of Ireland is responsible for providing geological advice and information, and for the acquisition of data for this purpose. It produces a range of products including maps, reports and databases and acts as a knowledge centre and project partner in all aspects of Irish geology. GSI data is used by stakeholders in academia, industry, government and policy makers. The GSI's Research Strategy outlines its commitment to funding leading applied research in the area of natural resources including groundwater. [www.gsi.ie/research](http://www.gsi.ie/research)

A wide range of geoscience activities (e.g. geo-energy production, extractive industries, scientific and environmental surveys) require public and community support. Increasingly such projects, including clean energy projects and development of natural resources, have met significant opposition, both in Ireland and internationally. Although the notion of NIMBYism ('not in my back yard') is widely acknowledged in many areas of science and technology, evidence shows that in many cases, concerns raised by opponents are, are often related to more complex societal, moral, psychological and economic factors.

In 2015, the GSI commissioned a report to review the key issues in the area of *Social Acceptance of Geoscience Activities in Ireland*. The report identified several areas requiring further study, particularly in an Irish context.

The full review is available here;

<http://www.gsi.ie/Research/Public+Perception+of+Geoscience.htm>

#### **The Geological Survey of Ireland and Research**

The GSI seeks to benefit from supporting the *Research for Policy and Society 2016* research award by improving on its evidence-base that directly relates to its work. In relation to the topics proposed, further qualitative and quantitative research is required including the use of participatory research methods and engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders. The results will be used to inform policy, develop legislation and planning guidelines and for risk communication and development of education and outreach programmes

The GSI seeks to elicit proposals from the research community, drawing on new ideas and trans-disciplinary developments in academic fields relevant to public perception of geoscience, social acceptance/social license to operate, and citizen engagement in geoscience activities.

The focus of this research should be on community perspectives, perception and values in relation to Geoscience. The research should focus on understanding the public's perception of risk, developing methods for how best to accurately communicate risk and develop strategies to include participants in a meaningful way (i.e. the public, government, policy makers, industry etc.).

The proposed research should deliver evidence-based recommendations with respect to public support/acceptance for developing and managing our natural resources. This research could include:

- Analysis of public attitudes to geosciences and recommendations for achieving greater public acceptance/support for geoscience activities. This could focus on one or a number of particular areas (e.g. geo-energy, extractive industries, water resources, geotourism) and should include a comparative analysis including international examples.
- Development of tools for communicating risk in a geoscience context (e.g. environmental, social, economic, etc.)
- Development of recommendations/tools to help increase public engagement in geoscience and management of natural resources, in particular primary and secondary level education.

Applicants should consider the function of the GSI, taking into account the new GSI Research Strategy.

Proposals must be directly related to the aims outlined above, have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues.

### Requirements

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will fully integrate geoscience with environmental and natural resources and social sciences. They should also demonstrate how the programme 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 C for details on eligible costs. The funded projects MUST start by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and be completed in 24 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to consult regularly with the GSI and named project partners.

To this end:

- a specified contact person will be nominated by the GSI
- The GSI should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project
- The GSI must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings

Final reports will be subject to a process of review under the Terms and Conditions of the award. This includes review by external peer reviewers and review by the sponsoring Department.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	24 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%)

**Note:** The above award will be co-funded by the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Irish Research Council

## Strand 4.2: Public and health policy in relation to groundwater resources

### Introduction

The Geological Survey of Ireland is responsible for providing geological advice and information, and for the acquisition of data for this purpose. It produces a range of products including maps, reports and databases and acts as a knowledge centre and project partner in all aspects of Irish geology. GSI data is used by stakeholders in academia, industry, government and policy makers. The GSI's Research Strategy outlines its commitment to funding leading applied research in the area of natural resources including groundwater [www.gsi.ie/research](http://www.gsi.ie/research)

Groundwater is a major natural resource in the Republic of Ireland providing between 20% and 25% of drinking water supplies. In certain counties the proportion is much greater - over 50%. In rural areas not served by public or group water schemes, groundwater is usually the only source of supply - at least 100,000 wells and springs are in use. With such a large proportion of the country relying on groundwater it is imperative that this resource be protected. This can be achieved through appropriate land use planning and practice, and development of groundwater protection schemes. The Groundwater Programme of GSI aims to assist in this process by:

- Advising government departments & agencies on groundwater issues
- Preparing county [Groundwater Protection Schemes](#), including mapping aquifer potential and groundwater vulnerability.
- Mapping groundwater source protection zones
- Research, in combination with universities, on Irish groundwater issues
- Maintaining groundwater databases (e.g. wells, groundwater quality, groundwater levels)
- Answering hydrogeological enquiries from consulting scientists and engineers and the general public

### GSI participation in *Research for Policy and Society Award 2016*

The GSI seeks to benefit from supporting the *Research for Policy and Society 2016* research award by improving on its evidence-base that directly relates to its work.

The GSI seeks to elicit proposals from the research community, drawing on new ideas and trans-disciplinary developments in academic fields relevant to groundwater. In particular, the potential human health risk related to inundation of public and private groundwater sources from recent flooding events.

The proposed research would develop evidence-based recommendations for the general public or governmental departments/agencies with respect to flooded groundwater sources. This research could include:

- A cross-sectional formalised survey of well owners and users in Ireland in order to identify knowledge and awareness gaps pertaining to their domestic source and flooding events
- A systematic review of literature on groundwater and flooding, in order to qualify and quantify best international practise, and assess the relevance of international evidence and experience within the Irish context
- A quantitative microbial risk assessment of the human health risks associated with flooding in the Republic of Ireland

- Development of a series of guidelines, recommendations and/or a simple risk assessment procedure for use by the relevant parties (i.e. EPA, Local Authorities, HSE) when responding to public concerns i.e. maintenance, contamination duration, water testing, treatment

Applicants should consider the function of the GSI (along with its key partnerships with other Government departments and agencies) and its role in informing public policy. The research should seek to identify new perspectives or information gaps in the evidence or relevant areas of interest.

Proposals must be directly related to the aims outlined above, have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues and associated policy recommendations.

### **Requirements**

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will fully integrate geoscience with public policy/environmental health policy. They should also demonstrate how the programme 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 C for details on eligible costs. The funded projects **MUST** start by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and be completed in 24 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to consult regularly with the GSI and named project partners.

To this end:

- a specified contact person will be nominated by the GSI
- The GSI should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project
- The GSI must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings

Final reports will be subject to a process of review under the Terms and Conditions of the award. This includes review by external peer reviewers and review by the sponsoring Department.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	24 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%)

**Note:** The above award will be co-funded by the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Irish Research Council



## **Strand 4.3: Economic and public policy for the development of geothermal energy resources in Ireland**

### **Introduction**

The Geological Survey of Ireland is responsible for providing geological advice and information, and for the acquisition of data for this purpose. It produces a range of products including maps, reports and databases and acts as a knowledge centre and project partner in all aspects of Irish geology. GSI data is used by stakeholders in academia, industry, government and policy makers. The GSI's Research Strategy outlines its commitment to funding leading applied research in the area of natural resources including groundwater. [www.gsi.ie/research](http://www.gsi.ie/research)

The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is an important issue facing society at present, and EU member states have agreed to a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 (EPA, 2015). Renewable energy, including geothermal energy, will play an important role in achieving this goal. Appropriately designed, large-scale geothermal energy systems can satisfy society's "energy trilemma" by providing a secure energy supply that is economical and environmentally sustainable. In 2015, heat production accounted for 39% of the total annual energy expenditure in Ireland (SEAI, 2015). Currently, renewable energy contributes 6.5% to this heat energy expenditure, and our national target is 12% by 2020. Although there are currently no large-scale, deep geothermal heating projects in Ireland, it is nonetheless feasible that geothermal energy can provide a sustainable and stable supply of heat energy to help us meet this national target.

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) has been involved with geothermal resources since the 1960s. In the last two decades, GSI's involvement with geothermal resources has shifted to reflect societal and governmental needs to use greener energy, both for intrinsic environmental reasons and to help meet CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets, which will have consequential, direct and indirect, economic benefits.

To assist the uptake of shallow geothermal energy as a source of heat, and to help to ensure successful ground source installations, the GSI has recently produced:

- A Homeowner's guide to Ground Source Heat / Shallow Geothermal Energy
- National shallow geothermal energy suitability maps

The GSI also acted as a partner in the recently completed IRE THERM deep geothermal project, and is active in supporting ongoing Irish research in the field of deep geothermal energy.

In general, the aim of current GSI projects is to address shortcomings in the national legislation and policy through the creation of guidelines, collection and collation of data, and the creation of maps. With regard to geothermal resources, the shallow geothermal project was achieved through collaboration with government departments/agencies (e.g. SEAI, Exploration and Mining Division of the DCCA, EPA), geothermal and other industry organisations (e.g. Geothermal Association of Ireland, Heat Pump Association of Ireland), local authorities, appropriate academic institutes and consultants (e.g. drilling, hydrogeological, architects) as required, to gather all available, relevant information (including regulatory information). Future GSI geothermal projects will also link a similarly diverse group of organisations.

A key step in increasing the uptake of geothermal resources in Ireland, both shallow and deep, will be the establishment of a suitable regulatory framework for the development of these resources, a step that was recognised in the latest government White Paper for Energy (2015).

## **The Geological Survey of Ireland and Research**

The GSI seeks to benefit from supporting the *Research for Policy and Society 2016* research award by improving on its evidence-base that directly relates to its work.

The GSI seeks to elicit proposals from the research community, drawing on new ideas and trans-disciplinary developments in academic fields relevant to geothermal energy production and social acceptance of the same. In particular, identifying gaps in policy and strategy implementation and developing frameworks to address such gaps.

The proposed research would develop evidence-based recommendations for the general public or governmental departments/agencies with respect to developing geothermal energy resources. This research could include:

- Analysis of public attitudes to geothermal energy and recommendations for achieving public acceptance/support for large-scale geothermal heating projects and district heating networks (DHNs). This could include a comparative analysis to another EU country (with similar geothermal resources) where geothermal and/or DHNs are widely accepted and implemented.
- Quantitatively estimating the economic value of industrial geothermal heating/cooling systems in Ireland and investigating (innovative) economic incentives for their use
- Analysis of the relative benefits of prioritising geothermal resources in multi-disciplinary renewable energy schemes for large buildings and districts.
- Development of recommendations to inform public policy on incentivising (i) industrial heating/cooling systems, (ii) installation of private geothermal energy systems

Applicants should consider the function of the GSI, taking into account the new GSI Research Strategy.

Proposals must be directly related to the aims outlined above, have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues.

### **Requirements**

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will fully integrate geoscience with environmental and energy policies and social sciences. They should also demonstrate how the programme 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 C for details on eligible costs. The funded projects MUST start by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and be completed in 24 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to consult regularly with the GSI and named project partners.

To this end:

- a specified contact person will be nominated by the GSI
- The GSI should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project
- The GSI must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings

Final reports will be subject to a process of review under the Terms and Conditions of the award. This includes review by external peer reviewers and review by the sponsoring Department.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	24 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%)

**Note:** The above award will be co-funded by the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Irish Research Council.

## Strand 5: Open call for research to address national societal challenges

Supported by: Irish Research Council

### Requirements for *Research for Policy and Society Award 2016*

Ireland is facing a number of national and global challenges, such as climate change, combatting poverty and social exclusion, mental health, housing & homelessness and demographic changes and the growing demand for energy and food security, health services and education. There is a pressing need for research on these long term challenges that can inform the design of programmes aimed at addressing both the immediate and longer terms needs of Irish society. Research programmes designed to inform the policy process play a vital role in translating important research in relation to health, education, environment, society and economy. Outstanding research and innovation help to advance our economic, social and cultural well-being and our health. The best policymaking requires the best analysis and evidence and there are many areas where research impinges on government policy. Whilst it is not the responsibility of researchers to make public policy, it is important that they provide the best evidence to help policy makers make the best decisions.

[Innovation 2020 \(the national strategy for research and development\)](#) has stressed the necessity of research to address societal challenges facing Ireland, at a national and global level. In addition, it emphasis the need to develop a societal-challenge based approach to research within national research and innovation funding and policy. The Council has been assigned a number of actions to deliver the objectives of *Innovation 2020*, including increasing the engagement of public entities and civic society in public policy and societal challenge-based research, which will ultimately strengthen public policy and societal impact.

Through this call, we aim to demonstrate the capability of the Irish research community to respond to pressing national needs, and to build capacity to address complex societal challenges. This 'open call' for research proposals should seek to identify new perspectives or information gaps in the evidence or relevant areas of interest. Applicants must demonstrate an awareness of the challenges not just from a research perspective but also from a policy perspective. As such, applicants should reference current policy reports and briefs in their application. Applicants may consider developing proposals that address different challenges for example, homelessness and mental health, housing and education, demographic changes and health. These areas are given as examples only, and applicants are invited to consider a breadth of issues within the remit of this call. Proposals must have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues relating to national societal challenges.

### Application Requirements

Applicants must also demonstrate the value of their proposal to the policy and/or service communities. In addition, 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.

Please see section C for details on eligible costs. The funded projects MUST start by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and be completed in 24 months.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	24 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%)

## **Strand 6: Feasibility study of conducting a longitudinal study of young people in care /leaving care within an Irish context**

Supported by Tusla and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs

### **Background**

Tusla the Child and Family Agency was established on 1st January 2014 under the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013 and is responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children.

Tusla has responsibility for the provision of a wide range of services as follows:

- Child Welfare and Protection Services, including family support services;
- Family Resource Centres and associated national programmes;
- Early years (pre-school) Inspection Services;
- Educational Welfare responsibilities including School Completion Programmes and Home School Community Liaison;
- Domestic, sexual and gender based violence services;
- Services related to the psychological welfare of children.

One of the specific functions of the Agency, as set out in the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013 Part 2 Section 8 (1)(f) is to “Undertake or commission research relating to its functions”. The **Tusla Research Strategy** has been developed within the policy context of *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children & young people 2014 – 2020* (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2014) which states:

*“Government investment in children will be more outcomes driven and informed by national and international evidence on the effectiveness of expenditure on child related services, with the aim of improving child outcomes and reducing inequalities. Resource allocation within services will be based on evidence of both need and effectiveness”.*

The **Tusla Corporate Plan 2015-2017** sets out not only the values espoused by Tusla but the manner in which those values can be translated into good quality services for children and families. With the child at the centre, the Tusla mission is ‘*to design and deliver supportive, coordinated and evidence-informed services that strive to ensure positive outcomes for children, families and communities*’.

In response to identified challenges facing families and communities, eight strategic objectives have been identified in this plan. When linked to measurable outcomes, they provide a clear basis on which to develop business and work plans for Tusla over the period 2015-2017. **Strategic Objective 4** is to: *Develop an organisation that lives within its means and utilises its resources in an efficient and cost-effective manner.*

### **Research area**

The Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (The Ryan Report) was published on 20th May, 2009. The Report included 20 recommendations and focused on Government Departments and institutions responsible for services in the period in question.

Following the publication of the Report a detailed Implementation Plan was prepared and published in July 2009. The overall aim of the Plan is to make a difference to children’s lives by addressing past failings and putting measures in place to achieve better outcomes in the delivery of services to children and families. The Government committed to the full implementation of this Plan which sets out a series of 99 actions designed to:

- Address the effects of past abuse;
- Develop and strengthen national child care policy and evaluating its implementation;
- Strengthen the regulation and inspection function;
- Improve the organisation and delivery of children’s services;
- Give greater effect to the voice of the child;
- Revise Children First, the national guidance for the protection and welfare of children and underpin the guidance by way of legislation.

Arising out Of the Action Plan, the Child and Family Agency (Tusla)<sup>3</sup> was tasked to implement the following action of the Ryan Report Recommendation 7.09 that childcare services should be reviewed on a regular basis:

*‘conduct a longitudinal study to follow young people who leave care for 10 years, to map their transition to adulthood’*

In 2013, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs published a report as part of the implementation of the *National Strategy for Research and Data on Children’s Lives 2011-2016* on a Scoping Study on the Longitudinal Study of Children Who Leave Care commissioned by HSE Children and Family Services and conducted by Dr. Carmel Devaney UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUIG. The scoping study provided information and literature review findings on a number of key issues relating to longitudinal studies including research design, sampling, consent, response rates, retention, data collection, data analysis, dissemination, governance and estimated costings.

The fourth and final Department of Children and Youth Affairs Ryan Report Implementation Group Progress Report (2014) noted that it has not been possible to proceed with the recommendation due to resource restrictions and other competing demands in the sector and that the recommendation will be kept under review.

The Child and Family Agency’s (Tusla) Business Plan 2016 makes provision within the Research Function of the Policy and Strategy Directorate to:

*‘Scope and issue a tender for a longitudinal study over ten years of young people who leave care to map their transition into adulthood’*

### **Research description**

Tusla wishes to build on the scoping study conducted by NUIG in 2013 to further examine a number of scoping issues including the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal study of young people in care / leaving care within an Irish context; the methodological, technical and value for money elements of conducting such a study that is informed by previous and current studies of this nature and the policy and practice in other jurisdictions underpinning such approaches; and an examination of how such a study interrelates with comparative longitudinal studies of the general population.

Tusla will require that the research be conducted within Tusla ethical governance protocols and procedures to ensure the maximum benefit of the research whilst minimising the risk of actual or potential harm.

The research must be conducted within the parameters of the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 which cover a wide range of research-related activities, particularly

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<sup>3</sup> Previously HSE Children and Family Services

in regard to confidentiality and anonymity.

Researchers must carry out their work in accordance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA, 2011).

### **Requirements**

A feasibility study of longitudinal studies of children in care / leaving care within an Irish context to include:

- An analysis of the benefits and risks of a longitudinal study of young people leaving care as a stand-alone study compared to a longitudinal study of young people currently in care / leaving care;
- A systematic examination of the technical, methodological and value for money barriers and enablers for conducting such a longitudinal study within an Irish context;
- A systematic examination of the technical, methodological and value for money barriers and enablers for conducting such a longitudinal study within international comparator countries;
- A review of current and previous longitudinal studies of young children in care / leaving care and the policies and practices underpinning such approaches in international comparator countries;
- An analysis of how a longitudinal study of children in care / leaving care within an Irish context ties in with longitudinal studies of the general population such as Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) and TILDA
- A set of recommendations including costings to support future tendering options.

### **Outputs**

The output of the study will be a full report of the research findings from the proposed study at 12 months, with an interim report at 6 months focusing on specified elements of the research as well as a summary of the full report findings in a format to be prescribed by the Tusla for publication in print and on the Tusla's website [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie).

<b>Timeframe:</b>	12 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €50,000 (including overheads at 25%)

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **DEFINITIONS**

**1.1 The Council** shall mean the Irish Research Council.

**1.2 AHSS** Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences disciplines as set out in the list of eligible subject areas (Annex A). The term SSH (Social Science & Humanities) is the preferred acronym used more frequently by the European Commission and has the same meaning as AHSS in the context of this funding scheme. The two terms are used interchangeably in this document.

**1.3 Awardees** shall mean the Research for Policy and Society awardees (Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator). For reporting purposes, the Council will liaise directly with the Principal (Lead) Investigator.

**1.4 Award Fund** shall mean the funding for the award.

**1.5 Funding Term** shall mean the period between the official start date and agreed end date of the Award.

**1.6 Higher Education Institution (HEI)** For the purposes of these Awards, a higher education institution in Ireland (as defined in clause 1.11) must be: within the meaning of Section One of the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971; and/or approved for the purposes of the Free Fees initiative; and/or in receipt of some other form of public funding from the Department of Education and Skills. A list of eligible Irish HEIs is provided on [http://www.research.ie/sites/default/files/eligible\\_heis\\_rpos\\_in\\_ireland.pdf](http://www.research.ie/sites/default/files/eligible_heis_rpos_in_ireland.pdf)

**1.7 Ireland** shall for the purposes of these Terms & Conditions mean the Republic of Ireland.

**1.8 Principal Investigator (Lead PI):** The leading investigator or “lead applicant”.

**1.9 Research Performing Organisation (RPO)** For the purposes of these awards, an eligible RPO is one that possesses an existing in-house capacity to carry out research that materially extends and enhances the Irish research base and is in a position to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake and lead research projects/programmes, as approved by the Council.<sup>1</sup>

**1.10 Research Project** shall mean the research work proposed by the applicant and approved by the Irish Research Council.



## **APPENDIX 3**

### **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 Irish Research Council awards and will also be a requirement for Horizon 2020 funding.

The following is provided to help applicants complete the Sex-Gender dimension statement in the application. This taken from the Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research<sup>4</sup> 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

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009\\_GenderToolKit\\_Module1.pdf](http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009_GenderToolKit_Module1.pdf)

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:**

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

### **Proposal phase:**

- o 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?

- o Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how sex-gender issues will be handled (e.g. in a specific work package)?
- o Have possibly differentiated outcomes and impacts of the research on women and men been considered?

**Research phase:**

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

- o 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?
- o 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?