



Minutes, 28/05/2019, Briefing

Start, 14:05

Attendees

- Dr Eavan O'Brien, Assistant Principal, Irish Research Council
- Dr Deirdre Quinn, Programme Manager, Irish Research Council
- Vincent Sheridan, Research Support Officer, Irish Research Council
- Mary McCarthy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Evelyn Cusack, Head of Forecasting, Met Éireann
- Dr Kasey Treadwell Shine, Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Lorcan O'Byrne, Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Maeve O'Brien, Health Service Executive (HSE) (in absentia)
 - Presentation presented by Dr Deirdre Quinn, Irish Research Council
- Dr Iris Elliott, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)



Dr Eavan O'Brien, Irish Research Council, Introduction

- Briefing Meeting includes Research Officers from across Ireland, currently 15 participants dialling in
- SLIDE 3 – Agenda
- SLIDE 4 – Introduction of COALESCE Research Fund 2019 – second call of the scheme.
- SLIDE 5 – Application process
 - Detailing changes in application process, and particular changes in Application form.
 - Briefing will conclude with a Q&A, which will be posted on the Council website (along with slides) after the briefing.
 - The Council welcomes questions during the briefing via projects@research.ie. Please note, questions following the opening of the Call will not be answered directly but will be published in the weekly FAQs posted on the programme's webpage, as per Council procedure.
- SLIDE 4 – Introduction of COALESCE Research Fund 2019 – second call of the scheme.
 - The aim of the programme is to 'fund excellent research addressing national and European/global challenges, in partnership with government department and agencies'.
 - Quote from Terms & Conditions of Award:
 - 'The overall aim of this call is to cultivate new knowledge, evidence, collaborations and links that enhance the role and impact of Ireland's research community in contributing to the achievement of national challenges and wider global goals. COALESCE will leverage the quality of Ireland's research base to address societal challenges. The call will drive active collaboration between those who produce new knowledge and those who use it'.
- SLIDE 5 – Application process
 - 1st Call, 2018: 26 successful projects, totalling €4.8M in funding
 - Application timelines:
 - Call Opens: June 2019
 - **Applicant Deadline: 8 August 2019**
 - Research Office endorsement deadline: 19 August 2019
 - Outcome of scheme: December 2019
 - 2019 Terms & Conditions and Indicative Application form on COLESCE webpage
 - 2019 Partners:
 1. Irish Human Rights Equality Commission
 2. HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme
 3. Department of Children and Youth Affairs
 4. Met Éireann [new partner]
 5. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Mary McCarthy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

- SLIDE 6 – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Overview, Mary McCarthy
 - Second year as Strategic Partner on COALESCE programme
- SLIDE 7 – ‘A Better World’: Ireland’s Policy for International Development – Overview
 - Initiated 2 months ago, represents a 10-year pathway to engage Ireland with global developmental issues through overseas developmental assistance
- SLIDE 8 – Vision & Rationale
 - A more equal, peaceful and sustainable world
 - International development cooperation as a central part of Ireland’s foreign policy [Global Ireland: our global influence and footprint]
 - Delivering on 0.7 % GNI to ODA by 2030
 - Ireland’s response to changing global context and challenges, and response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Reiterating Ireland’s strong commitment to the multilateral, rules-based order
 - This year’s Call eligibility criteria tied to DFAT’s ‘A Better World’ policy
- SLIDE 9 – Scheme for new policy
 - 4 priorities
 1. Reduce Humanitarian Need
 2. Climate Action
 3. Strengthened Governance
 4. Gender Equality
 - 4 interlinked priorities
- SLIDE 10 - Research and Learning in ‘A Better World’
 - Central role of research and evidence for Ireland’s development cooperation and policy influencing
 - Support and engagement with higher education/research sectors; recognizing this critical constituency and its contribution to international development
 - Building north-south research collaborations and cooperation
 - Positioning Irish-led research consortia for Horizon Europe funding
- SLIDE 11 - Priorities for Strand 2B – Better World awards: to reach the furthest behind first
 - Deal closely with four priorities – applications under any individual or across all priorities are welcome – none are standalone
- SLIDE 12 - Key question – eligibility of partner and institutions and countries
 - 80 countries around world
 - Continental Africa, incl. Sub-Saharan Africa, West Africa, East Africa and the Sahel; and Vietnam and Palestine.



Evelyn Cusack, Head of Forecasting, Met Éireann (standing in for Dr Patrick Fournet)

- SLIDE 14 – Overview
 - Proposal for project with forecasting: Making Ireland Weather and Climate Prepared – 10-year strategy 2017-2027 available on Met Éireann website
 - Difference between Climate and Weather: Climate = What you expect, Weather = What you get
- SLIDE 15 – An Era of Change
 - Some changes in Irish climate – 5% increase in rainfall
 - Though weather is variable (i.e. last year's summer drought was within natural variability), extreme events are becoming more likely
 - Rapidly increasing population both in Ireland and globally could lead to societal vulnerability
 - The nature of weather information is changing
- SLIDE 16 - Extreme weather
 - Flooding, fires (Bray and in the Midlands)
 - Ireland part of MeterAlarm framework (orange/red warnings, etc.)
 - Same system used abroad
- SLIDE 17 - Weather value chain
 - National Meteorological Service:
 - Monitor, analyse and predict Ireland's weather and climate
 - Provide a range of high quality meteorological and related information
 - Help to ensure the protection and safety of life and property
- Slide 18 – Dissemination and Communication
 - How users observe and monitor weather
 - How we communicate forecast and warnings to users/public
 - Number of Met Eireann app installations – 5,000 installations versus another popular app
- SLIDE 19 – Perception Interpretation and Uses/Decision making
- SLIDE 20 – Sender Characteristics
 - National meteorological service – on national television
 - Authoritative voice for warnings
 - Amateur voices issuing own warnings – can lead to spurious warnings – A COALESCE application proposal may potentially explore this subject
- SLIDE 21 - Weather and climate service
- SLIDE 22 - COALESCE 2019: MET ÉIREANN - Two parts
 - Part A) Understanding the usage of Weather Forecasts and Warnings
 - Discover where users get their weather information; how they perceive, respond and act on forecasts and warnings
 - Gain better understanding of the public perception and interpretation of probabilistic weather information



- Examine how the usage and interpretation of Met Éireann's weather services varies amongst users
- SLIDE 23 - COALESCE 2019: MET ÉIREANN - Two parts (cont.)
 - Part B) Understanding the public usage of Climate Services
 - to understand the Climate Service needs of the Irish public
 - to determine how and why users get climate information
 - to understand how user's perceive, respond and act on climate information
 - to understand their interpretation of climate projection uncertainty
 - to identify current and future climate service needs of the Irish public
 - Understanding public perception of probabilistic weather information using new science and more sophisticated probabilistic projects, to be put up on the Met Éireann website

Dr Kasey Treadwell Shine, Department of Children and Youth Affairs

- SLIDE 26 - Irish Research Council 2019 COALESCE
 - Working title: 'Developing context sensitive methods, tools and principles for inclusive terminology and appropriate language to represent persons who spent time in the institutions known as Mother and Baby Homes and related institutions and their experiences in these institutions'.
 - Determine terminology and language that is context sensitive and useful in the modern sense
- SLIDE 27 - Overview
 - Seeking proposals for a 12-month research study
 - The study is a response to recommendations in the first report of the Collaborative Forum of Former Residents of institutions known as Mother and Baby Homes and Related Institutions, in respect of developing appropriate terminology and language
 - Development of appropriate terminology and language when referring to former residents
 - Department is seeking the necessary cross-over work of statutory Commission of Investigation's Final Report, due February 2020
- SLIDE 28 – Further detail
 - Purpose
 - Developing, testing and disseminating context sensitive methods, principles and tools for a shared terminology and language, from a transitional justice perspective.



- Collaboration felt hurtful and discriminatory, reflecting different times' moral viewpoint. With this project, the Department is trying to take a restorative justice approach
- Issue arises as some of these terms are defined in a legal framework
- Documenting methodological approaches, tools and learning that could be applied to other situations requiring the development of context sensitive shared terminology and language
 - Can see lot of other instances in past experience & reflection where many need to have a shared developed terminology and language, changing the zeitgeist and state perspective, with a longstanding addition to research methodology
- Budget and timeline
 - Fixed cost of €60,000
 - Commencing end of 2019, with project completion at end of 2020
 - Project to be informed by Commission of Investigation's Final Report, due February 2020 (see above)
- Objectives
 - Develop a draft set of tools/outputs and principles based upon a review of the Commission of Investigation reports and other material; international and national literature.
 - Test these tools and principles with key stakeholders/experts, including with those who spent time in the relevant institutions.
 - Refine tools and principles and support DCYA's effort to disseminate same.
- SLIDE 29 – Further details available in the Terms and Conditions
- Please email dcyaresearch@dcya.gov.ie for further queries.

Dr Deirdre Quinn (presenting on behalf of Maeve O'Brien, HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (HSE SHCPP))

- SLIDE 32 – About the HSE SHCPP
 - The Health Service Executive (HSE) Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) is a national policy priority programme situated within the National Strategy and Planning function of the HSE.
 - The SHCPP is responsible for implementing the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020 <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/about/corporate-publications/national-sexual-health-strategy/national-sexual-health-strategy.pdf>
 - The aims of the strategy are to improve sexual health and wellbeing and to reduce negative sexual health outcomes.
- SLIDE 33 - National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020



- A key focus of the strategy is the development and use of knowledge to support decision making to improve the health of the population.
- A key recommendation in the strategy is to build on the existing evidence base to understand emerging trends relating to crisis pregnancy and sexual health and to undertake new research initiatives to address knowledge gaps.
- For further information, see <http://sexualwellbeing.ie/about/corporate-publications>
- SLIDE 34 – Evidence-informed practice
 - The HSE SHCPP places a strong emphasis on evidence informed planning and practice.
 - Research and knowledge transfer are important components in how the HSE SHCPP has conducted its business across a range of areas, including; informing developments in national policy; programme service planning; developing practice guidelines; and initiating, monitoring and evaluating communications and education initiatives and resources.
 - The existing body of research and publications is available at: http://sexualwellbeing.ie/for_professionals/research/
- SLIDE 35 - Proposal requirements
 - The SHCPP seeks to elicit proposals from the academic research community that draw on new ideas relevant to national policy relating to unplanned pregnancy and/or sexual health in Ireland
 - The SHCPP is particularly interested in research studies with an applied focus that seek to address current knowledge gaps in practice and service provision directly relevant to its programme of work; and which will support in the development of new frameworks to address these gaps
- SLIDE 36 - Proposal requirements (cont.)
 - The SHCPP would welcome proposals seeking to provide insights into the provision of abortion services in Ireland since introduced on 1 January 2019, with a view to understanding more about the experiences, challenges and complexities associated with the implementation of this new service.
 - The SHCPP is also interested in applications addressing other relevant areas of work.
- SLIDE 37 - Proposal requirements (cont.)
 - This ‘open call’ for research proposals should:
 - consider the function of the HSE SHCPP and its existing body of evidence
 - seek to identify new perspectives or information gaps in the evidence or relevant areas of interest
 - have an applied focus that intends to result in new insights on key issues
- SLIDE 38 - Proposal requirements (cont.)
 - The outputs should be practical in nature with a view to informing practice and policy



- Quality assurance or refereeing processes should be considered in the proposal
- SLIDE 39 - Requirements of successful project
 - A steering group or advisory structure should be convened to support the research project. The composition of this should be described in the application
 - The SHCPP should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering group or advisory structure being convened to support the research project
 - The production of draft reports for review by the SHCPP and project steering group and a high-quality final report of publishable standard will be required

Dr Iris Elliott, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)

- SLIDE 42 - COALESCE 1C: Combatting racism and promoting intercultural understanding
 - Applicants are to consider how proposed study relates to 2014 act, this strand specifically relates to intercultural understanding, as per the mandate and strategic plan of IHREC, launched January 2019
- SLIDE 43 – 1C IHREC: Themes, 15 months, €100,000
 - 6 themes:
 1. Combatting racism and promoting intercultural understanding in an increasingly diverse multi-national and multi-ethnic society in Ireland;
 2. The development of intercultural understanding among children and young people in Ireland;
 3. Minority ethnic communities’ experiences of and access to public and/or private services in Ireland;
 4. Minority ethnic communities’ access to employment and experience in the workplace in Ireland;
 5. Minority ethnic communities’ experiences of and access to political participation and representation in Ireland;
 6. Minority ethnic communities’ experiences of access to justice in Ireland
 - Must stress importance of addressing these themes in the application
 - Important that there is an alignment with mandate and strategy as quoted in both documents and presentation slides, and that the proposed work is impactful
- SLIDE 44 – Aligned: IHREC’s Mandate, Strategy
 - IHREC are seeking a study that adheres to their mandate, strategy
 - Mandate: Build a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding in the State
 - Strategy– Combatting racism and promoting intercultural understanding: Countering racism and hate speech is imperative to the building of acceptance of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons. We commit to playing a leadership role in combatting racism and promoting intercultural understanding
 - Legal and strategic engagement team and look to public sector duty
 - Lead communications and campaigns work
- SLIDE 45 - Impactful: Hate Track exemplar



- Brief overview of how a former Council study has been incredibly impactful
- Study featured colleagues in Sociology and Computer Science at Dublin City University
- Excite researchers in academy– this is how far it can travel
- Study was used to launch report which subsequently developed a huge amount of traction
 - Presentation by researchers and Commission, Panel with Facebook and Twitter – examining toxic hate speech online presented at Rome
 - Subgroup of meeting in London, continue to be cited when Ireland is reviewed by committee on eliminating racial discrimination
 - Three documents from team travel substantially in terms of legislative change in practical ways for An Garda Síochána

Dr Deirdre Quinn, Irish Research Council, Application Process: Changes

- SLIDE 47 – Application Process: Changes
 - No EOI requirement in 2019
 - Strand 1J added – Met Éireann
 - Strands not active this year will not be visible on form. Strands that will be active for a future call will also not be visible on form (Strands 1A and 2A)
 - Project description increased to 14 pages with a minimum of two pages to be dedicated to methods and analysis, in response to key feedback and outer and inner board assessors
 - Assessors were impressed last year with calibre of applications across all strands; however, they stressed more precise detail on method and analysis
 - Indicative Application form available on website
 - Application deadline **8 August 2019**
 - Queries to PM (Dr Deirdre Quinn) at projects@research.ie