



NEW FOUNDATIONS SCHEME 2021

in partnership with

Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid and the Reconciliation Fund
Department of the Taoiseach
Policing Authority
Dóchas
The Wheel

CALL DOCUMENT



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



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach



dóchas



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

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1. Overview of the scheme

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

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

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

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

Since 2015, over 200 community, voluntary and charity organisations have engaged across our programmes with 278 funded projects and an associated investment in excess of €6.5 million. This vibrant sector plays an important role in supporting different groups in society, including the more vulnerable or marginalised. Through partnerships with researchers, diverse community organisations can bring new evidence and insights to enhance their services and impact for those that need them.

The New Foundations scheme also includes strands supported by government departments and agencies. In each of the past three years, a dedicated strand of the call has provided opportunities for researchers to work on important areas of policy, including global development, crime, creativity and children.

2. Strand descriptions

This year, the call features an open strand together with four strands run in partnership with government departments and agencies. These five strands are summarised below with further detail included in the appendices.

Strand	Title	Funder	Description	Further information	Maximum award amount	Duration
Strand 1a	Enhancing Civic Society	Irish Research Council	Supporting small, discrete collaborative projects between researchers and civic society groups in the community and voluntary sector	Appendix 1	€12,000	9 months
Strand 4	'A Better World' New Foundations Awards	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)	Networking awards to form consortia for prospective global north-south research partnerships focused on areas of strategic importance to Ireland's Policy for International Development	Appendix 2	€10,000	9 months
Strand 8	Department of the Taoiseach Shared Island New Foundations Awards	Department of the Taoiseach	Supporting research, networking and collaboration for the purpose of informing and supporting the implementation and development of the Government's Shared Island initiative	Appendix 3	€20,000	6 or 9 months
Strand 9	Department of Foreign Affairs (Reconciliation Fund) New Foundations Awards	Department of Foreign Affairs (Reconciliation Fund)	Research, networking and collaboration on themes related to peacebuilding and reconciliation between traditions in Northern Ireland, between North and South and between Ireland and Britain, in line with the objectives set out in the Reconciliation Fund Strategy	Appendix 4	€15,000	9 months
Strand 10	Police Community Relations New Foundations Award	Policing Authority	Supporting research seeking to bring the needs or experiences of communities to life in a manner that contributes to enhancing police community relations	Appendix 5	€10,000	9 months

Strands 4, 8, 9, and 10 are funded by a government department or agency and, accordingly, there will be a strong partnership in place for the duration of the research and in the dissemination of the results. Applicants are encouraged to integrate intersectoral partnership across the project lifecycle from design stage through to dissemination.

The various strands aim to foster ‘engaged research’. In the Campus Engage report, [Engaged Research: Society & Higher Education Addressing Grand Societal Challenges Together](#), this is described as ‘a wide range of rigorous research approaches and methodologies that share a common interest in collaborative engagement with the community and aim to improve, understand or investigate an issue of public interest or concern, including societal challenges. Engaged research is advanced *with* community partners rather than for them’.

3. Key dates

Call open	14 April 2021 at 4pm (Irish time)
FAQ deadline	19 May 2021 at 4pm (Irish time)
Applicant deadline	26 May 2021 at 4pm (Irish time)
Endorsement deadline	04 June 2021 at 4pm (Irish time)
Outcome	September 2021

4. Eligibility

- Applicants must be based at an [eligible higher education institution \(HEI\) or research-performing organisation \(RPO\) in Ireland](#).
- Applicants must hold a doctoral degree.
- Applicants must, on the call deadline, hold a contract of sufficient duration with their eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.
- Applicants may only make one application to the scheme in a given year.
- While postgraduate scholars are not eligible to apply, their involvement in the proposed projects is encouraged.

5. Applying to the scheme

All applications must be submitted and endorsed via the Irish Research Council’s [WizeHive application system](#) on or before the stated deadlines. Please refer to the indicative forms and guide for applicants, which are available on the Irish Research Council’s [website](#).

All applications to New Foundations should have an appropriate project partner(s):

- For **strand 1a**, this must be a civic society partner with a CHY number that is registered with the [Charities Regulator](#). Applicants to strand 1a must include the name and endorsement of the civic society partner as part of the application.
- For **strand 4**, this must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education or research institution in an eligible partner country (see Appendix 2 for more information). Applicants to strand 4 must include the name and endorsement of the partner higher education or research institution as part of the application.
- For **strands 8 and 9**, this must be an organisation that provides an integral and discrete contribution to the proposed research or activities such as training, advice or support, or may act in an advisory capacity. Partners may be statutory, non-statutory or voluntary organisations involved in developing, promoting or delivering the research or project. Applicants to these strands must include the name of partner as part of the application.
 - Partnerships under **strand 8** should be either North/South on the island of Ireland, East/West between Ireland and Britain, or through an international collaboration with direct or comparative relevance for the island of Ireland and the Peace Process founded on the Good Friday Agreement.
 - Partnerships under **strand 9** should reference research partnerships, either on a North/South basis on the island of Ireland, East/West between Ireland and Britain or through an international collaboration that retains direct relevance to the work of reconciliation on these islands.
- For **strand 10**, this must be an organisation that provides a contribution to the proposed activities such as advice, support, networking, or acting in an advisory or facilitating capacity. Partners may be statutory, non-statutory or voluntary organisations involved in developing, promoting or delivering the project.

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

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

- it has not been submitted via the online system by the stated deadline
- it has not been endorsed by the applicant's higher education institution by the stated deadline
- it is incomplete or exceeds the word limit
- is not within the remit of the scheme
- it includes additional materials other than those requested
- it includes materials in a format other than those requested

- it is in a language other than English or Irish¹
- the applicant does not meet the relevant eligibility criteria for the scheme
- the applicant submits more than one application to the scheme
- any section of it has been plagiarised
- any information supplied is false, misleading or unverifiable with appropriate documentation
- the research project as proposed in the application has previously been funded in full, or in part, by the Irish Research Council
- canvassing on behalf of applicants occurs

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

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

6. Eligible expenditure

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

Only eligible costs as set out in the table below will be considered. All costs sought must be sufficiently detailed and justified in the proposed budget. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the assessment process. All expenses must be incurred within the lifetime of the project. Where fully justified, costs for partner involvement can be included on the award in accordance with HEI/RPO institutional rules.

Travel	Requests for travel and accommodation should provide details of the number and duration of trips proposed. Travel, accommodation and subsistence, where required, will only be permitted on a vouched basis. Requests for travel, accommodation and subsistence should be in line with institutional norms. Every effort must be made to ensure that air travel, where used, is economical. Business class travel is not an eligible cost. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the feasibility of travel should be taken into account and contingency plans should be considered.
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¹ Applicants submitting Irish language applications are invited to submit an English language translation to newfoundations@research.ie. Should an English translation not be provided by the applicant, the Irish Research Council may provide a translation to the assessors.

Research consumables (maximum of €1,000)	An outline of all consumables that will be used during the course of the research should be provided alongside a detailed justification for all costs, e.g: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • books and journals • archival research costs • software • pay-as-you-go access to national research infrastructure Please note that equipment is not an eligible research expense under this scheme.
Training	Expenditure to be incurred as a result of general and/or specialist disciplinary skill training can be included.
Dissemination	Research dissemination is a vital component of the New Foundations scheme. Accordingly, it is expected that the budget will reflect costs associated with the dissemination of research e.g. conference attendance (provide details of name and location where possible), leaflets, reports, websites and other knowledge exchange activities.
Staff	All staff costs must be specified and fully justified. Institutional rates should be used for all staff costs sought. The recruitment of staff must be done openly, through public advertisement. Teaching buyout is an eligible cost and may be pro rata. PhD stipends are not an eligible cost.
Other	Where not covered by the categories above, and relevant to the viability of the research, other costs can be considered. All costs must be specified and fully justified.

7. Sex/gender dimension

The Irish Research Council supports gender equality in the research and innovation system. The Council's *Gender Strategy & Action Plan 2013–2020* is available [here](#). All applicants are required to give careful consideration to whether there is a potential sex or gender dimension that may arise in the course of their research.

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

8. Evaluation process

The Irish Research Council is committed to rigorous peer review of its funding programmes in line with international best practice. As such, all eligible applications will

be internationally peer reviewed. The assessors will evaluate applications on the basis of the materials supplied, arrive at an overall judgement of standard and make final recommendations to the Irish Research Council. All awards will be made on the basis of excellence.

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

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

Criteria	Description	Maximum score
Quality of proposal and applicant	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is the proposal original, innovative and significant in the context of relevant research? • To what extent does the applicant's research track record, outputs to date and relevant skills match the proposal? • To what extent is the proposal relevant to the strand topic? • Have the relevant ethical and sex/gender dimension issues been considered? 	40
Impact and outcomes	<p>What is the value of the planned outputs, outcomes and deliverables, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of conferences, workshops or networking and collaboration activities • the quality, engagement and merits of the proposed partnerships or networks • the contribution of the proposal towards future research funding applications or opportunities • the clarity, quality and innovativeness of plans for public dissemination of research outputs and/or promotion of academic research within and across the diversity of disciplines <p>The impact of the proposal should be demonstrated by applicants. A range of impact categories for consideration are listed in the Campus Engage report, <i>Engaged Research: Society & Higher Education Addressing Grand Societal Challenges Together</i></p>	40
Project management	Is the proposal feasible and credible, i.e. are the practical arrangements implementable, coordinated and manageable?	10

and implementation		
Value for money	Is the funding sought justified and good value for money?	10

Appendix 1

Strand 1a: Enhancing Civic Society

Background

Ireland faces key social, environmental and economic challenges, the complexity and scale of which have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of challenges are specific to Ireland, whilst others are shared with other nations in Europe and globally. The [various challenges](#) we share as nations are well-articulated, particularly in the form of the incorporating 17 global goals. Horizon 2020 integrated societal challenges as a key pillar of the framework, and Horizon Europe is to continue with this approach.

Ireland has a cross-governmental challenge-based approach through the [National Planning Framework \(Ireland 2040\)](#) and the associated [National Development Plan](#). The framework sets out ten national strategic outcomes, the achievements of which are necessary to ensure prosperity, equality, a sustainable future, and protection of our natural environment. As stated in the framework, there is strong alignment between the national strategic outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals; there is also a strong relationship between the national strategic outcomes and Horizon 2020 societal challenges.

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

Excellent research across all disciplines has a major role to play in developing new knowledge and evidence, which policy and decision-makers and practitioners can utilise to guide action and interventions on the path to successfully achieving national societal challenges. Maximising the contribution of the research system in this regard requires a strong emphasis on building robust mechanisms to ensure the exchange of knowledge between policy and practice environments, including building the necessary relationships with the public sector, civil society, or elsewhere, to support this process.

Strand description

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

A civic society partner can support more than one application to the New Foundations strand 1a if they are clearly distinct research projects. Please note that the Irish Research Council will

only be in a position to fund the two top-ranked proposals per civic society partner under this strand.

[The Wheel](#) is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, The Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector. [Dóchas](#) is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It is a meeting place and a leading voice for organisations that want Ireland to be a world leader in efforts to bring about global justice. The two organisations will work together to promote this strand of New Foundations, to enhance engagement between academic researchers and civic society partners through the scheme and to contribute to the dissemination of research outcomes for the benefit of practice and policy.

The objectives of this strand are to:

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

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

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

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

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit a final report on completion of the project.

Appendix 2

Strand 4: 'A Better World' New Foundations Awards

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

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

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

It is anticipated that successful 2021 awardees of New Foundations strand 4 may apply to COALESCE strand 2B in 2022. Successful awardees of strand 4 of New Foundations must be at least 3 years post-PhD at the time of applying to COALESCE and cannot already hold a COALESCE award at the time of application.

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

Applicants may wish to consult the [2020 COALESCE Terms and Conditions](#) (particularly Appendix 2) for further information on the DFA research activities.

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit a final report on completion of the project.

Appendix 3

Strand 8: Department of the Taoiseach Shared Island New Foundations Awards

In partnership with the Department of the Taoiseach, these awards will support research, networking and collaboration on themes related to the Government's Shared Island initiative. It is anticipated that up to ten awards will be made, each up to a maximum value of €20,000, funded by the Shared Island unit of the Department of the Taoiseach.

This strand provides researchers with an opportunity to conduct research and engage in related networking and collaboration, for the purpose of informing and supporting the implementation and development of the Shared Island initiative. Projects may run for either 6 or 9 months.

Background

The Programme for Government sets out the Government's commitments on a Shared Island and to working with all communities and traditions on the island to build consensus around a shared future, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The Taoiseach set out the Government's vision and priorities on Shared Island in a [speech](#) at Dublin Castle on 22 October 2020.

As part of the initiative, a [Shared Island unit](#) in the Department of the Taoiseach was established in September 2020 to examine the political, social, economic and cultural considerations underpinning a future in which all traditions are mutually respected. Operationally, the unit is focusing its work in three areas: commissioning research, fostering dialogue, and building a Shared Island agenda, including delivery of the commitments in the Programme for Government.

Strand description

This strand of the New Foundations programme provides an opportunity to conduct research and engage in related networking and collaboration that will contribute to the research programme of the Shared Island unit, with new knowledge or perspective that can inform and support implementation and further development of the Government's Shared Island initiative. It is envisaged that this strand will also support the building of a pipeline of further research proposals and collaborations related to the Shared Island initiative, which may be relevant for future research calls, including under [COALESCE](#).

The Shared Island initiative operates at all times in accordance with and in support of the principles, commitments, institutions and procedures of the Good Friday Agreement and research proposals must take full account of this, and the overall framing of the Shared Island initiative by the Government, in the proposed research topic, methods and outputs.

Areas for research

Proposals for research and related networking and collaboration must contribute new knowledge or perspective to inform the Government's objectives and commitments on a Shared Island, as set out in the Programme for Government and by the Taoiseach, and specifically to one or more of the following areas:

Theme 1: Political, policy and economic cooperation on the island:

- Needs and opportunities for deepening North/South cooperation, including through the North South Ministerial Council agreed areas of cooperation on: Agriculture, Education, Environment, Health, Tourism and Transport, and the work of the North South Implementation Bodies.
- Collaborative public investment to support cross-border sustainable development strategies in the North West and other Border regions, working with the Executive and British Government.
- Enhancing and developing the all-island economy, including through more coordinated policies and supports for enterprises, to support the creation of new jobs on the island, particularly in border regions.
- Enhancing sustainable transport connectivity on the island.
- More joined-up approaches on environmental issues, including on tackling climate breakdown and the biodiversity crisis.
- Supporting all-island approaches to planning frameworks, land use planning and river basin management.
- Collaboration on tackling issues of ingrained disadvantage on the island, including educational under-achievement, working with the Executive and British Government.

Theme 2: Civic, social and cultural connections and understanding on the island:

- Fostering better acknowledgment and understanding of the diverse identities and experiences on the island through cooperation on education curriculums, in subjects such as History and English.
- Needs and opportunities to better engage with and cherish diverse identities and traditions on the island of Ireland, including through artistic and cultural exchange.
- Strengthening of civic, sporting or cultural links on the island, taking account of North/South and East/West dimensions.
- Civil society, community, or arts and cultural sector initiatives that enable constructive and inclusive dialogue around the future of the island.
- Ensuring as broad a range of perspective and experience from civil society on the island as possible, on a shared future underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement, including the voices of women, young people and new communities on the island that have been under-represented in the Peace Process.

It is expected that up to 10 awards will be made under this strand, with the aim of achieving a balanced portfolio of awards across the two thematic pillars, subject to proposals meeting the criteria and quality standards detailed in this document. Research proposals will be considered from fields relevant to the areas noted above, and may comprise interdisciplinary work or collaborations.

Applicants are expected to reference research partnerships, either North/South on the island of Ireland, East/West across these islands, or through an international collaboration with direct or comparative relevance for the island of Ireland and the Peace Process founded on the Good Friday Agreement.

Dissemination opportunities should form part of proposals, including publication of reports, networking and collaboration events, conference contributions, and other opportunities.

The Shared Island unit is available to participate in steering committees for approved research proposals, or will liaise with awardees during the course of the research including to update on other relevant aspects of the Shared Island initiative.

Outputs

- Awardees will be required to submit a progress report and provide a short presentation to the Shared Island unit at the mid-way point of the research period.
- Awardees will produce a high-level report (15–20 pages) for submission to the Irish Research Council and to the Shared Island unit at the conclusion of the research and related networking and collaboration work. The report should be suitable for publication, and include perspectives on the relevance of the research conclusions for public policy and the further implementation and development of the Shared Island initiative. Where relevant, the report should include consideration of the potential focus for and value of further collaborative research.

Key sources

Key sources to inform proposals are: the [Taoiseach's speech launching the Shared Island initiative](#); [sectoral work programmes of the North South Ministerial Council](#); reports of the [Shared Island Dialogues](#), as well as Parliamentary Question replies and other Dáil and public statements by the Taoiseach and Government Ministers on the Shared Island initiative.

Applicants should note the areas of research as part of the Shared Island initiative that are being conducted by the [Economic and Social Research Institute](#)² and the [National and Economic and Social Council](#)³, and avoid duplication of these topics.

Research proposals should also make reference where relevant to the [National Planning Framework](#) - National Policy Objectives 43-51 relate to cooperation between Ireland and Northern Ireland - and to the [National Development Plan](#)⁴ chapter on a Connected Island.

² Scoping papers for ESRI research work on the Shared Island initiative in 2021 will be published and made available at www.gov.ie/sharedisland/research in the coming weeks. 2021 work is focusing on primary healthcare, North and South; North-South comparison of education and training systems: lessons for policy; cross-border services trade; and enhancing the attractiveness of the island of Ireland to high value foreign direct investment.

³ A [scoping paper](#) on the National Economic and Social Council's Shared Island research was noted by the Government on 16 February and published by NESCC.

⁴ The ongoing review of the National Development Plan should also be taken account of, including the [Phase 1 report](#) which includes a chapter on Shared Island.

Other Government policy priorities and developments, including for instance the forthcoming National Economic Plan should also be referred to where relevant in research proposals. The policy context and relevant priorities of the Northern Ireland Executive and British Government should also be taken account of.

Appendix 4

Strand 9: Department of Foreign Affairs (Reconciliation Fund) New Foundations Awards

In partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund, these awards will support research, networking and collaboration on themes related to peacebuilding and reconciliation between traditions in Northern Ireland, between North and South and between Ireland and Britain, in line with the objectives set out in the [Reconciliation Fund Strategy for 2021-2024](#).

It is anticipated that up to six awards will be made, each up to a maximum value of €15,000, funded by the Reconciliation Fund of the DFA.

This strand provides researchers with an opportunity to conduct research and engage in related networking and collaboration, for the purpose of informing and supporting the implementation of the DFA [Reconciliation Fund Strategy for 2021-2024](#).

Background

The Reconciliation Fund is operated by the DFA, forming part of the division of that Department which deals with matters relating to Northern Ireland and British-Irish relations. The vision of the Fund is “.....ever deeper reconciliation between people and traditions within Northern Ireland, on the island of Ireland, North and South, and between these islands”.

The Fund aims to support reconciliation and deeper mutual understanding within the framework of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent Agreements up to and including the New Decade, New Approach (NDNA) agreement of 2020. It does this by awarding grants to organisations working to further peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland, on a cross-border basis, and between Ireland and Britain. Since its establishment in 1982, it has supported some 2,800 projects with more than €60 million in grant funding. It supports a wide range of organisations and activities that promote reconciliation, from small local community and voluntary groups to arts/culture-based organisations and third level academic institutions.

It is envisaged that this strand will support the development of further research proposals and collaborations related to the work of the Reconciliation Fund, which may be relevant for future research calls, including under [COALESCE](#).

Reconciliation Fund Strategy 2021-2024

In March 2021, a new [Strategy](#) was published for the Reconciliation Fund, covering the period 2021-2024. This Strategy reaffirms the core aims and objectives of the Reconciliation Fund, but in its updated priorities for 2021-2024, reflects the evolving wider context in which reconciliation work is undertaken, including the United Kingdom’s decision in 2016 to leave

the European Union, the Stormont House Agreement, Fresh Start Agreement and New Decade, New Approach Agreement, as well as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The new Strategy provides for a deepening of the Fund's work North-South and East-West between Ireland and Britain, as well as continuing and increasing support to reconciliation in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

In line with the two key thematic pillars set out in the new Strategy, this strand will seek to support projects aimed at **repairing** those issues which lead to division, conflict, and barriers to a deeply reconciled and peaceful society *and/or* **building** a strong civil society that encompasses all communities.

Areas for research

Applications under this Strand should align with one or both of the overarching pillars outlined above, while also focussing on one or more of the Reconciliation Fund's priority themes/activities. While the Strategy outlines fifteen priority areas, proposals which focus on supporting one or more of the eight listed below would be particularly welcome:

1. Promoting inter-community links and reducing segregation in Northern Ireland, including in the areas of integrated education and housing, and the use of shared community spaces.
2. Building sustainable North-South links through the development of relationships and connections.
3. Developing and deepening relations between Ireland and Britain.
4. Specifically targeting sectarianism, with a view to eliminating sectarianism from society.
5. Helping to tackle paramilitarism and support the transitioning of members of paramilitary groups to peaceful, democratic activities.
6. Developing the role of women in peace-building and civic and political life, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and building their capacity to take their rightful place as leaders in society.
7. Exploring issues around identity (including language and other cultural traditions) in ways that promote understanding, tolerance and inclusivity, or help to recognise the common aspects of traditions and identities shared by different groups.
8. Academic research likely to significantly promote mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation, including in the context of the Government's commitment at the time of the NDNA Agreement to commission research on the challenges faced by border communities (with a particular focus on minority communities in border counties).

Research can focus directly on one or more of the listed priorities, but can also adopt a broader approach by examining related challenges and/or opportunities that exist in the field of good relations, peacebuilding and reconciliation, between traditions in Northern Ireland, between North and South or between Ireland and Britain.

In addition to demonstrating how their proposals align with the aims and priorities set out in the Reconciliation Fund Strategy 2021-2024, applicants should also make reference, as appropriate, to the Good Friday Agreement, subsequent Agreements, the Shared Island section of the 2020 Programme for Government and any other public policy documents which they regard as relevant to this strand.

Applicants are expected to reference research partnerships, either on a North/South basis on the island of Ireland, East/West between Ireland and Britain or through an international collaboration that retains direct relevance to the work of reconciliation on these islands.

Proposals should also include opportunities for dissemination, including publication of research reports, networking and collaboration events, conference contributions, and other opportunities. The potential for featuring research work as part of any outreach or networking events organised by the Reconciliation Fund will also be considered by DFA in consultation with awardees.

The DFA will be open to participating in steering committees for approved research proposals.

Outputs

- The successful awardees will be required to submit a progress report after 3 months, 6 months and final report after 9 months.
- The successful awardees will provide a presentation to the unit, updating on research, collaboration or networking work after 6 months.
- At the conclusion of the project (maximum 9 months), awardees will produce a high-level report (15–20 pages) to the DFA – Reconciliation Fund on the research project and related networking/collaboration. The report should include perspectives on the relevance of the research conclusions for public policy and how they could inform the implementation of both the Reconciliation Fund Strategy and (where relevant) the wider work of the DFA on matters relating to Northern Ireland and British-Irish relations.
- Awardees should outline any potential for follow up research work in the approved area, with reference to the commitments and objectives of the Reconciliation Fund Strategy, noting the potential value of any related further North-South or East-West collaboration and networking.

Key sources

Key sources to inform the proposals are: the [Reconciliation Fund Strategy 2021-2024](#); the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 and subsequent Agreements up to and including the 2020 New Decade, New Approach Agreement and the Shared Island section of the 2020 Programme for Government.

Appendix 5

Strand 10: Police Community Relations New Foundations Award

Background

In partnership with the Policing Authority, this strand seeks to fund a project to bring the needs or experiences of communities to life, in a manner that contributes to enhancing police community relations. It is anticipated that one award will be made, up to a maximum value of €10,000.

The project can focus on any theme relevant to local policing relations, but the Authority would particularly welcome proposals aimed at strengthening community voice and meaningful two-way communication in the areas of drug crime, hate crime, mental health or youth offending, among other possible areas.

The objectives of this strand are to:

- Build new routes for engagement to give a voice to local community perspectives on policing, including those members of the community who are not necessarily part of community groups or organisations;
- Facilitate authentic conversations between the Garda Síochána and local communities;
- Contribute to building community safety and/or confidence in the police in a local area; and
- Strengthen relationships and networks between researchers, police and practitioners who share interests in local policing and police community relations.

Research areas

The Authority is open to an innovative or creative project which would amplify community voice and stimulate active listening in local policing, including community focused arts-based projects, and collaborative, transdisciplinary research.

Applications for funding will need to demonstrate that the project:

- Engages with and gives voice to local communities;
- Demonstrates strong evidence of collaboration (across disciplines or HEIs/RPOs, and/or involving police/local communities);
- Seeks to encourage creative and evidence-based practice; and
- Has the potential to provide a sustainable and/or replicable model for future development in the area of police community relations.

The successful proposal will be funded by Policing Authority and will be in areas of strategic interest to this organisation. Applicants may wish to review the [*Policing Authority Statement of Strategy 2019-2021*](#).

The Policing Authority is available to participate in a steering committee convened by the successful awardee.

Outputs

- The successful awardee will be required to submit a progress report after 3 months, 6 months and final report after 9 months.
- Expected outputs would include a short report (15-20 pages) and presentation on the outcomes of the project to the Authority.