NEW FOUNDATIONS SCHEME 2022

in partnership with

Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid
Department of the Taoiseach
Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid (Global Development Unit) and the Department of Education
Department of Rural and Community Development
Policing Authority
The Sunflower Charitable Foundation through the Community Foundation for Ireland
Tusla Child and Family Agency

CALL DOCUMENT

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 356 funded projects and an associated investment in excess of €7.5 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 four 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 seven strands run in partnership with government departments and agencies, and the civil society sector. These eight 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 4b	Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development New Foundations Awards	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid) and the Department of Education	Supporting research, networking and collaboration for the purpose of increasing public awareness and understanding of issues such as climate change, hunger, global inequality and injustice.	Appendix 3	€10,000	12 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 4	€20,000	6 or 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

Strand 11	'Volunteering Strategy' New Foundations Award	Department of Rural and Community Development	Supporting research with direct linkages to the new National Volunteering Strategy for Ireland and international best practice.	Appendix 6	€15,000 - €25,000	12 months
Strand 12	Climate Change and Biodiversity New Foundations Award	The Sunflower Charitable Foundation through the Community Foundation for Ireland	These awards will support research, networking and collaboration on themes related to climate change and biodiversity.	Appendix 7	€20,000	12 months
Strand 14	Utilising Evidence for Child Protection and Welfare Policy Needs New Foundations Award	Tusla Child and Family Agency	These awards will support research across a range of topics focused on areas of strategic importance to Tusla Child and Family Agency.	Appendix 8	€17,500	6 or 9 months

Strands 4, 4b, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14 are funded by a government department or agency, or the civil society sector 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	10 May 2022 at 4pm (Irish time)
FAQ deadline	14 June 2022 at 4pm (Irish time)
Applicant deadline	21 June 2022 at 4pm (Irish time)
Endorsement deadline	05 July 2022 at 4pm (Irish time)
Outcome	September 2022
Project Start Date	01 November 2022

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.
- Note there are additional eligibility criteria specific to each strand (see Appendices), and the research project must address the required thematic focus of the respective strand.

5. Applying to the scheme

All applications must be submitted and endorsed via the Irish Research Council's 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.

For the following strands, 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 **strand 8**, 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.
- 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.

For all other strands (4b, 11, 12, 14), inclusion of an appropriate project partner is encouraged.

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 Irish[1]
- 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 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: • 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 with a review of the Irish Research Council's Gender Strategy & Action Plan here, published in February 2022. 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	This includes: • 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	What is the value of the planned outputs, outcomes and deliverables, e.g.: • 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 The impact of the proposal should be demonstrated by applicants. A range of impact categories for consideration are listed in the Campus Engage report, https://www.campusengage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Updated-Final-PBS10581-	40

	IUA-Engaged-Research-Planning-for-Impact-Framework-2022-Update_V5.pdf	
Project management and implementation	Is the proposal feasible and credible, i.e. are the practical arrangements implementable, coordinated and manageable?	10
Value for money	Is the funding sought justified and good value for money?	10

Appendix 1
Strand 1a: Enhancing Civic Society

Background

Ireland faces key social, environmental and economic challenges, the complexity and scale of which have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy crisis and geopolitical conflict. A number of challenges are specific to Ireland, whilst others are shared with other nations in Europe and globally. The various challenges we share as nations are well-articulated, particularly in the form of the 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 Europe societal challenges.

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

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

Strand description

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

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 objectives of this strand are to:

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

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

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

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

Outputs

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

Appendix 2
Strand 4: 'A Better World' New Foundations Awards

Funded by Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)
Up to four awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 9 months in duration

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

This strand is designed to build a pipeline of research collaborations for the 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 2022 awardees of New Foundations strand 4 may apply to COALESCE strand 2B in 2023. 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 2021 COALESCE Terms and Conditions for further information on the DFA research activities.

Outputs

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

Appendix 3
Strand 4b: Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid) and Department of Education –
Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development

Up to five awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 12 months in duration

This strand will support implementation of the Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy (2022-2025). Irish Aid defines Global Citizenship Education as a life-long educational process, which aims to increase public awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, inter-dependent and unequal world in which we live. By challenging stereotypes and encouraging independent thinking, GCE helps people to critically explore how global justice issues interlink with their everyday lives and how they can act to build a better world. This is particularly important in an increasingly globalized world faced with immense challenges, such as the effects of climate change, the COVID 19 pandemic, conflict in Ukraine, Syria, Yemen and other locations across the globe, entrenched poverty and growing inequality, as well as misinformation-fuelled radicalization.

The new strategy supports initiatives in formal, non-formal and informal education and is underpinned by the Code of Good Practice for Development Education (IDEA 2019). (See link to Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy: [November - Global Citizenship Education Strategy - Department of Foreign Affairs (irishaid.ie)](#)

The strand will also support implementation of the forthcoming Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to 2030. ESD to 2030 will aim to ensure that *"all learners acquire the acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."* (SDG 4.7).

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education are closely linked sharing a focus on global justice, solidarity and interconnectedness as well as focusing on both the local and global dimensions of issues affecting the people and planet.
The objectives of this Strand are to support research actions; develop networks and consortia; support conference and workshop development; and build capacity for interdisciplinary collaboration. DFA and DoE are particularly interested in funding partnerships between researchers and practitioners in both formal, non-formal and informal education as well as partnerships between academia and other sectors, including private sector actors.

The research project should focus on one or more of the following themes:

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

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

Awardees will be required to submit a short report (15-20 pages) and a presentation on the outcomes of the project to DFA (Irish Aid) and DoE. The successful awardee will also be required to submit a progress report 6 months after the award commences and a final report after 12 months.

Appendix 4:
Strand 8: Department of the Taoiseach Shared Island New Foundations Awards

Up to ten awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 6-9 months in duration

This strand provides researchers with an opportunity to conduct research and engage in related networking and collaboration, to inform and support implementation and development of the Government's Shared Island initiative. Projects may run for a maximum period of 9 months.

1. Shared Island initiative - background:
The Government's Shared Island initiative involves engaging with all communities and traditions on the island to build consensus around a shared future; and delivering tangible benefits for the whole island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement.

The Taoiseach launched the initiative in October 2020, with a speech setting out the Government's vision and approach. In December 2021, the Taoiseach reviewed progress and set out Government priorities for 2022 in a keynote address to the Shared Island Forum.

A Shared Island unit in the Department of the Taoiseach is examining the political, social, economic and cultural considerations underpinning a future in which all traditions are mutually respected. Operationally, the unit is commissioning a comprehensive Shared Island research programme; fostering inclusive civic dialogue with all communities and traditions on the island; and, driving and coordinating delivery of the Government's objectives on Shared Island as set out in the Programme for Government and the revised National Development Plan (2021-30), working with all Departments and Agencies.

2. Strand 8:
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 development of further proposals and collaborations related to the Shared Island initiative, which may be relevant for future research calls.

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 of the parameters of the Government's Shared Island initiative, in the proposed research topic, methods and outputs.

3. Areas for research:

Proposals for research and related networking and collaboration must contribute new knowledge or perspective to inform implementation of the Government's commitments and objectives on Shared Island.

For 2022, research themes under this strand are focussed in particular on:

- Shared Island priorities set by Government as part of the revised National Development Plan (2021-2030) to work through all-island partnerships to invest for a more connected, sustainable and prosperous island for all; and,
- Key themes from the Shared Island Dialogue series[2] convened by the Government to foster inclusive civic dialogue on working in practical ways for a shared future on the island, which has engaged over 1,300 civic representatives to date.

Research proposals should refer specifically to one or more of the following areas:

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

- Opportunities for enhanced healthcare cooperation, including on specialist health services, digital and ehealth innovation for physical and mental health care.
- More all-island education connections, including opportunities to share experience and resources in early years, special needs, and tackling educational underachievement.
- Building on collaboration in higher education and further education, including to enhance accessibility, learning options and student mobility.
- Deepening cooperation or interaction on the diverse heritage, arts, culture and sports of the island.
- Cross-border and all-island approaches on renewable energy.
- Cross-border and all-island climate action interventions and partnerships.
- All-island approaches to biodiversity protection.
- Preservation of the island's marine and coastal environment.
- Development of the circular economy on an island-wide basis.
- Promoting cross-border enterprise development, including to enhance clustering, innovation diffusion, and collaboration.
- Cross-border approaches to attract investment, including through regional cooperation.
- All-island opportunities to promote sustainable development of the agrifood sector.
- Supporting the sustainable growth of tourism on the island.

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

- Better acknowledging, accommodating and celebrating cultural diversity on the island, including through artistic and cultural interaction and exchange.
- Developing new all-island civic, cultural or sporting links and networks, with North/South and/or East/West dimensions.
- Shared Island approaches to help address inequality or discrimination including in respect of race, ethnicity, gender, ability or income.
- Improving statistical and data systems relevant for policy analysis and cooperation.

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[2] A composite report on the first year of the Shared Island Dialogue series and reports of Dialogues in 2022 are available at www.gov.ie/SharedIsland/Dialogues.

- Enhancing representation of women, ethnic minorities, young people and those with disabilities in public life on the island.
- Addressing barriers to mutual trust, understanding and reconciliation across different communities and political traditions on the island, including through education, arts, culture and civil society interactions.

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 the Call Specification Document. Research proposals will be considered from fields relevant to the areas noted above, and may comprise interdisciplinary work or collaborations.

While proposals may be submitted by a Principal Investigator within an eligible HEI/RPO, applicants must 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 a core part of proposals, including publication of reports, networking and collaboration events, conference contributions, podcasts, and other opportunities.

The Shared Island unit is available to liaise with awardees during the course of the research, including to update on the implementation of the Government's Shared Island initiative.

4. 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.

5. Key sources:
Key sources to inform proposals are: the Taoiseach's speech launching the Shared Island initiative; the Taoiseach's keynote address at the Shared Island Forum (December 2021) on the next phase of the Shared Island initiative; the Shared Island chapter of the revised National Development Plan (2021-2030); reports of the Shared Island Dialogues; and sectoral work programmes of the North South Ministerial Council.

The Shared Island dimension of other Government policy areas, including for instance the National Economic Recovery Plan (June 2021) and the Heritage Ireland 2030 framework (February 2022) should also be referred to where relevant for research proposals.

The policy context and relevant priorities of the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government should also be taken account of.

Applicants should also note the existing areas of work under the Shared Island research programme, in particular those that are being/have been conducted by the Economic and Social Research Institute and the National and Economic and Social Council, and avoid duplication of these topics.

Appendix 5
Strand 10: Police Community Relations New Foundations Award

Funded by the Policing Authority
This award will be 9 months in duration

Background

In partnership with the Policing Authority, this strand seeks to fund a project that brings the needs and/or experiences of communities to the forefront and contributes to enhancing police community relations.

The project can focus on any theme relevant to police/community relations. The Authority would particularly welcome proposals aimed at strengthening the community voice and/or facilitating meaningful two-way communication in any area relevant to the Policing Authority Statement of Strategy 2022-2024. (Available on the Policing Authority website [here](#)).

This includes proposals around drug crime or gender based violence, or exploring the policing needs and experiences of minority groups, young people in disadvantaged areas, or people with mental health issues.

The objectives of this Strand are to:

- Create opportunities for public conversation, direct engagement with the public and meaningful two-way communication between the community and the Garda Síochána on the policing service it is providing;

- Draw new people (and disciplines) into the policing conversation, including members of the community who may not necessarily be part of community groups or organisations;

- Contribute to building community safety and/or confidence in the police in a local area; and

- Contribute towards identifying how the policing service to that community, or similar communities, might be improved.

- Foster methodological innovation in engaging with seldom heard groups, including the use of inclusive, participatory, peer or user-led research methodologies.

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

Applications for funding will need to demonstrate that the project:

- Engages with and hears local communities;
- Demonstrates strong evidence of collaboration (across disciplines or Universities, and/or involving police or local communities);
- Demonstrates innovative practice and 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.
- Addresses an area of strategic interest to the organisation as in the *Policing Authority Statement of Strategy 2022-2024.*

Awardees will be required to submit a short report (15-20 pages) to a publishable standard, and a presentation on the outcomes of the project to the Authority. Successful applicant(s) will be required to submit a progress report after 3 months and after 6 months' work.

Proposals may be submitted by an individual, though the project may involve a partnership with one or more agencies, organisations, or community groups.

Appendix 6
Strand 11: 'Volunteering Strategy' New Foundations Award with the Department of Rural and Community Development

Up to four awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 12 months in duration

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

Objectives of DRCD:
The National Volunteering Strategy for Ireland 2021-2025, launched on the 5th of December 2020, is the first such Strategy for Ireland. Volunteering is a diverse activity and the purpose of this Strategy is to recognize, support and promote the unique value and contribution of volunteers to Irish society.

The National Volunteering Strategy is focused on five Strategic Objectives:

1. Increasing Diversity
2. A Sustained Volunteer Environment
3. Value Volunteering
4. International Volunteering and
5. Policy Coherence

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

In partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development, this strand seeks to fund three policy commitments, funding one proposal under each commitment. Each project will be 12 months duration, with project 1 having a maximum value of €20,000 (Action 8), project 2 having a maximum value of €15,000 (Action 8), project 3 having a maximum value of €25,000 (Action 18) and project 4 having a maximum value of €25,000 (Action 48).

The policy sets out a series of 56 commitments on the part of Government and key stakeholders across the objectives outlined above, for the development of volunteering over the period 2021 to 2025. These include commitments to improve our understanding of the scale of volunteering in Ireland, and to measure its impact within particular demographics:

- *Action 8:* An increase in the evidence base of the quantity and demographic breakdown of volunteers, contribution of volunteers and the value and benefits of volunteering individuals, groups and communities

- *Action 18:* Develop a research-based toolkit for VCs/VIOs on how to develop volunteer programmes for young people in collaboration with NYCI, Campus Engage, Foróige and other stakeholders.

- *Action 48:* Commission an evidence-based report on the economic and social value and impact of volunteering on our economy

Projects can focus on;
Action 8: Demographics
There is a large appetite to enable diverse people and increase engagement in volunteering. However, the Strategy highlights a lack of research on the current levels of volunteering and demographic breakdown. This research will fulfil a key component of the Strategy in understanding the varied measurements utilized across Ireland to provide an overall enhanced view of voluntary activity, both formal and informal. For example, Sporting Ireland and Volunteer Ireland annually gather data on volunteer engagement. This research will benchmark across international standards and recommend opportunities for enhanced integration of datasets.

Action 18: Youth Engagement
Organisations that enable youth engagement and with youth expertise are keenly aware that young people are motivated to be active in their communities but often lack the knowledge of roles and opportunities. Working across the divide in a collaborative manner both young people and VOIs/VCs can draw on expertise across the sector to create a new resource that will inspire the growth of new generations of volunteers.

Action 48: Economic and Social Value
The impact of volunteering on individuals and organisations is considerable, contributing somewhat to understanding the wider impact on economy and society. There is currently no comprehensive analysis of the economic value of volunteering and the National Strategy provides a brief outline of the research opportunities.

The objectives of this Strand are to:
- Formulate an appropriate set of questions for the Irish Census related to volunteering that will generate longitudinal data and understanding on levels of both formal and informal volunteering in Irish society.
- Ascertain the extent and quality of the various national data sets with a view to enhancing the accessibility of data on volunteering.

- Develop a research-based toolkit for VCs/VIOs on how to develop volunteer programmes for young people
- Develop a comprehensive analysis of the economic and social value of volunteering.

Project 1.   Quality of Data (desk-based study)

Objective: To ascertain the extent and quality of the various national data sets with a view to enhancing the accessibility of data on volunteering.

Tasks involved:

- Extensive international literature review on demographic measurement methodology for volunteering
- Summary of current data gathering across local and national data sets
- Assessment of the quality of the data currently available
- Gap analysis of further data required to fully assess all demographics
- Recommendations for the Data sets, including reconciliation or integration possibilities
- Comprehensive report proposing a measurement and demographic methodology for the spectrum of volunteering in Ireland considering the objectives set out in the National Volunteering Strategy

12 months duration

€20,000

Project 2.   Census (desk and field-based study)

Objective: To formulate an appropriate set of questions for the Irish Census related to volunteering that will generate longitudinal data and understanding on levels of both formal and informal volunteering in Irish society.

Tasks involved:

- Comparative international literature review to inform and contextualise the work programme by learning from good practice in similar contexts internationally.
- Formulate phrasing and an appropriate set of questions for the census on levels of formal and informal volunteering in Irish society.
- Develop a working definition of formal and informal volunteering for the census.
- Test and pilot the efficacy of the questions developed with focus groups covering a diverse geographical and demographic spread.
- Provide a comprehensive report with recommendations

12 months duration

€15,000

Project 3. Toolkit (desk and field-based study)

Objective: Develop a research-based toolkit for VCs/VIOs on how to develop volunteer programmes for young people

Tasks involved:

- Extensive national and international literature review on models of youth engagement tools
- Empowering young people and VIOs as co-researchers and creators
- Testing Toolkit with young people and VIOs/VCs
- Creation of Toolkit with stakeholders: the toolkit should contain case studies of good youth volunteer engagement.

Guiding points:

- Defining the cohort best suited for the toolkit
  - Understanding the audience and target groups, a range of VIOs, broadly all young people (to include young people not in training or employment)
  - Understanding existing resources
  - Understanding volunteering in formal and informal settings, for example young people driven volunteering (not necessarily organisation based)
  - Understanding the COVID impact and other challenges for VIOs engaging youth
- Youth-driven, youth-led: Research carried out by young people for young people.
  - What tools are available to young people? Social media, apps, and new technologies
  - Youth gaining the insight and opportunity to understand from VIOs behind the scenes of volunteer engagement

12 months duration

€25,000

Project 4. Economic and Social Impact (desk and field-based study)

Objective: Develop a report on the economic and social value and impact of volunteering on our economy

Tasks involved:

- Extensive national and international literature review on models, economic and social value and impact
- Engagement with the various spheres including voluntary organisations, registered charities, nonprofit organisations and informal volunteering
- Both quantitative and qualitative impacts

- Resources outlined in the National Strategy for Volunteering are paramount

12 months duration

€25,000

Outputs

Awardees will be required to submit a short report (15-20 pages) and mid-way presentation on the outcomes of the project to the Volunteering National Strategy Research Working Group.

The successful awardee will be required to submit a progress report after 3 months, 6 months and final report after 12 months.

Appendix 7
Strand 12: New Foundations Award in partnership with the Sunflower Charitable Foundation through the Community Foundation for Ireland

Up to ten awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 12 months in duration

In partnership with the Sunflower Charitable Foundation through the Community Foundation for Ireland, these awards will support research, networking and collaboration on themes related to climate change and biodiversity. It is anticipated that up to ten awards will be made, each up to a maximum value of €20,000, funded by Community Foundation for Ireland. This strand provides researchers with an opportunity to conduct research and engage in related networking and collaboration, to inform progress towards action on climate change and biodiversity. Projects will run for 12 months.

Background
Climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection are critical and interrelated concerns, nationally and globally. There is a need to integrate sustainability and a low carbon footprint throughout society and the economy. An urgent transformation in how societies work and live is required if humanity is to pull back from 'tipping points' associated with climate change and biodiversity loss. Sustained action is required, both incremental and bold in nature, whilst achieving this in a just and socially equitably way.

Ireland's Climate Action Plan is a central pillar of government, setting out challenging but necessary targets for emissions reduction and in a raft of other areas across the climate agenda. As a member of the EU, Ireland is also part of the European Green Deal, which commits the EU to reach net carbon emissions neutrality by 2050. Failure to play our part within the community of Europe will result in financial penalties and reputational damage which may imperil long-term economic growth and prosperity.

Ireland's agricultural sector across the island of Ireland contributes significantly to our carbon emissions whilst also continuing to present challenges to the environment (e.g., the use of nitrates). The transformation of agricultural practice for a sustainable and clean future is a key requirement for climate action and environmental protection.

Research and innovation, including social innovation, will be key to reversing the current trajectory of human activity on our planet where the evidence, data, discoveries and innovations are integrated inform policy and action by society, government and industry.

This strand is included in the *New Foundations 2022* call, funded under a partnership between the Community Foundation for Ireland and the Irish Research Council to support 'engaged research' in the areas of climate change and biodiversity.

Strand purpose and scale

This strand will provide an opportunity for researchers to conduct research and engage in related networking and collaboration that will contribute to Ireland's climate action and biodiversity agendas. Public engagement and collaboration with civil society and government departments and agencies will be expected, including on an all-island basis. As with all Irish Research Council programmes, the strand will be open to researchers of any discipline who is working in the broad area of climate change/biodiversity or has an interest in bringing their expertise to these domains.

The successful awards will form a 'community of projects' and networking between the projects will be encouraged and facilitated.

Areas for research

Proposals for research and related networking and collaboration must contribute new knowledge or perspectives to inform progress towards action on climate change and biodiversity, in particular in the following areas:

- Renewable energy
- Green fuel incl. bio diesel, using agricultural crops
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Carbon capture and storage
- Sustainable, climate-friendly agriculture
- Net zero homes/housing
- Just transition for vulnerable groups

Achieving a balanced portfolio of awards across the thematic pillars will be sought.

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

Outputs

Awardees will be required to produce a high-level report (15–20 pages) for submission to the Community Foundation for Ireland and the Irish Research Council 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.

Awardees will also make a short presentation on their project and progress to date at the 6-month mark, along with submission of a mid-term report.

A final scientific and financial report will be produced for submission to the Irish Research Council at the end of the project.

Key sources
[Climate Action Plan](#)
[Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
[The European Green Deal](#)

Appendix 8
Strand 14: Utilising Evidence for Child Protection and Welfare Policy Needs New Foundations Award in partnership with Tusla Child and Family Agency

Up to four awards will be made under this strand
These awards will be 9 months in duration

Introduction
Tusla Child and Family agency was established in 2014, under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013. This saw, for the first time in Ireland, all child and family services brought together under the one organisation. Such services include child protection and welfare services, alternative care and adoption, family support and early years, education support services and domestic sexual and gender-based violence services. Tusla provides these services directly or through commissioning.

Tusla Vision:
Families and communities are empowered and strengthened to keep children safe and nurtured, recognising a child's right to protection, stability and the support of a family and community network.

Tusla Mission:
Dedicated and committed to working in partnership with children, families, and communities to ensure that children in need or at risk of harm are supported, protected, and connected to people who can safeguard and promote their wellbeing throughout their lives.

Tusla values and behaviours: Trust – Kindness – Empowerment - Respect

Objectives of Tusla:
Tusla Corporate Strategic Objectives and Corporate Goals 2021-2023 set out to:

1. Ensure children, young people, families, and communities receive a consistent, quality, and integrated response from all our services.
2. Deliver an independent regulatory service focused on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through continuous improvement and partnership with stakeholders.
3. Ensure that our staff and leaders are supported and empowered to continuously learn and improve so that children, families, and communities benefit from our service.
4. Ensure our local teams and services are facilitated and supported by national systems and resources that promote integration and accountability.

Tusla continues to focus on improvement across the three domains of Practice, Culture and Structure.

Tusla actively seeks to utilise research to inform practice development, service improvement and decision making. Section 8(f) in the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 states a function of Tusla shall be to undertake or commission research into matters related to the functions specified in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) or into such other matters as the Minister may request. Tusla's National Research Office (NRO) has been established since 2015 and has responsibility for the commissioning, management, and coordination of research projects within the agency.

The NRO will serve as the first point of contact for successful awardees. Engagement will require close cooperation and liaison with Tusla as the project funder.

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

In partnership with Tusla Child and Family Agency, this strand seeks to fund [4 projects under this strand, each project will be awarded €17,500].

Project 1: Exploration of international best practice regarding a legal framework and service delivery model for the treatment of children and young adults with challenging emotional and behavioural difficulties, including emerging psychiatric and personality disorders, who require detention for their own safety or the safety of others.

In 2021, the Agency received 72,762 referrals to child protection and welfare, at the end of December 2021, there were 5,862 children in the care of the state. Almost 90% of these children (5,265) are in foster care, with 8% (506) in residential care and the remaining 2% (91) in other placements such as supported lodgings, a disability service, or a detention centre (Tusla 2022). In January 2021, 16 young people were in special care which represents a small minority of all those in care however to provide this care and the associated judicial proceedings requires significant human, financial and court resources (Corbett and Coulter, 2021). Special care placements in Ireland are not always sufficient to meet a child's needs and, in this instance, an application for an out of state placement may be made where specialist treatment is not available in Ireland. Not all out of state placements are special care type. Corbett and Coulter (2021) in their report *Ripe for Reform: An analytical review of three years of court reporting on childcare proceedings*, call for research to explore international best practice regarding a legal framework and service delivery model for the treatment of children and young adults with challenging emotional and behavioural difficulties, including emerging psychiatric and personality disorders, who require detention for their own safety or the safety of others. Tusla Child and Family Agency, in recognition of the difficulties it has in identifying and providing suitable and specialist placements for this cohort of children and young people, is seeking a systematic review of international literature to inform and support specific and related legal, policy and practice issues and related decision making.

Project 2: Investigating what the 'front door' of child protection and welfare services look like internationally and collating best practice from policy and practice experts in several agreed jurisdictions[3].

The provision of child protection services encompasses a range of organisational approaches including the underpinning legislation and legal framework, the operational policy, staff and resource requirements, supportive infrastructure, systems to monitor and evaluate operations and the management of the interactions and responsibilities of related government and nongovernment roles (Fluke & Merkel- Holguin, 2018). Child protection and welfare provision in Ireland is characteristic of a centralized system organisation i.e. the organisation of such services are the responsibility of a governmental body. Tusla Child and Family Agency responds to the needs of children, families and communities through integrated pathways which aim to ensure the provision of the right response, at the right time in the right way (Tusla Corporate Plan 2021- 2023). Tusla specifies thresholds for low, medium, and high prevention across a continuum of help/support required by the child or family. National approaches to practice respond across a range of presenting needs. These responses involve a range of professionals working in family resource centres, early intervention and family support planning, safety planning, child protection safety planning and permanency planning. Receipt and initial assessment of referrals to Tusla Child and Family Agency at the 'front door' determine the level of need and appropriate response pathway. Tusla is currently undergoing an organisational restructure which calls for an integrated service model delivery with explicit emphasis on practice, culture, and structure. Tusla is commissioning a systematic review of international literature to support an evidence informed understanding of what makes an effective 'front door' for child protection/welfare, educational and family support services that will be relevant to the Irish context and that will consistently support children referred to Tusla in getting timely access to the most appropriate response that meets their presenting needs.

Project 3: Expertise and evidence in testing outcome measurement tools in child and family services.

The service strands of Tusla Child and Family Agency include child protection and welfare, alternative care and adoption, family support and early years inspection, Tusla education support service – TESS and domestic sexual and gender-based violence services (www.tusla.ie). Action 3.5 of the Tusla Child and Family Agency Business Plan 2022 states that Tusla will: Enhance Tusla local, regional, and national performance systems using meaningful measures that promote improved outcomes for the people we serve. Tusla has recently commissioned work on the development of an outcomes framework for its Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) service which includes the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme. This work is near conclusion and has produced a suite of outcomes, indicators

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[3] English speaking jurisdictions or in countries where evidence is published in the English language.

and proposed measures informed by relevant literature, best practice, and consultations. The measures have yet to be tested in practice. Tusla is seeking expertise to advise on the testing of a number of agreed outcome measures within a focused service area (within PPFS services including children and families and/or only professionals, tbc). Expertise and advice are sought to extract the learning arising from the testing of the outcome measurement tools and this will include the identification of resource requirements, dependencies, and capabilities to operationalise the outcomes framework, alongside exploring enablers and barriers to implementation, and documenting the benefits to practice. Tusla will also require documented evidence to support future implementation of this approach. In parallel, this evidence will also inform the development and implementation of an overarching Tusla wide outcomes measurement framework.

Project 4: Service user experience: methodologies, tools, requirements, and feedback mechanisms.

The service strands of Tusla Child and Family Agency include child protection and welfare, alternative care and adoption, family support and early years inspection, Tusla education support service – TESS and domestic sexual and gender-based violence services. Universal and targeted services are provided to children and families (service users). Service User Experience (SX) is defined as a service users' response to/experience of interactions with the Agency before, during, or after receipt of services, across multiple channels, and across time (adapted from Holmlund, Van Vaerenbergh, Ciuchita, Ravald, Sarantopoulos, Ordennes and Zaki 2020). Tusla seeks to hear from service users about their experience and seeks to understand how services are experienced. Tusla is commissioning a systematic review of existing international best practice methodologies and tools that are relevant to capturing the experiences of all Tusla service users across all service strands. The review will also include an emphasis on segments of Tusla's child protection and welfare and alternative care service user cohort to include children in care (residential and foster care), children in the community, parents, and foster parents. The systematic review will examine the related dependencies and system requirements for the implementation of such methods and tools reviewed. Tusla is also committed to learn from and integrate service user feedback for service improvement. The systematic review will extend to exploring suitable feedback loops and mechanisms for the utilisation of service user feedback for service improvement. A range of options are required for presentation to Tusla based on merits and applicability.

The objectives of this Strand are to:
- Utilise best practice systematic review methods to synthesise international evidence across the agreed themes.
- Collate and synthesise international evidence and the key messages arising in plain language for a variety of relevant audiences.
- Collaborate with relevant personnel in Tusla to ensure that the systematic review methods align where possible to the emerging policy and practice questions for the Agency.
- To provide expertise and advice as required for the respective project(s).

Applications for funding will need to demonstrate that the project:

- Engages with research best practice in conducting systematic reviews of literature, evidence, legislation, policy, and practice as relevant to the specified topic.
- Is implemented and aligned to an agreed protocol which will be devised by the researcher(s) and approved by Tusla.
- Submit an application for ethical approval to Tusla and other relevant Research Ethics Committees, as required e.g. whereby the agreed protocol meets the requirements of Tusla research ethical approval.
- Engages with the relevant Tusla governance and oversight structure for the duration of the project and provides subject matter expertise on the topic for the duration of the project aligned to the project delivery schedule. Presentations to the Tusla governance and oversight structure will be required at the start, mid-point and end of the project.
- Systematically engages with the material to develop a range of key messages and specific recommendations for impact on policy and practice and in consideration of the context of Tusla as an employer and service provider.
- The project will specify a dissemination plan and prepare materials for publication of reports and the communication of research findings to a range of audiences including presentations to Tusla, networking and collaboration events, conference contributions, and other opportunities.

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