NEW FOUNDATIONS SCHEME 2023

in partnership with

Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid;
Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid, Department of Education and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth;
Department of Rural and Community Development;
Policing Authority;
Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) of Ireland

https://irishresearch.smartsimple.ie

GUIDE FOR ASSESSORS

The deadline for submitting your remote assessment is 24 July 2023, 4pm (Ireland time)
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1. IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR THIS CALL AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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<tr>
<td>Call open</td>
<td>25 April 2023 at 4pm</td>
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<td>FAQ deadline</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
<td>September 2023</td>
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<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>November 2023</td>
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This document is provided to assist you in submitting a remote assessment for applications under the 2023 New Foundations Scheme.

The Irish Research Council will only accept assessments through the online application system. Please do not send emailed or hard copies of your assessments to the Irish Research Council.

Please read this document carefully prior to completing and submitting the assessments. By logging in, you will be able to view submitted applications that have been assigned for you to assess.

2. BACKGROUND TO NEW FOUNDATIONS 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 250 community, voluntary and charity organisations have engaged across our programmes with 423 funded projects and an associated investment in excess of €8,375,000. 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 five years, a dedicated strand of the call has provided opportunities for researchers to work on important areas of policy, including global development, our shared island, crime, creativity and children. The collaboration between researchers and policymakers represented in these awards aligns with the ambitions of Impact 2030: Ireland’s Research and Innovation Strategy to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and deliver enhanced outcomes for citizens and society.

3. NEW FOUNDATIONS 2023

This year, the New Foundations 2023 scheme comprises six strands:

- **Strand 1a**: Enhancing Civic Society (max €12,000)
- **Strand 4**: ‘A Better World’ New Foundations Awards in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid) (max €10,000)
- **Strand 4b**: Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development New Foundations Awards in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid), Department of Education and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (max €10,000)
- **Strand 10**: Exploring Policing and Community Safety New Foundations Award in partnership with the Policing Authority (max €10,000)
- **Strand 15**: Social Enterprise Impact New Foundations Award in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development (max €20,000)
- **Strand 16**: Competition and the electric vehicle charging market in Ireland New Foundations Award in partnership with Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (max €15,000)

For complete details about the scheme, please see the [2023 New Foundations Call Document](#).

**Strand 1a: Engaging civic society within a national context**

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.

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.

**Strand 4: ‘A Better World’ New Foundations Awards in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)**

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 IRC 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 2023 awardees of New Foundations strand 4 may apply to COALESCE strand 2B at the next available cycle. 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.
Strand 4b: Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development New Foundations Awards in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid), Department of Education and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

This strand will support implementation of both the Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy (2022-2025) and the Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

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 Global Citizenship Education strategy is underpinned by the Code of Good Practice for Development Education (IDEA 2019) and covers a wide range of global themes including global poverty and hunger, migration, conflict, climate change, human rights and inequality.

The strand will also support implementation of the Second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development to 2030. ESD to 2030 will aim to ensure that, “all learners 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. Global Citizenship Education is sometimes called Development Education.

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, DoE and DCEDIY 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 civil society and private sector actors. Applicants will need to demonstrate they have coordinated with the relevant networks of practitioners such as the Irish Development Education Association, the Irish Environmental Network, Early Childhood Ireland, Education and Training Boards as appropriate, in planning the research in
In order to ensure co-ordination across the sector, to encourage dialogue and to support linkages and synergies.

Research projects should focus on GCE/ ESD in both formal and non-formal education from early years to adult education 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 provider/ whole school/whole of institution approaches.
- Innovative solutions including use of new technologies to support teaching and 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 change for transformative action.

At least one grant will be awarded for projects focused on GCE/ ESD in the Early Learning and Care sector.

**Strand 10: Exploring Policing and Community Safety New Foundations Award in partnership with the Policing Authority (max €15,000)**

“The concept of community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe in their own community. At the heart of this policy is the principle that every community has the right to be and feel safe in order to thrive and flourish.”\(^1\) It is by its nature, a broad concept, potentially encompassing any policies, initiatives and programmes that might impact on a given community’s sense of safety or actual safety.\(^2\)

The concept of a community safety model for policing has come to the fore in Ireland following recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI). The Report of the Commission stressed that while crime is a top priority for police, in practice the majority of police time is spent on harm prevention – providing service to people with mental health and addiction conditions, homeless people, children, elderly and others at risk. It recommended that this broader concept of community safety needs be embedded in legislation, and this is coming to fruition through the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill 2023 (PSCS)

The PSCS Bill provides for a community safety-oriented approach in a number of respects:

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1. Department of Justice (October 2022) *Community Safety Policy Paper*
2. Ibid.
The prevention of harm will be a specific statutory objective of the Garda Síochána;

The establishment of a new framework at national and local level to improve community safety including the establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships, replacing the existing Joint Policing Committees. Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) are being piloted in three areas around the country, in Dublin’s North Inner City, Waterford and Longford;

The establishment of a National Office for Community Safety;

A focus on the need for collaboration and coordination between various State agencies and other public service bodies in relation to improving community safety;

The establishment of a Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) with a role in providing oversight of the Garda Síochána’s performance in relation to policing and community safety, including its activities aimed at preventing crime and preventing harm to people at risk;

Strand description

In light of the relevance of community safety to the current work of the Authority and its future transition to the Policing and Community Safety Authority, the Policing Authority wishes to support a collaborative project between researchers and community organisations to inform evidence-based policy and strategies in relation to policing and community safety. The objectives of this strand are to support research actions; develop networks and consortia; and build capacity for community and academic collaboration at community level.

The project can focus on any theme relevant to policing and community safety, which could include any of the following:

- Community collaborations with artists and creative practitioners to develop creative approaches to enhancing community voices, particularly amongst seldom heard communities;
- The use of existing data sets or the development of survey methodologies to assist in developing data informed approaches to community safety;
- Development of researcher and community collaborations or networks, in order to develop co-designed solutions to key policing or community safety challenges;
- Evidence based initiatives for reducing fear of crime, improving feelings of safety, or building confidence and trust in police at community level;
- Innovative approaches to enhancing community input into determining policing priorities, either locally or nationally;
- Engaging people with lived experience of addiction, mental health problems or homelessness in the community safety policy process.

While the Authority is open to a wide range of thematic and methodological approaches, applications need to clearly demonstrate how the project speaks to issues and concerns around policing and community safety in the context of the national and local policy landscape.

Applications should also demonstrate strong evidence of collaboration (across disciplines or Universities, and/or involving police or local communities).
Strand 15: Social Enterprise Impact New Foundations Award in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development (max €20,000)

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. Social enterprise comes within the policy remit of DRCD.

Objectives of DRCD:

The National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019 - 2022, launched on 18 July 2019. It is the first such policy for Ireland and it fulfils a commitment contained in the Action Plan for Rural Development. Social enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal and environmental impact. However, any surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving a social impact, rather than maximising profit for the owners.

The National Social Enterprise Policy is focused on three key objectives:

1. Building Awareness of Social Enterprise,
2. Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise,

The policy sets out a series of 26 commitments on the part of Government across these objectives, for the development of social enterprise over the period 2019 to 2022. These include commitments to improve our understanding of the scale of social enterprise in Ireland and to measure their impact.

A successor social enterprise policy is currently being developed.

In partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development, this strand seeks to fund one project that would support the following policy commitment:

- Policy Measure 24: Develop mechanisms to measure the social and economic impact of social enterprises across the full spectrum of social enterprise.

The project will be 9 months in duration, with the project covering measure 24 from the National Social Enterprise Policy 2019 -2022 having a maximum value of €20,000.

There is limited empirical evidence and data about the scope, prevalence and contribution of social enterprises in Ireland. A 2013 Forfás report noted that social enterprise is a small but growing part of the enterprise base that has the potential to bring further job gains and deliver economic returns. A key theme which emerged during the development of the current policy, was the need to establish a reliable evidence-base on social enterprise and to develop a robust
framework to understand its social, environmental and economic impact. This is recognised internationally as a common concern across the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) area. Establishing the size, reach and impact of social enterprise in Ireland is essential to inform policy development in the years ahead.

The main purpose of the Department’s New Foundations award is to support pioneering research on social enterprise in Ireland. Research is encouraged towards developing mechanisms to measure the social and economic impact of social enterprises across the full spectrum of social enterprise in line with the current National Social Enterprise Policy and international best practice.

Objective: Develop mechanisms to measure the social and economic impact of social enterprises in Ireland. (In line with policy measure No.24).

Strand 16: Competition and the electric vehicle charging market in Ireland New Foundations Award in partnership with Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (max €15,000)

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is the statutory body responsible for promoting compliance with and enforcing competition and consumer protection law in Ireland. We strive to improve consumer welfare across the economy by enforcing over 40 legislative instruments, including product safety legislation.

Our aim is to make markets work better for consumers. Part of how we achieve this is by working to influence public debate and policy development, grow public understanding of the importance of open and competitive markets, promote competition and highlight the interests of consumers.

Objectives of CCPC research:

- One of the goals in our 2021-2023 Strategy Statement is to be a leading voice in representing the interests of consumers and promoting competition.
- We use research and market studies to promote changes that make markets work better for consumers. Where appropriate, we make evidence-based proposals on how legislation can be improved to address identified issues.
- We analyse emerging markets in order to identify issues and recommendations for potential solutions at an early stage.

The objectives of this Strand are to:

- Identify key market characteristics and key players in the market
- Identify any risks to competition and potential or actual harms to consumers as a result of these risks
- Make recommendations on proposals to address identified issues that the CCPC can use as a basis for further research, advocacy with policy makers and/or enforcement activity
In partnership with the CCPC, this strand seeks to fund up to two projects analysing the structure of the public electric vehicle charging market in Ireland and any barriers to entry or barriers to its effective operation. Areas of interest for the CCPC include, \textit{inter alia}:

- Public electric vehicle charging market (on-street, en-route etc.) at national and local level
- Electric vehicle charging market (home, workplace etc.) at national and local level
- Effectiveness of current electric vehicle charging policy in terms of facilitating the development of a competitive market
- Patterns of consumer behaviour
- Targeted interventions to promote investment and market entry
- Transparency of operational costs and end-point pricing
- Ongoing developments in technology and legislation (such as interoperability rules) that could impact how the market develops

The research project can select to address part or all of the areas of interest. A research project can be funded up to a maximum of €15,000, with a maximum of two projects eligible to be chosen.

This market is at an early stage in its development and the findings from any potential project in this area could have significant impacts on market developments up to 2030. Quantitative data in the Irish context is not yet publicly available. In addition, qualitative research will be required to understand challenges facing consumers and suppliers in the market.

Applications for funding will need to demonstrate that the project can:

- Engage with research best practice in conducting reviews of literature, evidence, policy and practice on the topic
- Conduct high quality desk-based and field-based study
- Conduct comparative international literature review to inform and contextualise the work by learning from similar strategies in other comparable economies
- Assess the quality of data currently available to provide quantitative and qualitative impacts
- Engage with relevant external stakeholders
- Work within the CCPC’s oversight structure for the duration of the project
- Provide a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations
- Prepare materials for publication of the report and the communication of the research to a range of audiences, including presentations to the CCPC, Departmental and other public stakeholders, networking, conference contributions and other opportunities.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE NEW FOUNDATIONS 2023 SCHEME

- 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.

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 all other strands inclusion of an appropriate project partner is encouraged.
5. **ONLINE SYSTEM**

**FOR NEW ASSESSORS:** New assessors must first register at the following link: [REGISTRATION LINK](#)

This will take you to a registration page, which you must fill out in full and submit.

To help you select the relevant primary areas and discipline sections on the form, please consult the Irish Research Council's [RESEARCH CATEGORISATION DOCUMENT](#). Please use the ‘Other Research Areas’ text box to give keywords describing the research area in which you have expertise. This will be used to assign applications best suited to your area of expertise.

Potential assessors who fit the criteria will be contacted by email once applications have been assigned to them.

**FOR REGISTERED ASSESSORS:** Once registered, the online system can be accessed as follows:

- The link to the online system is: [https://irishresearch.smartsimple.ie/s_Login.jsp](https://irishresearch.smartsimple.ie/s_Login.jsp)
- The online system can only be successfully accessed and supported through the two most recent versions of Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer and Safari.
- Please ensure your JavaScript is turned on and up to date.
- Please ensure that the email address ircapps@research.ie is on your ‘safe senders’ list. You may need to check with your IT department to ensure there is no issue with your organisation’s internal firewall.
- If you experience any technical issues, please clear the cache in your browser and continue. If the issue persists, please contact newfoundations@research.ie. Where possible, you should include the browser you are using and, if appropriate, a screenshot of any error messages.
- If you have lost or forgotten your password, navigate to the login page above and click ‘forgot password?’ A system-generated password will be forwarded to your email address. If you do not receive this email, please check your spam folder. Please note that it may take up to 15 minutes to receive the email containing your new password.
6. ACCESSING AND COMPLETING ASSIGNED ASSESSMENTS

When you log on, the following screen will be displayed:

![Assessor Actions](image)

You can **begin the assessment process** by clicking on the ‘Principal Investigator-Led Assessments Pending Action’ icon.

When you have clicked on the relevant tab, a list of applications which have been assigned to you will appear as per the below example:

![Principal Investigator-Led Assessments Pending Action](image)

Select the ‘**Open**’ button for the application you wish to assess. The following screen will appear once the application has been opened.
Assessors are asked to confirm that they have read the guidance documents, and that they have no conflict of interest in relation to the application under assessment.

Assessors are also asked to agree to maintain confidentiality and must select the Yes option from the dropdown menu in response to this declaration.

Please read the Declaration on Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality and click the two boxes to confirm your agreement to maintain confidentiality and that you do not have any conflict of interest.

To begin the assessment, please click the assessment tab, as highlighted below. Under the heading 'Assessment Guidelines', there are descriptions of what different total score ranges signify.

The application may be accessed by clicking on the PDF button. A pdf version of the application will open in a new browser window. Please ensure that pop-ups are not blocked on your browser.

You will be asked to provide individual scores for 4 subcategories:
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation subcategory</th>
<th>Description of Subcategory</th>
<th>Score range for section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Description of the proposal and quality of the proposal in relation to strand specifications outlined, these include: | • Originality and innovative nature and significance of the proposal  
• Relevance to the Strand topic, where appropriate.  
• Consideration of the relevant ethical issues and sex/gender dimension.  
• Match between applicant’s profile and proposal.  
• Applicant’s research track record, outputs to date and relevant skills to be applied to the work. | 0-40 |
| The value of the planned outputs, outcomes, and deliverables. Where relevant to the Strand topic, these include: | • The development of conferences/workshops and networking and collaboration activities, where appropriate.  
• The quality, engagement and merits of the proposed partnerships or networks, motivation for same.  
• Contribution of the proposal towards future research funding applications or other future 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 feasibility and credibility of the proposal plan, including: | • Practical arrangements of the implementation  
• Coordination and management of the proposal | 0-10 |
| Levels of funding support sought and value for money. | • Value for money of the project and the proposed costs | 0-10 |
Small issues with formatting should not be penalised unless they greatly detract from the clarity or persuasiveness of the application.

The ‘Total Score’ for the application will auto-populate based on the scores you entered for each previous subsection.

You will be asked if you believe that the gender of the applicant has been revealed/made apparent in the application and if the proposal is primarily Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) or Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Once you have completed all of the required fields, click ‘Save Draft’ to save the assessment and return to it another time, or click ‘Submit’ to submit your assessment once you are satisfied.

Once you have clicked ‘Submit’, your assessment may not be altered. Please email newfoundations@research.ie if you have any questions about your submitted assessment.

To view your submitted assessment forms click on the ‘Submitted Assessments’ tab on your home page and then ‘view’ beside a particular application.

Thank you for participating in the 2023 cycle of New Foundations, it is much appreciated.