



COALESCE Research Fund
Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges

in partnership with

Department of Foreign Affairs – Irish Aid
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (National Monuments Service),
in partnership with the Heritage Council

GUIDE FOR ASSESSORS 2024

Please use the online system to submit your assessment:
<https://irishresearch.smartsimple.ie>

Important dates are as follows:

Remote International Assessment Deadline:
Outer Board: February 13th, 2024

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1. Overview of the scheme

The mission of the Irish Research Council (IRC) 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 complex issues. The [IRC's Strategic Plan 2020-2024](#) seeks to position the IRC as a partner of choice nationally and internationally to support excellent research that addresses the challenges of our time. It also emphasises the importance attached by the IRC to facilitating the sharing of research and innovations to the maximum extent possible. Government and policymakers, enterprise and civil society are all key stakeholders with whom strong relationships with researchers are key. The COALESCE programme (Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges) is a key driver supporting progress on the strategic priorities.

Since the scheme was introduced, there have been a number of developments in the research landscape. The transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe continues the focus on challenges and mission-orientated research, while in May 2022, the national strategy for research and innovation, [Impact 2030](#) was published. COALESCE strongly aligns with the mission focus at European level and also with a number of core objectives within Impact 2030 such as enhancing the links between the research system and public policy; fostering interdisciplinary research; and a challenge-based focus. The various challenges we face, nationally and internationally, are well-articulated in the form of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), incorporating 17 goals.

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 10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs, see [Appendix 1](#)), the achievements of which are necessary to ensure prosperity, equality, a sustainable future, and protection of our natural environment. Impact 2030 outlines some of the key economic and societal challenges facing Ireland, including climate change and the need for decarbonisation; economic transformation fuelled by technological and other change; greater international competition and geopolitical instability; increased mobility of talent; and the need to build societal resilience. Research is essential to address these and other challenges, and to achieve the aims of the National Development Plan.

The achievement of national or global 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 'coalface' in implementation of national plans, 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 policymakers and practitioners can utilise to guide action and interventions on the path to successfully achieving national or international societal

challenges. Maximising the contribution of the research system in this regard requires a strong emphasis on building robust mechanisms to ensure the transmission and integration of knowledge and evidence into the policy and practice environment, including building the necessary relationships with the public sector, civil society, or elsewhere, to support this process.

2. Strand descriptions

COALESCE seeks to fund excellent research addressing national and European/global national challenges as set out in the challenge frameworks now in place. This year, COALESCE features an open strand together with two strands run in partnership with government departments and agencies. These three strands are summarised below with further detail included in the appendices.

Strand	Title	Funder	Description	Further information	Maximum award amount	Duration
Strand 1L	INSTAR+	National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in partnership with the Heritage Council	Providing opportunities to fully realise the potential of Ireland's archaeological record, transforming our understanding of how Ireland's society has evolved. The main objective of INSTAR+ will be to ensure that the large amounts of archaeological work, previously undertaken in the context of development-led excavations, is translated into knowledge about Ireland's past.	Appendix 2	€220,000	24 months
Strand 2A	Strand 2A Open call for interdisciplinary research	Irish Research Council	Open call for interdisciplinary research addressing national or global societal challenges, led by AHSS PI with STEM co-PI		€220,000	24 months
Strand 2B	Better World Awards 2024	Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid)	Providing opportunities for new collaborations between researchers in Ireland and researchers in eligible partner countries, based around excellent research projects aligned to the policy priorities set out in A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development .	Appendix 4	€350,000	36 months

Strands 1L and 2B are each funded by a government department or agency, and, accordingly, there will be requirements in place to produce updates on the progress of and outcomes of the research for the strategic funding partner. Applicants are also encouraged to integrate intersectoral partnership across the project lifecycle, from design stage through to dissemination.

2.1 COALESCE Strand 2

Strand 2 has been designed to support the development of interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration/capacity in the context of national or global challenges. Awardees will expand their research activities and will build the sustainability of their research agenda through enhanced competitiveness for future success in European or international collaborative funding programmes, including Horizon Europe.

Strand 2 will support researchers to form new connections and to consolidate existing national and international knowledge networks as part of a challenge-based approach. A challenge-based approach will bring together resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies, and disciplines, including social sciences and the humanities, and indeed beyond academia, into new sectors.

Lead applicants for Strand 2A will be AHSS researchers, with a STEM co-PI. **The PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.**

Strand 2B is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, addressing research collaboration and capacity building between Ireland and target global south countries. The lead applicant will be based in an eligible Irish HEI/RPO, with a co-PI from one of the target countries. **The PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.**

2.2 Objectives of Strand 2A

Strand 2A is an open strand funded by the Irish Research Council and seeks to fund projects aligning to national challenge frameworks and/or the UN Sustainable Development Agenda (see Appendices 1 and 6). The specific objectives of Strand 2A are as follows:

- To cultivate excellent interdisciplinary research addressing national or global societal challenges – in so doing, bringing value to Ireland and/or internationally.
- To enhance collaboration between researchers in Ireland and policymakers and/or civil society, nationally or internationally.

- To support the development of capacity in the research system for interdisciplinary and challenge-based collaboration.
- Through capacity-building, to boost the success rate of Irish researchers in applications to Horizon Europe.
- To support the development of AHSS research leadership within an interdisciplinary context.
- To provide new opportunities for early-career researchers, under the guidance of the Principal Investigator (applicant) to develop skills and experience in intersectoral and interdisciplinary research collaboration.

2.3 Research for Impact

The various strands aim to foster ‘engaged research’. In the Campus Engage [Engaged Research Framework](#) this is described as “a wide range of research approaches and methodologies that share a common interest in collaboration with societal partners. Engaged research aims to improve, understand, or investigate an issue of public interest or concern, including societal challenges and sustainable development goals. It is advanced with societal partners rather than for them. Societal partners include service users, product users, policymakers, civil and civic society organisations, industry partners, members of the public, and other relevant stakeholders.”

Taking an engaged research approach, from the design of the research proposal, and throughout its implementation, can lead to [highly impactful research](#) that benefits society in a variety of ways.

3. Key dates

Call open	28 th September 2023 at 4pm (Irish time)
FAQ deadline	23 rd November 2023 at 4pm (Irish time)
Applicant deadline	30 th November 2023 at 4pm (Irish time)
RO Endorsement deadline	7 th December 2023 at 4pm (Irish time)
Outcome	May 2024

4. Eligibility

4.1 Eligibility for Strand 1L

In order to be eligible to apply for Strand 1L, the applicant must:

- Be a Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an [eligible HEI or RPO](#) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

- Have been awarded their doctoral degree no later than 31st May 2022. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.*
- **Note: If currently funded under an IRC PI-led award, the applicant's existing award must finish by the project start date in 2024.****

* If you have not yet graduated, you must have all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis within the required timeline.

**** This is without prejudice to future policy on applicants' eligibility to COALESCE.**

The experience and expertise of the applicant is an evaluation criterion under Strand 1L. Further details can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

Please note that co-PIs are not permitted under Strand 1L.

4.2 Eligibility for Strand 2A

In order to be eligible to apply for Strand 2A, the applicant must be:

- From any AHSS discipline (see **Annex A** with call documentation [here](#)); and may apply for funding along with a named applicant from any STEM discipline (see **Annex B**).
- An AHSS Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with [an eligible HEI or RPO](#) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

WITH

- A mandatory and named STEM Co-PI (co-applicant) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an [eligible HEI or RPO](#) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

Both AHSS Lead PI and STEM Co-PI must:

- Have been awarded their doctoral degrees no later than 31st May 2022. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account. *
- **Note: If currently funded under an IRC PI-led award, the applicant's existing award must finish by the project start date in 2024.****

* If you have not yet graduated, you must have all the requirements for the award of a doctoral degree, including the submission of the hardbound corrected thesis within the required timeline.

****This is without prejudice to future policy on applicants' eligibility to COALESCE.**

The experience and expertise of the applicants is an evaluation criterion under Strand 2A. Further details can be found in [Appendix 4](#).

Please note that the PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.

4.3 Eligibility for Strand 2B

In order to be eligible to apply for Strand 2B, the applicant must be:

- A lead Principal Investigator (PI) who holds a contract of sufficient duration with an [eligible HEI or RPO](#) to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end date.

WITH

- A mandatory and named Co-PI (co-applicant) employed by an HEI or research-performing organisation (RPO) in one of the Department of Foreign Affairs' partner countries and who will be in a position to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until the project end date.
- The RPO in the partner country must be a publicly funded or not-for-profit higher education/research institution. In exceptional circumstances, other RPOs will be considered. The RPO must have the capacity and infrastructure to support the research, should be research active and be able to demonstrate the standard of academic rigour required for a large research project.

The lead applicant will:

- Be at least five years post-PhD, **or**, if the applicant is 3 years post-PhD and has won a New Foundations grant (DFA Strand), the applicant will be deemed eligible. The lead PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2018 [or 31st of May 2020 with a New Foundations award]. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.
- Applicants who are eligible under the latter caveat will need to demonstrate that they have the skills and experience to manage a project of this scale.
- Have experience of collaboration within research consortia with an international development focus and/or international project.
- Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand.
- Not be in receipt of any other IRC funding at the proposed start date, with the exception of New Foundations and/or Ulysses or similar travel award(s).

The co-applicant will, at minimum:

- Be at least three years post PhD (or possess equivalent research qualifications/experience). The co-PI will have been awarded the doctoral degree no later than 31st of May 2020. For this condition, the date of graduation (conferral) should be taken into account.
- Have experience of international research collaboration with an international development focus and/or international project/s.
- Have a track record in research under one or more of the DFA themes for this strand.

The experience and expertise of the applicants is an evaluation criterion under Strand 2B. Further details can be found in [Appendix 4](#).

Please note that the PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.

5. General Application Conditions

5.1 Collaboration Statement

Applicants under Strand 2A and Strand 2B are required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record and previous history (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project and how the collaboration will benefit the two parties or provide opportunity for further collaboration or capacity building in the research area.

Furthermore, the statement should outline the Co-PI's intention to participate in the project, their role in the project and their commitment to same.

5.2 Time Commitment

The lead applicant and any co-PIs must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation of the project. The PIs are advised that, by submitting an application in their own name, **they personally undertake to develop the project**, with due attention and viable commitments of time and without sub-contracting the project to another party or parties. In addition, the requirements set out by the Strategic Funding Partners are part of the general rules of this scheme.

5.3 Number of applications per applicant

Applicants may only submit one application to COALESCE 2024.

6. Important information for Strand 2A and Strand 2B applications

The min-max personnel costs for the lead HEI and partner HEI/RPO under Strand 2A and Strand 2B are as follows:

Personnel Costs Strand 2A (Inc. Overhead 25%)	
AHSS lead HEI	STEM co-PI HEI
Min 30% - Max 70%	Min 30% - Max 70%
Personnel Costs Strand 2B (Inc. Overhead 25%)	
Lead HEI	Partner RPO co-PI
Min 30% - Max 70%	Min 30% - Max 70%

The maintenance of the minimum 30% personnel costs will be the responsibility of the lead HEI.

Only one application per lead applicant on any strand is permitted.

Only one application per named co-PI on Strand 2A and Strand 2B is permitted.

7. Eligible Items of Expenditure/Costs

7.1 General Conditions

All costs sought under an application must be detailed and justified. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that any costs sought are necessary to carry out the proposed research programme and that such facilities are not available to the researcher(s) via any other means. Demonstration of value for money is an important consideration under the evaluation and assessment process. Applicants should confirm their budget calculations and seek guidance from their Research Office when preparing their budget to ensure all calculations are correct and adhere to the eligible costs set out below and in accordance with their institutional guidelines and policies. Overheads can be requested up to a maximum rate of 25% (of direct costs less equipment).

The budget for staff costs as proposed in the application must be clearly justified. The recruitment of staff (e.g., research assistants, postdoctoral researchers) must be done openly, through public advertisement. Staff must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only. Recruitment of staff can commence before the start date of the project and costs for recruitment can be charged to the project (outside the official start date) with the prior approval of the IRC.

Strand 1L and 2A applications may include provision for team membership of researchers from institutions and organisations that fall outside the eligible institutions, including both national and international participation. However, only collaboration costs (not personnel costs) may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the

added value of such costs must be **strongly** demonstrated. **Costs for subsistence and accommodation may be requested; however, honoraria such as vouchers are deemed an ineligible research expense.** For a Strand 2A application, only the AHSS lead PI and STEM Co-PI are required to be named specifically.

7.2 Pension costs

The Government is continuing to examine the provisions of the Single Pension Scheme and the implications for research funders in relation to the provision of pension costs as part of the total employment costs of researchers. In the context of budgeting for the 2024 call and in order to ensure that budgets are complete, applicants are requested to include pension costs in the calculation of employment costs for postdoctoral researchers and research assistants. The IRC is keen to ensure long-term certainty for all stakeholders in relation to the pension funding of single pension scheme members, and HEIs/RPOs should note that further changes to guidance may occur when a definitive position is issued or confirmed by government. If such definitive guidance confirms that pensions are to be paid centrally the IRC will require any pension costs budgeted in each COALESCE proposal to be returned to the IRC. In this scenario no adjustment to overheads will be required

7.3 Strand 1L and 2A – Staffing and other eligible costs

Costs may include staff-replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be clearly justified.

Staff Costs	
Academic replacements (can be pro-rata)	These are used to alleviate the awardee's commitments and to facilitate their participation as a principal investigator. Costs may be requested to facilitate the reallocation of existing commitments of the awardee (e.g., teaching) in order that they can devote appropriate time and effort to successfully completing the award. A value equal to point 1 on the IUA salary scale for postdoctoral researchers may be charged to the project to facilitate the awardee's leadership of the project. If the existing academic commitments of the awardee are fully replaced, this money can be charged to the project in order to recruit one whole-time person, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow, to discharge the awardee's commitments. As part of the reporting requirements, the awardee will be required to report on how the replacement costs have been allocated.
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata)	HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form. The salary requested must include provisions for PRSI, and Employer Pension Contribution, if

Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)	applicable. As part of the award acceptance process, the Research Office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.
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7.4 Strand 1L and 2A - Eligible Research Expenses

All costings must be clearly justified. Only costs incurred during the lifetime of the award will be eligible.

Cost Area and Guidance	Strand 1L	Strand 2A
Staff costs See above for more detail.	Yes	Yes
Travel costs Costs for travel, subsistence and accommodation may be requested. Details on the number of trips, location, purpose and duration of the trips and the team members involved should be provided. Requests for travel and accommodation should be in line with institutional rates and norms for travel and accommodation. Business class travel is not an eligible cost.	Yes	Yes
Collaboration Costs to support the integration of policy-makers and other partners (national or international) in the proposed research project.	Up to a max. of 20% of total project costs	Up to a max. of 10% of total project costs
Non-IT equipment with a value of less than €2,000 can be included here.	Max. allowable: €2,000	Max. allowable: €2,000
Access to research infrastructure Only research infrastructure outside the host institution is valid for costs.	Yes	Yes

Publications and research outputs, including: Costs in respect of data management, archiving, digitisation, and open access storage.	Yes	Yes
Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange Costs associated with the dissemination of the research, seminar/conference attendance (provide details of name and location where possible) and other channels of dissemination and material e.g., reports, website, etc. and other knowledge exchange activities.	Yes	Yes
Consultancy Must be relevant and clearly justified.	Up to a maximum of €20,000	Up to a maximum of €10,000
Overheads Overhead applies to all direct costs except equipment costs. Overheads are available in respect of direct costs incurred in both the Ireland-based and partner-based institution.	Max. of 25%	Max. of 25%
Equipment Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. The IRC will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g., laptops, voice recorders, etc.). Any such requests will require a strong rationale and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from any other source.	Yes	Yes

7.5 Strand 2B – Staffing and other eligible costs

Costs may include staff-replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be clearly justified. **The PI/institution in Ireland is responsible for the overall coordination of the project, including in the partner country, inclusive of the transfer of funds and the monitoring of expenditure.**

Staff Costs - Ireland	
Academic replacements (Ireland-based PI only) (can be pro-rata)	These are used to alleviate the awardee's commitments and to facilitate their participation as a principal investigator. Costs may be requested to facilitate the reallocation of existing commitments of the awardee (e.g., teaching) in order that they can devote appropriate time and effort to successfully completing the award. A value equal to point 1 on the IUA salary scale for postdoctoral researchers may be charged to the project to facilitate the awardee's leadership of the project. If the existing academic commitments of the awardee are fully replaced, this money can be charged to the project to recruit one whole-time person, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow, to discharge the awardee's commitments. As part of the reporting requirements, the awardee will be required to report on how the replacement costs have been allocated.
Research Assistant (can be pro-rata) Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)	HEIs should use the institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form. The salary requested must include provisions for PRSI, and Employer Pension Contribution, if applicable. As part of the award acceptance process, the Research Office must confirm that the requested salary is in line with the institutional researcher salary scale and provide documentary evidence.

Staff Costs – Partner Country	
Employment costs of co-PI	Up to 50% of employment costs of the co-PI in the partner country can be sought. Costs sought must be fully justified and align with the proposed time commitment to the project from the co-PI applicant. Any employment costs sought for the co-PI must be in line with relevant local salary scales applicable to the career stage of the co-PI.

Research Assistant (can be pro-rata) Postdoctoral Researcher (can be pro-rata)	Participating RPOs in partner countries can use their own institutional researcher salary scale for research assistants and postdoctoral researchers. These costs must be clearly justified in the application form.
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7.6 **Strand 2B** - Eligible Research Costs

Strand 2B applications may include provision for team membership of researchers from institutions and organisations that fall outside the institutions of the PI and co-PI. However, only collaboration costs (not personnel costs) may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the added value of such costs must be **strongly** demonstrated. Only costs incurred during the lifetime of the award will be eligible.

Cost Area and Guidance	Strand 2B
Staff costs See above.	Yes
Travel costs Costs for travel, subsistence and accommodation may be requested. Details on the number of trips, location, purpose and duration of the trips and the team members involved should be provided. Requests for travel and accommodation should be in line with institutional rates and norms for travel and accommodation. Business class travel is NOT an eligible cost.	Yes
Collaboration Costs to support the integration of policy-makers, civil society, and other partners in the proposed research project, particularly in the partner country or countries.	Yes Max. of 10% of total project costs
Consumables Non-IT equipment with a value of less than €1,000 can be included here.	Max. allowable: €5,000
Access to research infrastructure Only research infrastructure outside the host institution is valid for costs.	Yes
Publications and research outputs, including: Costs in respect of data management, archiving, digitisation, and open access storage.	Yes
Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange Costs associated with the dissemination of the research, seminar/conference attendance (provide details of name and location where possible) and other channels of dissemination and material, e.g., reports, website, etc. and other knowledge exchange activities.	Yes

Consultancy Must be relevant and clearly justified.	Up to a maximum of €10,000
Overheads Overhead applies to all direct costs except equipment costs. Overhead applies to institutions of both the PI in Ireland and the co-PI in the Irish Aid partner country.	Max. of 25%
Equipment Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. The IRC will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g., laptops, voice recorders, etc.). Any such requests will require a strong rationale and an account of why such items might not be available to an applicant from any other source.	Yes

8. Assessment Process

8.1 Stages of Assessment Process

The assessment process consists of two steps. In the first step, an initial remote assessment is undertaken by at least two members of the Outer International Assessment Board (Outer IAB). The top applications progress to the second step of the assessment process to the Inner International Assessment Board (Inner IAB), whereby they are assessed by at least two members of the Inner IAB.

The Inner IAB then agrees the final ranking and which applications are to be recommended for funding, including a reserve list. The membership of the Outer and Inner International Assessment Board has been constituted on the basis of international peer review.

The IRC funds all disciplines, and applications are received from a wide spectrum of research areas, including interdisciplinary research. Applications will be assigned to assessors via our online application system, and assessors will be submitting their assessment to the IRC via this online system also.

It is imperative that individual steps of the assessment process are completed on time according to the schedule. Please make sure you complete your assessment and submit your form via the online system by the deadline provided to you. Should unforeseen circumstances emerge due to which you would be unable to submit your form on time, please contact us at projects@research.ie as soon as such a situation arises.

8.2 Outer IAB

Members of the Outer IAB are asked to remotely read and evaluate applications in their general disciplinary area. Outer IAB members have been selected both for their general disciplinary experience and ability to evaluate the quality of the proposal, the potential of applicants, the experience that the project will afford them, as well as the extent to which the implementation of the project will contribute to the achievement of the aims of the scheme.

Outer IAB members are requested to score each application against the criteria provided by the IRC (see Appendix 4), provide comments outlining 6 strengths and weaknesses of the proposal in relation to individual criteria, and submit the scores and comments via our online application system. Both the written comments and scores are very important. The scores will be used to determine which applications go forward for further consideration by the Inner IAB.

The written comments will be provided as qualitative feedback to applicants whose application does not progress to the second stage of the assessment process. They are also used to aid the Inner IAB in their discussion of which applications should be recommend for funding.

8.3 Inner IAB

While Inner IAB assessors are distinguished in their respective disciplines, unlike Outer IAB members they do not represent these particular disciplines for the purposes of the evaluation. Members are selected for their high-level experience and ability to evaluate the potential of the candidate and the benefit that the project will offer.

Inner IAB members are requested to score each application against the criteria provided by the IRC, provide comments outlining strengths and weaknesses of the proposal in relation to individual criteria and submit the scores and comments via our online application system as a preliminary input to the Inner IAB meeting. Inner IAB members have access to the disciplinary comments provided by the Outer IAB readers to aid them in their consideration of each application.

The Inner IAB then meets in a virtual meeting to discuss and consider all the applications referred to it and agree a final ranking of applications to be recommended for funding, including a reserve list.

8.4 Assessment Principles

The IRC requires IAB members to abide by the Conflict of Interest rules of the IRC. All participants in the IRC's processes must also respect confidentiality, not only in relation to the application itself but also to the overall assessment process. Assessors are asked to refer to the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality note on the assessment form in SmartSimple before performing their assessments.

Should you identify a conflict of interest in relation to an application assigned to you for assessment, please contact us at projects@research.ie without delay, so an alternative assessor can be arranged on time.

Assessors are required to adhere to the following assessment principles:

- Independence: evaluate in a personal capacity; assessors do not represent their employer or country;
- Impartiality: treat all proposals equally, evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants;
- Objectivity: evaluate applications as submitted and only on the basis of the information included;
- Accuracy: make judgment against the published criteria
- Consistency: apply the same standard to all applications.

Assessors are requested to assess applications solely on the basis of information included in the application form and the relevant mentors' and referees' forms. Each proposal should be evaluated as submitted, not on its potential if certain changes were to be made. If you identify shortcomings (other than minor ones and obvious clerical errors), reflect those in a lower score for the relevant criterion. Explain the shortcomings, but do not make recommendations (i.e. do not suggest other partners, different methodological approach, additional work packages etc.).

Proposals with significant weaknesses that prevent the project from achieving its objectives or the objectives of the scheme, or proposals with resources being seriously under- or overestimated, must not receive above-threshold scores.

Assessors are responsible for carrying out the evaluation of the proposals themselves, they are not allowed to delegate the work to another person. **If you suspect any form of misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, double funding), please report this to projects@research.ie.**

8.5 Unconscious Bias

Relying on one's prior experience, assumptions and interpretations whilst being unaware of it helps people to make quick choices without thinking. These mechanisms can however have a significant impact when important decisions are made, such as when funding proposals are evaluated. Assessors should therefore take measures to avoid unconscious bias. Unconscious bias can be related to gender, ethnic origin, socio-economic background etc. For example, some qualities tend to be described in different ways based on gender¹:

¹ Source: Presentation by Julie Sainz, DG Education and Culture, Brussels, October 2016, http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/msca/documents/documentation/presentations/cofund-presentationeac_en.pdf

Man	Woman
Profound	Narrow
Extensive	Shallow
Excellent	Ambitious
Strong network	Dependent

How to limit unconscious bias:

- Dedicate a sufficient amount of time for each application.
- Work on your assessments in a quiet environment where you can be focused.
- Remember that gender, ethnic origin, sociocultural background, having had a career break, and/or having certain health-related disabilities does not affect the capacity of individuals to generate excellent research.
- Inner IAB members only: discuss with other assessors, it is easier to detect unconscious bias in others.

8.6 Institutional Bias

It is important to be aware of the potential for institutional bias, unconscious or otherwise. There is a risk of proposals benefiting from bias towards particular institutions by reason of reputation and/or location and/or size, and not purely based on the merit of the proposal. Proposals should be assessed based only on the information in and the content of the proposal, and not on any matters extraneous to the proposal.

8.7 Generative Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms or tools to assist with the review or review outputs of a specific research proposal requires the input of the detail of that research proposal, in full or in part. Making such input available to generative AI essentially discloses content of a research proposal with no guarantees of how data from the research proposal will be stored, transmitted, viewed or ultimately used going forward. This practice is therefore in breach of the requirement to maintain confidentiality in respect of research proposals. Accordingly, peer reviewers are prohibited from using AI platforms or tools to assist with the review of research proposals.

8.8 Assessment Criteria and Marking Guidelines

Each application is assessed under four pillars:

- Quality
- Collaboration

- Feasibility
- Value for money

The granularity of each pillar varies across each strand. Details of each strand may be found in the Evaluation Criteria tables in Appendix 4. Please consult these tables before evaluating assigned applications.

For COALESCE 2024, a new stipulation has been introduced in that applicants under Strand 2A and Strand 2B are required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record and previous history (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project and how the collaboration will benefit the two parties or provide opportunity for further collaboration or capacity building in the research area.

Furthermore, the statement should outline the Co-PI's intention to participate in the project, their role in the project and their commitment to same.

8.9 Guidance on assessing the Sex/Gender Dimension Statement

All applicants to IRC schemes are required to complete the Sex/Gender Dimension statement in the application.

Question for assessor: Do you understand the concept of biological sex and social gender as they impact research content?

Please refer to the link below which summarises the Toolkit Gender in EU funded research for guidance:

http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009_GenderToolkit_Module1.pdf

Please refer to the links below for examples of case studies in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment:

<http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/methods/concepts.html>

<http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/>.

It is suggested that assessors consider whether the proposed research scheme involves any of the following:

- Humans as the research focus
- Animals as the research focus
- Human samples (e.g. tissues/cells) and/or data
- Humans involved as consumers, users, patients, participants or in trials/interviews
- Research on animals, animal samples and/or data
- Research outputs with implications for both men and women
- Research outputs with implications for end users or consumers

It is suggested that assessors consider the following when appraising the research proposal:

- Has the applicant clearly outlined the consideration that has been given to the relevance of sex and gender in their proposed research?
- If there is a potential sex/gender dimension, has the applicant clearly indicated how the potential sex/gender issues will be handled with reference to the points mentioned in the 'Checklist for sex/gender in research content' in Appendix 5.

8.10 Guidance on assessing the Ethical Considerations

Only proposals that comply with the ethical principles applicable to the Irish Research Council and applicable national rules may receive funding. Assessors are asked to consider the Ethical Table included in the application not only on their own but in the context of other information included in the proposal.

8.11 Guidance on Data Management Plans

In 2016, the European Commission adopted three goals for EU research and innovation policy: open science, open innovation and open to the world.² An important aspect of open science is a move towards open access to research results funded with public money. Facilitating access to those results encourages the re-use of research output. Science and research have always been open, but some of the processes for producing research and disseminating its results are not. It is now widely recognised that making research results more accessible to all societal actors contributes to better and more efficient science, and to greater innovation in the public and private sectors.

Applicants are required to address the data management needs of their research project. As part of the application, applicants will furnish an outline Data Management Plan (DMP) appropriate to their project and, if successful, a detailed DMP will be submitted to Council along with the first progress report at six months. If a DMP is not required, applicants must justify why this is so.

A DMP is a **key element** of good data management. A DMP describes the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed and/or generated by a research project. As part of making research data findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR), a DMP should include information on:

- the handling of research data during and after the end of the project;
- what data will be collected, processed and/or generated;
- which methodology and standards will be applied;
- whether data will be shared/made open access. If data cannot be made available, explain why;
- how data will be curated and preserved (including after the end of the project).

² European Commission (2016), [Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World: a vision for Europe](#), pp.6-7.

Applicants should be cognisant of the [General Data Protection Regulations \(GDPR\)](#) and funded proposals should meet the required standards in this regard. Appendix 7 has links to further resources on DMPs and FAIR principles.

With the adoption of the [San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment](#) (DORA) principles, and the IRC's commitment to the CoARA membership, the mention of Journal Impact Factors is no longer accepted, and the use of H-Index is discouraged among the field relevant bibliometric indicators that may be included as part of the publications track record. Instead, applicants are encouraged to briefly note the significance of the publications they have chosen to include in the track record.

- a) Research monograph(s) and any translations thereof;
- b) Granted patent(s);
- c) Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;
- d) Other forms of peer-reviewed recognition of achievement (prizes, awards, academy memberships).

Applicants are also invited to use the track record section of their application to outline their broader contribution to research through teaching, public engagement, academic administration, etc. Applicants may also provide a short narrative description of the scientific/scholarly importance of the research outputs submitted as part of the proposal.

9. Guide to the Online System (OLS)

Please ensure you are using the correct browser. The online application system, SmartSimple, is designed to operate on recent versions of Google Chrome, Safari and Firefox.

Please add the ircapps@research.ie email address to your contacts/address book before you begin the registration process.

Also, please ensure your JavaScript is both turned on and up to date.

If you are having trouble seeing the "Submit" button, please minimize and then maximize the screen as this may resolve this issue, which often arises due to the varying sizes of computer screens.

NOTE: DO NOT use the browser "back" button at any stage as you may lose essential information. Please ensure to click "Save Draft" before navigating away from the page.

Should you experience any difficulties, the COALESCE team will be available to assist by contacting projects@research.ie.

9.1 Logging on to the 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
- 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 projects@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.

9.2 Navigating the Online Application System Portal

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

Assessor Actions

0 Postgraduate Assessments Pending Action	0 Postdoctoral Assessments Pending Action	2 Principal Investigator- Led Assessments Pending Action	6 Submitted Assessments
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You can **begin the assessment process** by clicking on **‘Principal Investigator-Led Assessments Pending Action’**. When you have clicked on this icon, a list of applications which have been assigned to you will appear as follows:

Principal Investigator-Led Assessments Pending Action

#	Project ID	Project Title	Application Type	Irish research body	Activity Type
Open	1	COALESCE/2024/3842	Research for Policy and Society	Dublin City University	COALESCE Assessor Marking Sheet (Outer Board)
Open	2	COALESCE/2024/3721	Research for Policy and Society	Marino Institute of Education	COALESCE Assessor Marking Sheet (Outer Board)

Select the **‘Open’** button for the application you wish to assess. The following screen will appear once the application has been opened.

Assessment Form

COALESCE Outer Board Assessor Marking Sheet

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the Guide for Assessors.

Should you require any technical assistance please contact the IRC by email to

projects@research.ie

Overview

Assessment Total: 0

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 tick ‘I agree’ in response to this declaration.


Declaration by Assessor on Conflict of Interest:

I have read the Irish Research Council's **'CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE FOR ALL REGISTERED ASSESSORS'**. I confirm that, to my knowledge, I do not have any connection or any interest in the success of this application under review that could influence my impartiality, which could be deemed to constitute a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest with regard to my role as an Assessment Board member. If, in the course of the review, such a conflict/relationship becomes apparent, I will make it known to the Irish Research Council promptly.

☐ I agree

Declaration by Assessor on Confidentiality:

I agree to maintain confidentiality concerning all aspects of the review process for the applications under consideration in this assessment process. I will not disclose any information about the applications or any matter relating to them.

☐ I agree 

To begin the assessment, scroll down to the assessment section, as shown below. Under the heading 'Assessor Guidelines', there are descriptions of what different total score ranges signify. These are also contained in the Call Document on our website and in this Guide, as Appendix 4 below.

Assessor Guidelines: The importance of constructive feedback for applicants.

Apart from the ranking of applications and the final recommendations on fundable proposals, the most important output of the evaluation process is the feedback to applicants. Please note the following points regarding the provision of feedback to applicants:

- After the evaluation process is complete each applicant receives a feedback letter which confirms the funding recommendation, the total average score, the average score for each assessment criterion, the assessment category and anonymised feedback from each assessor.
- Each assessor must provide feedback, in clear and appropriate language, that clearly identifies any weaknesses in the application, and outlines the reason(s) why the applicant may have received the score given in each individual criterion.
- Assessors should not refer to any content or information that is not contained within the application.

Marking Criteria to be done:	Evaluation Criteria	Marks Out Of 100
	Quality Of Proposal	45
	Collaboration and Impact	25
	Implementation and management of the proposed project	20
	Proposed Cost and Value	10
	Total	100

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.

[View Project Application and Associated Forms](#)

[Print \(PDF\)](#)

Please note that a second PDF is available for download within the above PDF application on page 2. This relates to the new stipulation for Strands 2A and 2B to upload a statement outlining their track record (if any) in collaboration with the Co-PI. This is new to the COALESCE 2024 scheme.

Strand 2A and 2B only: The PI is required to upload a statement outlining their track record (if any) in collaboration with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project. (max 1 page)

You will be asked to provide individual scores and a summary for four categories:

Evaluation Criteria	Marks Out Of 100
Quality Of Proposal	45
Collaboration and Impact	25

Implementation and management of the proposed project	20
Proposed Cost and Value	10
Total	100

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 projects@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.

Assessor Actions

0 Postgraduate Assessments Pending Action	0 Postdoctoral Assessments Pending Action	9 Principal Investigator- Led Assessments Pending Action	65 Submitted Assessments
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IAB Panel

Once the deadline for IAB remote submissions has passed, all the IAB assessments will be collated and an average score will be calculated for each application. This will provide a ranking of proposals that will be recommended for funding.

Applicants have been advised that they will receive feedback on their applications. In order to facilitate this process, board members are asked to be as clear, concise and constructive as possible in these comments and to provide courteous and constructive commentary under the stated headings so that the feedback may inform future applications. The covering letter to applicants will also clarify that decisions regarding applications will have been made by the International Assessment Board as a whole.

Thank you for participating in the 2024 cycle of COALESCE, it is much appreciated.

Appendix 1

National Challenge framework: Ireland's National Strategic Outcomes

The Government describes the [National Planning Framework \(NPF\)](#) as its “high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country out to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for our people, and to protect and enhance our environment - from our villages to our cities, and everything around and in between” (p. 10).

“The NPF is a long-term Framework that sets out how Ireland can move away from the current, ‘business as usual’ pattern of development” (p. 20).

Ireland 2040 is predicated on “a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs)” (p. 10). The COALESCE research fund adopts the set of National Strategic Outcomes to underpin a national challenge-based approach.

The NSOs are as follows:

1. Compact Growth
2. Regional Accessibility
3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities
4. Sustainable Mobility
5. A Strong Economy
6. High Quality International Connectivity
7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage
8. Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society
9. Sustainable Management of Water, Waste, and other Environmental Resources
10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health services

Overleaf is provided a contextual statement, drawn from the National Planning Framework, on each of the NSOs. Applicants should consult [Ireland 2040](#) and the National Development Plan for further information on each of the NSOs.



National Strategic Outcomes 1-6



Compact Growth

Carefully managing the sustainable growth of compact cities, towns and villages will add value and create more attractive places in which people can live and work. All our urban settlements contain many potential development areas, centrally located and frequently publicly owned, that are suitable and capable of re-use to provide housing, jobs, amenities and services, but which need a streamlined and co-ordinated approach to their development, with investment in enabling infrastructure and supporting amenities, to realise their potential. Activating these strategic areas and achieving effective density and consolidation, rather than more sprawl of urban development, is a top priority.



Enhanced Regional Accessibility

A co-priority is to enhance accessibility between key urban centres of population and their regions. This means ensuring that all regions and urban areas in the country have a high degree of accessibility to Dublin, as well as to each other. Not every route has to look east and so accessibility and connectivity between places like Cork and Limerick, to give one example, and through the Atlantic Economic Corridor to Galway as well as access to the North-West is essential.



Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

Rural areas play a key role in defining our identity, in driving our economy and our high-quality environment and must be a major part of our country's strategic development to 2040. In addition to the natural resource and food sector potential as traditional pillars of the rural economy, improved connectivity, broadband and rural economic development opportunities are emerging which offer the potential to ensure our countryside remains and strengthens as a living and working community.



High-Quality International Connectivity

This is crucial for overall international competitiveness and addressing opportunities and challenges from Brexit through investment in our ports and airports in line with sectoral priorities already defined through National Ports Policy and National Aviation Policy and signature projects such as the second runway for Dublin Airport and the Port of Cork - Ringaskiddy Redevelopment.



Sustainable Mobility

In line with Ireland's Climate Change mitigation plan, we need to progressively electrify our mobility systems moving away from polluting and carbon intensive propulsion systems to new technologies such as electric vehicles and introduction of electric and hybrid traction systems for public transport fleets, such that by 2040 our cities and towns will enjoy a cleaner, quieter environment free of combustion engine driven transport systems.



A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills

This will depend on creating places that can foster enterprise and innovation and attract investment and talent. It can be achieved by building regional economic drivers and by supporting opportunities to diversify and strengthen the rural economy, to leverage the potential of places. Delivering this outcome will require the coordination of growth and place making with investment in world class infrastructure, including digital connectivity, and in skills and talent to support economic competitiveness and enterprise growth.



National Strategic Outcomes 7-10



Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

This will ensure that our cities, towns and villages are attractive and can offer a good quality of life. It will require investment in well-designed public realm, which includes public spaces, parks and streets, as well as recreational infrastructure. It also includes amenities in rural areas, such as national and forest parks, activity-based tourism and trails such as greenways, blueways and peatways. This is linked to and must integrate with our built, cultural and natural heritage, which has intrinsic value in defining the character of urban and rural areas and adding to their attractiveness and sense of place.



Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society

The National Climate Policy Position establishes the national objective of achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This objective will shape investment choices over the coming decades in line with the National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework. New energy systems and transmission grids will be necessary for a more distributed, renewables-focused energy generation system, harnessing both the considerable on-shore and off-shore potential from energy sources such as wind, wave and solar and connecting the richest sources of that energy to the major sources of demand.



Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources

Ireland has abundant natural and environmental resources such as our water sources that are critical to our environmental and economic well-being into the future. Conserving and enhancing the quality of these resources will also become more important in a crowded and competitive world as well as our capacity to create beneficial uses from products previously considered as waste, creating circular economic benefits.



Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services

Good access to a range of quality education and health services, relative to the scale of a region, city, town, neighbourhood or community is a defining characteristic of attractive, successful and competitive places. Compact, smart growth in urban areas and strong and stable rural communities will enable the enhanced and effective provision of a range of accessible services.

Appendix 2

Strand 1L: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

IRISH NATIONAL STRATEGIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (INSTAR+) PROGRAMME 2024-2026

*Strand funded by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage in partnership with the Heritage Council*

Introduction

In 2008, the Heritage Council and the then Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched the Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme. This was in response to a need identified for the state to support a competitive and collaborative archaeological research programme that would bring about transformative change in the quality of archaeological research.

Over subsequent years to 2014, INSTAR funded the completion of a number of research projects addressing key archaeological questions in areas such as Neolithic agriculture, ancient human remains and early medieval settlement, as well as building research capacity, and helping to respond to the issue of unpublished archaeological excavations.

The National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage now seeks to launch a revitalised INSTAR programme, INSTAR+, in partnership with the Heritage Council and administered by the Irish Research Council under the COALESCE Research Fund. Applications for 24-month collaborative projects are invited from [Eligible Higher Education Institutions \(HEIs\) and Research-Performing Organisations \(RPOs\)](#).

The objective of the INSTAR+ awards is to fully realise the potential of Ireland's archaeological record, transforming our understanding of how Ireland's society has evolved. The main objective of INSTAR+ will be to ensure that the large amounts of archaeological work, previously undertaken in the context of development-led excavations, is translated into knowledge about Ireland's past.

Objectives of INSTAR+:

Aligning with the policy objectives of the National Monuments Service and the Heritage Council, INSTAR+ seeks to:

- contribute to a better understanding of Ireland's archaeological heritage by tackling key questions about our past.
- support the development of a better understanding of past societies in Ireland.

- ensure that the highest standards in archaeological research are achieved and are disseminated to a wide audience.
- encourage interdisciplinarity between archaeologists and practitioners from other disciplines to address crucial research questions and grow partnerships that could make an important contribution to understanding our past.
- attract researchers from other disciplines, for example, science and environmental research.
- encourage the creation of strategic partnerships and alliances in Irish archaeological research through increased cross-sectoral national and international collaboration.
- elicit proposals from researchers with a proven research track record in Irish research institutions working with at least one archaeological consultancy/SME. Partnerships with community groups, other state bodies and/or international partners will also be welcomed.
- a key difference in INSTAR+2021 and previous iterations of this programme is the need to involve community groups in project proposals, so as to increase public understanding of place and the significance of collections.
- cultivate and grow high-quality archaeological research in Ireland.
- support projects that require short- to medium-term funding.

INSTAR+ is based around the following themes:

1	Cultural Identity, Territories and Boundaries
2	Resources, Technology and Craft
3	Exchange and Trade
4	Religion and Ritual
5	Environment and Climate Change
6	Landscapes and Settlement
7	Archaeology and Contemporary Society

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

Explanations of these themes are articulated in the Heritage Council's 2007 [Research Needs in Irish Archaeology](#) document. A process of updating this document through the production of a national archaeological research framework will shortly commence, led by the Discovery Programme, working in partnership with the National Monuments Service, the Heritage Council, and the wider archaeological sector. It is anticipated that this will inform future research calls.

Applications must contain an explicit and reasoned statement (within the Project Proposal document) of how the research relates to substantive area(s) of enquiry within one of the thematic areas. Applications of an interdisciplinary nature are welcome.

In addition to the standard reporting requirements outlined in the COALESCE Call Document, award-holders under this strand will be required to undertake:

- One bilateral meeting with NMS and Heritage Council per year;
- A larger dissemination event at the end of the project (with a range of colleagues/stakeholders);
- Organise a public event during Heritage Week.

The INSTAR+ awards have been designed to facilitate the clustering of archaeologists to carry out joint research activities in areas of strategic importance, while also giving the time and resources to attract and to cultivate strong sectoral and interdisciplinary partnerships between academic and private-sector archaeological stakeholders and local communities that can inform and enhance research programmes and wider knowledge.

Knowledge transfer and engagement with different sectors of the profession, and other disciplines, are vital in the development of the INSTAR+ awards.

Projects involving large-scale archaeological excavations are not eligible for funding.

Specifically targeted excavation carried out on a small scale to recover dating material, environmental samples or to answer key questions arising from previous works, if justified by a clear research context, will be considered. However, it should be noted that the primary focus of the INSTAR+ awards is not to fund additional excavations.

In the case of project proposals involving results from pre-development archaeological excavation, applicants must be able to demonstrate that the developer has fully complied with regulatory obligations in terms of submission of final excavation reports at the conclusion of the post-excavation process. Each applicant will be expected to indicate why any previously allocated post-excavation funding was not sufficient to complete the excavation report. A key aim in assessing applications that have derived from pre-development archaeological excavation will be in bringing added value to the data, putting it into a wider research context, synthesizing the results of excavations, and ensuring dissemination and not the completion basic post-excavation analysis.

Where appropriate, it is expected that the applicant will have the permission of the commissioning body, excavator(s), and/ or private company.

Accessibility and Enjoyment

Communication of knowledge gained is a key component of the INSTAR+ awards. Applicants will be asked to state how the research project will promote accessibility and enjoyment of our heritage throughout each project. This is to ensure that elements of new research are disseminated as widely as possible to local communities, media, and general readership publications. Accordingly, applicants must provide a dissemination and communication plan for research findings (e.g., to stakeholders including policy-makers, the research community, and the public). This should be included within the Project Proposal document. Applicants are advised to indicate specific plans to make all research outputs Open Access as swiftly as

possible; for publications, this will entail publishing in Open Access journals or placement of publications in Open Access Repositories.

Eligibility for Strand 1L

Prospective applicants are advised to check [Section 4.1](#) in the Call Document to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria for this strand.

Application Requirements

- Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will develop their existing portfolio of research skills and expertise and inform their teaching or practice.
- Applicants must also demonstrate the value of their proposal to the policy and/or service communities. Please see section on eligible costs.

The funded project must start in Q3 2024 and be completed in 24 months.

Collaborative Applications

Applicants are expected to reference research partnerships, from the following groups: the archaeological consultancy/SME sector, academic institutions on the island of Ireland, international academic and research bodies, State bodies and local community groups.

Research consortia must be formed (i.e. three or more) from the following groups:

- the archaeological consultancy sector,
- academic institutions on the island of Ireland,
- international academic and research bodies,
- State bodies,
- local community groups.

Outputs

Successful applicants will be expected to consult with NMS/Heritage Council regarding the launch and dissemination of findings.

Awardees will produce a high-level research report (15–20 pages) for submission to the Irish Research Council and to the NMS/Heritage Council at the conclusion of the research. The report should be suitable for publication. Where relevant, the report should include consideration of the potential focus for and the value of further collaborative research. This is additional to standard progress-reporting requirements.

Applications are invited for:	
Time frame	24 months from commencement of project
Funding limit per project	Max €220,000 (including overheads at 25%)

Appendix 3

Strand 2B: Department of Foreign Affairs Better World Awards 2024

This strand is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs

Introduction:

- The Development Cooperation and Africa Division (DCAD) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is responsible for the management of the Irish Government's programme of international development. Ireland's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance has been integral to our overall foreign policy for over 50 years.
- [*Global Ireland: Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025*](#) sets out a plan to double Ireland's worldwide scope and impact by 2025. It outlines Ireland's ambition to play a continued leadership role in creating a more equal, peaceful, and sustainable world.
- The work that Irish Aid carries out in fighting global poverty and hunger and advancing human rights is integral to Ireland's policy for International Development, A Better World. The policy focuses on 4 key policy priorities, Reducing Humanitarian need, Climate Action, Strengthened Governance and Gender Equality. These priorities are framed by the SDGs and underpinned by a recognition of the needs of those furthest behind.

Requirements for COALESCE Research Fund 2024:

- The Programme seeks to cultivate and to grow high-quality development research capacity both in Ireland and eligible partner countries³ in response to key societal challenges linked to one of the four 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*.
- The Programme seeks to elicit proposals from senior researchers with a proven research track record in development in established Irish research institutions, leading consortia that must comprise of at least one research institution in an eligible partner country, working with at least one Irish research institution. Proposals must demonstrate how they will build research capacity in the partner countries; the consortium's collective capacity to address a key challenge linked to one or more of

³ Any ODA-eligible country on the African continent; any ODA-eligible Small Island Developing State (SIDS); Vietnam; Palestine; Laos; Cambodia; Myanmar.

the SDGs; and the consortium's ability to generate new knowledge that contribute to at least one of the four policy priorities in *A Better World*.

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

- provide opportunities for new collaborations between researchers in Ireland and researchers in eligible partner countries, based around excellent research projects aligned within one or more of the four policy priorities in *A Better World* and its overarching goal to reach those furthest behind first;
- enable the development of collaborative research capacity in the partner countries through partnerships with Irish researchers, and to use this capacity to leverage success in Horizon Europe;
- generate impact on global development policy, particularly within the policy community of the partner country and in line with *A Better World* priorities;
- enhance the contribution of the Irish research system to the sustainable development agenda;
- encourage a challenge-based approach to research, building national and collaborative capacity in this regard, with resulting outcomes for poor and vulnerable target groups.

This 'open call' for research proposals should consider how a strategic approach to dissemination and policy impact will be established from the outset, including the identification of key stakeholders and communication channels, in line with DFA's objective to increase policy uptake of research. In addition to the standard reporting requirements outlined in these Terms and Conditions, award-holders under this strand will be required to undertake one bilateral meeting with DCAD per year and a larger dissemination event at the end of the project (with a range of DFA colleagues/stakeholders).

The Programme has identified the following four policy priority areas, all of which come under the wider goal of **reaching those furthest behind first**:

- *Gender Equality*
- *Reduced Humanitarian Need*
- *Climate Action*
- *Strengthened Governance*.

Proposals must be directly related to the requirements outlined above.

The Programme requires that proposals made in response to the DFA strand 'open call' for non-predefined projects should demonstrate awareness of existing research in the area and outline how the proposal will build upon existing published research and other relevant national and international research.

Application Requirements

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will develop their existing portfolio of research skills and expertise and inform their teaching or practice.

Applicants must also demonstrate the value of their proposal to the policy and/or service communities. Please see Section 3 for details on eligible costs.

Please note that the PI will be required to upload a statement (1 page PDF) outlining their track record (if any) in collaborating with the co-PI, together with a case for why the two parties are a good fit for the proposed project.

The funded project must start in Q3 2024 and be completed in 36 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to link with the Programme:

- A specified contact person will be nominated by DFA (Research Lead, Policy Unit, DCAD)
- DFA must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings.
- Awardees must comply with acknowledgement requirements as set out by the [Irish Research Council](#) and DFA.
- Awardees must adhere to reporting requirements as outlined in the COALESCE Terms and Conditions. Reports will be prepared by the grant recipients who are conducting the research (as requested by the Irish Research Council) in a format agreed in advance with DFA and will include reference to all contributions received in the period under review in respect of the strategic partnership programme to confirm that there has been no duplication of funding.

To this end:

Applications are invited for:	
Time frame	36 months from commencement of project
Funding limit per project	Max €350,000 (including overheads at 25%)

Appendix 4

Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

All applications to the Scheme will be evaluated on a competitive basis under a two-stage process. Stage 1 will comprise of a remote peer-review assessment whereby applications will be sent for remote evaluation as part of a peer-review process. A shortlist of applications will proceed to Stage 2 and will be evaluated by an international assessment board (IAB) who will select proposals for funding.

The primary purpose of the IAB is to arrive at a *qualitative* ranking of the applications. The IAB will rank the applications on the basis of the information supplied and will arrive at an overall judgement of standard. All IAB members are subject to an agreed Code of Conduct.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following five-stage process:

1. Eligibility and adherence to Terms and Conditions;
2. Evaluation by peer review;
3. Pre-meeting evaluation of shortlisted applications by IAB members;
4. IAB meeting to qualitatively rank each application and determine suitability for funding;
5. Feedback to eligible applicants.

The IRC's decision on whether to award a grant under this Scheme shall be final. Applicants will be informed of the outcome in writing and anonymised feedback will be provided to all eligible applicants. The IRC Executive are precluded from discussing the results of the competition over the telephone.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for each of the strands is set out below.

Strand 1L Evaluation Criteria		
Evaluation Criterion	Detail	Mark/100
Quality of proposal	<p>Suitability of the proposal's concept and objectives in relation to the parameters of the strand, to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the potential of the proposed research to inform policy in the partner strand theme; ➤ the potential of the project to contribute to the future development of research in the topic area. <p>Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ research methodology; ➤ data management; ➤ consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues; ➤ limitations of the approach to be adopted. <p>The experience and expertise of the applicant relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.</p>	45
Policy collaboration and impact	<p>Evidence of the identification and integration of key stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ engagement with relevant policy community; ➤ national and/or international research partners; ➤ strategic approach to collaboration, including in dissemination; ➤ other resources committed by stakeholders/partners. 	25
Feasibility of the implementation and management of the proposed project	<p>Feasibility of project plan including timeline;</p> <p>Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones and feasibility and suitability of timescales.</p>	20
Proposed cost and value for money	<p>Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources.</p>	10

Strand 2A Evaluation Criteria		
Evaluation Criterion	Detail	Mark/100
Quality of proposal	<p>Suitability of the proposal's concept in relation to the intention of the scheme, to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significance and contribution of the proposed project to the specific field of research or research topic. ➤ The interdisciplinary approach and its relevance to national and/or global challenges addressed by the proposal. <p>Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ research methodology; ➤ data management; ➤ consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues; ➤ limitations of the approach to be adopted. <p>The experience and expertise of the applicants relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.</p>	45
Collaboration and impact	<p>Potential for further capacity-building (for example, consortia building on interdisciplinary projects for European funding programmes).</p> <p>Evidence of the integration of cross-sectoral collaboration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ non-academic partners secured; ➤ coherence, credibility of collaboration, innovative aspects; ➤ co-funding from partners; ➤ other resources committed by cross-sector partners. 	25
Feasibility of the implementation and management of the proposed project	<p>Feasibility of project plan including timeline;</p> <p>Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones and feasibility and suitability of timescales.</p>	20

Proposed cost and value for money	Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources.	10
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Strand 2B Evaluation Criteria		
Evaluation Criterion	Detail	Mark/100
Quality of proposal, including policy impact	<p>Suitability of the proposal's concept in relation to the intention of the scheme, to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significance and contribution of the proposed project to the chosen DFA thematic focus; ➤ The potential of the project to contribute to the development of global development policy, particularly in partner country/ies. <p>Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ research methodology; ➤ data management; ➤ consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues; ➤ limitations of the approach to be adopted. <p>The experience and expertise of the applicants relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.</p>	45
Collaboration and capacity	<p>Potential for the project to support enhanced research capacity in partner countries;</p> <p>Potential for the project to enhance global north-south partnership targeting future applications to FP9 and/or other international funding opportunities;</p> <p>Evidence of the integration of cross-sectoral policy or civil society partners.</p>	25
Feasibility of the implementation and management of the proposed project	<p>Feasibility of project plan including timeline;</p> <p>Proposed management of the project including an ability to deliver key outputs on time, clarity of description of milestones and feasibility and suitability of timescales.</p>	20
Proposed cost and value for money	<p>Appropriate allocation of resources and demonstrated value for money to include a full description of costs, justification for these costs and a plan to ensure best use of resources on a transnational basis.</p>	10

Appendix 5

Guidance on the Sex-Gender Dimension in Research Content

Introduction

Excellent research fully considers the potential biological sex and social gender dimensions as key analytical and explanatory variables. If relevant sex-gender issues are missed or poorly addressed, research results will be partial and potentially biased. Full consideration of the sex-gender dimension in research content is a requirement for all Irish Research Council awards and for Horizon Europe funding.

The following is provided to help applicants complete the Sex-Gender dimension statement in the application. This is taken from the Toolkit [Gender in EU-funded research](#), which aims to give the research community practical tools to integrate gender aspects into their research, including equal opportunities for women and men and the sex-gender dimension of research, thereby contributing to excellence in research. Please also refer to <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/> for examples of case studies in Science, Health & Medicine, Engineering and Environment.

A summary from the ‘Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research’

The best possible research validity: Investing in a sex-gender-sensitive approach to the research content makes for higher quality and validity. If research takes into account the differences between men and women in the research population, the results will be more representative. General categories such as ‘people’, ‘patients’ or ‘users’ do not distinguish between men and women.

Research based on such categories may well draw partial conclusions based on partial data. For example, research on a new breast cancer treatment should include male patients, so as to draw a complete picture. Most basic research with animal models focuses on males to the exclusion of females (Zucker et al., 2010; Marts et al., 2004). Research on economic migrants cannot limit itself to male points of view if it wants to understand the whole migrant population.

How to consider the potential gender dimension and implications for your research

Research ideas and hypotheses: The relevance of sex-gender for and within the subject matter needs to be analysed and an assessment made of the state of knowledge in this respect. The formulation of hypotheses can draw upon previous research and existing literature. Indeed, the body of knowledge on sex-gender issues has been steadily growing over recent decades and can serve as interesting reference material to build new hypotheses for future research.

Project design and research methodology: While research methodologies may vary, they all strive to represent (aspects of) reality. Whenever this reality concerns humans, any sound methodology should differentiate between the sexes and take into account the men’s and women’s situations equally. Groups such as ‘citizens’, ‘patients’, ‘consumers’, ‘victims’ or ‘children’ are therefore too general as categories.

Research implementation

Data collection tools (such as questionnaires and interview checklists) need to be gender-sensitive, use gender neutral language, and should make it possible to detect the different realities of men and women. This will help to avoid gender bias. For example, answers to be provided by the 'head of household' are not necessarily valid for all household members.

Data analysis: In most research concerning human subjects, data are routinely disaggregated by sex, which would logically lead to analyses according to sex. However, to date, this is still not common practice. Systematically taking sex as a central variable and analysing other variables with respect to it (e.g., sex and age, sex and income, sex and mobility, sex and labour) will provide significant and useful insights. Involving gender-balanced end-user groups in the course of the research is also a good way of guaranteeing the highest impact.

Dissemination phase – reporting of data: Collecting and analysing sex-gender-specific data is not enough if they are omitted from the published results. Sex-gender should be included in 'mainstream' publications as it is as much part of daily reality as any other variable studied. Specific dissemination actions (publications or events) for sex-gender findings can be considered. Institutions and departments that focus on gender should be included in the target groups for dissemination. Publications should use gender-neutral language.

CHECKLIST FOR SEX-GENDER IN RESEARCH CONTENT

Research ideas phase:

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

Proposal phase:

- Does the methodology ensure that (possible) sex-gender differences will be investigated: that sex-gender differentiated data will be collected and analysed throughout the research cycle and will be part of the final publication?
- Does the proposal explicitly and comprehensively explain how sex-gender issues will be handled (e.g. in a specific work package)?

- Have possibly differentiated outcomes and impacts of the research on women and men been considered?

Research phase:

- Are questionnaires, surveys, focus groups, etc. designed to unravel potentially relevant sex and/or gender differences in your data?
- Are the groups involved in the project (e.g. samples, testing groups) gender-balanced? Is data analysed according to the sex variable? Are other relevant variables analysed with respect to sex?

Dissemination phase:

- Do analyses present statistics, tables, figures, and descriptions that focus on the relevant sex-gender differences that came up in the course of the project?
- Are institutions, departments and journals that focus on gender included among the target groups for dissemination, along with mainstream research magazines? Have you considered a specific publication or event on sex-gender-related findings?

Appendix 6

The UN Sustainable Development Agenda

In 2015, the United Nations set 17 goals aiming to **end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. Below are the Goals and a brief comment on what they relate to. Each Goal has several specific and complex targets. The Sustainable Development Goals expect everyone to get involved: governments, the private sector, civil society, and all people. More information is available [here](#), and the UN Resolution can be read [here](#).



Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Since 1990 the world has seen remarkable progress in reducing poverty. However, one in five people in developing regions still live on less than \$1.90 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount, plus many people risk slipping back into poverty. This Goal aims at reducing poverty and inequality and eradicating extreme poverty.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Globally, one in nine people in the world today (815 million) are undernourished. The food and agriculture sector can offer key solutions for development and is central for hunger and **poverty eradication. This Goal reflects on how we grow, share, and consume our food.**

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. This Goal focuses on reducing risks in children and maternal health and **HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.**

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. This Goal focuses on ensuring essential education for everyone, particularly children.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Clean, accessible water for all is essential for the world we want to live in. While there is sufficient water to cover the whole world's population needs, every year millions of people die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Reducing the carbon intensity of energy is a key objective in long-term climate goals.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US\$2 a day. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This Goal aims at rethinking economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/>

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Investments in infrastructure – transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technology – are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. Growth in productivity and incomes, and improvements in health and education outcomes require investment in infrastructure.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/>

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

There is a growing consensus that economic growth is not sufficient to reduce poverty if it is not inclusive and if it does not involve the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

While income inequality between countries may have been reduced, inequality within countries has risen.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/>

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The challenges cities face - such as congestion, lack of basic services, shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure - can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Sustainable consumption and production are about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs, and a better quality of life for all. This Goal focuses on producing and consuming water, food, and energy sustainably.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts:

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities, and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow.

To address climate change, countries adopted the [Paris Agreement](#) at the 21st Conference of the Parties (or “COP”) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris on 12 December 2015. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development

The world’s oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents, and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. **Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future.**

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national, and local level.

Urgent action is needed to mobilize, redirect, and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

Appendix 7

Resources on Data Management Plans and FAIR Principles

- [DMPonline](#), including [templates](#)
- [Science Europe \(2018\) Practical Guide to the International Alignment of Research Data Management](#)
- [H2020 Programme \(2016\) Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020](#)
- [H2020 Programme \(2016\) Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020.](#)
- [OpenAire](#) - The OpenAIRE2020 project
- [FAIR data principles FORCE 11](#)
- [ROAR](#) - Registry of Open Access Repositories
- [OpenDoar](#) – Directory of Open Access Repositories
- [Registry of Research Data Repositories](#)