



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND  
RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS SCHEME**

**2013**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

*(including application form instructions)*



**HEA** | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY  
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

  
crisispregnancyprogramme

  
An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection  
[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

  
AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS SCILEANNA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

  
National Development Plan 2007 - 2013

## Introduction

This document sets out details of the Research Project Grants Scheme 2013. Included here are the Terms and Conditions of application and award, details of each strand under the call, any research priorities set out under each strand, eligibility criteria, Principal Investigator responsibilities, the application process, evaluation criteria, and advance information for successful applicants.

This call for applications is managed by the Irish Research Council (the Council) and includes specific strands that are managed on behalf of the Department of Social Protection (DSP), the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme (CPP), and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) / Higher Education Authority (HEA). In the 2013 round of this scheme, applications are sought under each of the following strands:

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funded by/in collaboration with</b>	<b>Project Duration</b>	<b>Funding Limit per project</b>
RPG2013-1	<b>Irish Research Council Starter Research Project Grant (Starter RPG)</b>	Irish Research Council	Max. Duration of 15 months	Max. €125,000
RPG2013-2	<b>Irish Research Council Advanced Research Project Grant (Advanced RPG)</b>	Irish Research Council	Max. Duration of 3 Years	Max. €380,000
RPG2013-3	<b>Irish Research Council Interdisciplinary Research Project Grant (Interdisciplinary RPG)</b>	Irish Research Council	Max. Duration of 2 Years	Max. €380,000
RPG2013-4	<b>Social Protection Research Innovation Awards (SPRIA)*</b>	The Department of Social Protection (DSP)	Max. Duration of 15 months	Max. €45,000
RPG2013-5	<b>Crisis Pregnancy Programme Research Projects*</b>	HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme (CPP)	Max. Duration of 15 months	Max. €100,000
RPG2013-6	<b>Assessing the Impact of Publically-Funded Research, Development and Innovation (RDI)*</b>	Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) & Higher Education Authority (HEA)	Max. Duration of 48 months	Max. €200,000

\*Please see full statement of the intended scope for these strands in Section H of these Terms & Conditions and which forms part of the call for applications. Each application must contain an explicit and reasoned statement of how the proposed research is related to substantive area(s) of enquiry within one of these strands.

### Important Advice

Applicants should carefully read these Terms and Conditions (and application process) before identifying a strand of interest and completing and submitting an application. Applicants are required to complete the appropriate application form available at [www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013-now-open](http://www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013-now-open) and provide the necessary accompanying material. Applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria, are late or incomplete, will NOT be considered for funding. The decisions of the Council on such matters will be final.

In the first instance, applicants should ask the Research Office (or equivalent), in their institution for clarification on the call. The Research Office will send on any unanswered questions to [schemes@research.ie](mailto:schemes@research.ie) with the **subject 'RPG2013 FAQ'**. A set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and answers will then be posted on the website [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie). Please note that the Council will not enter into correspondence with individuals and, in particular, will not be in a position to review any eligibility issues with applicants following the application submission. The deadline for FAQ is **4pm (GMT) Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013**.

All applications will be assessed solely on the basis of the material available to the Council at the time of the application deadline. Please note that the furnishing of additional material over and above that required (application form, reference and budget) will render an entire application ineligible.

### **Important dates**

<b>FAQ deadline</b>	16:00 (GMT) Tuesday 10th September 2013
<b>Application deadline</b>	16:00 (GMT) Tuesday 17th September 2013
<b>Research Office endorsement deadline</b>	16:00 (GMT) Tuesday 24th September 2013
<b>Outcome of scheme</b>	November 2013
<b>Project commencement date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2013

It is expected that successful applicants will be notified in November 2013. All awards will be conditional on the ability of the principal investigator (PI) to commence the project on schedule. Commencement is defined as the setting up of a project code and account for project administration.

Applications to this scheme will **not** be assessed:

- If the applicant:
  - is not qualified;
  - submits more than one application to a particular strand (excluding RPG2013-6).
- If an application:
  - is incomplete (e.g. does not have all documents requested);
  - is made on an incorrect application form;
  - does not clearly identify the strand and theme, where appropriate, to be addressed;
  - exceeds the word limit;
  - includes sections that are incomplete;
  - includes additional materials other than those requested;
  - includes materials in a format other than as requested;

- has not been submitted via the RPG portal on the Council website [www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013](http://www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013)
  - (No hardcopies or email forms will be accepted);
  - has not been endorsed by the applicant's institution, by the Vice-President/Dean of Research, or by their authorised nominees (to be authorised by the VP/Dean of Research only);
  - is late or otherwise submitted subsequent to the advertised closing date of **4pm (GMT) Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013**.
- If the project:
  - as proposed in the application form, has previously been funded in full or in part, by the Council<sup>1</sup>;
  - start date is after 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013.

**For the 2013 Research Project Grants Scheme, the following new conditions apply:**

- Applicants are required to download the application form templates from the Irish Research Council website [www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013](http://www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013) fill them out and save them as a PDF file before submitting them via the RPG portal on the website. The budget can be sent in Excel. All required applicant documents (application form and budget sheet) must be uploaded via the RPG Portal by the closing date and time;
- The required reference must also be completed on the reference template and saved as a PDF file and submitted via the RPG portal by the closing date and time. Referees must use the correct template as provided on the Irish Research Council website; [www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013](http://www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013)
- Applicants affiliated to a recognised higher education institution **must** inform the research office of their institution about their application to the scheme;
- **Canvassing** on behalf of applicants will render an application automatically ineligible. When this occurs, the application will not proceed to the competition proper.

**Applications will be accepted in either the Irish or the English Language only.** In order to facilitate evaluation by the International Assessment Board in English, applicants submitting Irish language applications are invited to submit an English language translation of their application. Should an English translation not be provided by an applicant, the Council will provide a translation to the International Assessment Board.

**Application deadline: 4pm (GMT) Tuesday 17th September 2013**

The Council strongly encourages applicants to submit well in advance of the closing date for the competition as on the day that the call closes there will be heavy traffic on the server, which may slow down the submission of your proposal. To prevent problems with heavy server traffic, do not wait until the final day of the call to submit your application. If you need to upload your application on the closing day, please allow at least 6 hours before the 4pm GMT/UTC deadline to allow the upload to fully complete.

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<sup>1</sup> Following the merger of IRCHSS and IRCSET the Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Research Project Grant Scheme subsumes the previous IRCHSS Government of Ireland Project Schemes.

## SECTION A: INTRODUCTION TO THE IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS SCHEME

The mission of the Irish Research Council is to enable and sustain a vibrant and creative research community in Ireland. The Council funds cutting-edge research in all disciplines and encourages interdisciplinary research. The primary strategic objective of the Council centres on building an expertise-driven research system to enhance Ireland's creative and innovative capacity in a rapidly-changing global environment where skills and knowledge are key to economic, social and cultural development. The Council is further committed to facilitating the integration of Irish researchers in all disciplines within the European Research Area.

This **Research Project Grants (RPG) Scheme** is designed with the objective of facilitating researchers and research teams to build capacity in their research area by way of stimulus project grants and knowledge transfer initiatives. The rationale for this scheme is to provide funding for researchers to enable them to expand their research activities and become competitive for international funding opportunities. This is being facilitated through:

- Small-medium sized projects such as exploratory investigations which may lead to larger and more sustainable research projects and programmes;
- Research staff;
- Knowledge transfer initiatives; and
- Networking and collaboration on national or international levels.

It is also recognised that taking new directions in research may require the development of new research skills or new methodological approaches.

## SECTION B: DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS

In line with this, the Council will offer three types of research project grant in 2013, including: the **Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Starter Research Project Grant**, hereinafter referred to as the **Starter RPG**; **Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Advanced Research Project Grant**, hereinafter referred to as the **Advanced RPG**; and **Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Interdisciplinary Research Project Grant** hereinafter referred to as the **Interdisciplinary RPG**.

	Description
<b>Starter RPG</b>	is intended to provide researchers, who at the deadline of the call have held an appointment on the academic staff for a period of <i>no less than two and no more than nine years</i> , the opportunity to manage their own research project.
<b>Advanced RPG</b>	is intended to facilitate established researchers, who at the deadline of the call have held an appointment on the academic staff for a period of <i>no less than four years</i> , working within a small team to delve deeper in the area of interest and bring existing research activities or long term projects to successful completion by way of staff buy-out,

	postdoctoral/research assistant support and limited project funding. Thus this scheme will also support research-based teaching and knowledge transfer initiatives.
<b>Interdisciplinary RPG</b> is intended to provide opportunities for cross working between the Arts, Humanities or Social Sciences and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. At the deadline of the call, applicants must have held an appointment on the academic staff for a period of <i>no less than two and no more than nine years</i> .	

## SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible Subject Areas

For the purposes of this Scheme, a list of subject areas (normally considered by the Irish Research Council as Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) can be found at <http://www.research.ie>.

### Host Institution

Applications must be submitted by one designated Principal Investigator (PI) (excluding RPG2013-3 where two are allowed). They shall be full-time members of the academic staff, either permanent or on temporary contracts of sufficient duration to cover the period of the proposed project, of a third-level institution within the meaning of Section One of the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971; *and/or* approved for the purposes of the Free Fees Initiative; *and/or* in receipt of public funding from the Department of Education and Skills for the purpose of higher education and research. A list of eligible Irish Institutions is provided on [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie) along with the eligibility criteria.

The institution designated by the applicant shall be the institution where the research is conducted. Exceptions will be made only where the PI changes his/her institutional affiliation during the time span of the project and then only with the prior written consent of both the institution as stated in the original proposal and the Council, as well as with the agreement of a new contracting institution.

### Principal Investigator (PI)

PIs may make only ONE PI application under any single RPG 2013 Strand (excluding RPG2013-6 where multiple applications are allowed). This stipulation does not prohibit a PI from submitting a second application under a different RPG 2013 Strand. An applicant PI under one strand may also apply to participate as an Associate Investigator (AI) or Co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) under another application or theme but must clearly indicate a time management strategy should they wish to participate in more than one proposed project. For Strand 6 (RPG2013-6) only, individual PIs are allowed to submit multiple proposals, however the submission of multiple proposals to any one Strand 6 theme will require justification.

All projects must be submitted by a single, clearly identified Principal Investigator for the purposes of administration of the Grant. For Strand 3 interdisciplinary projects where two PIs are required, one of the PIs must be nominated as the lead PI, and second PI nominated as co-PI. Applicants are advised that they must be in a position to devote adequate time to the management and realisation

of their projects. Lead PI and co-PI are also advised that in submitting applications in their own names, they undertake to develop the project themselves, with due attention and viable commitments of time and without sub-contracting the project to another party or parties.

Applicants are required to list all other research projects, funded from whatever source, for which they are contracted, and demonstrate that they will have adequate time to realise the proposed project(s). The scope of involvement by the Principal Investigators will be considered by the International Assessment Board in their evaluation of the expertise of the proposed research team.

### **Interdisciplinary RPG – Strand 3 (RPG 2013-3)**

Applications of an interdisciplinary nature are required from two collaborating PIs for Strand 3 (RPG 2013-3). One must be nominated as the lead for the purposes of administration of the Grant and this lead PI must be representative of the core subject areas in the AHSS list above. The nominated co-PI may be from any discipline. Interdisciplinary applications should clearly stipulate that they are not eligible to receive research funding from other sources.

## **SECTION D: ELIGIBLE ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE / COSTS**

All costs sought under an RPG2013 application must be detailed and justified in the relevant budget sheet (MS Excel - [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)). 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. Only eligible costs as set out in the table below will be considered. Applicants should ensure that their budget calculations are correct.

<b>Staff Costs</b>			
All staff costs sought (where appropriate) MUST be accounted for at the following rates (staff 'cost' rates do not apply to independent applicants):			
Staff Replacement ('buy out') Costs	Costs may include staff replacement costs which facilitate participation in the project, but these must be <u>clearly justified</u> . All staff replacements must be accounted for according to approved Irish Research Council RPG 2013 staff rates. Where staff replacement affects persons who are currently, or have been during the last three years in receipt of an award from the Council, the Principal Investigator must secure the formal agreement of the Council before such a replacement is proposed (email <a href="mailto:schemes@research.ie">schemes@research.ie</a> with the <b>subject 'RPG2013 FAQ'</b> ).		
Staff Costs	Please provide details on the staff numbers involved and the salary levels being applied. All staff must be accounted for according to approved Irish Research Council RPG 2013 staff rates (see below). All staff recruited to a project using project resources must be hired to work exclusively on that project.		
	<b>Approved staff costs</b>	<b>1 calendar year</b>	<b>1/2 calendar year</b>
	Academic staff replacement ('buy-out') costs. [Excluding Strand 6]	€20,443 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75 % & Employer Pension Contribution 20 %)	€10,222 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75 % & Employer Pension Contribution 20 %)

	Research Assistant <i>This rate may be used on a pro-rata basis where appropriate [Excluding Strand 6]</i>	€25,712 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75 % & Employer Pension Contribution 20 %)	€12,856 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75 % Employer Pension Contribution 20 %)
	Postdoctoral Researcher <i>This rate may be used on a pro-rata basis where appropriate</i>	€40,885 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75 % & Employer Pension Contribution 20 %)	€20,443 (inclusive of PRSI 10.75 % Employer Pension Contribution 20 %)
<b>Student Costs</b> For Strand 6 (RPG2013-6) only			
Student Stipend	A maintenance award of €16,000 per annum paid to the Scholar by the HEI within the period for availing of research funding.		
Fees	A contribution to fees (including non-EU) to the HEI, up to a maximum of €5,750 (any differential must be paid by the Scholar and/or HEI) per annum.		

<b>Eligible Research Expenses</b>	
Travel Costs	Requests for travel and accommodation costs may be included and should provide details on the number and duration of trips being proposed. Travel and accommodation where required will only be provided for on a vouched basis. Per diems/subsistence rates will not be provided under RPG2013. Every effort must be made to ensure that air travel, where used, is economical. Requests must take regard of institutional norms and civil service rates must be used.
Direct Research Costs	Where relevant to the viability of the proposal, the following direct research costs may be sought: such as consumables; books and journals; pay as you go access to national research infrastructure. <b>Please provide a detailed breakdown and justification.</b> Only vouched expenses incurred in actually carrying out the research project will be funded.
Collaboration	Please provide details of expenditure to be incurred as a result of collaborative activities, where relevant.
General and/or specialist disciplinary skill training	Please provide details of expenditure to be incurred as a result of general and/or specialist disciplinary skill training for staff and students (Strand 6 only).
Dissemination	Please provide details of costs proposed for dissemination of outcomes and the channels which will be used.
<b>Overheads</b> can be applied and recouped at the rate of 25%.	
Equipment	Please provide details and justification for any items of equipment being sought. Computer equipment, fieldwork, data collection, archival and digitisation costs may be included under this heading. The Council will pay particular attention to any equipment sought (e.g. PCs, 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 elsewhere.



**SECTION E: APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applicants are advised to carefully read the instructions provided in the application form to ensure correct completion. Applications which are incomplete or presented in a manner or form other than as requested in these terms and conditions will not be assessed.

Submission details	
<b>Process:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicants are required to download all relevant form templates (application form, budget form) for the specific strand from the Irish Research Council website. These templates must then be completed, and saved in PDF format and submitted via the RPG portal on the Council website. The budget can be sent in Excel.</li> <li>2. Referees are required to download the relevant reference template from the Irish Research Council website. This template must then be completed, and saved in PDF format and submitted via the RPG portal on the Council website.</li> </ol>
<b>Portal:</b>	<a href="http://www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013">www.research.ie/funding/research-project-grants-scheme-2013</a>
<b>Deadline:</b>	<b>4pm (GMT) Tuesday 17th September 2013</b>

**Required Documentation from the Applicant**

Applicants should complete the appropriate application form and include the relevant supporting materials, including details of the proposed research to be carried out during the term of the project, the project team, information on research interests and track record, publications, the initiation and development of courses, and professional development. Applicants are also required to submit an eligible budget, using the strand specific budget template.

**Required Documentation from the Referee**

All applicants are required to nominate a referee in support of their project proposal. In the case of applicants from a recognised higher education institution, this confidential reference must be provided by an individual external to the applicant's institution.

A reference from an individual who is also an applicant under the same Strand will not be accepted.

The reference provided must be completed on the official referee form available via (references submitted in any other format will not be accepted). To ensure the confidentiality of the reference, it must be submitted via the RPG portal directly **by the referee** in advance of the closing date.

**N.B.:**

- The provision of a confidential, timely and appropriate reference, in accordance with the scheme's requirements, is an integral part of a fully completed application and is the responsibility of the applicant and their nominated referee only.
- Applicants are advised to allow sufficient time for their nominated referee to complete and

submit a completed official reference form in advance of the closing date;

- A reference submitted directly to the Council by an applicant will render an entire application ineligible;
- Letters of reference submitted by letter post or email will render an entire application ineligible.

### **Institutional Endorsement:**

Applicants affiliated with a recognised higher education institution<sup>2</sup> **must** inform the research office of their institution, (and for Strand 6, the recognised higher education institution where the PhD students will be registered to receive their degree), about their application to the scheme. All applications must be endorsed by the applicant's institution (and where relevant, the higher education institution where the PhD students will be registered), by the Vice-President/Dean of Research, or by their authorised nominees (to be authorised by the VP/Dean of Research only). Applications that do not fulfil this strict condition will be deemed ineligible. After the deadline has passed, the Research Offices of the respective institutions will be invited to endorse the applications. This is the final stage of the process, at which point the applicant will receive a confirmation email that the application process has formally concluded and that the assessment phase will now commence. Applicants should not phone or email the Council offices enquiring about the status of their applications in advance of receiving this confirmation email.

## **SECTION F: EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

All applications to the Scheme will be evaluated on a competitive basis by an International Assessment Board (IAB) on the basis of the evaluation criteria.

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 materials supplied and will arrive at an overall judgement of standard. All IAB members have subscribed 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. for Strands 4-6: assessment of policy and/or practice relevance by the Department of Social Protection, the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme and Science Foundation Ireland/HEA. This material will be supplied to the IAB to inform their deliberations;
3. pre-meeting evaluation by IAB members;
4. IAB meeting to qualitatively rank each application and determine suitability for funding (each strand is evaluated separately); and,
5. feedback to eligible applicants.

The Council'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 Executive are precluded from discussing the results of the competition over the telephone.

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<sup>2</sup> A list of eligible Irish Institutions is provided on [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie) along with the eligibility criteria.

### Evaluation Criteria

RPG2013 proposals under **Strands 1-6** will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Quality of proposal	<p>Suitability of the proposal's concept and objectives in relation to the intentions of the scheme, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the significance and contribution of the proposed project to the specific field of research or research topic;</li> <li>the potential to inform policy and/or practice or contribute to the future development of research; and, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>particularly for Strands 4-6</i>, the potential to inform policy and practice around the specified themes identified.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Comprehensiveness and quality of the approach to be adopted including research methodology and consideration of ethical and sex-gender issues and the limitations of the approach to be adopted.</p> <p>The experience and expertise of the applicant(s) relevant to the proposed project including demonstration of a proven ability to carry out the work in an impartial and objective manner.</p>	<b>60/100</b>
Feasibility of the implementation and management of project	Feasibility of project plan including timeline. 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.	<b>20/100</b>
Research and Teaching and/or Professional Impact	<p>Potential for longer term sustainability and future plans.</p> <p>Potential for further capacity building.</p> <p>Interaction with the research and teaching strategy of their higher education institution(s)/enterprise/organisation, (where relevant/appropriate).</p>	<b>10/100</b>
Costs 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.	<b>10/100</b>

## **SECTION G: INFORMATION FOR AWARD HOLDERS/SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

### General Conditions

Award holders are bound by the Council's Terms and Conditions, letter of offer and acceptance form including specific requirements of partner funding bodies, grant monitoring and recruitment procedures, and financial controls. Should an award holder be in breach of the Scheme's Terms and Conditions, conditions of the letter of offer, acceptance form, grant monitoring or financial controls

procedures, then the named grantee and their named associates or co-PIs may be prohibited from applying for further Irish Research Council funding awards in the future.

All awards will be conditional on the ability of the PI to commence the project by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013.

The Council will work with the named single Principal Investigator both in terms of project management and progress reporting. Funding will be awarded to the single Principal Investigator / lead institution. Where a number of Co- Principal Investigators or Associate Investigators are in place at different institutions, and where relevant, the Council will require a signed agreement and payment schedule of funding transfers between partners at award stage.

Should PIs holding RPG funding be unable for any reason (including medical reasons) to pursue the research agenda, which is the basis of the award, they must inform the Director of the Council immediately. In such situations, and where relevant, the Council will have regard to the usual conventions of the PI's institution. However, given the basis on which grants are awarded, the Council reserves the right to withdraw or suspend the Grant.

Grants awarded may not be deferred or extended and are strictly awarded for the time period specified. In addition, funding will not be allocated should a project not commence by the date specified.

The Council and funding partners, where relevant, shall have no liability whatsoever in respect of the research project being undertaken and the host institution or individual contractor will accept full responsibility for all claims for compensation or other claims for which it may become liable as employer, or howsoever otherwise in respect of the projects funded under this Scheme.

The Council and partner organisations reserve the right at their sole discretion to revoke, suspend or reduce a grant at any time where necessary and without prejudice.

These awards are wholly subject to receipt of funding by the Council from the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Social Protection, the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme and Science Foundation Ireland/HEA.

In the event of such funding not being received, being discontinued or reduced, neither the Department(s)/Agency nor the Council will be under any liability to provide funding or to compensate a host institution or PI for any reduction or cessation of such funding.

The Council and partner organisations reserve the right to revise the Terms and Conditions of this Scheme at any time.

#### Research Integrity

The HEI must ensure that the highest quality of research conduct is maintained. The HEI must ensure that systems are in place to manage research misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, falsification of data, improper selectivity of data). The systems must be clearly publicised, together with agreed procedures for investigating allegations of scientific misconduct.

### Ethical Approval

The Council is committed to the maintenance of high ethical standards in the research it funds through this Scheme. The Host Organisation(s) must have in place clear ethical guidelines and assurance procedures designed to manage research under its direction. All Fellows are required to give careful consideration to ethical issues which may arise in the course of their research.

Where ethical issues may arise in their research, applicants will be required to submit to the Council a written statement to the effect that full consideration has been given to the ethical implications of the research proposal. This statement must further demonstrate the applicant's proposed resolution of the ethical issues arising. Where an applicant's research proposal requires approval by the University Ethics Committee, or the equivalent body in his/her institution, written evidence of such ethical approval must be received by the Council in the event of a successful outcome of the application prior to the award commencing or within three months of the start date. As ethical review committees only meet several times a year, it is recommended that applicants start thinking about this process early.

If a research project requires access to archival material in private custodianship, or archival material with restricted access, written evidence of appropriate permission to consult such material must be furnished to the Council.

### Sex-Gender Dimension

The Council funds excellent research and excellent research fully considers the potential biological sex and social gender elements of the research content to maximise the impact and societal benefit of research. Not including the sex-gender dimension into the methodology, content and impact assessment of research can lead to poor research and missed opportunities. In order "that any assumptions made or issues addressed are based on the best available evidence and information", the sex-gender dimension has to be fully considered<sup>3</sup>.

All applicants to Council Schemes are required to submit a written statement to the Council to the effect that full consideration has been given to the sex-gender dimensions and implications of the research proposal. This statement must further demonstrate the PI's proposed resolution of any sex-gender dimension issues arising. Please refer to Appendix I, which summarises the Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research<sup>4</sup>, for assistance on how to do this.

### Intellectual Property/Knowledge Transfer

The Council does not make any claim to intellectual property arising from the Award.

The Council encourages the commercialisation of research output as outlined in *'Putting public research to work for Ireland: Policies and procedures to help industry make good use of Ireland's*

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<sup>3</sup> <http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/methods/concepts.html>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009\\_GenderToolKit\\_Module1.pdf](http://www.yellowwindow.be/genderinresearch/downloads/YW2009_GenderToolKit_Module1.pdf)

*public research institutions*<sup>5</sup>. On that basis, for projects funded under this Scheme, foreground intellectual property generated will be owned by the HEI.

The Council requires that background IP is captured clearly prior to initiation of the project, that there is clarity on who has access to background IP and declarations made on basis of same. Good practice through the maintenance of notebooks and records must be adhered to.

Preferential terms may be negotiated if the HEI is of the view that the best interests of the state are advanced.

The Host Organisation(s) must establish rules and procedures for protecting and managing any intellectual property arising during the Award. These rules and procedures must be in accordance with national guidelines.

In the case of collaborative research where more than one Host Organisation is involved, a research agreement (including reference to intellectual property rights and confidentiality) must be in place before the Award can commence. The terms of any such agreement must not conflict with those outlined in this document.

A copy of any research agreements established in relation to awarded projects under this Scheme must be made available to the Council.

### **Open Access Policy**

The Council has established and will promote the following policy relating to the placement of research publications and outputs in Open Access Repositories. (It is accepted that there will be recognised instances in which the following might not be feasible – in this instance the PI should contact their Research Office or equivalent, where relevant, for advice):

- All PIs must lodge their publications and other research outputs, resulting in whole or in part from Council-funded research, in an Open Access repository and should make such publications publicly discoverable, openly accessible and re-usable as soon as is possible.
- All peer reviewed journal articles and conference publications should be deposited as soon as possible, ideally at the time of acceptance by the journal/conference and no later than the date of formal publication.
- Other research outputs such as monographs, books, book chapters, research theses and reports should be deposited where possible.
- The repository should ideally be a local institutional repository to which the appropriate rights must be granted to replicate to other repositories. However, suitable repositories are those, both local and other, that provide free public access to, and make provision for long-term preservation of, published research findings.
- Repositories should release the metadata immediately upon deposit. Open Access to the full text paper should be made immediately upon deposit or once access restrictions, as required by certain publishers, have expired.

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<sup>5</sup>[http://www.djei.ie/publications/science/2012/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Protocol\\_Putting\\_Public\\_Research\\_to\\_Work\\_for\\_Ireland.pdf](http://www.djei.ie/publications/science/2012/Intellectual_Property_Protocol_Putting_Public_Research_to_Work_for_Ireland.pdf)

PIs should agree terms of deposit with publishers. Clarity should be sought on copyright, licensing and embargo policies and agreed policies with publishers must be respected. Access restrictions to full text articles may be applied as required by certain publishers, however these restrictions should not normally exceed six months after publication for scientific, technical and health science research publications and twelve months for arts, humanities and social sciences research outputs. However the Council recognises that this may not be a feasible option in all cases, and in such a case, an expected embargo of up to 24 months may be facilitated in the arts, humanities and social sciences, but this will be subject to on-going review.

More information on the Open Access Policy is available on the Council's website at [www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie).

Whenever data is to be collected with the support of a grant awarded by the Council and/or partners, applicants must specify the means by which that data will be made available as a public good for use by other researchers, via the Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA) or other appropriate channels.

### Quality Assurance

For Strand 6 only (RPG2013-6) in relation to the PhD students recruited, the following must be adhered to:

- Where a Scholar is on a structured degree programme the Dean of Graduate Studies (or her/his equivalent) in the higher education institution where the degree will be awarded, will be required to confirm that the Scholar's programme includes the development of discipline-specific knowledge, research skills and generic/transferable skills in line with the national definition in Appendix 2 and meets institutional requirements for a structured programme, including coursework requirements. This requirement may be the subject of audit by Council and the Council reserves the right to suspend or terminate a Scholarship if this requirement is breached.
- The HEI is responsible for the local implementation of the QQI/ IUQB National Guidelines of Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Universities and for endorsing the appointment of a principal Academic Supervisor to support and guide the Scholar's work, to provide initial induction and to administer the Scholar's fund on their behalf.
- The Scholar must be familiar with national guidelines such as the Irish Universities Quality Board's '*Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education*,' [http://www.iuqb.ie/info/good\\_practice\\_guides.aspx?article=a5b735f2-8618-4af8-8713-9bee30a780fd](http://www.iuqb.ie/info/good_practice_guides.aspx?article=a5b735f2-8618-4af8-8713-9bee30a780fd), and HETAC's '*Research Degree Programme Policy and Criteria*' [http://www.hetac.ie/docs/E.1.7-1.0\\_Research\\_Degree\\_Programme\\_Policy\\_And\\_Criteria\\_2010.pdf](http://www.hetac.ie/docs/E.1.7-1.0_Research_Degree_Programme_Policy_And_Criteria_2010.pdf).

### Grant Monitoring

The Council attaches considerable importance to procedures for monitoring this scheme. Funding will be dependent on the demonstration of sufficient progress through regular written reports. It is

the sole responsibility of the principal investigator to ensure that such reports are filed by the due dates. Failure to file these reports by the required dates or submission of an unsatisfactory report may result in the Council freezing and/or cancelling a grant. Where a grant is cancelled, the Council will have leave to seek recovery of monies which have been awarded under this Scheme. In any event, a certain percentage of the award will be held back to ensure satisfactory completion of the project.

All projects may be subject to external research and financial audit. The key aim of this audit is to verify the original aims of the project and determine progress as specified. The research audit may include independent peer review, site visit and project presentation during and post-completion of the project. The principal investigator will be required to maintain a complete research record and vouched expenditure receipts.

For the Department of Social Protection, the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme, and Science Foundation Ireland/HEA funded projects, awardees will also be subject to reporting requirements which will be detailed in the contract letter. Failure to adhere to these requirements may also result in the Council freezing and/or cancelling a grant.

*Indicative reporting requirements:*

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funded by/in collaboration with</b>	<b>Reporting requirements</b>
RPG2013-1	<b>Irish Research Council Starter Research Project Grant (Starter RPG)</b>	Irish Research Council	Progress Reporting: First at 6 months after commencement.  Final report post completion.
RPG2013-2	<b>Irish Research Council Advanced Research Project Grant (Advanced RPG)</b>	Irish Research Council	Progress Reporting: First at 6 months after commencement and bi-annually thereafter.  Final report post completion.  Dissemination of key learnings from initiative via conference/seminar in last year.
RPG2013-3	<b>Irish Research Council Interdisciplinary Research Project Grant (Interdisciplinary RPG)</b>	Irish Research Council	Progress Reporting: First at 6 months after commencement and bi-annually thereafter.  Final report post completion.  Dissemination of key learnings from initiative via conference/seminar in last year.
RPG2013-4	<b>Social Protection Research Innovation</b>	The Department of Social Protection (DSP)	Engagement with DSP liaison person especially at project milestones during start (inception meeting), draft findings



	<b>Awards (SPRIA)*</b>		<p>and publication/ dissemination of final report stages. Additional support may be provided by DSP to support the dissemination of the research.</p> <p>The successful applicants should consult with key stakeholders as part of the research, in particular service providers and voluntary organisations. They will then present to stakeholders in an appropriate forum the key findings and discuss policy implications.</p> <p>First Progress Report: 6 months after commencement.</p> <p>Final report post completion.</p> <p>Production of a research report and a separate research briefing meeting recognised good practice standards and published by the institution, with appropriate disclaimer and logo of Department of Social Protection.</p>
RPG2013-5	<b>Crisis Pregnancy Programme Research Projects*</b>	HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme (CPP)	<p>Direct contact with nominated policy liaison prior to commencement of study.</p> <p>Invitation to CPP to be represented on any steering/advisory groups established for the purpose of the project</p> <p>First Progress Report: 6 months after commencement.</p> <p>Final report post completion.</p> <p>Presentation of key findings to be scheduled in agreement with the CPP</p>
RPG2013-6	<b>Assessing the Impact of Publically-Funded Research, Development and Innovation (RDI)*</b>	Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) & Higher Education Authority (HEA)	<p>Direct contact with nominated policy liaison prior to commencement of study.</p> <p>Establishment of an International Steering Group established for the purpose of the projects. To be chaired by Chief Scientific Adviser and include</p>

			<p>representatives of key stakeholders including HEA, Forfás, CSO.</p> <p>Progress Reporting: First at 6 months after commencement and bi-annually thereafter.</p> <p>Final report post completion.</p> <p>Dissemination of key learnings from initiative via conference/seminar in last year.</p>
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Grants shall be administered by the relevant offices for research of an eligible institution as defined above. The grants will be paid to the host institution on the basis of signed contracts between the institution and the Council. All receipts and expenditures relating to project funding must be separately recorded by the host institution in a designated account. Details of this account shall be made available to the Council on request. On completion of the expenditure programme, a full statement of expenditure shall be provided to the Council. The host institution must also provide a statement of expenditure on the funding provided in respect of institutional overheads, where applicable. Statements of expenditure may be subject to audit by an independent auditor appointed by the Council. In the event of expenditure being less than projected, the under-spend shall be refunded to the Council at the date which has been designated for the completion of the project.

The project start date as specified in the original application will be strictly enforced. In the event of a project not commencing on the agreed start date, the Council reserves the right to revoke an award.

#### Staff Recruitment

The recruitment of any 'staff' to this project must be openly recruited through public advertisement. 'Staff' must be recruited for the specific project and awarded topic only.

An **Employment Control Framework** for the higher education sector, which will operate until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, was issued to the sector on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011. It is crucially important for all institutions to abide by all of the terms of the Framework. Failure by any one institution to abide by the terms of the Framework will result in the withdrawal of the Framework for that particular institution.

All 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 may be allocated to such institutions/organisations and the added value of such proposed participation must be demonstrated.

#### Acknowledgment of Funding

All publicity, including public lectures, publications, monographs, print materials and press releases, television and radio advertisements, websites, email signatures, film, video and audio recordings associated with or arising from the research undertaken for this project must contain

acknowledgement of funding received from the Council.

For grants funded under Strands 4-6, all publicity (as listed above) must also contain acknowledgement of funding received from the Department of Social Protection, the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme, and Science Foundation Ireland/HEA, as appropriate.

All parties must comply with confidentiality as outlined in the research agreement referred in the 'Intellectual Property/Knowledge Transfer' section of these Terms and Conditions.

## **SECTION H: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF STRANDS 4-6**

Applications are sought under the following three strands and their sub-themes: **RPG2013-4** (three themes); **RPG2013-5**; **RPG2013-6** (three themes). Applicants should identify the strand and theme in which they are interested and submit a single application to that strand (except for Strand 6 where more than one application is allowed, *see 'Section B' above*).

### **RPG2013-4: Social Protection Research Innovation Awards (SPRIA)**

Supported by: The Department of Social Protection (DSP)

#### **Introduction**

The Social Protection Research Innovation Awards (SPRIA) are financed by the Department of Social Protection. The Department spends some €21 billion in providing a range of income supports for jobseekers, pensioners, people with disabilities, families and carers. It delivers over 70 different schemes and services with over 2.1 million people benefiting from weekly payments and over 600,000 families receiving child benefit in respect of 1.2 million children each month.

The Department is undergoing significant structural reform, moving away from providing passive income supports to activation. It has rolled out a new integrated employment and entitlement service delivery model through Intreo, and it has the lead responsibility for Pathways to Work. The Department is responsible for coordinating the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 as well as the monitoring of the national social target for poverty reduction. The Department is also heavily involved in the EU through the open method of coordination on social inclusion and social protection and in the Europe 2020 Strategy. It is involved in EU initiatives such as the Youth Guarantee and the active inclusion strategy. The Department is also facing unprecedented challenges in terms of demand and macro-economic stabilisation functions while also meeting public spending reduction targets.

The research innovation awards are designed to inform the future development of social protection policies in line with the Programme for Government and the Europe 2020 Strategy. The awards are intended to build research capacity and knowledge on social protection issues. The three research projects below engage with core challenges facing the Department in this time of economic crisis.

The research evidence should inform the Department's goals of 'promoting active participation in society through the provision of income supports, employment services and other services' including its role in supporting Government and EU commitments. They should also consider how research findings can highlight important policy implications that might be translated into new policies and practices, or used in on-going reforms.

## Requirements

Please see section D for details on eligible costs. The funded projects MUST start by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 and be completed in 15 months.

Applications are therefore invited under the following three themes:

### Theme 1: An active inclusion approach to lone parents

#### Description, Context & Aim:

Lone parent households face higher risks of poverty and deprivation and often face barriers in accessing employment opportunities that are a route out of poverty. Many of these barriers are well known, for example gendered dimensions in access, low educational attainment and access to adequate and affordable childcare. Lack of engagement with or access to education, training and activation measures, particularly for those who are distant from the labour market, have also posed difficulties.

Recent policy developments in Europe (e.g. EU Commission recommendation on 'Active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market') and in Ireland (Pathways to Work, reforms to the social welfare payment made to lone parents) have led to a greater focus on the active inclusion of lone parents, through inclusive labour markets (activation measures and employment) as well as through access to quality affordable services and adequate income support.

The Department of Social Protection wishes to fund a qualitative study, using appropriate social research methods, that examines: 1) the international policy context, experiences and practice of active inclusion strategies for lone parents; 2) experiences of engagement with activation measures and the employment characteristics, histories and experiences of lone parents in Ireland, especially since the economic recession and in light of recent reforms; and 3) in this, to identify drivers for and barriers to engagement and access, taking into account for example access to services, family context and characteristics, social supports and other issues.

The outcomes of the research should be:

- A better understanding of the drivers for and barriers to engagement in activation measures and in accessing employment for lone parents;
- Proposals for how active inclusion strategies might address barriers and support drivers, drawing on both international and Irish evidence;
- Identification of the key factors that facilitate or inhibit lone parents' active inclusion in the labour market, as well as areas for further research.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	15 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €45,000

### Theme 2: Summer School: Challenges and opportunities for social protection policy in post-recession Ireland

#### Description, Context & Aim:

The social and economic impacts of the economic recession in Ireland and in Europe have increased the pace and scale of social protection and social welfare system reforms, already underway at the start of the crisis. As Ireland and Europe begins to emerge from crisis to post-recession, it is time to reflect and assess the significant shifts in social protection systems and examine the opportunities and challenges of these reforms going forward. The Department of Social Protection wishes to fund

a summer school that will create an environment in which academic and policy debates about social protection can be brought together. This could include the following: exploring the influence of macro-economic and global change on social protection systems; review new and emerging social policy debates and their relevance for social protection policy; examine the financial constraints arising from fiscal consolidation and demographic change, and consider new approaches to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of welfare services.

The outcomes for the summer school should be:

- Identification of the opportunities and challenges presented by recent reform for social protection policy;
- Sharing of knowledge and experiences of these amongst participants;
- Building capacity, through this shared knowledge and experience and through coursework, to be able to recognise and respond to potential impacts of the reforms going forward;
- To provide an on-going resource for other stakeholders, for example by establishing a repository of presentations and papers, hosting a website, etc.

The audience for the summer school should be academics and researchers in social protection, senior management in the Department of Social Protection and other relevant Government Departments, and other stakeholders who inform policymaking and social policy developments, including experts in NGOs, Government bodies and policy advisers.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	Quarter 2 or Quarter 3 2014
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<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €10,000
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### Theme 3: The social impact of gambling in Ireland

#### Description, Context & Aim:

The Government plans to introduce a comprehensive new licensing and regulatory framework for gambling. The new framework will include measures to promote socially responsible gambling, including the protection of people from the ill-effects of gambling. In particular, it is proposed to establish a Social Gambling Fund whose purposes will be to assist with treatment services, to undertake research and to provide education and information services.

To inform this new framework, the Department of Social Protection in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Equality wish to fund an exploratory study on the social impact of gambling, focusing on problem gambling. Problem gambling can be defined as gambling to the degree that it compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal, financial and employment relations. Problem gambling can contribute to financial problems and lead to negative social and health consequences. International evidence suggests that disadvantaged social groups are most likely to suffer the adverse consequences of gambling, with those who are male, single and under thirty five years of age being more likely to be at risk from developing problems with their gambling.

It is envisaged that the exploratory study will undertake qualitative research to better understand the nature of problem gambling in the Irish context, using appropriate social research methods. The study should profile the main characteristics and components of problem gambling and identify the trigger factors. It should document the impacts of problem gambling on the individual and on their family and social network. The study should also review initiatives by the individual or their family/friends to address problem gambling, including the use of treatment services.

The outcomes of the research should be:

- A better understanding of problem gambling as a social phenomenon
- Identification of issues for further research, including topics for inclusion in the design of a proposed prevalence survey on gambling
- Proposals for the development of preventative and ameliorative actions to address problem gambling, including the provision of treatment services.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	15 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €45,000

**RPG2013-5:HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme Research Projects**

Supported by: Crisis Pregnancy Programme (CPP)

## Introduction

The HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme (CPP) is a national programme tasked with developing and implementing a national strategy to address the issue of crisis pregnancy in Ireland. The CPP leads the implementation of the national strategy to achieve the following core objectives:

1. To reduce the number of crisis pregnancies by the provision of information, advice and contraceptive services.
2. To reduce the number of women with crisis pregnancies who opt for abortion by offering services and supports which make other options more attractive.
3. To provide counselling services, medical services and such other health services for the purpose of providing support, after crisis pregnancy as may be deemed appropriate by the Programme.

The CPP is currently delivering its third national strategy to reduce the incidence of crisis pregnancy in Ireland. <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CPP-Strategy-FINAL1x1.pdf>

Informed by the evaluation of its first and second strategies, robust research and a widespread consultation process, the Strategy identifies priority actions at strategic, policy, governmental and community levels to address the issue of crisis pregnancy over a five year period, 2012 – 2016. It is a priority of the Programme to ensure that all efforts to prevent unplanned and crisis pregnancies complement efforts to reduce sexually transmitted infections.

Since its establishment, the CPP has placed a strong emphasis on evidence informed planning and evaluation. Research and knowledge transfer have been significant components of how the Programme conducts its business across a range of areas, including service planning, funding projects at the local level, development of practice guidelines and improvement of service standards and initiating and monitoring prevention and communications initiatives. A key feature of the research function of the CPP is to drive and support research into aspects of sexual health that enable us to meet our objectives more effectively and more efficiently.

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

- Ensure the CPP keeps abreast of emerging trends and factors related to crisis pregnancy, STIs, sexual activity and condom/contraceptive use, reproductive decision making and sexual health services research.

- Build upon the range of research commissioned by the Programme and fill knowledge gaps still existing, particularly in relation to the development of sexual health services.
- Stimulate and further strengthen research in the areas of sexual health and sexual health policy, sexual decision-making and crisis pregnancy.
- Ensure that the Programme's existing research portfolio continues to be used and is part of emerging developments in the field.
- Further build academic capacity and expertise in areas related to the Programme's work.

The Programme seeks to benefit from supporting research grants on projects aimed to improve the Programme's evidence-base and that will have a direct impact on its work. The CPP seeks to elicit proposals from the research community, drawing on new ideas and trans-disciplinary developments in academic fields relevant to sexual health.

This 'open call' for research proposals should consider the function of the Programme and its existing body of evidence. It should seek to identify new perspectives or gaps in the evidence or relevant areas of interest. Proposals must be directly related to the mandates of the Programme, have an applied focus and will result in new insights on key issues. Proposals that add value and application by linking with other related health behaviours are particularly welcome.

The CPP requires that proposals made in response to the 'open call' for non-predefined projects should demonstrate awareness of existing research in the area, and outline how the proposal will build upon existing CPP published research. The existing body of research and publications available at: <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/publication/research-reports/>

## **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 D for details on eligible costs. The funded projects MUST start by 2nd December 2013 and be completed in 15 months.

Successful awardees will be expected to consult regularly with the CPP.

To this end,

- a specified contact person will be nominated by the CPP.
- The CPP must be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.

Applications are invited for:

<b>Open Call</b>	
<b>Timeframe:</b>	15 months from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per Max €100,000 (including overheads at 25%) project:</b>	

## **Outputs**

The expected output of each project will be a report, in electronic and hard-copy, peer reviewed publications and a summary of the research findings in a format to be provided by the CPP for dissemination via the CPP website. In addition, the CPP will require a presentation to the Programme of the project findings within a month of completing the project. There may also be a requirement for researchers to participate in a seminar for key stakeholders (such as policymakers, technical advisory groups) to share the key research findings and facilitate discuss the policy implications; and exchange knowledge and expertise.

### **RPG2013-6: Assessing the Impact of Publically-Funded Research, Development and Innovation (RDI)\***

Supported by: Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) & Higher Education Authority (HEA)

## **Introduction**

Nations fund scientific research to further their economic and social interests. By building and using human and knowledge capital capacity, countries can achieve competitive advantage and sustainable development. This is vital for economic growth and the advancement of society. It is the role of government and its agencies, therefore, to catalyse and build a functioning ecosystem that includes an effective mix of government, private enterprise, academia, finance, regulation and philanthropy, all working together to deliver desirable impacts.

- Economic development
- Education and training of the population
- International reputation
- Evidence-based policy making
- Effective, efficient public services
- Addressing major national and global societal issues
- Enriching our culture and civilisation
- A better future

Ireland has invested significantly in Research and Development (R&D) over a 12 year period and there is now sufficient data amassed to critically analyse the impact of national investment in R&D against other nations of similar size and R&D investment. This type of analysis will prove invaluable to the Irish Government in assessing the impact of their investment to date and for the investments in the future.

## **Requirements**

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will develop their existing portfolio of research skills and expertise. Applicants must also demonstrate the value of their proposal to the policy and/or service communities.

Please see section D for details on eligible costs. The funded projects MUST start by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013.



Proposals addressing one, or contributing to the advancement of, the specific themes below (RPG2013-6), should give particular consideration to the following: (a) identifying the datasets (national & international) that will be used (b) how to make maximum use of the datasets available; (c) the conceptual clarity and coherence of the research design; (d) the methodological sophistication of the specific solutions identified; (e) the technical and statistical adequacy of the procedures and models proposed; (f) the compatibility between the solutions proposed and the requirements of subsequent national/international analyses.

An International Steering Group will be established for the purpose of this Strand 6. This will be chaired by Ireland's Chief Scientific Adviser and will include representatives of key stakeholders including HEA, Forfás, and Central Statistics Office.

Successful awardees will be expected to consult regularly with the International Steering Group Committee. To this end, a specified contact person will be nominated by SFI/HEA.

Applications are therefore invited under the following specified themes:

**Theme 1: *Modelling Economic Impact***
**Description, Context & Aim:**

Given the importance of investment in Research & Development (R&D) and Innovation to productivity, growth and economic and social progress, and the increasing costs of investing in R&D, it is timely to examine more sophisticated tools to assist policymakers in assessing the efficiency, effectiveness and impacts of investments currently being made or planned.

Analysis of existing evaluations for publicly funded R&D in Ireland's HEIs and PROs shows a bias towards output indicators of academic excellence, alongside indicators of direct commercialisation. Indicators of economic impact, such as increased employment, increased export sales or increased productivity, are largely absent. A review of the literature shows that this practice is seen not only in Ireland but also internationally.

Aim: Develop a model to assess the economic impact of Irish public investment in research & development.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	4 years from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €200,000

**Theme 2: *Return on Investment (ROI)/Rate of Return (ROR)***
**Description, Context & Aim:**

A large empirical literature has sought to estimate the rate of return on government investment in R&D. A rate of return (ROR), also referred to by economists as return on investment (ROI), rate of profit or sometimes just return, is the ratio of money gained or lost (whether realised or unrealised) on an investment relative to the amount of money invested. The money invested can be referred to as the asset, capital, principal, or the cost of the investment.

An important question facing economies is what happens to returns in R&D in one country as the absorptive capacity of other nations and international competition for technology is increasing? And, what strategies should countries pursue in considering their ROR – is the argument of a clever copycat relevant for a country such as Ireland?

Aim: Develop a model for determining ROR for Ireland and benchmark against similar sized

countries.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	4 years from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €200,000

### **Theme 3: Open Innovation**

#### **Description, Context & Aim:**

Innovation is higher than ever on companies' agendas and the focus of innovation is shifting from closed innovation within firms, to open innovation or the development of networks and alliances to create new classes of products and services. A recent study by Accenture of 20 leading innovative companies, found that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of sources that a company can tap into, including universities, "It is the same with universities and scientists. For each of its researchers, P&G estimates that there are 200 scientists or engineers elsewhere in the world who are just as good - a total of perhaps 1.5 million people whose talents P&G could potentially use." The key challenge for companies is deciding a strategy to select and manage these networks and partnerships.

What are firm strategies to engaging in open innovation? How does this vary by sector or location? What can funders of research do to encourage collaboration between university researchers and firms, i.e. ensure that publicly funded research is included in these strategies? What is the impact of open innovation on the local economy and on the firm?

Aim: Determine strategies for research funders to capitalise on the move from closed to open innovation.

<b>Timeframe:</b>	4 years from commencement of project
<b>Funding Limit per project:</b>	Max €200,000

#### **Objectives**

- To provide support to academics to conduct focused research in the field in order to build capacity;
- To enable training of PhD researchers;
- To encourage researchers to access data from government departments or agencies and other sources of data;
- To encourage collaborations with international experts in the field and key policy makers or research funders in government departments or agencies;
- To allow dissemination of knowledge by various means including via peer reviewed publications and via presentations at or hosting of conferences/workshops, and presentations at government departments or agencies;
- Development or improvement of a model or strategy for RDI policy in Ireland.

## APPENDIX I

**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 will also be a requirement for Horizon 2020 funding.

The following is provided to help applicants complete the Sex-Gender dimension statement in the application. This taken from the Toolkit Gender in EU-funded research<sup>6</sup> 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 II

Structured Degree Programme

The following are key characteristics of a structured PhD programme in Irish higher-education institutions. Such programmes may involve inter-institutional collaboration.

- The core component of a structured PhD programme is the advancement of knowledge through original research; at the same time the structured PhD is designed to meet the needs of an employment market that is wider than academia;
- A high quality research experience, training and output consistent with international norms and best practice;
- A structured PhD programme, in support of the original research activity, must include the following elements:
  - a formalised integrated programme of education, training and personal and professional development activities,
  - the development of discipline-specific knowledge, research skills and generic / transferable skills,
  - declared outcomes and graduate attributes in line with national and international best practice;
- Supervision by a principal supervisor(s), normally with a supporting panel approved by the institution;
- Progress to completion is formally monitored against published criteria and supported by formal institutional arrangements in line with national and international best practice;
- Successful completion and examination of the research thesis is the basis for the award of the PhD degree. Professional doctorates are not excluded from the consideration of a structured PhD definition – alternative forms of theses are also acceptable;
- Appropriate placements, rotations and assignments across wide sectors of the economy are encouraged for inclusion as part of the structured PhD programme.