

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

**Science, Technology, Research & Innovation
for the Environment (STRIVE) Programme**

2013 Terms and Conditions for support of grant awards

Note: This document provides indicative terms and conditions for EPA grant awards. The EPA reserves the right to add to or alter these indicative terms and conditions prior to grant award

The STRIVE Programme is funded by the Irish Government

This document sets out the Terms and Conditions for support of grant awards of research fellowships, research scholarships, desk-studies, medium and large-scale projects and capability developments funded under the STRIVE Programme 2007-2013.

Applicants should read the following carefully in conjunction with other documentation provided (i.e. guide for applicants, guide for grantees, call technical description).

All documentation referred to below is available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website (www.epa.ie)

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1. Funding

Funding is provided on a discretionary basis by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Grantee. The term 'Grantee' is defined in the Notification of Award of Research Grant and includes the lead organisation, the principal investigator (PI) and project participants there defined. It means each of them separately and all of them together or any number of them collectively.

The EPA shall not be under any obligation to provide any funding to the Grantee.

Where the EPA commences funding a project, it undertakes to continue to provide funding in accordance with the proposed schedule of funding, subject to the following exceptions:

- a. If the EPA is dissatisfied with the performance of the project by the Grantee, it may at its absolute discretion decline to continue funding the project.
- b. If the funding that the EPA receives from the State to enable it to provide funding to projects (including this project) is discontinued or reduced, the EPA may cease funding to certain projects; and in particular, if it is so reduced, the EPA may elect not to continue funding some projects, even if it continues to fund other projects.
- c. For co-funded projects, the EPA may elect not to continue funding a Project, in the event that the co-funding body is not in a position to meet its funding obligations.
- d. For co-funded projects the EPA shall not be responsible for making any payments due by the co-funder but not made by them.
- e. If the EPA ceases to fund the project for any reason, the Grantee shall not be entitled to recover from the EPA or from the State any funding which would have been due had the EPA continued to fund the project. Nor shall the Grantee be entitled to any indemnity or damages of any kind from the EPA or the State.
- f. If the Grantee does not comply with the EPA's requirements for grantees, or has not complied with these requirements, the EPA may discontinue funding and decline to provide further funding. The EPA's requirements for Grantees are set out in the Guide for Grantees. Where funding is payable in arrears, the EPA shall not be obliged to provide funding where its requirements have not been complied with. The EPA undertakes that it will not discontinue funding or decline further funding simply because it disagrees with the results of the project.
- g. It shall be the responsibility of the Grantee to satisfy the EPA that the project is proceeding satisfactorily and that the Grant is being used in the most effective manner. If the EPA is not satisfied, it may discontinue funding and decline to provide further funding until such time as the Grantee satisfies outstanding issues. If the EPA is not satisfied, it shall notify the Grantee of the reasons why funding has been discontinued, and shall give the Grantee an opportunity to address the issues identified.
- h. All funding provided is inclusive of VAT, if it is applicable.

In addition to the provisions above the EPA may discontinue funding if any of the following events occur:

- i. There is a material change in the legal status of the Grantee, such material change to include but not to be confined to the Grantee entering into liquidation whether compulsory or voluntary, the appointment of a receiver over all or any part of the assets or undertakings of the Grantee and (where appropriate) the Grantee becoming subject to the Bankruptcy Laws;
- ii. A distress or execution is levied or served upon any of the property of the Grantee and is not discharged within 30 days;
- iii. The EPA is satisfied that the project has encountered fundamental and undue delay or that the project has ceased.
- iv. Where the Principal Investigator is convicted of a criminal offence

2. EPA requirements for Grantees

2.1 The Grantee shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. Carry out the project in accordance with the financial rules of the programme (contained in the Guide for Applicants) and in accordance with the agreed budget and research proposal for the project;
- b. Designate a lead organization and PI for the project. The PI shall be responsible for the management of the project and reporting of technical and financial progress (see paragraph 4);
- c. Supply any information requested by the EPA for the purposes of ensuring that these requirements are complied with and comply with any written request or direction received from the EPA concerning the proper management of the project;
- d. Ensure that the effective control of the project is not changed without prior written consent from the EPA;
- e. Ensure that the project is not altered or adjusted without prior written consent from the EPA;
- f. Submit to the EPA, if requested, prior to commencement of the project, an up-to-date tax clearance certificate from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners;
- g. Submit to the EPA, if requested, prior to the commencement of the project up-to-date copies of Public and Employers Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance policies, to enable the EPA to verify that there is no risk that the funding provided will have to be used to meet any claim against the Grantee or any person involved in the project;
- h. Ensure that there is no other funding provided to the project other than that provided by the EPA directly or through a mutually agreed co-funding arrangement;

- i. Ensure that the placement of contracts necessitated by the project complies with Public Procurement Guidelines.
- j. Ensure in relation to the placement of contracts for capital equipment with any Irish legal or natural person that, at the date of such placement, that person possesses a valid tax clearance certificate and obtain a copy of such certificate prior to making any payments on foot of such contract. In the case of residents outside the State they should obtain a tax clearance certificate.
- k. Keep all capital equipment acquired pursuant to the project properly maintained and insured to the full value of its replacement cost and re-value such equipment when necessary;
- l. Notify the EPA immediately of any damage or loss in respect of capital equipment acquired for the purposes of the project and, where any such damage or loss is insured against, apply the proceeds of any insurance claim so as to ensure to the satisfaction of the EPA that such capital equipment is replaced or restored, as appropriate, and pay from its own funds any deficiency of cost arising from any under-insurance, non-insurance or under evaluation in respect of the capital equipment;
- m. Allow the EPA or its appointed representative access to the Grantees premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspection or monitoring of the project;
- n. Permit the EPA or its appointed representative to inspect the project and financial records at any reasonable time;
- o. Make reference to the support received from the EPA and Department of Environment Community and Local Government, in any publicity or promotional activities relating to the project and respect copyright laws in any publication;
- p. Where project outputs include data and/or technical solutions (websites, developed software, database solutions etc.) then the format of same must be agreed with the EPA to ensure that they can be installed on EPA infrastructure and maintained by EPA staff after the completion of the project. The EPA can supply a current list of approved data formats and technology on request and the exact format of all outputs must be agreed with the EPA before development of same commences. All data outputs must have a comprehensive set of metadata and all technical solutions must be fully documented according to EPA requirements.

2.2 Comply with dissemination & communication requirements are described in the Guide for Applicants and Guide for Grantees.

3. Adjustments to costings

Funding is based on the amounts set out in Schedule 3 of the Notification of Award of Research Grant and in the final agreed budget. Re-allocation of expenditures between categories of expenditure may not be made by the Grantee without the prior written consent of the EPA as set out in the Guide for Grantees.

4. Reporting, monitoring and accounting

- 4.1 The Grantee shall maintain proper books of accounts and records in relation to all aspects of the project. The books of accounts and records shall be:
- a. Distinct from those concerning other activities of the Grantee, and
 - b. Maintained for a minimum period of three years after the conclusion of the STRIVE Programme.

The Grantee shall keep such books of accounts and records available on demand, together with such other documents as may be required by the EPA, for the purposes of any financial or physical verification or evaluation of progress or performance. The Grantee shall ensure that an adequate financial management system is in place for the purposes of vouching expenditure recorded on the Cost Statements submitted to the EPA.

- 4.2 The Grantee shall comply with interim and final reporting requirements (technical and financial) as set out in the Guide for Grantees. It shall be the responsibility of the Grantee to satisfy the EPA that the Grant is being employed in the most effective manner. If the EPA is not satisfied, it may decline to continue funding the project in accordance with paragraph 1 of these Terms and Conditions

The EPA may, alter or amend any reporting or monitoring provision where the EPA believes the proper management of the research (including the proper supervision of the project) so requires. The EPA will notify the Grantee in such circumstances.

5. Payment of the grant

- 5.1 Advance and subsequent payments shall be made to the Grantees, as described in the Guide for Grantees. Payments will only be made in respect of eligible costs as described in the Guide for Applicants.
- 5.2 All payments shall be made to the lead organisation as agent for the other Grantees.
- 5.3 Where tax clearance certificates are required no payment will be made unless an up-to-date certificate from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners (or other relevant authority) has been lodged by the Grantee with the EPA.
- 5.4 No liability shall attach to the Minister for the Environment, the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government, the State or the EPA, in respect of any delay, howsoever caused, in any payment to the Grantee pursuant to this Agreement.

6. Project Completion / Termination

- a. Subject to paragraph 7, the project shall finish on the date specified in the Notification of Grant Award, unless extended beyond that date by agreement between the Grantee and the EPA. There shall be no extension without the prior written consent of the EPA.

- b. Normally, action by the EPA to suspend or terminate a research grant will be taken only after the Grantee has been informed by the EPA of any deficiency on the part of the Grantee or the principal investigator and given an opportunity to correct it. However, the EPA may immediately suspend or terminate the research grant without notice when it reasonably believes that such action is required to protect the interest of the EPA, the research programme or the research grant.
- c. Suspension or termination of a research grant shall be notified in writing to the Grantee with a copy to partners and will take effect on the date indicated in the notification.
- d. The Grantee is required to submit within 42 days after the effective date of termination, all required reports and deliverables relating to the work carried out up to that date. In the absence of receipt of such documents within the above time-limits, the EPA may determine not to make any further payments in relation the research grant.
- e. In the event of termination any financial contribution from the EPA is limited to those eligible costs incurred and accepted up to the effective date of such termination. If these accepted costs are less than payments already advanced the Grantee shall refund the EPA the unspent/uncertified portion of the advance.
- f. Should the principal investigator be unwilling or unable, for any reason whatsoever (including but not limited to retirement, ill-health, resignation, dismissal or termination of contract), the lead organisation shall notify the EPA which shall have the option to terminate the project and grant. Alternatively the EPA may agree to the appointment of a new principal investigator
- g. Should the principal investigator cease to be employed by the lead organization, the EPA and the lead organization may agree the appointment of a new principal investigator or, in default of agreement, terminate the project and grant. Alternatively the EPA may instead, with the agreement of the lead organization, arrange for the project to be completed by the principal investigator and / or his new employer under the terms set out in this Agreement
- h. In the event that work does not begin on the project within two months of the agreed start date, as stated in the Notification of Grant Award, the project may be cancelled and the advance payment must be refunded to the EPA.

7. Notices

Any Notices required to be given to or served on the Grantee, shall be deemed to be duly given to or served upon the Grantee if provided in writing (including electronic correspondence)

8. Transfer and assignment

The Grantee shall not transfer or assign directly or indirectly any portion of the terms and conditions without the prior written consent of the EPA.

9. Indemnity

The EPA is merely providing funding for the project and is not assuming any liability for its execution.

10. Other

All references herein to the EPA shall mean the Environmental Protection Agency, its employees, servants and agents. Where the EPA wishes to inspect the premises of any Grantee but does not undertake this task itself, it shall provide a letter of appointment to any person acting on its behalf, and such person shall present that letter of appointment to the grantee as proof that he or she is acting on behalf of the EPA.

For more detailed information on reporting requirements, project management and submission of final reports, datasets and end-of-project questionnaires please refer to the Guide for Grantees