

EPA Research Call 2023

Information Webinar

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27 April 2023



Before we start...



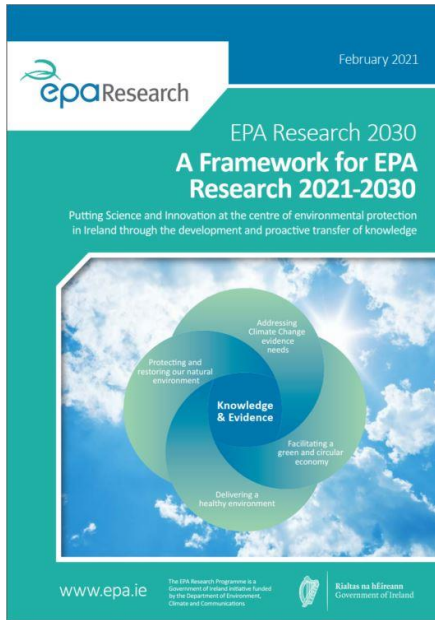
- Webinar will be recorded
- Attendees cameras / microphones are switched off
- Please use the chat function for questions
- Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation
- Questions on the scope of Themes and Topics to be submitted by e-mail to research@epa.ie

- EPA Research 2030
- EPA Research Call 2023
- Submission and Evaluation
- Application Guidance
- Financial Rules and Eligibility
- Q&A

EPA Research 2030



Putting science and innovation at the centre of environmental protection



- Framework for EPA Research Programming 2021-2030
- Focused on achieving environmental objectives, informing policy, and bringing together researchers and research users
- Agile, responsive and flexible

EPA Research 2030



Objectives:

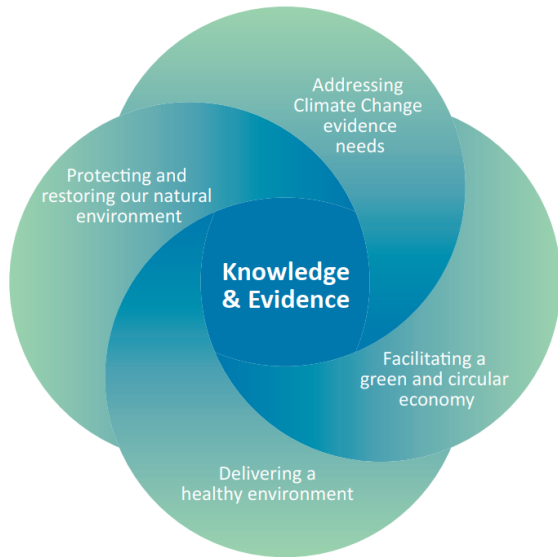
- Deliver impactful research readily **usable by our end-users**
- Deliver timely evidence to **support policy and decision making**
- Address **identified knowledge gaps** in relation to existing and emerging environmental pressures
- Support **relevant implementation actions and behavioural change interventions**
- Enhance the national environmental **research capacity**
- **Support the EPA's** assessment, knowledge and regulatory functions
- Deliver **open knowledge and data** solutions



Engaged Research Approach

- Focused on achieving environmental objectives, informing policy, and bringing together researchers and research/end-users
- Stakeholders involved in all stages – from identification of research needs through implementation of projects and transfer of knowledge

Integrated, thematic approach



- Based on four interconnected research hubs
 - Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs
 - Facilitating a Green and Circular Economy
 - Delivering a Healthy Environment
 - Protecting and restoring our Natural Environment
- Integrated, cross-sectoral and holistic approach

Funding opportunities

- International partnerships
- National partnerships
- Fellowships
- Commissioned research
- Event support
- Etc
- **Annual EPA Research Call**
- All funding opportunities available on our webpage:

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa--research-funding/>

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Hybrid structure

- **5 Themes**

- Broad research areas to inform policy and build capacity in current and emerging priority areas
- Multiple projects to be supported under each Theme
- Medium Scale Projects (4 years, up to €600k)

- **22 Topics**

- Targeted to address identified research and evidence needs to inform policy
- Scale of project dependent on specific needs

Themes

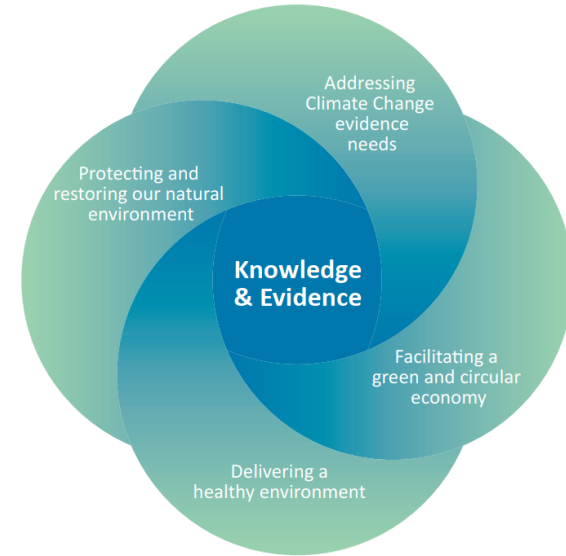
- Addressing the Societal Dimension of Environmental Challenges
- Harnessing Data and Digitalisation for the Environment
- Nature Based Solutions: Delivering Co-benefits for the Environment and Society
- Advancing Climate Science for Ireland
- Climate Adaptation: Planning for an Uncertain Future

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Topics

- Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs (**4 Topics**)
- Delivering a Healthy Environment (**7 Topics**)
- Facilitating a Green and Circular Economy (**6 Topics**)
- Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment (**5 Topics**)



EPA Research Call 2023



- Funded projects will:
 - Receive funding to conduct research
 - Be supported proactively by EPA to transfer knowledge
 - Engage with policy actors relevant to research projects
 - Inform and impact climate, environmental and sustainability policy in Ireland

- Co-funding partners:



Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



EPA Research Call 2023



Call documentation:

1. Technical Description Document
2. Guidelines and Terms and Conditions
3. Evaluation process
4. Online Application Portal User Guide

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Call documentation:

1. Technical Description Document
2. Guidelines and Terms and Conditions
3. Evaluation process
4. Online Application Portal User Guide

- **Important information on call structure, application and content**
- **For each Theme and Topic**
 - **Scope and specific outputs**
 - **Call Topic Identifiers**
- **Expected outputs for all projects**

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Call documentation:

1. Technical Description Document
2. Guidelines and Terms and Conditions
3. Evaluation process
4. Online Application Portal User Guide

- **Guidance for applicants**
 - Application process
 - How to complete templates
 - Budget/Financial rules
 - Grant Award
- **Guidance for Grantees**
 - Award management
 - Project Outputs and Deliverables
- **Terms and Conditions of Award**

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Call documentation:

1. Technical Description Document
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3. Evaluation process
4. Online Application Portal User Guide

- **Policies and Strategies**
 - **Intellectual Property**
 - **Research Integrity**
 - **Freedom of Information**
 - **Personal Information**
 - **Open Access of Publications/Data**
 - **Ethical and Gender Issues**

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Call documentation:

1. Technical Description Document
2. Guidelines and Terms and Conditions
3. Evaluation process
4. Online Application Portal User Guide

- **Outlines the evaluation process for eligible applications**

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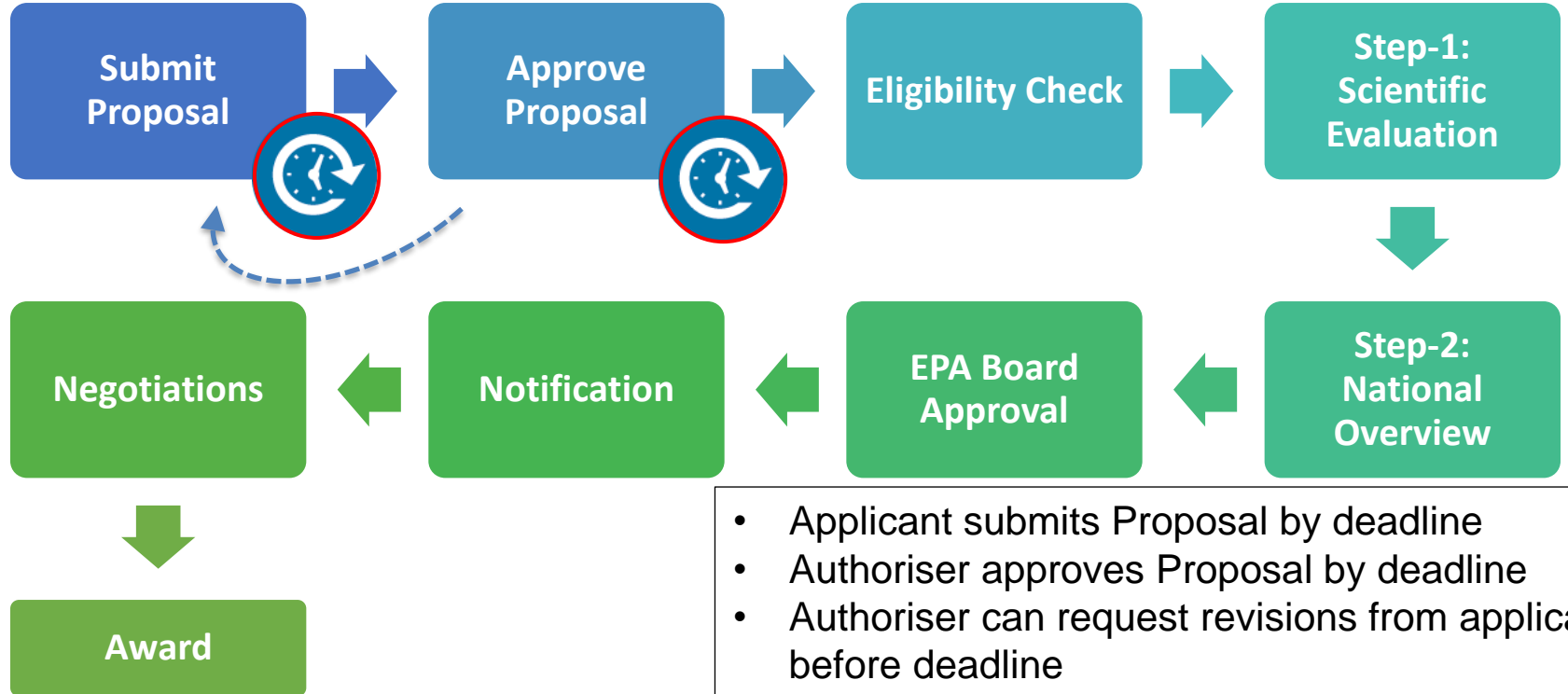


Call documentation:

1. Technical Description Document
2. Guidelines and Terms and Conditions
3. Evaluation process
4. Online Application Portal User Guide

- **Details how to use the EPA's Online Grants Management and Application Portal**

Submission and Evaluation Process



- Applicant submits Proposal by deadline
- Authoriser approves Proposal by deadline
- Authoriser can request revisions from applicant before deadline

Eligibility Check



- All applications must be created and submitted by the Lead Applicants
- Lead Applicant is from an organisation located on the island of Ireland
- Correct Call Topic Reference used
- Correct templates used (work package template, budget template)
- Adherence to maximum budget
- Adherence to maximum duration

Step 1: Scientific Evaluation

- Evaluation criteria (equally weighted)
 - Excellence
 - Communication, Dissemination and Knowledge Transfer to Deliver Impact
 - Implementation
- Must achieve overall score of 70% to progress to Step 2

Step 2: National Overview

- Evaluation criterion
 - Added value, expected impacts and knowledge transfer of the proposed research project and how the outputs will provide evidence to inform environmental policies and considerations
- Past performance of Principal Investigators on EPA-funded research projects, including compliance with reporting requirements, is considered in overall score

Timeline



Step	Date
Technical Queries Deadline	25 May 2023 (16:00, Irish standard time)
Submission Deadline	1 June 2023 (16:00, Irish standard time)
Approval Deadline	8 June 2023 (16:00, Irish standard time)
Evaluation	July – September 2023
Notification / Negotiation	October/November 2023
Grants awarded	November/December 2023
Projects commence	By 31 March 2024

Application Process



Review Technical Description

EPA Grant Management System

Create Draft

Download Templates

Complete Online Fields

Application Process



Review Technical Description

- Review context, policy relevance, knowledge gaps, scope, etc
- Note that “*Call Topic Reference*” is used for both Themes and Topics
- Some Themes have more than one *Call Topic Reference*
 - Applicants should choose the most appropriate one

ELIGIBILITY CRITERION

Theme: Harnessing Data and Digitalisation for the Environment

Call Topic Reference:	Applicants must select one of the following Call Topic References according to the Research Hub most relevant to their proposal: Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs - Topic 2 Delivering a Healthy Environment - Topic 2 Facilitating a Green and Circular Economy - Topic 2 Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment - Topic 2		
Project Type:	Medium Scale Project		
Maximum Budget:	€600,000	Maximum Duration:	48 months

Background

The rapid d
challenges
spatial leve
of socio-ec
environme
to policy de
data techn
interoperat
exploit the

Quantifying air quality co-benefits from climate change policy

Call Topic Reference:	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs - Topic 7		
Project Type:	Desk Study		
Maximum Budget:	€150,000	Maximum Duration:	12 months

Background

Poor air quality has been described by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a major environmental health issue, causing premature death and disease, while the European Environmental Agency (EEA) has described air pollution as the single largest environmental health risk in Europe. Concurrently, climate change is a global crisis that also impacts our environment and health. The links between air quality and climate can be complex; however, it is clear that both of these issues threaten human, environmental and economic health across the globe.

Many of the actions that can be introduced to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change can have a co-benefit for air quality and health. Climate mitigation/adaptation benefits take effect over longer timescales, whereas air quality co-benefits can be immediate and measurable. For example, the burning of fossil fuels for home-heating contributes to the release of CO₂ but simultaneously emits fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) which from a health perspective is the main culprit in the negative health impacts of poor air quality. Thus, a reduction in use of these fossil fuels should lead to

Application Process



EPA Grant Management System

- Register if new to system

Create Draft

- Ensure you have selected the correct EPA Research Hub and *Call Topic Identifier*

ELIGIBILITY CRITERION

Application Process



Current Funding Opportunities

Use the arrowheads at either side of the headings to view all current funding opportunities.

CLIMATE EVIDENCE (8) HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT (9) GREEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY (8) **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (8)** FAST TRACK TO POLICY (0) EVENT SUPPORT (1)

#	Hub	Topic Number	Grant Type	Project Type	Max Amount	Max Term (Months)	Submission Deadline	Approval Deadline	Technical Description
1	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 1	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
2	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 2	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
3	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 3	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
4	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 4	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€450,000.00	36	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
5	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 5	Project Based Award	Desk Study	€150,000.00	12	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
6	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 6	Project Based Award	Desk Study	€150,000.00	12	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
7	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 7	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
8	Protecting and Restoring our Natural Environment	Topic 8	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply

Current Funding Opportunities

Use the arrowheads at either side of the headings to view all current funding opportunities.

CLIMATE EVIDENCE (8) HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT (9) GREEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY (8) NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (8) FAST TRACK TO POLICY (0) EVENT SUPPORT (1)

#	Hub	Topic Number	Grant Type	Project Type	Max Amount	Max Term (Months)	Submission Deadline	Approval Deadline	Technical Description
1	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 1	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
2	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 2	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
3	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 3	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
4	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 4	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
5	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 5	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€300,000.00	24	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
6	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 6	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€300,000.00	24	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
7	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 7	Project Based Award	Desk Study	€150,000.00	12	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply
8	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs	Topic 8	Project Based Award	Medium Scale Project	€600,000.00	48	01/06/2023 16:00	08/06/2023 16:00	Technical_Description.pdf Apply

Application Process



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←

Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs 2023 Call Topic 6

▼ Call Details

Call Topic Reference: Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs 2023 Call Topic 6

Theme: N/A

Max Amount: €300,000.00

Max Term (Months): 24

▼ Call Dates

Call Open Date: 20/04/2023 11:00

Submission Deadline for Applicants:

▼ Institution Deadline

Approval Deadline for Lead Organisation: 08/06/2023 16:00

▼ Apply

IMPORTANT: Before clicking on the APPLY button please check you have chosen the correct call topic - mistakes will not be rectified.

APPLY

epaResearch

←

Protecting and Restoring Our Natural Environment 2023 Call Topic 1

▼ Call Details

Call Topic Reference: Protecting and Restoring Our Natural Environment 2023 Call Topic 1

Theme: Addressing the Societal Dimension of Environmental Challenges

Max Amount: €600,000.00

Max Term (Months): 48

▼ Call Dates

Call Open Date: 20/04/2023 11:00

Submission Deadline for Applicants: 01/06/2023 16:00

▼ Institution Deadline

Approval Deadline for Lead Organisation: 08/06/2023 16:00

▼ Apply

IMPORTANT: Before clicking on the APPLY button please check you have chosen the correct call topic - mistakes will not be rectified.

APPLY

Download templates

- Use templates available on system
 - Workpackage template
 - Budget template
- Adhere to page limits in the Guidelines and Terms and Conditions document
 - Desk study – 15 pages
 - Medium Scale Project – 20 pages

ELIGIBILITY CRITERION

Application Process



Complete online fields

GENERAL **PROJECT SCOPE** PROJECT TEAM & WORK ALLOCATION OUTPUTS & IMPACT DELIVERY BUDGET DETAILS DECLARATIONS & AUTHORISATION

- **Abstract** for Publication
- Is **gender dimension** in the scope of this project?
- Does your project require **ethical approval**?
- Is the proposed research **multi/trans-disciplinary**?
- Does the proposed research involve **Citizen Science**?

Application Process



Complete online fields (cont'd)

GENERAL

PROJECT SCOPE

PROJECT TEAM & WORK ALLOCATION

OUTPUTS & IMPACT DELIVERY

BUDGET DETAILS

DECLARATIONS & AUTHORISATION

- Explain how your proposal addresses the **specific challenge and scope of the call topic**
- Demonstrate the **relevance to the EPA Research Hubs**
- Demonstrate how your proposal will **meet the expectations of the EPA Research Programme** and fulfil some or all of its aims and objectives.
- Demonstrate how your project will **leverage existing resources, data and knowledge systems** to build on past/on-going research and build national research capacity

Application Process



Complete online fields (cont'd)

GENERAL PROJECT SCOPE **PROJECT TEAM & WORK ALLOCATION** OUTPUTS & IMPACT DELIVERY BUDGET DETAILS DECLARATIONS & AUTHORISATION

- Work Package Summary Table

GENERAL PROJECT SCOPE PROJECT TEAM & WORK ALLOCATION **OUTPUTS & IMPACT DELIVERY** BUDGET DETAILS DECLARATIONS & AUTHORISATION

- Expected Outputs:
 - Provide list of all expected outputs from your proposed research.
 - Describe the innovation potential of your proposal
- Impacts and Impact Delivery:
 - Impact Statement
 - Demonstrate how this project will support the implementation of the UN SDGs.
 - Knowledge Transfer

Application Process



- **Review the call documentation**
- **Leave sufficient time to complete all templates and online fields**
- **Submit before the deadline**
- **Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided at the point of submission – changes are not permitted**

EPA Research Call 2023- Information Webinar

April 2023



evelyn
PARTNERS

QUESTIONS WE HOPE TO ANSWER TODAY

- 1 Who can apply for funding ?
- 2 What level of funding can I apply for ?
- 3 What types of expenditure are eligible for funding ?
- 4 Are there costs which are not eligible ?
- 5 Are there any changes from the 2022 call ?
- 6 Are there any lessons learned from 2022 call ?

Who can apply for funding ?

Project Type	Typical Funding	Typical Duration (Months)	Lead Applicant-Host Organisation: Location	Co-Applicants Permitted	Lead Applicant- Host Organisation: Type
Desk Studies	Up to €150,000	6-12	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Medium Scale Studies	Up to €600,000	24-48	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Large Scale Studies	Up to €1.2m	36-48	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Capability Development	> €1.2m	48-60	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Doctoral Scholarships	Up to €110,000	48	Located on Island of Ireland	No	HEI Only
Research Fellowships	Up to €300,000	24-36	Located on Island of Ireland	No	HEI or RPO

What level of funding can my organisation apply for ?

Nature of Organisation	No. Of Employees A	Turnover B	Balance Sheet C	Maximum Funding Rate Available
Publicly Funded HEI	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Public/State Body	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
RPO	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Private Small* Company/ Enterprise	1-49	<€10m	<€10m	80%
Private Medium Company	50-249	<€50m	<€43m	75%
Private Large Company	>=250	>=€50m	>=€43m	65%
NGO,PBE,Charity	N/A	N/A	N/A	95%

* Company Size Criteria = A plus one of B or C

** Definitions for each of these organisations can be found in the Glossary of Terms section of the Guidelines and Terms & Conditions

What categories of
expenditure are eligible
for funding?

Some Basic Principles

Actual

Reasonable &
Wholly Necessary

Incurred & Paid
During the Project
Term

Solely to Advance
the Project

In Accordance
with Your Usual
Accounting
Principles

Recorded in Your
Accounts

Exclude Any Profit
Margin

Not Otherwise
Available /
Accessible

Be of a Type
Normally Charged
to Research
Projects

If you can answer yes to all of these questions then generally it will be an eligible cost item ...save where it is specifically referred to in the guidelines.

Categories of Eligible Expenditure



* Co-Applicants from Organisations not located on the Island of Ireland cannot claim for costs in any of these categories.

HEI's, Public/State Body, RPO (Located on Island of Ireland)

- Only cost of additional staff are eligible for funding
- Salary costs plus employers PRSI plus statutory employer pension contributions (where relevant)
- Permanent staff costs are not eligible for funding
- Rates of pay in accordance with IUA payscale
- Should be based on payroll records of host organisation
- Where not available use IUA rates as basis of budget
- Max amount for post grad student stipend is €18,500 per annum
- Max amount for post grad fees is €5,750

All Organisations Not Located on Island of Ireland

- Only cost of additional staff are eligible for funding
- Training costs, stipends, post-doc salaries, student fees, pension and social costs are all excluded and cannot be funded.

Private Entity Organisations Located on Island of Ireland

- Costs associated with permanent staff directly involved in the project are eligible for funding all be it at reduced rates.
- Salary costs of admin & supervisory staff (not included in indirect costs) may be eligible for funding
- All costs must be based on actual salary as per payroll records and not based on chargeout or consulting rates i.e. payslips and contracts
- Average salary levels cannot be used
- Pension contributions not eligible
- Sole traders are eligible to apply but eligible cost for their time is based on annual profits and not daily rates.

Are there costs which
are not eligible ?



Ineligible

Any Interest paid or owed

Provisions for Possible Future Costs incl. Bad Debts

Sick pay or Redundancy

Overtime

Resources Received For Free

Unnecessary or Ill-considered Expenditure

Market, Sales, Distribution Costs

Entertainment or Hospitality (unless wholly and exclusively necessary)

Vehicle motor tax and insurance

On-going Service & Repair of Equipment / Vehicles

Subscriptions (unless wholly, exclusively necessary)

Miscellaneous expenses

Be of a Type Normally Charged to Research Projects

Costs Associated with Recruitment

Contributions to Private Pension Schemes

Bonus payments

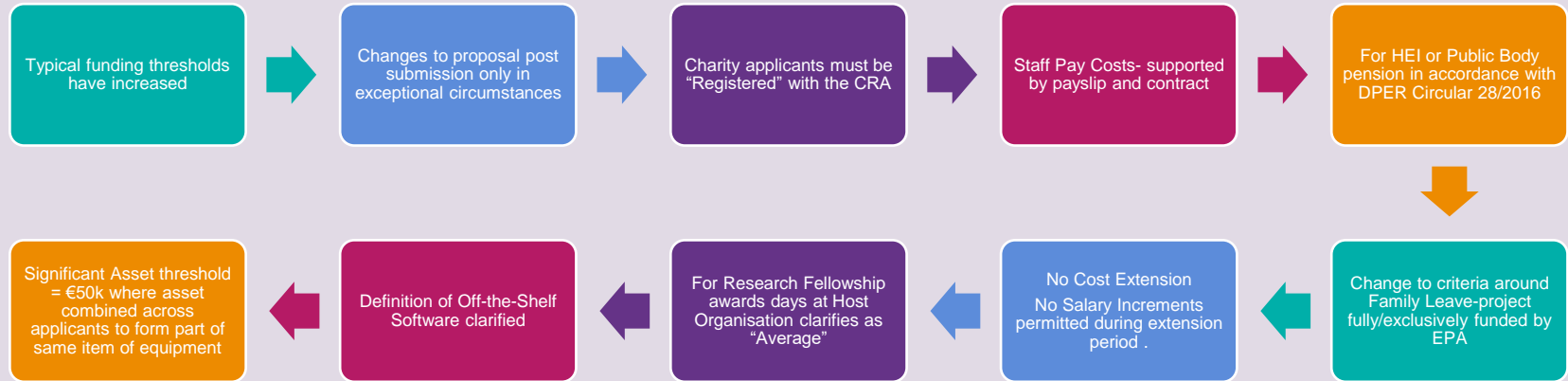
Perks

Benefits in-kind

Some changes from
previous call ?



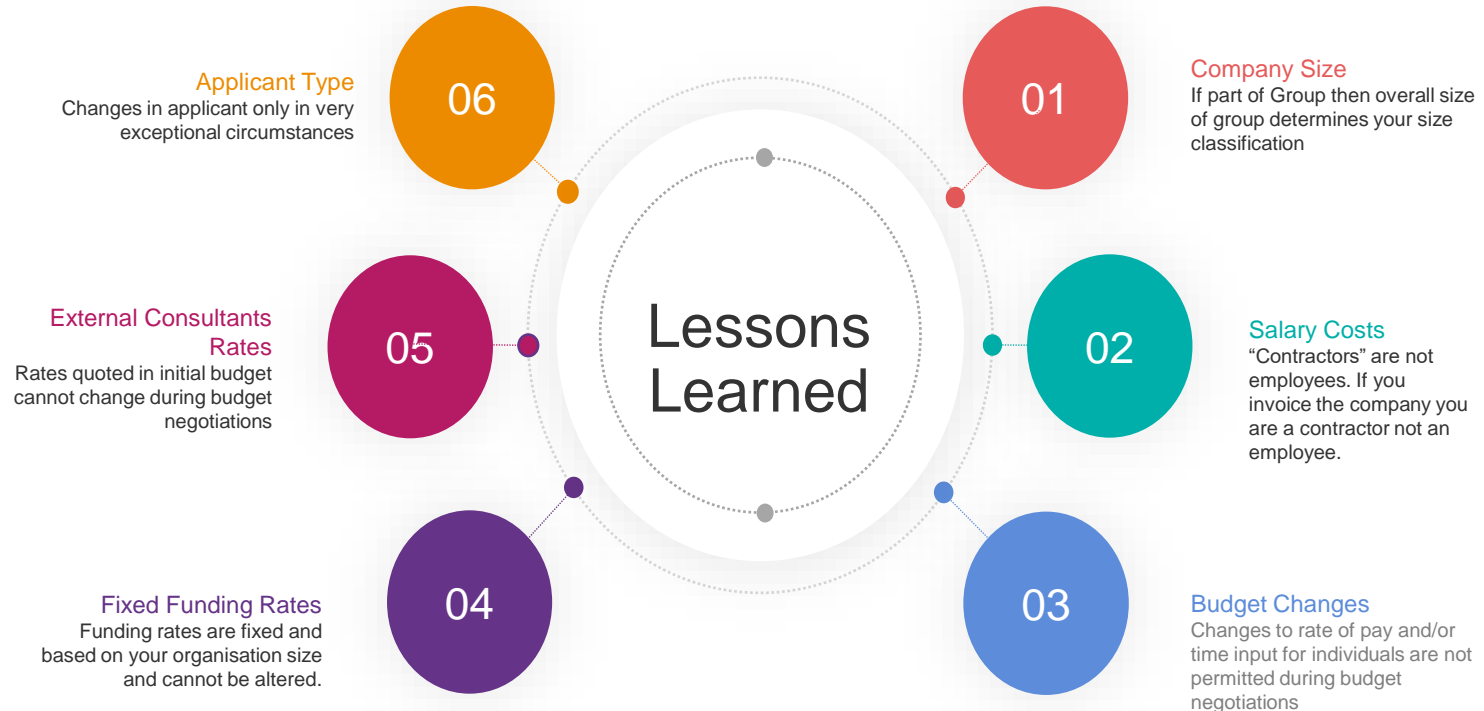
Changes from 2022 Call



Lessons Learned from Previous Call ?

Learnings from Previous Call?

As part of the preparation for each new call the EPA undertake a review of the previous programme to understand any lessons to be learned that can be taken into the new programme



- Any queries should be submitted to research@epa.ie
- All information on the EPA Research Call 2023 is available on our website:

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa--research-funding/epa-research-call-2023/>

- All other information on EPA Research is available at:

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/research/epa--research-funding/>