

Awardee	HEI	Strand	Project Title	Partner	Award	Summary
Joe Whelan	Trinity College Dublin	1a	The flats are coming down. Yup the flats! A sociological exploration of life in the Dolphin House flat complex using arts-based creative methods	Research Ireland	€11,976.47	Dolphin House and Park is a strong, neighbourly and proud community in Dublin's South Inner City. Built in 1957, the complex is made up of 392 flats in 6 blocks. It remains Dublin's largest public housing flat complex while also remaining one of Dublin's most deprived areas. Generations of families live there and now, through the slow process of regeneration, people are being 'de-tenanted', and the flats are coming down. While Dolphin House yet remains standing, this project will seek to understand how regeneration is being experienced and to document life in the flats using arts based creative techniques.
Illan Wall	University of Galway	1a	Legal Observer Training for Protests	Research Ireland	€11,757.00	Unlike most advanced democracies, Ireland does not have a strong tradition of legal observation at protests. Legal observers have three important functions, their presence changes the behaviour of participants, they help to protect protest rights, and they provide an independent documentation of the events. The absence of trained observers has negatively impacted on the way that protests have been policed in Ireland. This project seeks to develop the capacity of Irish civil society to field a cohort of legal observers at protest events. This is particularly important now to ensure Irish democracy remains lively and civil.
Kathleen Stokes	Dublin City University	1a	A Wasted Transition? Community-based circular economy opportunities for renewable energy infrastructure repair and recovery work	Research Ireland	€11,976.00	Amidst the widespread roll-out of renewable energy, the work associated with infrastructural repair, decommissioning and waste largely remains under-considered. This project will investigate repair and recovery work associated with Ireland's renewable energy infrastructures. It will map current approaches and identify circular and community economy opportunities within the sector. Undertaken in partnership between Dublin City University (DCU) and the Rediscovery Centre (RDC), the project will undertake novel research and disseminate findings to community, policy, industry, academic, and public audiences through an array of dynamic outputs and collaborative events. It will also facilitate knowledge exchange and network-building for subsequent research and collaborations.

James Windle	University College Cork	1a	How Women Living with Addiction Experience Services	Research Ireland	€11,981.97	Drug policy research seldom includes the voices of women who have lived with addiction and engaged with harm reduction and treatment services. The proposed research would begin to fill this gap in the knowledge base by interviewing a cohort of 10 women who have used Tabor Group services. Interviews will focus upon their experiences of harm reduction and treatment services and will be conducted by a female interviewer with lived experience. The key objective is to support addiction services to uncover what is different and unique about the needs of women service users, to support their recovery journeys.
James Larkin	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	1a	Exploring potential corporate influence on public health alcohol policy: A case study of Kyowa Kirin and Kirin Holdings	Research Ireland	€11,970.00	It is widely accepted that alcohol companies should not have input on health policy. This project, led by RCSI and in collaboration with Alcohol Forum Ireland, will explore how alcohol and pharmaceutical companies interact with healthcare organisations, (e.g. hospitals and universities), to understand the broader context of their contributions to health policy. We would conduct a case study of Kirin Holdings, a company whose income is primarily from alcohol. We would examine Kirin Holdings' relationship with Kyowa Kirin; a pharmaceutical company it owns. Then we would examine Kyowa Kirin's influence on health policy by analysing their partnerships with healthcare organisations.
M. Felicity Daly	Trinity College Dublin	1a	Exploring forced migrants' perspectives to improve sexual health training and services: a mixed methods research project	Research Ireland	€11,995.26	There is limited evidence on the implementation of services addressing health disparities of refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland. This research will explore forced migrants' experiences of a civic society training programme that aims to empower them to address their sexual and reproductive health and serve as a peer sexual health educator. This research will enhance cultural competency of a civic society organisation's training and services for an underserved population. Dissemination will serve as a case study of how to deliver health promotion with forced migrants through a framework of engagement to assess their expectations of health services.

Etain Quigley	Maynooth University	1a	Neurodiversity and Mental Health Literacy Programmes for International Protection Applicants and Other Immigrant Populations in Ireland: An International Evidence Based Exploratory Study	Research Ireland	€11,776.00	Immigration trends, coupled with varying cultural perceptions of neurodiversity and mental health, pose challenges, particularly in terms of healthcare access and provision. Existing research often favours Western perspectives, neglecting reciprocal learning. Migrants often face barriers in accessing healthcare, especially those with neurodiverse and mental health presentations. Addressing these issues requires a culturally sensitive and evidence-based understanding of the area, yet research from an Irish context is limited. This project aims to bridge this gap by developing an evidence-based framework that will be presented to key policy makers to assist with future decision making and policy development in the area.
Triona McCaffrey	University of Limerick	1a	Mums using Music (MuM)-Community': An early intervention using music to support women's mental health and wellbeing during pregnancy	Research Ireland	€11,995.79	Pregnancy can be a challenging time when women may be more vulnerable to effects of adversity which can negatively impact their emotional and psychological wellbeing. Use of music during pregnancy can positively impact the mental health and wellbeing of a women and their fetus. In partnership with the Northside Family Resource Centre Limerick 'Mums using Music (MuM)-Community' is an early intervention that promotes evidence-based uses of music for mental wellbeing in pregnancy. Co-designed with local women and healthcare practitioners MuM-Community will be offered to resource and empower pregnant women from communities in Limerick where early intervention is needed most.
Megan Welton	University College Dublin	1a	Form, Image, Action: Reframing Women and Binaries in Medieval Worlds, c.500 CE– c.1500 CE	Research Ireland	€11,749.00	This project has two central, interrelated objects. The first aims to unite cutting-edge scholarship on medieval women throughout the Global Middle Ages with the extensive expertise and archival collections of the Chester Beatty Library. This will be achieved through the integration of Chester Beatty's archivists into a two-day intensive academic workshop to be held in Dublin in order to facilitate mutually beneficial knowledge-exchange between the academic and public sector. The second aim is to expand awareness of medieval women's varied experiences through public lectures held at the Chester Beatty and a collaborative online exhibition.

Paula Lehane	Dublin City University	1a	What do Irish teachers know about dyslexia?	Research Ireland	€11,388.45	Research suggests that there may be up to three dyslexic students in every classroom. In order for teachers to effectively identify and teach these learners, they need to have an accurate understanding of dyslexia. However, it is unclear if Irish teachers have this necessary knowledge. In partnership with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland, Irish teachers' knowledge of dyslexia will be determined by gathering survey and focus group data from teachers working in a representative sample of primary schools. This information will guide the development of resources that will enhance teachers' skills in supporting learners with dyslexia.
Siobhán Morrissey	University of Galway	1a	Irish Children's Books in the Classroom: Enhancing Pre-Service Teachers' Knowledge of Irish Literature	Research Ireland	€11,345.00	This project addresses a critical gap in teacher education by enhancing student teachers' knowledge of Irish children's literature and equipping them with the skills and resources to foster positive relationships between children and books. It begins with a survey evaluating student teachers' knowledge of children's authors, including Irish and Irish-language authors. This survey identifies gaps in student teachers' knowledge, which will inform the second stage of the project: the coordination of six 'Léamh' workshops for student teachers. The project and workshops initiate a vital shift, bringing children's literature from the margins to the core of teacher education (Smith, 2015).
Elaine Kinsella	University of Limerick	1a	Empowering voices: Understanding stigma in gynaecological cancer care	Research Ireland	€11,849.00	Gynaecological cancers start in the female reproductive system and can affect women, transgender men and non-binary people assigned female at birth. The symptoms and diagnosis of gynaecological cancer and the consequences of treatment can radically change the lives of patients. An underexplored aspect of gynaecological cancer is the extent that lived experiences are compounded by social and internalised stigma. This project seeks to understand and reduce stigma for those affected by gynaecological cancer through the creation of the CARE (Coalition for Advocacy and Resources in Gynaecological Health Empowerment) network, knowledge synthesis, qualitative research, and effective dissemination.

Áine Kearns	University of Limerick	1a	Collaboratively Working towards a Child-Friendly Justice	Research Ireland	€11,999.21	The Irish criminal justice system is an adversarial system, set up for adults, where the prosecution and defence compete against each other. There is a reliance on oral testimony. Many individuals such as children and young people require additional consideration so their voices can be heard. Intermediaries are one type of special measure that can support child participation in the justice system. UL and A.S.S.C will collaboratively explore stakeholders and family experiences of supporting children navigating the justice system. The findings will enhance civil society and community, awareness of the need for child-friendly justice and inform future practice and policy.
Carol Power	University College Cork	1a	Social Economy Initiatives Supporting Ageing in Place	Research Ireland	€11,998.00	As Ireland's population ages, there is a growing need for services that support older people to age in the community and enjoy optimal quality of life. The social economy, including voluntary, community, charitable organisations and social enterprises, provides supports ranging from help with daily life tasks, to household maintenance, housing adaptation, and social supports that maintain integration and participation in the community. Developing in-depth case studies of service initiatives, this research explores how the social economy can support 'ageing in place' (i.e. in the community). It considers policy and practice implications to improve the outcomes of 'ageing in place' initiatives.
Karen Smith	University College Dublin	1a	A just and inclusive transition for children	Research Ireland	€11,986.00	This study supports implementation of the People's Transition, a participatory initiative developed by TASC which combines climate action with local development. It provides insight into how the transition to climate neutrality at local level can consider the needs and views of children, taking into account diversity and inequalities. Creative participatory methods are used to explore children's diverse and unequal experiences of the built, natural, and social aspects of their local environment and their ideas on how to improve their local area to benefit children living there now and in the future.

Robert Gillanders	Dublin City University	1a	Tracking Corruption Experiences and Attitudes in Ireland and Northern Ireland	Research Ireland	€12,000.00	According to existing data, people in Northern Ireland are far more likely to experience corruption and believe that it is widespread than people in Great Britain. However, we lack data to make comparisons between Ireland and Northern Ireland. Such data is essential for informed decision-making in the context of cross-border cooperation and investment, and the ongoing conversation about unification. We will conduct an all-island representative survey to understand the extent and causes of corruption in Ireland and develop policy recommendations for the short and long run. The specific risks for women, minorities, and those living near borders will be explored.
Claire Howlin	Trinity College Dublin	1a	Understanding the role of music and arts in the lives of neurodivergent people	Research Ireland	€11,993.88	Collectively, neurodivergent people are more likely to experience social exclusion and severe mental health difficulties; including anxiety, depression, and suicidality; compared to the neurotypical population. Yet little is known about how to effectively support the wide range of social and emotional needs of this group. This project seeks to understand the importance of creative and leisure engagement to support physical health and psychological wellbeing for neurodivergent people, across the lifespan. This study will ask people to take photos of peak experiences and highlight any challenges that may cause them to feel excluded from public cultural and entertainment spaces.
Brid Ní Ghráinne	Maynooth University	1a	Criminalizing Asylum in Ireland	Research Ireland	€11,991.00	Under international law, asylum-seekers cannot be penalized for landing in a state without a valid travel document (e.g. visa or passport). Their flight from persecution means that obtaining such documents will likely be dangerous or impossible. Yet, since January 2024, there has been a spike in the number of prosecutions in Ireland of asylum-seekers for arrival without such documents. TEARMANN asks to what extent these prosecutions are compatible with international law. Specifically, it aims to determine the circumstances in which these prosecutions happen, their effect on asylum-seekers, and their compatibility with the Refugee Convention, EU, and international human rights law.

Maeve O'Rourke	University of Galway	1a	Records and Rights: Model legislation for the future National Archives of Ireland Annex at the National Centre for Research and Remembrance, Sean McDermott Street	Research Ireland	€12,000.00	This project will produce and facilitate public engagement with model legislation to underpin the future annex of the National Archives of Ireland at the National Centre for Research and Remembrance. The model legislation will provide a best international practice- and human rights-based example to assist Government and Oireachtas members in the complex and urgent task of legislating to preserve and ensure ethical disclosure of information concerning Ireland's 'historical' institutional and family separation abuses. The project will draw on the views of affected people and comparative examples to answer EU data protection law and other key Irish and European law questions.
Daragh Bradshaw	University of Limerick	1a	Traveller and Roma young people experiences in the classroom: Evaluation of the Kids' Own Publishing resources	Research Ireland	€11,931.74	Lack of accurate media representation of Traveller and Roma culture is associated with increased perceptions of stigma and discrimination. This is particularly problematic for young people and can lead to negative developmental trajectories. Recognising this, Kids' Own publishing has developed a number of learning resources facilitating greater representation. The current project aims to support further development of these resources by conducting a mixed method process evaluation. Findings will not only identify whether the resources are having the desired impact on levels of perceived discrimination and empathy, but will also shed light on the lived experiences of this vulnerable cohort.
Helen O'Leary	University of Limerick	1a	Tackling Weight Creep in Knee Osteoarthritis; A Co-Design approach	Research Ireland	€11,997.44	Knee pain from osteoarthritis is common among adults in Ireland, where obesity is also a significant public health challenge. Only 40% of Irish adults are a healthy weight. Weight gain during adulthood, known as 'weight creep', exacerbates knee pain and accelerates osteoarthritis progression. Weight loss is challenging to achieve and maintain, making prevention crucial. Obesity guidelines emphasise preventing weight gain, but most osteoarthritis studies focus on weight loss. During workshops with Arthritis Ireland members, we will develop educational materials to help prevent weight gain in people with osteoarthritis. These will be tested with 10 volunteers during a clinical consultation.

Ian Marder	Maynooth University	1a	Enabling VICtim access to restorative JUSTice by exploring INFOrmation sharing across Europe	Research Ireland	€11,764.00	Restorative justice is a process that enables victims to communicate with the person who committed an offence against them. Research suggests restorative justice has high levels of victim satisfaction and supports victim recovery, but that restorative justice providers often cannot contact victims to help them make a fully informed decision about whether to participate. This research aims to identify good practices in victim information sharing around Europe, to help Ireland maximise victims' access to restorative justice and related services. Alongside numerous partners, we will identify case studies of good practice and explore implications for Irish law, policy & practice.
Catherine Elliott O'Dare	Trinity College Dublin	1a	Understanding self-directed ageism: A qualitative study with older people in Ireland	Research Ireland	€11,263.50	Self-directed ageism, whereby older people internalise negative stereotyping, viewing themselves through a negative and ageist lens is particularly harmful form of ageism, leading to a shorter lifespan, life limiting behaviours, poor health, and social isolation (Age Action, 2022: Ishikawa, 2023). Qualitative interviews with older people aged 50 and over in Ireland will provide valuable empirical insights into how older people understand, and experience self-directed ageism. Research findings will promote a wider understanding of self-directed ageism, and will be of interest to advocacy organisations, policy makers and older persons themselves, as they work to tackle and eliminate ageism in contemporary society.
Anne Griffin	University of Limerick	1a	The Food Finder: Towards a collaborative national approach to mapping food environments to address food security	Research Ireland	€11,995.88	Food environments affect how people choose food based on awareness, availability, access, affordability, and acceptability. Barriers to access and high costs lead to food poverty, particularly for vulnerable households. The Limerick Food Partnership, a collaboration of academic, community, and voluntary organisations, is conducting a two-year project to map healthy food choices locally and develop a food poverty strategy. Established over 15 years ago, the partnership has strong connections with local agencies. Similar projects are occurring across Ireland, and we aim to create a national network to enhance knowledge, coordination, and policy influence on food security and sustainable food environments.

Muireann Prendergast	South East Technological University	1a	Time to be seen: Promoting gender balance in media discourses on agriculture and rural communities in Ireland	Research Ireland	€8,278.37	Irish mainstream media have traditionally overlooked the contribution of women to agriculture and rural communities due to their remote locations and male dominance of land ownership. In partnership with Macra na Feirme, this project will analyse gender discourses in media coverage of farming and rural affairs and, through the Agri-Rural Gender & Media (ARGM) Forum event, bring together representatives of farm and rural communities with journalists to discuss issues, challenges and opportunities for media representations. This project will foster a relationship between participants to increase farm and rural women's involvement in news processes and develop resources for inclusive gender discourses.
Irina Kinchin	Trinity College Dublin	1a	Developing an integrated care pathway for implementing disease-modifying therapies in Alzheimer's	Research Ireland	€12,000.00	For the past 20 years, no new licensed drugs have been available for Alzheimer's disease. Soon, disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) will be available in Ireland to slow its progression. However, these expensive drugs require significant changes in our healthcare system. An implementation plan, or care pathway, is needed to guide clinicians, patients, and policymakers. This plan should involve various stakeholders to ensure inclusive and effective integration of these treatments. This effort will enhance the quality of life for Alzheimer's patients and serve as a model for future healthcare improvements, ensuring equitable access to advanced therapies for all citizens.
Ailish Malone	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	1a	The Youth Experience Matters Action project: a community partnership to co-design a resource for supporting participation in physical activity by people with disability	Research Ireland	€12,000.00	Young people with physical disability are less physically active than non-disabled people. Our research tells us they prefer activities they can do with friends in the community, that make them feel involved by being accessible and accommodating to their needs. However, they struggle to find activities that suit. Working with our civic partner, IWA-Sport, we will co-design a web-based resource for disabled people to find suitable physical activities in their community. We will do this over 12 months by convening three workshops with young people with disability, clinicians, and community sports representatives, and designers, using a method called Design Thinking.

Clíodhna Murphy	Maynooth University	1a	The Role of Medical Evidence of Torture in the Irish International Protection Process	Research Ireland	€11,932.00	Medico-legal reports (MLRs) play a vital role in the international protection process by providing objective medical evidence in relation to a torture survivor's application. However, there has been no research into the role and impact of MLRs in practice in Ireland. This socio-legal project will analyse decisions of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal to determine the impact of MLRs in the work of the Tribunal. It will interview decision-makers about their experiences of interpreting and applying MLRs. The project outputs will enhance transparency within the international protection system, support quality decision-making, and promote timely access to protection for torture survivors.
Sarah Arnold	Maynooth University	1a	Ireland's missing film heritage: Early animation and the work of Flora Kerrigan	Research Ireland	€11,988.00	This project is a collaboration between the PI and the Irish Film Institute Irish Film Archive (IFA). It aims to preserve and make accessible a collection of recently re-discovered 1950s-1960s animation by Irish filmmaker Flora Kerrigan. In doing so, the project leverages the PI's research capabilities, and the IFA's archiving and public dissemination capabilities. The project identifies and remedies a significant blind spot in Ireland's animation history and women's filmmaking history by highlighting the thus far unknown works of Kerrigan. It achieves this by undertaking a range of collaborative dissemination activities including screenings, exhibition, stream of films and academic publication.
Niamh NicGhabhann	University of Limerick	1a	Locating Loss: Histories of Infertility in Landscapes and Spaces	Research Ireland	€11,999.00	Despite medical advances, infertility remains a public health challenge, impacting c. 25 million Europeans. Research on infertility highlights experiences of silence and stigma. The lived experience of infertility has many histories, and these are connected to sites and landscapes. LocateLoss will contribute to the combatting of stigma and silence by surfacing these under-researched spatial histories. Through multi-disciplinary collaborative seminars, the project will examine where and how individuals engaged with experiences of infertility in historic landscapes and spaces – pilgrimages, rituals, folk practices, and spaces of intercession and devotion in formal religious sites. A public-facing podcast and booklet will be produced.

Marlene McCormack	Dublin City University	1a	Enhancing Civic Society: Towards alternative community-based models of early childhood education and care (ECEC)	Research Ireland	€11,346.73	This project is a collaboration between, DCU (lead academic) and UofG (partner), along with StartBright (lead community-based group) and Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta (partner). Drawing on an engaged methodology, the project will, establish networks between academia and civic society partners to collaboratively analyse a sustainable community-based model of ECEC, incorporating strengths and challenges in provision. Findings will be disseminated through a report, and a final conference/seminar. At this critical point of sectoral development, a documented alternative model of provision will inform discourse and policy surrounding ECEC as an essential public good (Urban, 2020).
Valesca Lima	Dublin City University	1a	Safeguarding Licensees' Rights in Ireland's Rental Sector	Research Ireland	€12,000.00	This project addresses the information deficit faced by residential licensees in Ireland's rental sector. Licensees are individuals renting a room from an existing tenant. Many of them lack understanding of their rights, obligations, and recourse to justice, making them vulnerable to rental exploitation. Taking an active approach regarding the principle of empowerment through knowledge, the project aims to raise awareness of licensees' rights, enhance rental policies, and improve access to justice via accessible information. These efforts support the civic partner's strategic goals, strengthen ties between researchers and civic organizations, and contribute to housing scholarship.
Irene Hartigan	University College Cork	1a	Collaborative Co-design and Co-development of Public Patient Involvement (PPI) of Co-researcher Capacity in Transnational Interdisciplinary Research: Introduction to PPI in Dementia Research Microcredential	Research Ireland	€11,953.00	Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) entails collaboration between patients and the public throughout the research process. This project will establish an international knowledge exchange PPI partnership to facilitate the sharing of expertise and supporting partner engagement between researchers in dementia care, individuals living with dementia, their caregivers/families, and five civic society partners (CSPs) in Ireland and Canada. This network will utilise a PPI approach to co-develop a micro-credential in PPI for dementia research, Through a co-design and development process, this micro-credential, potentially titled 'Global PPI Collaborative Certification in Dementia', will significantly support dementia care research and future research collaborations.

Caroline Heary	University of Galway	1a	Le Chéile: Working together to support young people and families during the transition from paediatric to adult services	Research Ireland	€12,000.00	While national and international guidelines are available to support healthcare transition, young people and parents frequently identify challenges and barriers. Research suggests that health care outcomes after transition can often be poor. In collaboration with Helium Arts and Children in Hospital in Ireland, this proposal aims to provide a platform for discourse and knowledge sharing. Objectives include bringing together diverse voices to foster new partnerships, identify opportunities for collaboration and explore solutions for moving forward. Young people, representatives from paediatric and adult health services, and voluntary sector will also be invited to explore the role of creativity in supporting transition.
Louise Fitzgerald	Dublin City University	1a	Acknowledging and Leveraging Emotions for successful and just Renewable Transitions	Research Ireland	€11,896.75	How to foster engagement with climate issues and promote pro-environmental behaviour remains a central challenge of climate policy-making and environmental advocacy efforts. Current approaches focus on raising climate awareness and incentivising climate-friendly behaviour, such as the carbon tax. However, these approaches underestimate the role of emotions in how people relate to the renewable transition. This oversight undermines the potential to engage people for pro-environmental behaviour and risks pushback against the transition. This project will address the overlooked dimension of emotions to identify successful policy and civil society advocacy approaches for empowering, effective engagement to build just and sustainable energy transitions.
Cian Ó Concubhair	Maynooth University	1a	The Role of Crime & Security Journalism in Our Democracy	Research Ireland	€11,985.00	Questions of police surveillance of journalists and journalists' obligations to protect confidential sources have been subject to significant ongoing litigation and controversy in Ireland. ROCJOD focuses on a crucial, yet unexamined, dimension to this issue: the role of crime and security journalism (CSJ) in democracy. ROCJOD will establish an empirical base in the under-researched field of CSJ, with Ireland as an illustrative case study. It also examines the impact of state security and surveillance practices on CSJ. Finally, ROCJOD will provide novel insights into the practical reality of freedom of expression in Europe, from journalists working in highly sensitive fields.

Miguel Flores	National College of Ireland	1a	Enhancing university-to-work transition of students with disabilities through work placements: assessing barriers and facilitators in Irish Higher Education	Research Ireland	€11,984.00	Universities increasingly offer Degree-Embedded Voluntary work Placements (DEVPs) so that students can apply knowledge, develop transferable skills and build networks thus improving career prospects and employability. However, evidence suggests that Students with Disabilities (SwDs) are less likely to participate in such opportunities, thereby missing on the abovementioned benefits. Given the increasing number of SwDs accessing Irish Higher Education (13.2% of students in 2021/22 compared to less than 1% in 1994), it is crucial to facilitate their university-to-work transition. This project will explore how SwDs can be better supported to engage with and successfully complete DEVPs to enhance their employability.
Patrick Doyle	University of Limerick	1c	CoopNet: Establishing a Social and Solidarity Economy Research Network of Ireland	Research Ireland	€9,881.35	Over the past century the social and solidarity (SSE) impact on Irish development in agriculture, finance, and housing has been important. However, a research network that studies how co-operative values and solidaristic institutions can address critical issues around climate, housing, and democracy does not exist. This proposed SSE research network, CoopNet, addresses this imbalance. The network's main objectives are: 1. Create an interdisciplinary and sustainable research network of academics and practitioners, working on the SSE, to develop impactful research. 2. Organise conferences and publish outputs through which research is developed, disseminated and around which the network can cohere and grow.
Saumava Mitra	Dublin City University	1c	Digital Sensitivity and Security for Exile Networking and Tracking	Research Ireland	€9,988.10	Censored for their work by repressive regimes, more journalists have been forced to report from exile in the last few years than ever before. Crucial to ensuring access to information in authoritarian countries, they are vulnerable to digital security threats from hostile actors because they must communicate digitally with their sources, audiences and with each other. Exiled journalists and various experts will be consulted in this project to identify and report the problems they face in protecting themselves digitally. A set of evidence-based recommendations to ensure exiled journalists' digital security, and a prototype secure information exchange platform, will be made.
Miguel Bustamante	University College Dublin	1c	2nd European Fluid Dynamics Conference	Research Ireland	€9,720.00	High-quality expertise in fluid dynamics is scattered across various disciplines and Irish

			(Dublin, 26-29 August 2025)			Universities. We have identified a common theme amongst them: Fluid Dynamics for Sustainability. Applied and fundamental research in fluid dynamics is central to sustainability and the green transition: wind/tidal energy, climate, thermofluids, clean air/water. We secured the participation of 10 research groups from 6 Irish Universities in our proposed interdisciplinary Network, with complementary interests/expertise. Our Network members will present their scientific research at the most prestigious European conference on Fluid Dynamics (EFDC2, UCD, August 2025, https://euomech.org/conferences/folder-efdc/EFDC2). Our Network will lead future research collaborations and grant applications on Sustainability.
Saranya Rameshkumar	Trinity College Dublin	1c	Nanoengineered Membranes for Biomethane Recovery and Capturing Carbon Emissions	Research Ireland	€9,900.00	Ireland's climate action plan demands technological innovations to meet out its net-zero carbon emission and biomethane production targets [1, 2]. Membrane-based technologies are at the forefront of supporting nation's decarbonization strategies by deploying innovative gas separation membranes for carbon capture and biomethane recovery. However, it involves diverse technological challenges in achieving mechanical stability and selectivity of nanoengineered membranes for capturing point of source carbon dioxide emissions. Such challenges related to process engineering and materials aspects will be addressed by building an inter-disciplinary research network for demonstrating the proof-of-concept carbon capture technology using nanoengineered membranes with ecofriendly sol-gel coatings.

Iker Erdocia	Dublin City University	1c	Understanding and countering dis/misinformation from a multilingual perspective	Research Ireland	€9,994.00	While generative AI offers opportunities to enhance democratic processes, it also presents numerous risks to democracies. This project seeks to mitigate the harmful societal impacts of the digital transition by understanding and countering dis/misinformation from a comparative European perspective, with a specific focus on medium-sized and minority languages, particularly Irish. By bringing together sociolinguists, computer scientists and other stakeholders, this project aims to open up a space of dialogue to establish a solid network of researchers that contribute to the development of AI tools to track disinformation narratives in Irish and other under-researched European medium-sized and low-resource languages.
Mathias Urban	Dublin City University	1c	From marketised models to competent systems for the public good - an interdisciplinary response to critical questions of early childhood education and care in Ireland	Research Ireland	€9,890.41	High-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) benefits children, families, and society; conversely, poor-quality ECEC provision results in poorer outcomes for children and poses risks to their well-being and development. As Ireland sees record levels of investment and spending in ECEC, government must ensure public spending results in high-quality provision that benefits children, families, and society. This project will build the capacity of an interdisciplinary research team from across Dublin City University (DCU) to draw on expert knowledge and evidence-informed approaches that can inform public policy and decision-making for fair and efficient investment in ECEC as an essential public good.
Jools Gilson	University College Cork	1c	Climate Science and Arts Practice: Sustainability Literacy and Action	Research Ireland	€10,000.00	This project focusses on the development of an Arts & Sustainability Festival in Cork City by researching and re-thinking the place of Arts Practice within sustainability discourses at local and governmental level. Arts Practice goes beyond science communication to bring the intelligence of embodiment, emotional engagement and located experience to audiences and participants. Partners include SDSN Ireland and Cork City Council. Research will involve multi-stakeholder consultations with community groups from across Cork City. Workshops will pilot creative strategies for collaborative partnership between artists and scientists and learning from this workshop will inform the development of the proposed Arts & Sustainability Festival.

Caitriona Dowd	University College Dublin	4	Network on Conflict-Affected Agriculture in Nigeria	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,990.00	A worldwide food crisis is severely undermining global health, human security, and progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2. While there is widespread agreement that conflict causes hunger, we also know not all conflicts cause the same level of food crisis. What is still unclear is how various conflict tactics and dynamics, and their intersections with specific aspects of agriculture, lead to different food security outcomes. This network brings together experts in conflict studies and smallholder agriculture to explore knowledge gaps, map available evidence and propose priority areas to improve agricultural resilience and overall food security in conflict, focused on Nigeria.
Amit Haldar	Technological University of the Shannon	4	Novel Method for Microplastic Detection in Shannon (Ireland) and Zambezi (Zambia) Rivers using Spectroscopy and Deep Learning	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,500.00	This project tackles the growing threat of microplastics in rivers and surrounding cities. It proposes a novel detection method utilizing advanced spectroscopic techniques and electron microscopy to analyze water samples collected from the Shannon River in Ireland and the Zambezi River near Kariba Lake in Zambia. Additionally, Artificial neural network will be trained on spectral data to identify and classify microplastics. This combined approach aims to develop a cost-effective and reliable method for monitoring microplastic pollution in freshwater systems, informing policies to combat this environmental and health threat.
Shane Darcy	University of Galway	4	Supporting accountability, facilitating exchange and engendering human rights in the protection, rebuilding and development of third-level education in Palestine	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€10,000.00	Scholars and places of higher learning are often deliberately targeted during times of armed conflict. This is exemplified in Gaza at present. SAFEGUARD will explore human rights and international law standards concerning the protection of third-level education during conflict and occupation. It will consider accountability for scholasticide in the Palestinian context, a human rights-based approach to reconstruction and avenues for reparation. SAFEGUARD aims to advance research collaboration between universities in Ireland and Palestine by developing a roadmap for further cooperation aimed at enhancing the legal framework for the protection of third-level education during wartime, with a particular focus on Palestine.

Fiona Murphy	Dublin City University	4	Urban Market Matriarchs: Sustaining Livelihoods and Inclusion for Third-Age Female Street Traders in Vientiane and Dublin	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,940.84	This project is a comparative study of third age female street traders in Vientiane and Dublin. We examine how these women negotiate liminal spaces within the informal job sector. Over 80% of all vendors in Vientiane are female, suffering from the same social and economic inequalities as those in this sector globally. Female vendors on Moore Street in Dublin's city centre also experience similar precarity. Both cities have experienced significant inward migration with informal markets acting as epicentres for newly arrived migrants. We investigate if their social and community connectedness can be harnessed to facilitate social inclusion and cohesion.
Annie Cummins	Munster Technological University	4b	Empowering the Early Childhood Educator to Implement an Authentic ESD Approach with Young Learners	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	€10,000.00	Developing educators' capacity to support Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is crucial. Many Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) educators feel unprepared for the task. In partnership with OMEP Ireland, this project aims to create an online learning platform to enhance educators' understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and children's rights to provide engaging, playful learning opportunities for ESD. The platform will foster a community of practice for sharing experiences and resources and support reflective practice to help educators continuously improve their ESD teaching methods. This initiative will empower educators to effectively integrate sustainability practices into early childhood education.
Kathy Sullivan	University of Galway	4b	Supporting Pre-service Post-Primary Teachers' Knowledge of Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in the classroom	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,966.96	Teachers play a critical role in supporting GCE for young people. This project aims to support pre-service post-primary teachers of Art and Mathematics in developing their GCE-related knowledge and pedagogical skills. A new collaboration has been established between two Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers in the West of Ireland. This intervention, which centres on the integration of novel GCE workshops in the respective ITE programmes, aims to support pre-service teachers in the development of their critical consciousness on issues of global significance. Furthermore, it will enable the pre-service teacher to enhance their pedagogical capacity to embed GCE in their teaching.

Brigid Golden	Mary Immaculate College	4b	Get Critical: Expanding and adapting a conceptual framework for critical global learning for use in new contexts	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,991.38	Critical thinking is a core component of global citizenship education (GCE) which enables learners to be responsive to ever evolving global challenges. This project will work through the adaptation of an established framework for critical thinking within GCE. The framework was designed by the PI for use in a unique context, but this project will explore how this framework can be adapted for use in other contexts. There are two proposed outcomes from this project: to share the feasibility and process of adapting an established framework, and to offer a practical resource for practitioners to consider their own practice.
Mairead Hurley	Trinity College Dublin	4b	Ar Scáth a Chéile: Co-creating Evidence-Based Recommendations for Cross-Sectoral Partnerships and Whole-School Approaches to ESD	Department of Education	€10,000.00	Ar Scáth a Chéile is a collaborative project between Trinity College Dublin's School of Education and the Irish Sustainability Schools Network. It supports the implementation of ESD to 2030: the national strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Through research in an innovative sustainability leadership programme in a post-primary school, the project will examine how partnerships and whole-school approaches influence students' sustainability competences. Findings will be shared at a summit involving educators, students, policymakers, and industry leaders. Through this exchange across sectors, Ar Scáth a Chéile will co-create effective guidelines and foster a collaborative network to support ESD in Ireland.
Thomas Delahunty	Maynooth University	4b	Mapping heteroactivist resistance to childhood education on gender and sexualities as core to global citizenship	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,730.00	The project aims to analyse the discourse used by social actors resisting LGBTQ+ equality in childhood education, within the framework of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to 2030. It focuses on advancing policy, transforming learning environments, and building educator capacity. This research addresses global citizenship education (GCE) goals, especially regarding gender equality and inclusive RSE education. It critically examines far-right and heteroactivist discourse, uncovering its impact on educational content and policy, particularly in Ireland. The project includes phases of discourse analysis, interviews, report generation, and a dissemination workshop with practitioners, aiming to inform democratic counter-narratives and promote transformative learning environments.

Ita Kennelly	National College of Ireland	4b	Critical Capacities Education Programme	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / Irish Aid	€9,300.00	The programme is about building capacity to engage more critically, safely and compassionately in the digital world. It explores the value of multiple perspectives and how diversity contributes to creativity. It promotes critical online engagement and encourages learners to question the norms of the digital world including toxic online discourse, trolling, cancel culture. It explores the concept of narrative imagination which espouses that living more fully in society is about being able to appreciate the perspectives of others. Criticality and compassion together provide a basis for students to examine the digital world where humanity and empathy can often feel lacking.
Robert Lynch	University of Limerick	4b	Primary School Outreach through Hands-On Battery Construction for Promotion of Gender Equality in Physics	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Irish Aid	€9,999.83	The Physics Department at the University of Limerick, in collaboration with physicists at the Technological University of the Shannon, aims to foster interest in physics amongst primary school pupils while promoting gender equality through a hands-on electrochemical battery workshops. University undergraduates will visit schools, present themselves as diverse role models encouraging all pupils to pursue physics. During these workshops pupils will build and test non-toxic batteries, learning about physics applications. Questionnaires will be completed to assess the project. Initially targeting 2-3 primary schools, the project seeks to spark interest in science and highlight contributions from both male and female physicists.
Charles O'Mahony	University of Galway	10	Living Independently & Free from Targeted abuse (LIFT)	Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA)	€19,882.00	The 'Living Independently & Free from Targeted abuse' (LIFT) project addresses the under-explored and increasingly prevalent issue of 'mate crime', where people with intellectual disabilities are targeted by criminals within their communities. This project will partner with disabled individuals, the Blue Teapot Theatre Company, and Ireland's largest disability service provider to create a comprehensive research report and an audio-visual community theatre piece highlighting mate crime. By raising awareness, identifying barriers, and suggesting solutions through both research and artistic expression, the LIFT project aims to involve key stakeholders from the justice system to enhance responses and support for victims of mate crime.

Mara Van Twuijver	University College Cork	15	Exploring Cork's Agri-Food Social Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	Department of Rural and Community Development	€20,000.00	Europe and Ireland aim to achieve ambitious climate goals, to which social enterprises can significantly contribute. The agri-food sector, vital to Ireland's economy, must be part of this green transition. This study focuses on Cork City, a city with a strong food tradition, to understand how to support social enterprises in this sector. Using an entrepreneurial ecosystems framework, the study examines the existing support structures and identifies opportunities for growth. This study will consider needs on the level of the ecosystem and the level individual organisation to determine support needed for social enterprises to thrive in the agri-food sector.
Isobel Cunningham	Atlantic Technological University	15	Social Enterprises and the Shared Services Model	Department of Rural and Community Development	€20,000.00	Social enterprises (SEs) face unique challenges due to limited resources and infrastructure. The Shared Services model presents an innovative solution to these challenges by enabling SEs to collaborate and share resources. This research proposal aims to explore the transformative potential of the Shared Services model in driving sustainable economic development and empowering social enterprises. In line with OECD (2022) conclusions, by identifying the benefits and challenges of this innovative model and exploring sourcing resources among local partners, this would strengthen social enterprises sustainability. This study will identify learning from shared resourcing, thus sustaining and upskilling SEs and building capacity.
Jonathan Cherry	Dublin City University	17	Minor placenames in Ireland: promoting and facilitating 'citizen humanities' in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage	The Heritage Council	€9,959.00	Minor placenames are an integral component of our intangible cultural heritage that strengthen cultural identity and place attachment at individual, group and community levels. This interdisciplinary project will devise a series of guides and workshops to promote and facilitate a citizen humanities approach to the collection of minor placenames in Ireland. The existing network of local heritage officers will play a pivotal role in promoting this at a local level amongst interested individuals and various community groups. The project will leverage the existing Meitheal Logainm.ie platform, which was designed for the decentralised collection and dissemination of minor placenames.

Appendix: New Foundations 2024 Strands

- Strand 1a: Enhancing Civic Society within a national context
- Strand 1c: Interdisciplinary Research Networking Awards
- Strand 4: 'A Better World' New Foundations Awards in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Irish Aid)
- Strand 4b: Education for Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development New Foundations Awards, in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Irish Aid), the Department of Education and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Strand 10: Exploring Policing and Community Safety New Foundations Award, in partnership with the Policing Authority
- Strand 15: 'Social Enterprise Impact and Skill Requirements' New Foundations Award in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development
- Strand 17: The Heritage Council New Foundations Award