

NORF Open Research Fund

Open Research Stimulus Call 2023

The National Open Research Forum reserves the right to amend this call document

1. Aim	1
2. Guidelines	3
2.1 Eligibility Criteria	3
2.2 Additional Conditions	3
2.3 Eligible Costs	4
2.4 Conditions on Granting	4
2.5 Grant Funding Principles	5
3. Application Procedure	6
3.1 Requirements	6
3.2 Submission	6
3.3 Assessment	6
3.4 Key Dates	6

1. Aim

The NORF Open Research Stimulus Call 2023 seeks to stimulate and advance the uptake of open research by recognising and rewarding researchers from all disciplines who want to play a leading role in advancing open research in Ireland. The call to stimulate open research is an open call for projects that align with and address one of the three themes of the [National Action Plan for Open Research](#):

- Establishing a culture of open research
- Achieving 100% open access to research publications
- Enabling FAIR research data and other outputs

For further details of each of the three themes, please consult p.6 of the [National Action Plan for Open Research](#).

Proposals will need to make a case for how they advance national objectives in the National Action Plan under at least one of the three themes as well as specific goals and/or actions. Projects will need to be targeted at and benefit a specific community or group of communities (e.g. disciplines, institutions, career stages).

A budget range of €50,000–€100,000 per proposal is specified, and it is anticipated that 7-10 proposals will be funded under this call.

Examples of activities that could be proposed include:

Theme One: Establishing a Culture of Open Research

- Community networks, national or international partnerships, (cross)institutional competence centres and or fellows/champions that promote and support open research practices or elements thereof. Programmes involving Early Career Researchers and other potentially vulnerable or underrepresented groups in the national dialogue on open research are particularly encouraged (corresponding to Action 3.2.2 in the National Action Plan: “Continuously monitor the impact of the transition to open research on potentially vulnerable groups such as ECRs and identify support structures”).
- Research on (open) research to better understand, evaluate and experiment with different aspects of research systems and cultures.

Theme Two: Achieving 100% Open Access to Research Publications

- Publishing initiatives to expand support for open access digital dissemination and encourage publishing innovations such as better linking of publications, data and code, open peer review, integration of persistent identifiers, long-term preservation of the scholarly record etc. (corresponding to Action 4.3.2 in the National Action Plan: “Expand open access support to a wider range of publication types and encourage publishing innovations. These include, for example, open access monographs and book chapters, preprints, overlay journals, open peer review, and the interlinking of scholarly outputs through open publication platforms”).

Theme Three: Enabling FAIR Research Data and Other Outputs

- Tools, services and platforms to support open research, reproducibility of research results, research data management in line with the FAIR principles, and the stewardship and preservation of outputs (data, software etc.). Note that proposed tools, services or platforms must be demonstrably connected to existing infrastructures, tools, services and standards.

Projects that will be considered out of scope of this call are projects that have as the primary or sole aim to:

- make individual publications open access e.g., through the payment of author-facing fees;
- make individual datasets or resources open, reproducible, or findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR);
- develop databases, repositories or platforms disconnected from existing infrastructures, tools, services and standards;
- address actions which have received funding from NORF under the [2022 Priority Actions Call](#), or are expected to receive funding under the 2023 Priority Actions Call.

2. Guidelines

2.1 Eligibility Criteria

The NORF Open Research Stimulus Call 2023 specifically targets researchers as lead applicants, but contributors who are in other roles (e.g. research support staff) can form part of the broader project team.

Researchers from all disciplines and at all career stages can submit as a lead applicant if:

- They are a researcher employed (i.e. hold a salaried position) at a publicly-funded higher education institution. These organisations are listed on the website of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5088c-list-of-publicly-funded-higher-education-institutions/>
- In addition to the above, researchers employed (i.e. holding a salaried position) at the following organisations are eligible as lead applicants:
 - Health Service Executive (HSE)
 - HEAnet
 - ICHEC
 - Marine Institute (Foras na Mara)
 - SFI Research Centres
 - Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority)
- They also have an appointment period for at least the duration of the application procedure and the entire duration of the proposed project.

2.2 Additional Conditions

- Each proposal must have one lead institutional partner that meets the conditions above, and collaborations across institutions are encouraged.
- Additional contributors (partner institutions and project members) do not need to meet the conditions laid out above for lead applicants.
- While proposals will be led by host institutions meeting the criteria specified under 2.1, the inclusion of partners from other research performing organisations, research funding organisations, research infrastructure providers and other research stakeholder groups will be welcome, including international organisations.
- The lead applicant may submit a maximum of one application to the NORF Open Research Stimulus Call 2023 in that capacity (i.e., as lead applicant).

2.3 Eligible Costs

Proposals submitted to the NORF Open Research Stimulus Call 2023 should have a proposed duration of either 12 months or 24 months and an estimated budget of €50,000-€100,000 (including overheads).

Personnel Costs

In relation to personnel, costs for both existing staff and/or newly hired staff for the project are eligible. Buyout costs for permanent existing staff are allowed (to support existing staff participation in a project through buyout of teaching or other duties), and must be clearly justified as with other costs.

FAIR Data Management Costs

FAIR data management costs refer to data management costs for data generated by the project and incurred within the lifetime of the project (i.e., necessary to manage, store, and archive data produced by, during and about the project). Only costs incurred during the lifetime of the award will be eligible.

Overheads

Overheads are calculated at 25% of full staff costs.

Equipment Costs

Equipment costs needed to implement the proposed project are eligible (i.e., infrastructure and associated services).

2.4 Conditions on Granting

Communication and Dissemination of Results

As part of project dissemination and reporting activities, successful applicants will be required to provide a final report that is written in an accessible and understandable manner, and to actively disseminate findings to reach relevant audiences.

International Context and Contacts

Successful applicants will be expected to reference and apply international best practice throughout their project, integrating key international experience and expertise as appropriate.

Open Research Requirements

Open Research practices should be followed and identified; a Data Management Plan is required as part of the full application (mandatory- as a separate document: [see Science Europe's DMP template](#)), along with a plan for updating it. It will be a condition of the grant that solutions are open (i.e., no vendor lock-in), that the dissemination of project outputs are Open Access, and that project data are managed and shared in compliance with the FAIR principles.

2.5 Grant Funding Principles

Institutions should be aware of the requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform circular (13/2014) relating to the Management of and Accountability of Grants. Institutions will be asked to confirm that the funds provided by NORF as outlined in the grant allocation letter will be used for the purposes intended and that the institution will comply with the Statement of Principles for Grantees (Appendix 2 of Circular 13/2014) relating to: Clarity; Governance; Value for money; and Fairness.

3. Application Procedure

3.1 Requirements

What is required to submit a proposal? The following documents should be submitted as individual files:

- A completed and signed application form in PDF format.
- A data management plan (see 2.4 Conditions on Granting) in PDF format.
- A Gantt chart to illustrate the project timelines, milestones and deliverables in PDF format.

Please note that application forms require institutional sign-off by the Lead Institution (i.e. the institution that employs the lead applicant).

3.2 Submission

All applications must be submitted via the Jotform by **17:00 (Irish local time) Friday, 9 June 2023**. The Jotform link is available on the NORF website (<https://norf.ie/2023-open-research-fund/>) under the heading “Open Research Stimulus 2023 - How to Apply”. Please note the following:

- Late applications will not be considered.
- Applications must be submitted in PDF format.
- Applications must be submitted by the Lead Applicant.

The application form is available at <https://norf.ie/2023-open-research-fund/>.

3.3 Assessment

Proposals submitted to the NORF Open Research Stimulus Call 2023 will undergo single-stage peer review by an international panel. Proposals will be assessed based on excellence of approach and outcomes, including the quality of the project proposal, the feasibility of the project plan, the expected impact and benefit to the Irish research and higher education community, and the open research track record of the lead applicant. NORF will seek to ensure a balanced and broad coverage of themes and actions.

3.4 Key Dates

2 March 2023	Call specifications and forms published
2 June 2023	FAQ deadline
9 June 2023	Application deadline
28 July 2023	Call outcome
2 October 2023	Award start date