

ERA-NET ERA-Gas Call 2016

Guidelines for Irish Applicants

All applications will be treated in confidence by DAFM and Teagasc, no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the evaluation of the proposal.

1. IRISH PARTICIPATION IN ERA-NET ERA-Gas FUNDING CALL

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in association with Teagasc invite applicants from eligible Irish Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) to submit joint research proposals under this ERA-NET ERA-Gas (European Research Area on Monitoring & Mitigation of Greenhouse gases from Agri- and Silvi-culture) Co-Fund Call, either as partners or coordinators.

The total indicative funding provided by DAFM and Teagasc in respect of this Call shall not exceed €1,000,000.

2. PROPOSAL REQUIRMENTS

Proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Involve a minimum of two DAFM approved Irish RPO's
2. Address at least one of the ERA-Gas Call's four thematic research areas
3. Avoid duplication of recent research work already undertaken or ongoing that incorporates the scope of the four Research Areas in the ERA-Gas Call
4. Closely align with [Sustainable Healthy Agri-Food Research Plan](#) (SHARP) – the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda covering the 'Sustainable Food Production and Processing' and 'Food for Health' priority areas of the [National Research Prioritisation Exercise](#)
5. Align with relevant national policy documents including but not restricted to [Food Wise 2025](#) the Government's [Action Plan for Jobs, Innovation 2020](#) and [Our Sustainable Future](#).

DAFM and Teagasc will require a national application form to be completed for any successful Irish based partners emerging from the process.

3. ELIGIBILITY

All DAFM approved RPOs in Ireland (including Teagasc, and the Higher Education Institutes) are eligible to participate and submit proposals. Public RPOs based in Northern Ireland are not eligible for national funding. The involvement of industry is also encouraged on a self financing basis subject to the need to respect the 'public good' nature of DAFM Research Funding Programmes and compliance with the National IP Protocol (see Section 6). Evidence of such industry engagement in a real and meaningful manner can help demonstrate the relevance and likely impact of the research work.

Irish applicants can apply for funding under the four thematic Research Areas; or a complementary combination of some/all four.

4. FUNDING RULES

Irish support for ERA-Gas is being provided through a combination of DAFM’s Research Stimulus Fund and Teagasc’s Walsh Fellowship Fund. The grant rate may be up to 100% funding for eligible costs. Eligible costs are the costs necessarily incurred in carrying out the research project as described in the project proposal. They must fulfil the following conditions:

- Be wholly necessary for the project.
- Be incurred during the timeframe of the project.
- Be recorded in separate financial accounts that will be maintained throughout the duration of the project and reported on as required.

Applications must include at least two Irish RPOs, each accounting for at least 10% of the overall combined grant requested from DAFM/Teagasc.* The total combined DAFM/Teagasc public funding to Irish RPOs shall not be greater than €333,333 per project. This must include €88,000 for a four-year Walsh Fellowship-funded PhD (€16,000/year stipend plus a maximum of €6,000/year fees). As the ERA-Gas Call invites proposals for three-year projects, the scientific work should be completed within the first three years in collaboration with the European partners to comply with ERA-Gas requirements as the overall project will have to present a final report to ERA-Gas after three years. The fourth year is primarily for completion of the PhD and writing up of the thesis. For this fourth year, a minimal Irish budget should be included to cover the cost of the Walsh Fellow fees and stipend and some minimal travel and consumables.

*This requirement will not apply to third and subsequent Irish partners on any project. Any project that does not comply with this requirement will be deemed ineligible at the national eligibility check at the pre-proposal stage of the evaluation.

Eligible costs will be allowed in the categories of:

(a) Staff Costs

Costs will be allowed for additional staff specifically hired to carry out work on the project including postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers/contract researchers, research assistants and research technicians. It excludes permanent staff employed by the institutions concerned. The staff costs should be in line with the minimum point of the appropriate pay scale for new entrants.

The non-student staff costs should be in line with the minimum point of the appropriate pay scale for new entrants. In general, DAFM’S research funding programme is focused on early stage researchers and accordingly DAFM will fund contributions to salaries of staff contracted to work on the project, commencing at the minimum point of the appropriate pay scale for new entrants. However, it is acknowledged that staffing needs to be commensurate with the scope, nature and level of sophistication of the research involved and therefore, in exceptional circumstances where it is well justified in the proposal, a more senior researcher can be considered provided their salary still commences at the minimum point of the appropriate higher scale.

DAFM will contribute a maximum of €6,000 towards the annual cost of postgraduate fees for up to three years (this is reduced accordingly where institutions charge reduced fees in final years). In addition DAFM will fund postgraduate student stipends at a flat rate of €18,000 per annum for up to three years **(please note that DAFM funding rules for postgraduate fees and stipends differ from Teagasc requirements for Walsh Fellow funded PhD's set out earlier in this section).**

(b) Equipment

Major items of equipment are not eligible for funding; however, a computer may be included in the budget if it can be shown to be necessary to the desk studies and otherwise unavailable. It should be clear exactly what the equipment is, thus the use of brand names is discouraged. The location of the equipment should be clearly indicated. VAT should be applicable in accordance with the institutions accounting procedures. A possible supplier should not be named as the relevant procurement rules will have to be adhered to, should the application be successful.

The costs of durable equipment to be charged to the project shall be calculated according to the following formula: $[(A/B) \times C \times D]$

A = the period in months during which the durable equipment is used for the project after invoicing

B = the depreciation period for the durable equipment: 36 months for computer equipment and 60 months for all other items of equipment

C = the actual cost of the durable equipment

D = the percentage of usage of the durable equipment for the project

(c) Travel and Subsistence (T & S)

Travel and related subsistence costs for all personnel engaged in undertaking the project may be claimed, but the vast majority of such T & S should be targeted at research personnel funded to work on the project in particular contract researchers and post graduate students. These costs must be specifically related to a specific identifiable project task. The T & S should be divided into domestic and foreign travel. Rates paid cannot exceed those for the Public Sector and airfares should be economy class. Travel and subsistence costs may also be claimed for Advisory Group members (including Stakeholder and Steering Groups) should such a group be deemed necessary/appropriate for a project. Repairs to/ maintenance of equipment is not eligible.

(d) Consumables

Items of consumables acquired for and used on the project may be allowed. All consumables should be necessary and directly related to the carrying out the work of the project and must be separately identifiable. A consumable is defined as an item which is used up / expires / is

exhausted over the duration of the project. It does not include items such as laboratory coats, general safety equipment, detergents, etc. – these should be met through the overheads. Subscriptions to scientific journals or membership of institutes, societies, are not eligible for funding. Repairs to/maintenance of equipment are not eligible.

(e) Overheads

Up to 30% of the direct costs of scientific-type research not including equipment subcontracting and other agreed costs (25% for desk-based socio-economic/policy type analysis) will be funded.

(f) Other agreed costs

DAFM and Teagasc may agree to fund costs, which are relevant to approved projects and are not covered by the categories cited above.

A description of what the 'Other' costs cover (eg. sub-contracting, software licences, warranties, specialised training course fees, external assistance etc.); the justification for those costs and their necessity to the project should be supplied.

With regard to external assistance, subject to obtaining good value for money, every possible effort must be made, in the first instance, to build an Irish institutional project consortium capable of completing all tasks attributable to Irish partners proposed in the project. However, where this is not feasible, a consultant / industry partner may be brought on board by way of providing external assistance to an institutional project partner. Where such external assistance is proposed, full justification should be provided. The external assistance is eligible for 100% of costs for services rendered. However, as a subcontractor it has no claim to any of the results, authorship of scientific papers or Intellectual Property generated by the project. The estimated cost, including a breakdown of costs for individual items is required, however a possible supplier should not be named at this stage as the relevant procurement rules will have to be adhered to should the application be successful.

(g) Ineligible Costs

Examples of Ineligible Costs include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Permanent staff costs
- Sick pay, maternity pay, redundancy payments or termination costs
- Hospitality or entertainment expenses, except such reasonable expenses accepted as wholly and exclusively necessary for carrying out the work on the project
- Office equipment and supplies
- Patent costs;
- Journal subscriptions and publication costs;
- Repairs to/maintenance of equipment
- Unnecessary or unsubstantiated expenditure

- Advertising costs

5. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

Prospective applicants should note that:

(a) As this is a public good measure, the research team is required to disseminate results / outputs of the project. However, dissemination activities should take account of the need to generate and/or protect any Intellectual Property (IP) arising from the research.

(b) In disseminating research achievements, public RPOs should acknowledge that funding was provided and administered by DAFM and Teagasc.

(c) DAFM and Teagasc may publicise details of applications and awards made under this measure.

(d) Information supplied to DAFM and Teagasc may be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and in accordance with the conditions of that Act.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Institutions must adhere to the National Intellectual Policy (IP) protocol '[Putting public research to work for Ireland](#)'

Successful applicants are required to take necessary steps to:

- (a) Preserve and protect such intellectual property rights including, where appropriate, applying for patent registration; and
- (b) Actively exploit any discoveries, inventions or processes resulting from the research, by means of commercial licensing arrangements and otherwise

Whenever possible, IP shall be managed for the benefit of enterprise development.

Where relevant, researchers are required to discuss research outputs and potential IP with their Technology Transfer Office.

7. AFTER FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Where Irish partnered projects received a positive funding recommendation at the end of the ERA-Gas evaluation process, the project partners must contact directly the Irish National Contact Point in order to start the grant negotiation process leading to the issuing of contracts to undertake the project.