



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Irish Research Council's COALESCE Research Fund 2020

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Strand

Funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Strand Title

'Re-imagining Cities for a Circular Bioeconomy Award 2021'

Introduction

- The Research and CODEX Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) is responsible for the strategic agenda-setting and the management of a research and innovation programme that addresses the needs of the Irish agri-food & biobased sector.
- This Division is part of the secretariat to the national bioeconomy implementation group (jointly chaired by the Departments of Agriculture, Food and Marine and Communications, Climate Action and Environment) that is implementing the [National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy \(published in March 2018\)](#). Through this policy statement, the Government recognises that the bioeconomy is crucial for decarbonisation, sustainability and circularity while also providing an impetus to competitiveness and rural, regional and urban development and employment.
- In addition, the recent Programme for Government outlines that research in the agri-food sector should prioritise investment areas, such as the bioeconomy, in order to open up new opportunities for the sector in a sustainable and circular manner.

Requirements for COALESCE Research Fund 2020:

This research opportunity seeks to cultivate and to grow high-quality research capacity in Ireland in response to key strategic policy objectives (sustainable economy and society; decarbonisation; jobs and competitiveness and regional prosperity) outlined in the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy.

The research opportunity particularly encourages interdisciplinary approaches for knowledge generation that will produce rigorous and influential evidence and learning, with a view to impacting at a societal level and with key stakeholders. The Programme seeks to elicit proposals from senior researchers with a proven research track record in established Irish research institutions.

The aims of the Programme in supporting this research opportunity are to:

- Provide opportunities for new collaborations between stakeholders in Ireland based around excellent research aligned within **one or more of the four policy priorities in the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy** and in the context of the **research topic area of “Reimagining Cities” for a regenerative food & biobased system based on the principles of a circular bioeconomy.**
- Generate impact on policy, particularly within the relevant policy community and to encourage a challenge-based approach to research, building national and collaborative capacity in this regard, with resulting outcomes in the concept area of “Reimagining Cities”.
 - Applicants to this strand should consider how a strategic approach to dissemination and policy impact will be established from the outset, including the identification of key stakeholders and communication channels, in line with DAFM’s objective to increase policy uptake of research.
- Enable the development of collaborative research capacity between Irish researchers, and to use this capacity to leverage success in Horizon Europe (FP9).
- Specific policy references are provided to guide applicants:
 - [A 10-point Action Plan to create a circular bioeconomy devoted to sustainable wellbeing - European Forest Institute – Circular Bioeconomy Initiative - Infographic](#)
 - [Ellen McArthur Food Initiative](#)
 - [National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy 2018](#)
 - [EU Bioeconomy Strategy 2018](#)
 - [Food 2030](#) which is an EU research and innovation policy response to the international policy developments including the SDGs and COP21 commitments and is built on key Food and Nutrition Security priorities on climate, nutrition, circularity & innovation

It is required that proposals made in response to this topic should demonstrate awareness of existing research, policies and EU funding opportunities in the area and outline how the proposal will build upon existing published research and other relevant national and international research.

Strand Description:

Research proposals should consider the connections and synergies between rural and urban areas for a regenerative food and bio-based system within the context of a “Re-imagined City”. Rural areas and producers are in a position to interact with urban areas in the development of a regenerative food and bio-based system to provide market requirements for healthy and nutritious food that is both climate and environmentally friendly. Additionally, such a regenerative system also seeks to use and valorise by-product resources present in cities to bring back into the bioeconomy to reduce biowaste including food waste and loss. A successful proposal would seek to examine an Irish city as a test bed and driver for sustainable food production and addressing circularity and bioeconomy in this manner. It is intended that Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick & Waterford are considered in scope - as identified by the [CSO for Census purposes](#).

Expected outputs from the award include a report and presentation to key stakeholders drawn from government, society and industry.

Application Requirements

Before the applicant deadline, a successful application shall be submitted by:

A Principal Investigator, with satisfactory track record and experience, who already holds a contract of sufficient duration with an eligible HEI or RPO to carry out the proposed research from the project start date until project end.

Applicants must be able to show how the proposed research will develop their existing portfolio of research skills and expertise and inform their teaching or practice.

Applicants must also demonstrate the value of their proposal to the policy and/or service communities. Proposals should be able to feed into policy through a multi-actor approach that demonstrates how cities in Ireland can positively impact Irish food production systems and rural areas through bioeconomy development and circularity.

Please see Section 4.3 for details on eligible costs.

Successful awardees will be expected to link with the Programme:

- A specified contact person will be nominated by DAFM (Patrick Barrett, DAFM)
- A representative from DAFM should be invited to participate in or provide a nominee to any steering group or advisory structure being convened to support the research project.
- DAFM must be consulted with regard to the launch and dissemination of findings.
- Awardees must comply with acknowledgement requirements as set out by the [Irish Research Council](#) and DAFM.
- Awardees must adhere to reporting requirements as outlined in section 6.4 of the COALESCE Terms and Conditions. Reports will be prepared by the grant recipients who are conducting the research (as requested by the Irish Research Council) in a format agreed in advance with DAFM and will include reference to all contributions received in the period under review in respect of the strategic partnership programme to confirm that there has been no duplication of funding.

The funded project must start in Q3 2021 and be completed in 18 months.

To this end:

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| Applications are invited for: | |
| Time frame | 18 months from commencement of project |
| Funding limit per project | Max €120,000 (including overheads at 25%) |