

EPA Research Call 2024

Information Webinar

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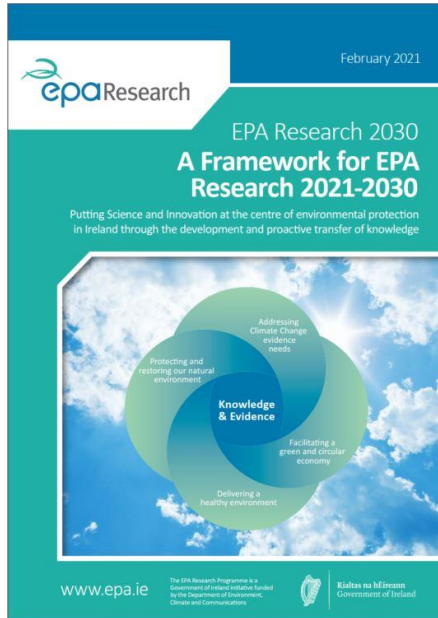


Overview



- EPA Research 2030
- EPA Research Call 2024
- Submission and Evaluation
- Application Guidance
- Financial Rules and Eligibility
- Q&A

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
- Employs different funding mechanisms, partnerships, proactive knowledge transfer

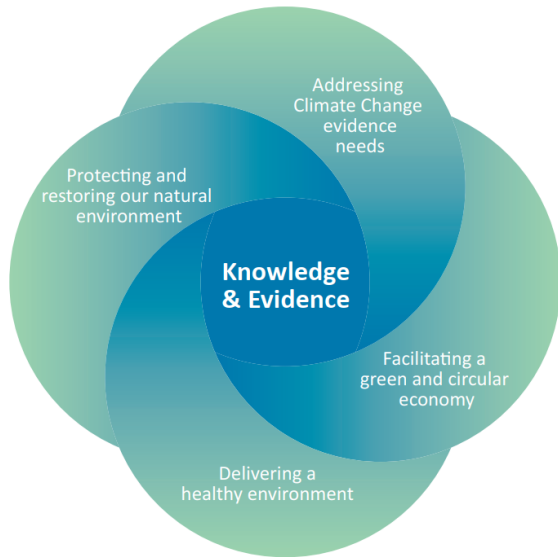
EPA Research 2030



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

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

EPA Research Call 2024



Thematic structure of 2024 Call

- **Primary Objectives**
 - Address current and future policy priorities relevant to environment, climate and sustainability
 - Build capacity and support innovative research in priority areas
- **13 Themes Open for Applications**
 - Diverse range of opportunities for STEM and AHSS
 - Opportunity for researchers to submit innovative proposals
 - Multiple projects to be funded under each Theme
 - Projects up to 4 years and €660k
 - €14.5m available in 2024 with possibility for reserve list in 2025

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1. ADDITIONAL CLIMATE EVIDENCE NEED

- Global Risks to Ireland Achieving Environmental Goals
- Developing Climate Neutral Path
- Social science, citizen science and science for climate action
- Understanding vulnerabilities, risk adaptation measures at the local level

2. FACILITATING A GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Integration of the Circular Economy and Bioeconomy into climate and biodiversity measures
- Enhancing the assessment of materials, and value chains in the Circular Economy Ireland
- Supporting and scaling up the just transition to the Circular Economy



3. DELIVERING HEALING ENVIRONMENT

- Towards Zero Pollution
- Chemicals that are safe and sustainable design
- Further Understanding the Healing Changing Environment



4. PROTECTING AND RESTORING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Integrating Nature into Decision-Making
- Implementing effective protect and restore solutions
- Supporting the transition to sustainable land use planning and management



EPA Research Call 2024



- 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:



EPA Research Call 2024



Call documentation:

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

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- **Important information on call structure, application process and content**
- **For each Theme**
 - **Scope and expected outputs**
 - **Call Topic Identifiers**
- **Information on 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
5. Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

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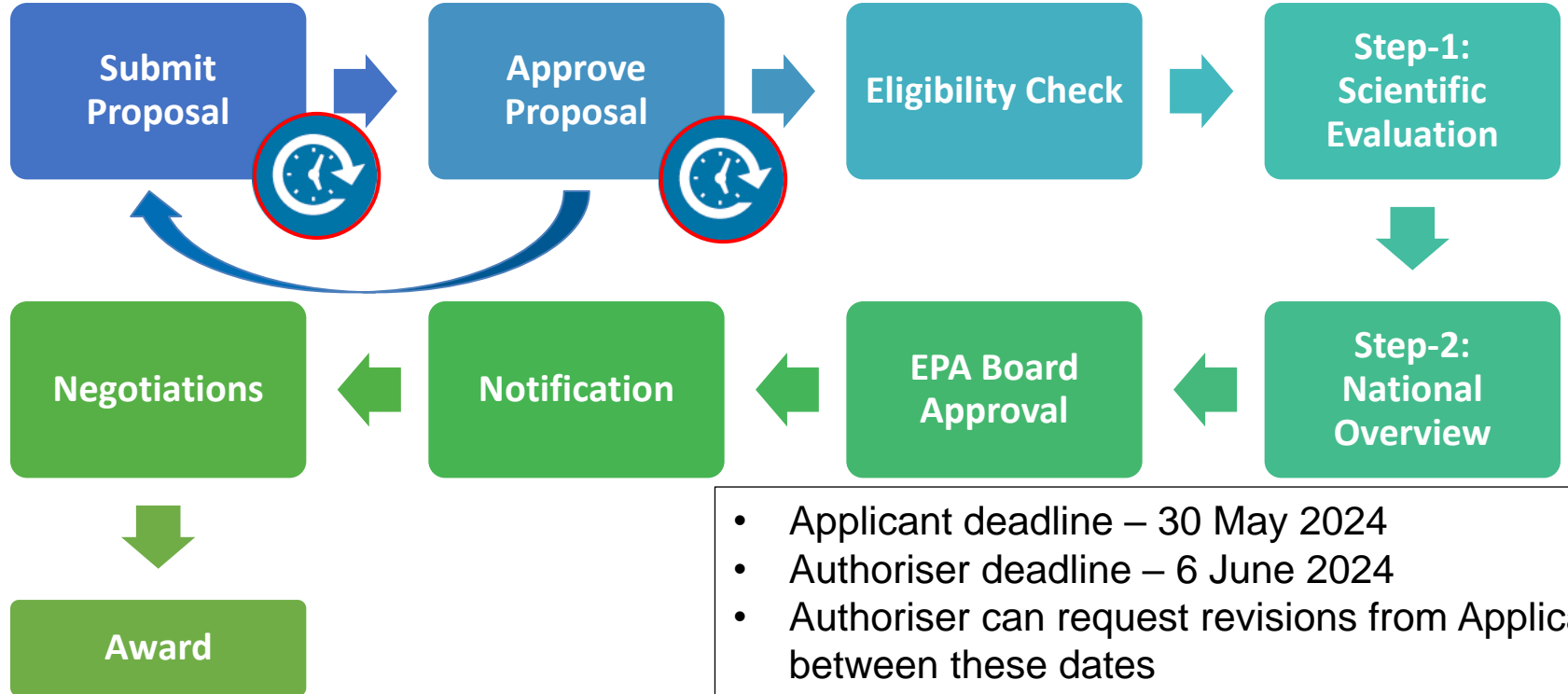


Call documentation:

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

- Available on our webpage
- Includes responses to frequently asked questions
- Responses to technical queries submitted by applicants

Submission and Evaluation Process



Eligibility Checks



- 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

Evaluation Process



Step 1: Scientific Evaluation

- Evaluation criteria (equally weighted)
 - Excellence
 - Communication, Dissemination and Knowledge Transfer to Deliver Impact
 - Implementation
- Proposals that meet threshold will 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

Evaluation Process



Things to remember

- Two-step evaluation process (see [evaluation document for details](#)):
 - Scientific/Technical Quality
 - National Overview (policy relevance, added value)
- Consider technical description document carefully.
- Policy context of proposal is important - consider policy/knowledge gap being addressed, relevant stakeholders, appropriate outputs, etc. Alignment/synergy/complementarity to ongoing work in EPA and elsewhere
- New [searchable database of funded projects available on EPA website](#)



Application Process



Review Technical Description

Access EPA Grant Management System

Create Draft

Download Templates

Complete Online Fields

Application Process



Review Technical Description

- Review background and scope
- Provides information on context, policy relevance, knowledge gaps important for application
- Use correct “*Call Topic Reference*” when creating application

ELIGIBILITY CRITERION

Social science, citizen science and behavioural science for climate action

Call Topic Reference:	Addressing Climate Change Evidence Needs - Topic 2		
Project Type:	Medium Scale Project (up to 3 projects to be funded)		
Maximum Budget:	€660,000	Maximum Duration:	48 months

Background

The EPA's [Climate Change in the Irish Mind](#) project shows that there is widespread agreement on many climate change attitudes and strong majority support for climate action amongst the Irish public. Social science, citizen science and behavioural science for climate action can be used to further understand and influence human behaviour in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Research under this theme should increase our understanding of how citizen science, the social sciences and behavioural science can be used to increase action on climate change in Ireland.

Scope

Innovative research proposals are invited in any of, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Building on existing research and knowledge, improve understanding of public perception, attitudes, beliefs and values related to climate change in Ireland. This includes studying factors

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 Reference*

Current Funding Opportunities

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

#	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

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 Reference*

Download Templates

- Use current Workpackage and Budget Templates (available on system)
- Adhere to page limits (Medium Scale Project – 20 pages)

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

Timeline



Step	Date
Technical Queries Deadline	23 May 2024 (16:00, Irish standard time)
Submission Deadline	30 May 2024 (16:00, Irish standard time)
Approval Deadline	6 June 2024 (16:00, Irish standard time)
Evaluation	July – September 2024
Notification / Negotiation	October/November 2024
Grants awarded	November/December 2024
Projects commence	By 31 March 2025

EPA Research Call 2024- Information Webinar

April 2024

A decorative graphic consisting of a grid of small dots in shades of blue, purple, and yellow, arranged in a pattern that curves across the right side of the image.

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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 2023 call ?
- 6 Are there any lessons learned from 2023 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 €165,000	6-12	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Medium Scale Studies	Up to €660,000	24-48	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Large Scale Studies	Up to €1.3m	36-48	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Capability Development	> €1.3m	48-60	Located on Island of Ireland	Yes	HEI, RPO, SML Company, NGO,PBE,Charity
Doctoral Scholarships	Up to €136,000	48	Located on Island of Ireland	No	HEI Only
Research Fellowships	Up to €330,000	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

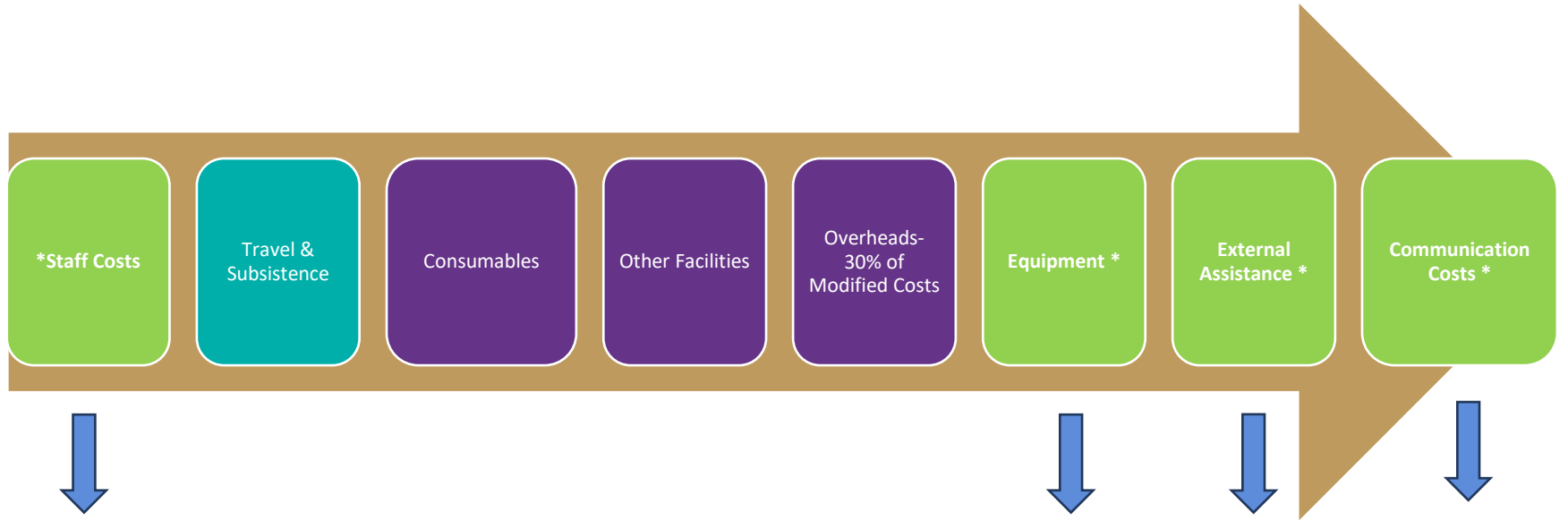
Exclude Any Profit
Margin

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 itemsave where it is specifically referred to in the guidelines as ineligible.

Categories of Eligible Expenditure



* Applicants not located on the Island of Ireland-only the costs of additional staff . Training costs, stipends, post-doc salaries, student fees, pension and social costs are also excluded and cannot be funded.

* Applicants 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 pay scale
- Should be based on payroll records of host organisation
- Where not available use IUA rates as basis of budget
- Max amount for PhD or Masters student stipend is now €25,000 per annum (increase from €18,500)
- Max amount for PhD or Masters 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 charge out, daily or consulting rates i.e. must be pay as per 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, memberships or affiliation fees (unless wholly, exclusively necessary)

Miscellaneous expenses

Be of a Type Normally Charged to Such Research Projects

Costs Associated with Recruitment- Including Travel, Visas etc

Contributions to Private Pension Schemes

Bonus payments

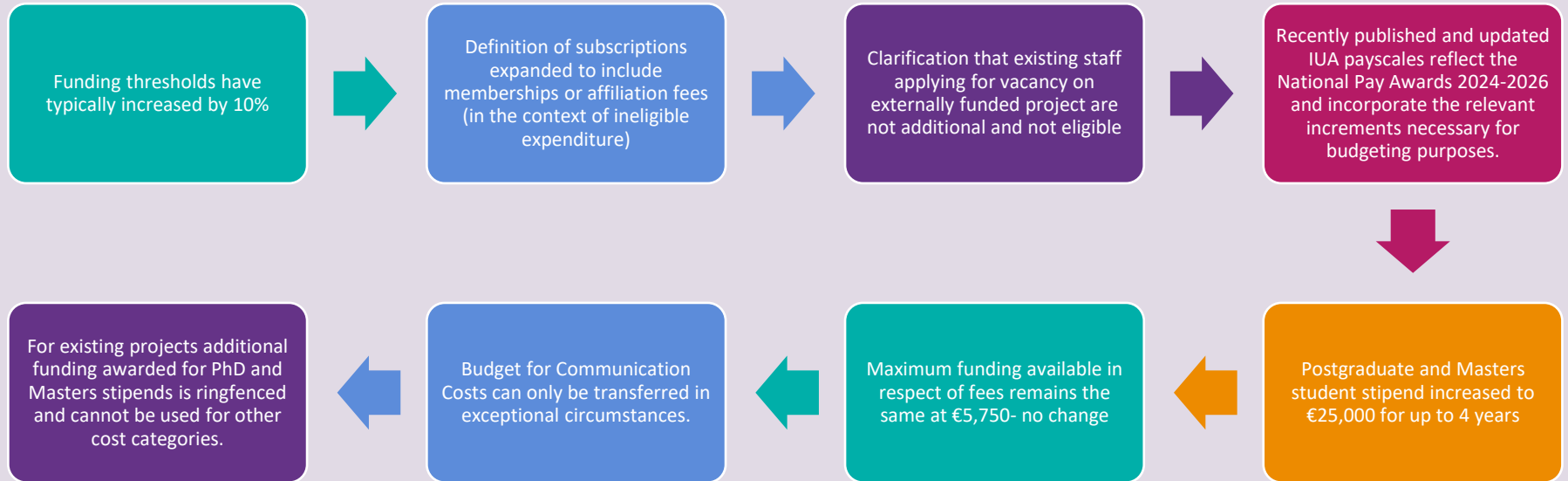
Perks

Benefits in-kind

Some changes from
previous call ?



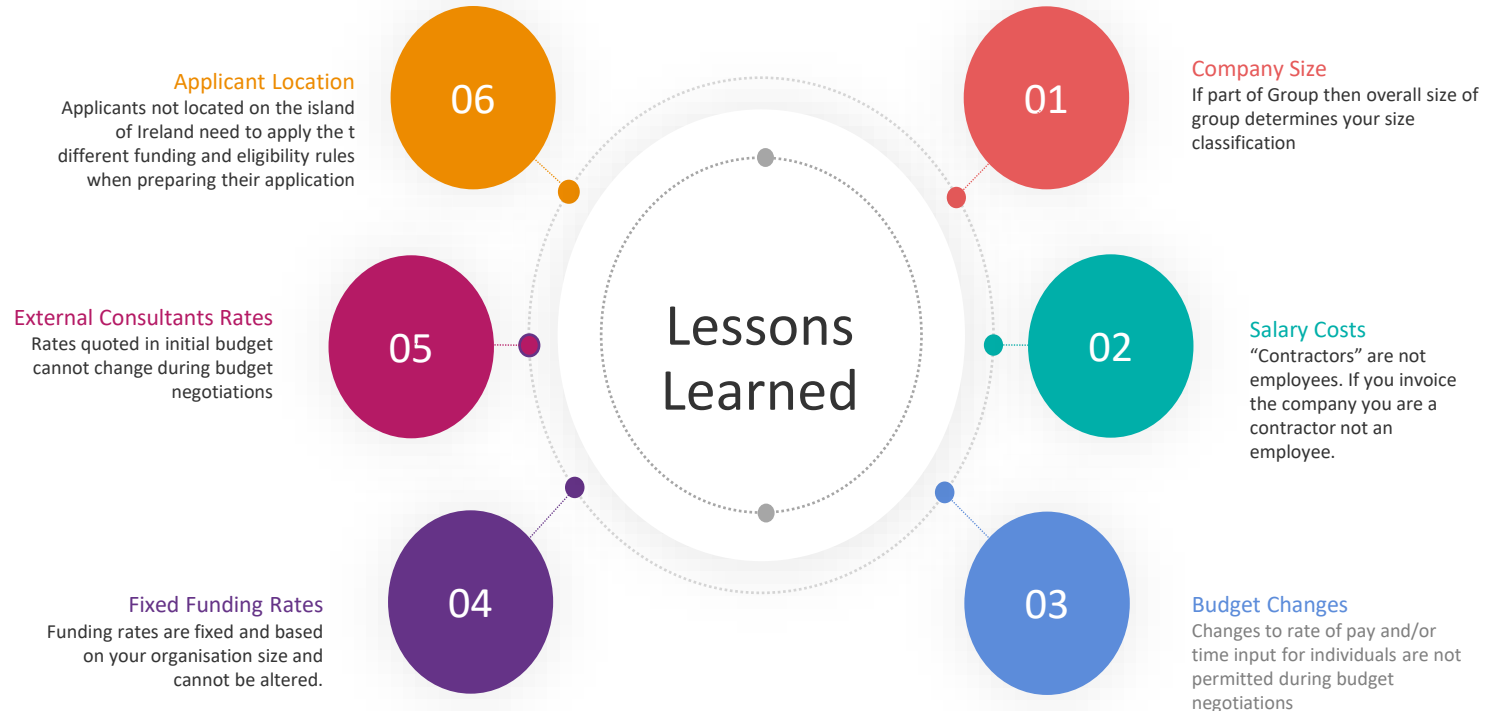
Changes from 2023 Call



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



QUESTIONS



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