

CO-CENTRE

COLLABORATION FOR TRANSFORMATIVE
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



Co-Centres Programme 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated 7th February 2023

Queries should be directed to: Centres@sfi.ie

Terms of Reference

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All responses to this Call for Submission of Proposals will be treated in confidence and 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 consideration and evaluation of the proposal or as may be required under law, including the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act, 2003, the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) (Amendment) Act 2013 and the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

1. Lead-Applicant, Co-Applicants, Funded Investigators & Collaborators

1.1. *Under the Co-Centres Programme what is the definition of a lead applicant and co-applicant?*

The Lead Applicant on the SESAME application will be designated as a Co-Director of the proposed Co-Centre and must be hosted at an eligible Research Body within Ireland. Once funded Lead Applicants will be known as Principal Investigator/PI/ Co-Director.

A Co-Applicant has a well-defined, critical and continuing role in the proposed Co-Centre. A Co-Applicant would be expected to lead one or more Targeted Projects, or projects within the Platform Research component of the Co-Centre. For the purposes of eligibility, reviewing and monitoring, a Co-Applicant applying for funding under the Co-Centre programme will receive equal evaluation to the Lead Applicant and will hold equal accountability for the delivery of the proposed research objectives. Co-Applicants can be from any of the jurisdictions involved in this partnership.

The nominated Co-Director based within NI must be listed as the first Co-Applicant on the SESAME system and the UKRI-funded lead as the second Co-Applicant. Once funded, all Co-Applicants (other than the NI Co-Director and UKRI-lead) will be known as Co-Investigator/Co-PI).

1.2. *Under the Co-Centres Programme what is the definition of a funded-investigator?*

A Funded Investigator is an academic member of staff or independent researcher employed by an eligible Research Body, who is undertaking a management role in a research project within the Co-Centre. Funded Investigators will have responsibility for a research project, budget and personnel within the Co-Centre and will serve under the direction of one of the Co-Applicants. The Funded Investigator designation in a Co-Centre should be a reflection of the level of input of the researcher to the research programme.

1.3. *Under the Co-Centres Programme, what is the definition of an official collaborator?*

An official collaborator may be either (a) an academic member of staff from an eligible Research Body or international Research Body or (b) a member of a relevant non-academic institution, such as a Government Agency, who is committed to providing a focused contribution for a specific task(s). The collaborator will serve under the direction of the Lead Applicant or one of the Co-Applicants and may receive funding through the award where strongly justified. Official collaborators may not be the primary supervisor/mentor of postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers or research staff enrolled on the Award.

1.4. *Under the Co-Centres Programme, what is the definition of an industry Partner?*

In general, within the Co-Centre Programme, an industry partner is defined as a registered company, corporation, or a consortium of registered companies and corporations making a financial contribution (through cash, in-kind contributions, or both) to the budget of the Co-Centre, as well as an intellectual contribution to the research agenda of the Co-Centre. Government Departments/ funded agencies, charities, or similar entities are encouraged to engage on submissions, where appropriate, but their participation will not satisfy the programme eligibility criterion of industry engagement hence they should be listed as an *official collaborator*. Participation of commercial semi-state organisations will satisfy the

eligibility criterion of industry engagement and they can be listed as an *industry collaborator* which requires that Partner to provide written assurances to the Funding Partners that the targeted project co-funding comes exclusively from commercial revenue streams without any contributions from exchequer sources.” Please refer to Section 4.3 of the [call document](#) for details of the requirement of compliance with effective collaboration for any of the industry engagements.

1.5. Under the Co-Centres Programme, what is the definition of an industry collaborator?

An industry collaborator is the lead contact person from an industry partner who represents the Industry Partner in the Co-Centre. Industry collaborators are not eligible to receive funding through the award.

1.6. Can researchers in research bodies outside Ireland (Republic of) be co-applicants, funded investigators and collaborators, and can they receive funding from the award?

Yes, Co-Applicants, funded investigators and collaborators can be from any of the jurisdictions involved in this partnership which includes Northern Ireland and Great Britain. Please see the Guidance document for further information on eligibility.

1.7. Can researchers from Northern Ireland Institutions apply as co-applicants or funded investigators?

Yes, each Co-Centre is comprised of one nominated Co-Director based in Northern Ireland and the other based in Ireland and it would be expected that other researchers from Northern Ireland would also be involved in the proposed Co-Centre.

1.8. What is the minimum/maximum number of co-applicants allowable in a Co-Centre?

Applicant groups must have one Lead Applicant based in Ireland who will act as Co-Director, one Co-applicant based in Northern Ireland who will act as a second Co-Director of the centre, and a number of Co-Applicants who can be from any of the jurisdictions involved in this partnership. The appropriate number of Co-Applicants should be defined by the applicant group. When defining the Co-Applicant group, it should be noted that all Co-Applicants will receive equal evaluation to the Lead Applicant and will hold equal accountability for the delivery of the proposed research objectives of the proposed Co-Centre.

2. Submission and Review

2.1. Can the submitted abstract be modified as the proposal is developed between the abstract and full proposal submission date?

Yes. Proposals can be further developed and refined within the remit of the programme between the abstract submission and proposal submission. However, substantive information surrounding the application should remain the same, i.e. Lead and Co-lead information and general mission of the Co-Centre.

2.2. Should applications for the Co-Centre Programme be submitted through SESAME?

Yes, full proposals must be submitted via SESAME, SFI’s online grants and awards management system.

2.3. Will the in-person review panel consist of the same individuals for all invited projects?

Yes. One panel will be used to review all proposals. The panel will be comprised of international experts drawn from a range of sectors including academia, industry, entrepreneurship, investment and public engagement.

2.4. How long after the application submission do you expect the pitch process to take place?

The panel is expected to take place in early August 2023

2.5. Is Value for Money considered by peer / panel reviewers? i.e. Are proposals all expected to be towards the top of the available budget?

The requested budget should be appropriate to the research programme and must be within funding limits of each of the Funding Partners (see section 4 of the [call document](#)).

2.6. Should Letters of Support be included in the proposal application?

A letter of support must be provided by each Industry Partner outlining their intention to participate in the proposed Co-Centre at the time of full proposal submission. Industry letters of support should outline any previous history of collaborations with the academic applicants and outline how the research to be undertaken aligns itself with the current and future needs of that Industry Partner. The letter of support should describe the level of cost-share commitment from the industry partner, both in terms of cash and in-kind contributions and the time period for which the contribution is being made. Applicants should ensure that a completed company contribution table (Industry Partner Letter of Support) is included within each letter.

A letter of support is also required from each official collaborator must be provided as part of the full proposal submission. Details of how official collaborators will contribute to the proposed research programme must be clearly described.

A letter of support from the Research Body of the Lead Applicant, each Co-Applicant, and each Funded Investigator and must be provided as part of the full proposal submission. These letters should comment on the infrastructure, services and support available to the proposed Co-Centre. They should also name the Lead Applicant, Co-Applicant(s), and/or Funded Investigator(s) from their Research Body who are listed on the application and include an endorsement of their eligibility. The letter of support from the Research Body of both Co-Directors should also describe what services and supports will be made available to the proposed Co-Directors.

Where applicable, a letter of support from each organisation committing other non-exchequer contributions (e.g., philanthropic, charity) towards the Co-Centre.

3. Eligibility

3.1. Applications must have a NI collaborator but do proposals also need a UK collaborator?

There is an expectation that there will be a Co-Director based in Ireland and Northern Ireland with a Co-Applicant based in the UKRI spoke. Those in the UKRI spoke can be based

in either Great Britain or Northern Ireland. There must be meaningful participation across all three jurisdictions

3.2. *Can researchers be involved in multiple Co-Centre applications?*

An investigator may only be the lead applicant on one proposal submission. A lead applicant cannot be named as co-applicant on a second application to the same call but could engage as a funded investigator or collaborator.

An investigator may be named as co-applicant on a maximum of two proposal submissions.

An investigator may engage as a funded investigator or collaborator on more than one proposal submission.

Lead Investigators (i.e. Research Centre Directors) of currently funded SFI Research Centres are not eligible to apply to this call as a Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant but are eligible to contribute to a proposal as either a funded investigator or official collaborator. Co-lead investigators of currently funded Research Centres are eligible to apply as a Co-Applicant, funded investigator or official collaborator.

Please note where an investigator is involved in multiple applications to the Co-Centres call, particularly as a co-applicant, the current commitment and workload of the investigator will be evaluated in determining the suitability of such an arrangement.

3.3. *How many applications can an investigator make to the Co-Centres Programme?*

An investigator may only be the lead applicant on one proposal submission. A lead applicant cannot be named as co-applicant on a second application to the same call but could engage as a funded investigator or collaborator.

An investigator may be named as co-applicant on a maximum of two proposal submissions.

An investigator may engage as a funded investigator or collaborator on more than one proposal submission.

Lead Investigators (i.e. Research Centre Directors) of currently funded SFI Research Centres are not eligible to apply to this call as a lead applicant or co-applicant but are eligible to contribute to a proposal as either a funded investigator or official collaborator. Co-lead investigators of currently funded Research Centres are eligible to apply as a Co-Applicant, funded investigator or official collaborator.

Please note where an investigator is involved in multiple applications to the Co-Centres call, particularly as a co-applicant, SFI will evaluate the current commitment and workload of the investigator in determining the suitability of such an arrangement.

3.4. *I have submitted an application to the current Frontiers for the Future call. Can I also apply as a lead applicant, co-applicant or funded investigator to the Co-Centres Programme?*

Investigators that are currently under evaluation in the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme or other SFI programmes are eligible to apply for funding under this programme (as lead applicant, co-applicant, funded investigator or official collaborator) subject to meeting the specified eligibility criteria.

3.5. *Is a retired member of academic staff, who meets all the other eligibility criteria, eligible to apply to the Co-Centres Programme call if the University can make the necessary commitments regarding infrastructure requirements and independent status of the individual?*

Yes, a retired member of staff can apply to Co-Centres Programme once the Research Body can provide a letter signed by the Vice-President of Research (or equivalent) which confirms that the following is the case:

- There is a written contract of employment/statement of appointment (or similar) in place, which extends at least up to the expiration date of the award.
- The Emeritus / 'retired' Professor has full access to all facilities, labs, and other infrastructure necessary to successfully embark on the intended programme of research.
- The Emeritus / 'retired' Professor has full signing and approval authority, in order to manage the award appropriately, and to supervise students.
- The Emeritus / 'retired' Professor is bound by the rules and regulations of the institute, as is the case for other faculty colleagues.
- The Emeritus / 'retired' Professor is covered by the indemnity insurance of the Research Body.

This letter needs to be submitted to SFI (centres@sfi.ie) well in advance of the proposal submission deadline (which is 13:00 on the 16th of March 2023), in order to receive approval to submit to the Co-Centres Programme 2022.

Once approval has been received this letter must also be included as a Letter of Support to the full proposal.

If the applicant will reach retirement age during the course of the award, a similar letter of support must be provided by the Research Body, in advance of the application deadline in order to receive approval to submit a proposal to Co-Centres Programme 2022. On submission of a full proposal, this letter must also be included as a Letter of Support to the full proposal.

3.6. *How do you define senior author?*

A senior author is one who is listed as first or joint first author, reflecting the fact that he/she has provided the greatest intellectual contribution, has held the primary responsibility for collecting and analysing data, and for the writing of the manuscript and associated drafts. The last author will also be considered as a senior author, since this position generally reflects his/her overall responsibility for the study and suggests that a level of mentorship has been provided.

It will be noted that different publishers have differing rules on how the senior authorship is indicated (e.g., by using asterisks, underlining, placing the name first or last in the list of authors, etc.); of overriding importance however is that the applicant should be able to convince and reassure reviewers that they are the key author on these publications.

Please note that senior authorship does NOT necessarily mean that they were responsible financially for the research that was reported.

3.7. What qualifies as an independent research grant, as defined by the guidance document?

Eligible research grants would be expected to support at least one full-time equivalent, excluding the applicant(s), and include research team costs e.g. materials and consumables. This EXCLUDES smaller awards such as travel grants, equipment grants, post-graduate fellowships, post-doctoral fellowships, and awards of short duration (12 months or less). Laboratory fit-out / start-up funding, and awards that have not been subject to external international peer review are also excluded. You will be required to provide evidence to support the validity of an award if required. If you are uncertain regarding the eligibility of funding you have received, please contact SFI at centres@sfi.ie

3.8. Is it an eligibility requirement that there must be more than one Research Body involved in an application?

The structure of the programme is such that one Co-Director will be based in Ireland and one Co-Director will be based in Northern Ireland so more than one Research Body will be involved. It is expected that Co-Centres will link researchers across the jurisdictions of the programme and across different Research Bodies to create a critical mass of expertise in areas of relevance to the industrial sector.

3.9. I am a Co-PI on an existing Research Centre, can I be listed as a Co-PI on more than one application to the Co-Centres Call?

No, Co-PI's in existing Research Centres may be listed as a Co-PI on no more than one Co-Centre application. Such individuals may however, be involved in other applications as Funded Investigators, or as Academic Collaborators. Please note that as part of the review process, reviewers will assess the capacity of individuals who already have substantial commitments in the context of their ability to commit an appropriate amount of time to proposed activities in new Co-Centres.

3.10. Can a Postdoctoral Researcher be listed as a Funded Investigator on a Co-Centres Application?

Funded Investigators must be academic members of staff, or contract researchers with contract for the duration of the project and cannot request salary support from a Co-Centres award. Additionally, the funded investigator is expected to have the experience, capability and authority to mentor and supervise postgraduate students and team members. As such, a postdoctoral researcher would not qualify as a Funded Investigator.

4. Funding

4.1. Could the Funding Partners clarify if GB academics in the UKRI spoke can also participate in other spokes in the Co-Centre and if GB Academics in the UKRI spoke can also participate in Platform projects?

In terms of collaboration GB academics are not restricted, and in fact they would be expected to collaborate across the Co-centre as a whole. In terms of funding GB academics

could only be funded by the UKRI spoke and for platform research activities where strongly justified.

4.2. Does this programme follow the rules of standard UKRI funding, i.e. costs are funded at 80% of the full economic cost?

Applicants can bid for up to £6m at 80% of FEC which would be £7.5M at 100% FEC. The 80% figure includes overheads e.g. estates and indirect costs. The organisation must agree to find the balance of FEC for the project from other resources.

4.3. Are directly allocated staff costs (to cover time committed by existing staff) eligible for co-directors and co-applicants?

UKRI is not funding Co-Directors of the programme, the Co-Director funding is coming from SFI for the Ireland Co-Director and DAERA for the Northern Ireland Co-Director, and so UKRI will not pay for Directly Allocated staff costs for Co-Directors.

UKRI will allow Direct Staff costs for eligible co-applicants, as per the Guidance ([Guidance-for-applicants.pdf](#)) on page 14.

4.4. Can ROI and NI Co-Applicants/FIs be involved in the UKRI Spoke Targeted Projects?

Yes, cross-jurisdictional collaborations is expected across all aspects of the Co-Centre programme. While the UKRI will be led by an eligible UKRI co-applicant, co-applicants and FIs funded by SFI and DAERA can also be involved in the spoke.

4.5. Can one institution receive funding from all 3 funding partners for a co-centre?

The eligibility of an institution to apply to the funders depends on their jurisdiction so one institution would not be eligible to apply to all 3 funding partners. Institutions in Northern Ireland may be eligible to apply to both DAERA and UKRI so will need to decide which funder to apply to based on their role within the centre i.e. whether it makes most sense for them to be part of the UKRI spoke or within the wider project.

4.6. Is there any guidance on the scale or number of the co-centres the funders are hoping to fund?

There is funding available for two co-centres but the quality of the applications will be critical to determining the number of Co-Centres funded.

4.7. Will UKRI be providing separate further guidance/support for UKRI spokes?

UKRI will not be providing separate guidance as all guidance is included in the call document. If you have specific questions please contact centres@sfi.ie

4.8. Does SFI contribution cover the overhead on industry contribution?

No, SFI will not pay overhead on the industry contribution. Overheads will be paid on SFI contribution only.

4.9. Can you confirm that industry contributions should be calculated as a percentage of total direct costs and not the total budget inclusive of overhead?

Yes, industry contributions are calculated as a percentage of total direct costs, i.e. not inclusive of overheads.

4.10. Do postgraduates only fit within platform research or can they be situated within targeted projects?

Potentially postgraduates/postdoctoral research can be recruited to undertake research within both the platform and targeted project components of the Centre.

4.11. Does SFI calculate the industry cash contribution as the total industry contribution or the funding available after the Research Body overhead and VAT deductions?

The industry cash contribution will be calculated as the direct research funding after any overheads, VAT or other Research Body contributions are deducted.

4.12. Are field work costs allowed and if so, how they be categorised within the requested budget?

All costs for field work must be eligible, reasonable and directly aligned to the research programme. Applicants should strongly justify the requests for such costs including travel-related costs within the travel section of the budget and any associated consumables within the Materials & Consumables, as separate line items.

5. Industry Engagement

5.1. What is the minimum number of industrial partners required on a targeted project?

Each targeted project must involve at least one industry partner.

5.2. For clarity, what constitutes an industry partner. Are Public Sector / Govt research organisations included or are these academic? Also what about NGOs?

Within the Co-Centre Programme, an industry partner is defined as a registered company, corporation, or a consortium of registered companies and corporations making a financial contribution (through cash, in-kind contributions, or both) to the budget of the Co-Centre, as well as an intellectual contribution to the research agenda of the Co-Centre. Government Departments/ funded agencies, charities, or similar entities are encouraged to engage on submissions, where appropriate, but their participation will not satisfy the programme eligibility criterion of industry engagement hence they should be listed as an *official collaborator*. Participation of commercial semi-state organisations will satisfy the eligibility criterion of industry engagement and they can be listed as an *industry collaborator* which requires that Partner to provide written assurances to the Funding Partners that the targeted project co-funding comes exclusively from commercial revenue streams without any contributions from exchequer sources." Please refer to Section 4.3 of the [call document](#) for details of the requirement of compliance with effective collaboration for any of the industry engagements.

5.3. Can government funded agencies, charities or similar entities, engage in Co-Centre submissions?

Funding from charities, not-for-profit organisations or philanthropic donations, while welcomed and encouraged, cannot be counted as an industry contribution. Engagement with such organisations is however strongly encouraged and representatives from such may be included as official collaborators within the Co-Centre application. Furthermore, opportunities are available to expand collaborations with charities and Irish government bodies through the SFI Spoke programme, where exchequer funding may be considered as part of the cost-share.

For the purposes of evaluation of the full proposal, industry funding, both cash and in-kind, must be committed for at least the first 24 months of the Co-Centre, and may be indicative for subsequent years, with the understanding that Co-Centres will be evaluated on a periodic basis (at least every two years), and must maintain their forward commitment at an appropriate level.

For specific queries please email centres@sfi.ie.

5.4. Can commercial semi-state organisations engage in Co-Centres submissions?

Yes, where appropriate, and their participation will be considered to satisfy the eligibility criterion of industry engagement. Representatives from semi-state bodies can be named as industry collaborators and will not be eligible to receive funding. For specific queries please email centres@sfi.ie.

5.5. Is it necessary for a multi-national which is a partner on a targeted project to have a base in Ireland?

It is not a requirement that the company has a base in Ireland.

5.6. How is industry cost-share defined and at what stage is cost-share required?

Cost-sharing must make up a minimum of 30% of the Centre budget, with a minimum of 10% of the Centre budget in cash and the balance from in-kind contributions such as personnel, data, equipment, samples, or devices. Proposals that can demonstrate industry cost-share contributions above the specified levels may be viewed as delivering a greater economic impact to Ireland and hence this *may* make the proposals more competitive.

At the full proposal stage, industry funding both cash and in-kind must be committed *at least* for the first two years, and *may* be indicative for the last four years.

5.7. Is industry contribution (in-kind and cash) required for all spokes or is the total funding viewed cumulatively?

It is expected that each targeted project will involve at least one industry partner. However, for the purposes of satisfying the cost-share requirements this will be determined at an overall Co-Centre level.

5.8. Can a Technology Centre be considered to be an industry partner in a Co-Centre?

Although an EI/IDA Technology Centre is not considered as an 'industry partner', companies who are participating in Technology Centres are encouraged to participate in the Co-Centres Programme as industry partners.

5.9. Can contract research funding (i.e. 100% industry funded projects) be used for matching purposes?

Industry cash secured through contract research undertakings where the Co-Centre is providing a service, for example, in the form of access to equipment and testing facilities or is undertaking a defined body of research for the industry partner on a non-collaborative basis, cannot be counted towards the Centre's industry cost share.

5.10. What is eligible as in-kind contributions?

Industry in-kind is defined as non-cash contributions from an industry partner to the Centre, such as personnel, materials etc. Industry in-kind contributions include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following items:

- Time contributed by industry partner personnel as part of a collaborate research project can count as industry in-kind cost share.
- Equipment donations
- Use of proprietary software programmes
- Access to specialist facilities
- Access to proprietary materials or corporate knowledge
- Provision of specialised accessories
- Provision of samples, materials or consumables

5.11. Are cost contributions from public sources recognised as in-kind cost-share?

Contributions, cash or in-kind, from public sources will not be counted as an industry contribution. Specific queries on the eligibility of cash and in-kind contributions should be directed to centres@sfi.ie

5.12. Is it a requirement that there must be SME involvement in the Co-Centre?

Although not mandating SME involvement, the Funding Partners welcome and encourage the Co-Centres to actively engage with SMEs. It is at the discretion of the applicant team to secure engagement from industry partners, large or small, which are best aligned with the research agenda and goals of the Centre.

5.13. Is there a minimum number of industry projects per application?

No. The number of targeted projects is at the discretion of the applicant team.

5.14. What is the expected link (if any) between core research and targeted projects?

It is at the discretion of the individual Co-Centre to determine the structure. We would anticipate that the core research activity would provide background knowledge which is common across a range of targeted projects rather than being tied to any one specific targeted project or company. Targeted projects would then focus on more specific questions and draw upon the findings of the platform research activities.

6. Remit

6.1. Are there thematic areas of the Co-Centre Programme?

The Co-Centre Programme will accept applications in the thematic areas: Climate and Sustainable and Resilient Food systems. Applications must fit within the relevant funders' legal authority. Applicant groups must be able to demonstrate alignment of the proposed Co-Centre to one of the themes, clearly articulating how their research and its outputs will address challenges and opportunities in those areas.

Please refer to the [call document](#) for further advise on programme remit.

6.2. Is the Co-Centres programme intended to include research on global issues , or is it focused on challenges within Ireland, Great Britain, and Northern Ireland?

The primary objective of the Co-Centres programme will be to provide economic, societal, health and environmental benefits to Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain however due to the nature of the research, it is absolutely expected that the outputs from the co-centre research programme will have global impact.

6.3. Can funding be allocated for PI-led teams looking at areas complementary to science and engineering such as policy, economic analysis etc.?

The principal focus of the research activity should be oriented around basic and applied research in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), which promotes and assists the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment within the jurisdictions of the programme. However, funding may be allocated to a component of the research activity in interdisciplinary areas which are complementary to the STEM activity.

7. Impact

7.1. What is impact?

We define Impact as “the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy”. Thus, the direct and indirect ‘influence’ of research, or its ‘effect’ on an individual, a community, the development of policy, or the creation of a new product, service or technology.

7.2. Will impact be evaluated as part of the review process?

Impact will be a key evaluation criterion. To be considered for funding, proposals must achieve an appropriate level of excellence in both the scientific/technical and impact evaluation.

7.3. What if the research is reviewed as excellent but the impact is not?

Only proposals achieving excellence in both (scientific research and impact) will be considered for funding.

8. Education & Public Engagement

8.1. Could you provide some examples of eligible education & public engagement costs?

Examples include: contributions towards the salary of dedicated education & public engagement operations staff (where justified); direct public engagement activity and production costs such as venue, props and equipment, materials and promotion; relevant training and development; and EPE evaluation costs (including formative/development).

8.2. What are the primary objectives of the education and public engagement activities in a Co-Centre?

The primary objectives are: to strengthen capacity and provide opportunities for researchers to engage the public with their research; to stimulate dialogue and debate amongst the public on STEM in society and public policy; and to enable public aspirations and concerns to be considered within the research so as to contribute to the future STEM pipeline.

8.3. What audiences should the Education and Public Engagement activities target?

The Funding Partners are not prescriptive in terms of defining the target audiences for public engagement activity. More importantly the Funding Partners expect that Co-Centre applicants will select the most appropriate audiences and present details of the objectives which it aims to achieve, how it will be delivered and how it will be measured and evaluated.

8.4. What EPE activity should Co-Centres implement?

The Co-Centres should decide on the activities which are most suitable to the research area and the format of the Centre being proposed. In most cases this will involve a number of outputs which could include, for example:

- Engagement with the education sector at primary and second level for example workshops with schools and the professional development of teachers to inspire the next generation of researchers.
- Engaging the general public through participation in festivals and events, working with museums, galleries and cultural venues and collaborating with artists to stimulate interest, excitement and debate on STEM or gain new perspectives on your research,
- Providing input and guidance to public policy and legislation
- Involvement of the public as researchers (e.g. citizen science)
- Engaging with the general public to help inform research areas e.g.:
 - Consultation of communities directly affected by a particular piece of research to inform the reach process
 - Building the capacity of communities directly affected by research to identify and communicate their needs and priorities
 - General public as members of advisory boards

8.5. Who is responsible for the Education and Public Engagement programme of a Co-Centre?

Whilst each Co-Centre may request costs towards the salary of an EPE Manager it is imperative that a whole centre approach to EPE is adopted by the Co-Centre, meaning

researchers at all levels are responsible for EPE and should be involved in the planning, development and delivery of the EPE programme of activities. The Co-Directors should promote the involvement of all researchers in the EPE programme and should provide leadership by example in this regard.

9. Internationalisation

9.1. Can funding be used to support research work with world leaders outside GB/Ireland, eg USA?

To be eligible to receive funding from the Funding Partners through the Co-Centre Programme, applicants must be hosted at an eligible Research Body as listed in the Guidance for Applicants. International partners are welcome to participate as collaborators. However, the applicant group should be mindful of the overall programme goal – to deliver impacts for challenging problems in areas of strategic importance across Ireland, Great Britain, and Northern Ireland – and ensure that inclusion of such partners will contribute to this goal.

9.2. How would an international academic partner be included in a Co-Centre?

International researchers may participate in the Co-Centres Programme as official collaborators.