

COCENTRE

COLLABORATION FOR TRANSFORMATIVE
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Co-Centre Programme 2022

Louise Rocks

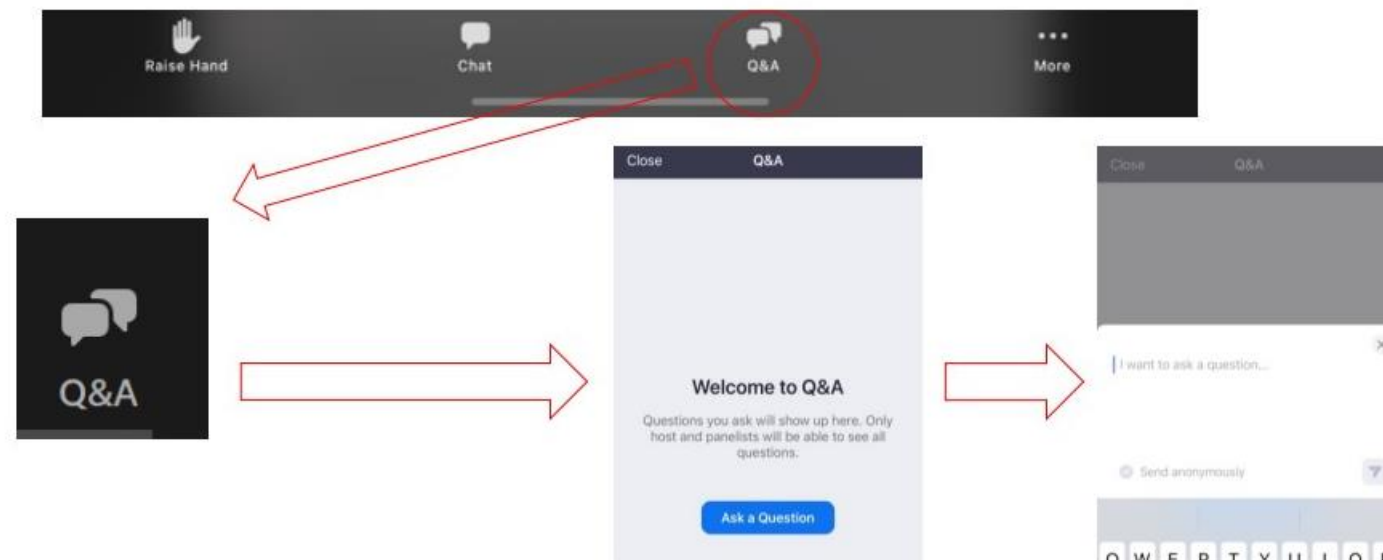
Scientific Programme Manager, SFI



An Roinn Breisoidreachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Webinar Information

- This webinar consists of a PowerPoint presentation with voiceover (1-way!)
- We will walk you through the presentation and answer questions at the end
- You may submit questions by typing them in the Q&A box on the bottom of the zoom screen – please try to be concise



- FAQ's and a link to the presentation of the webinar will be on the Co-Centre webpage over next few days

Presentation Format

- The Co-Centre Programme
- Objectives
- Programme remit
- General eligibility
- Co-Centre structure
- Funding
- Application Process
- Review Process
- Post Award requirements
- Timelines

Programme Introduction

- Co-Centres will be funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and co-funded by industry.
- The programme will provide for an investment of €74million, funded through DAERA (up to £17M), SFI (up to €40million) and UKRI (up to £12 million), to support joint research.
- The programme will establish virtual centres of distributed excellence across Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain.
- Opportunity for researchers to build collaborative partnerships linking researchers across academia and industry

The overall ambition of the Co-Centre Programme is to create a dynamic research partnership across Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain. This will be led by a cross-jurisdictional collaboration of academic partners working together with industry and other key stakeholders to bring scale, standing and cohesion to the research and innovation ecosystem. The Co-Centre Programme encourages high quality research and innovation whilst also delivering economic, societal, health and environmental impacts.

Objectives

- Achieve, maintain and enhance research excellence and leadership.
- Deliver significant economic, societal, health and environmental impacts for challenging problems.
- Build strategic multi-institutional and cross-jurisdictional partnerships.
- Strengthen existing research capabilities and partnerships.
- To undertake collaborative research projects with industry.
- Increase the level of industrial and commercial investment in R&D activities and attract Foreign Direct Investment.
- Create a highly-trained and well-networked workforce.
- Engage with users, intermediaries and beneficiaries of research.

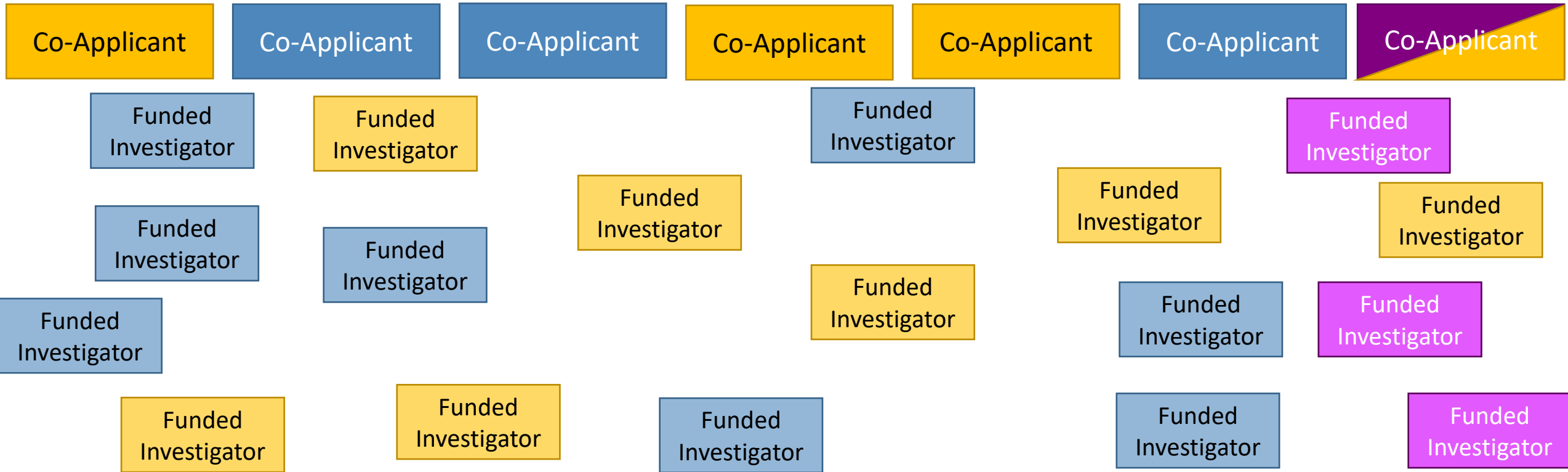
Programme Remit

- Proposals must be aligned with one of the following thematic areas:
 - Climate
 - Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems
- Proposals must fit within the co-funders' legal authority.
- Proposals should incorporate a STEM-led, multi-disciplinary programme of research and innovation.
- Proposals must be sufficiently distinct from existing SFI Research Centres and initiatives of scale currently funded by each of the Funding Partners.
- Applicants will be asked to provide details of how the proposed Co-Centre aligns within the current national research landscapes and contributes to increased alignment amongst existing research activities and infrastructure.

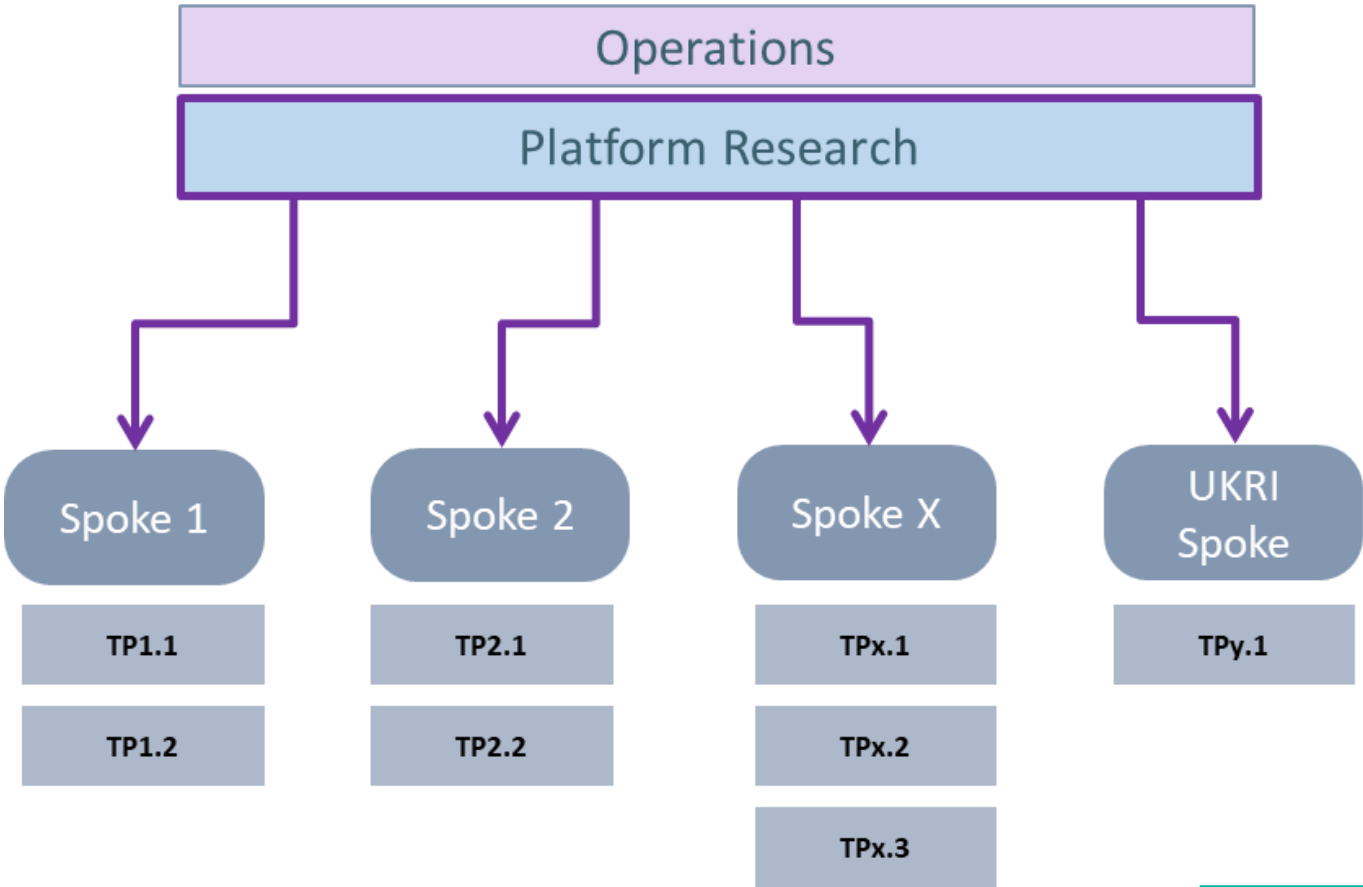
General Eligibility

- Co-Directorship Model: each co-centre is comprised of one nominated co-director based in Ireland and the other based in Northern Ireland
- Lead applicant is known as a Co-Director and must be hosted at an SFI eligible Research Body.
- NI Co-Director is the first named co-applicant from an eligible Research Body within NI.
- Other Co-applicants involved in the partnership can be from any of the jurisdictions.

Ireland
Northern Ireland
Great Britain



Co-Centre Structure



Operations: e.g. management, business development, marketing.

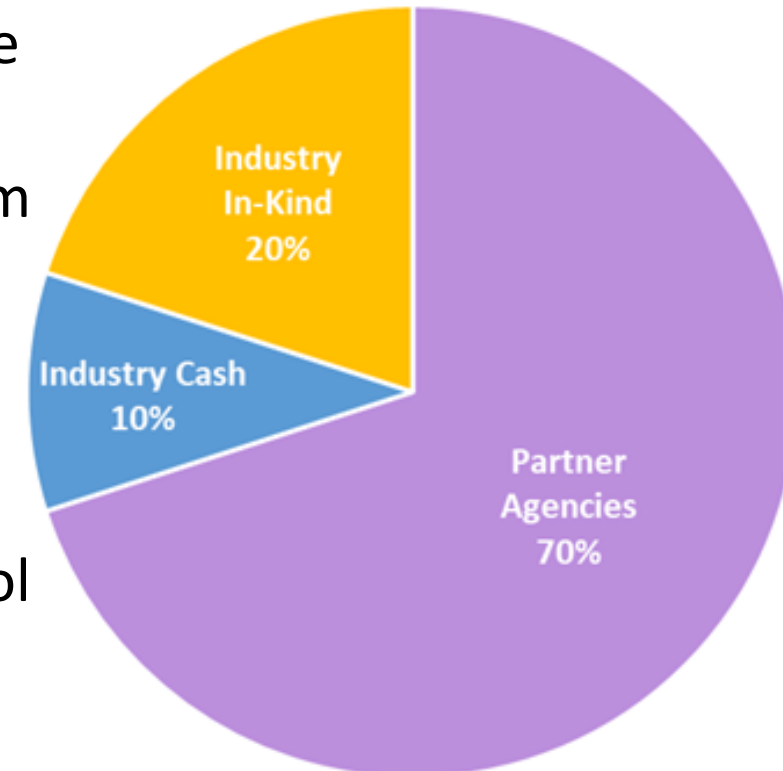
Platform research: core research activities or technologies are those that are necessary or valuable to the mission of the Co-Centre and are deemed to be common across a number of individual Spokes, including PhD and MSc training. †

Spokes: research subtopics within the Co-Centre, each consisting of a collection of targeted projects (TP) co-designed and co-funded by Industry. Each TP must have at least one industry partner.

† Fees and/or stipends associated with Masters and PhD studentships are not eligible UKRI costs under this call.

Cost Share Model

- While Partner Agencies will also provide contributions towards overheads (indirect costs), only direct costs are included in the Cost Share Model.
- Collectively, the funding from the FP will represent a maximum of 70% of the Co-Centre budget.
- The cash and in-kind contributions are paid by industry partners collaborating on targeted projects.
- Letters of Support required for industry commitments.
- Activities must be compliant with State aid and Subsidy control legislation as laid out in Section 4.3 and 4.4 of the Call Document.
- Cash and in-kind Industry partners are not restricted to collaborating with researchers within their respective jurisdictions.



Funding Thresholds

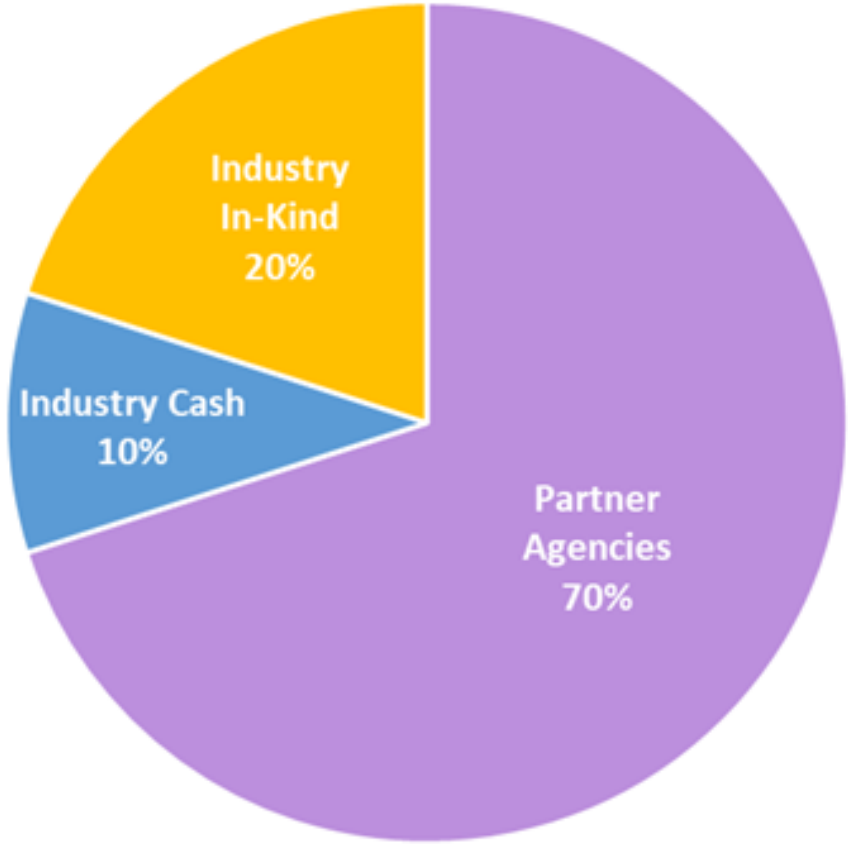
Budget request for 6 years:

SFI	Between €2M and €3.3M per annum (total costs)
DAERA	Between £1M and £1.4M per annum (total costs)
UKRI	Between £500,000 and £1,000,000 per annum (80% full economic costs)

Worked Example

	Total Costs (currency of funder)	Direct Costs (currency of funder)	Direct Costs (€) £1 = €1.15
SFI	€19,800,000	€15,180,000	€15,180,000
DAERA	£8,400,000	£6,440,000	€7,406,000
UKRI	£6,000,000	£4,080,000	€4,692,000

	Direct Costs (€)	%
Partner Agencies	€27,278,000	70
Industry Cash (minimum)	€3,896,857	10
Industry In-Kind (minimum)	€7,793,714	20



Application Process

1. An abstract must be submitted by 20th January

- Submission via e-mail: centres@sfi.ie
- Template available on website
- Full proposals submitted where an abstract has not been provided will be rejected without review.
- Abstracts will not undergo evaluation.

2. Full proposals are accepted through SESAME

- Submission via SESAME
- SESAME Form + uploads
 - ✓ Programme Doc
 - Template available on website but please see guidance document for details of what is required in each section
 - ✓ Budgets
 - ✓ Letters of Support
 - ✓ CVs

10 Submission Checklist

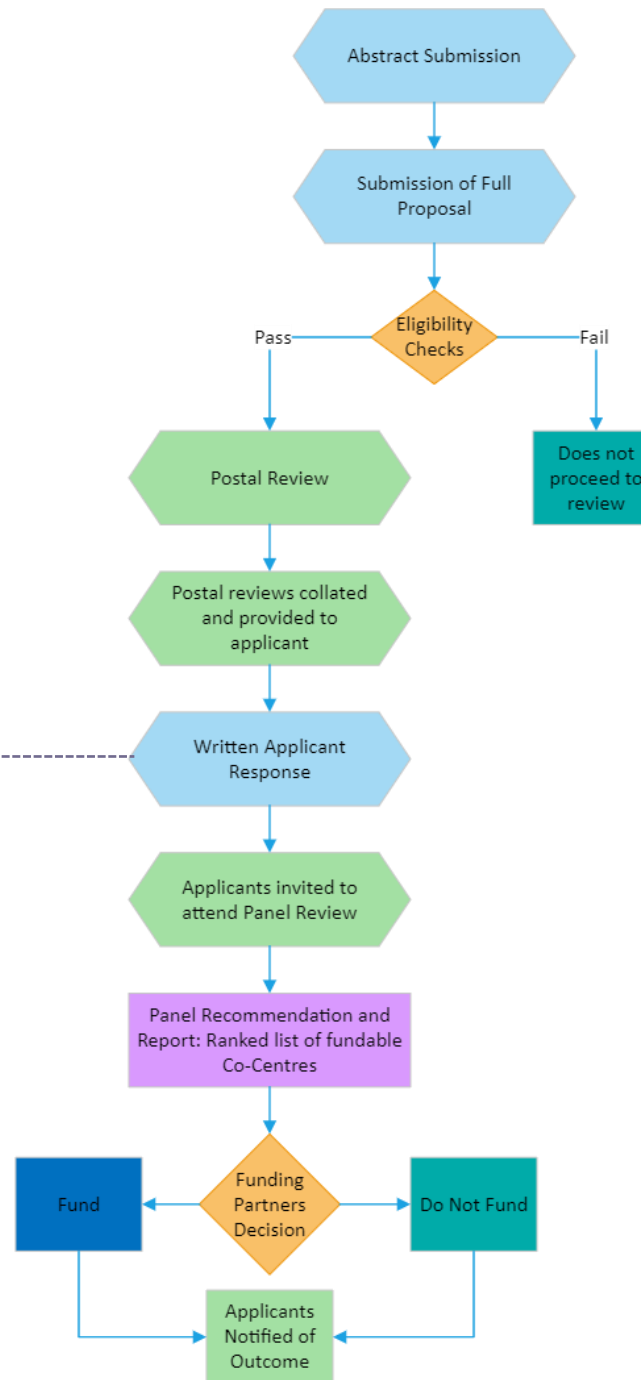
PROPOSAL CHECKLIST		
SECTION	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
Proposal Summary	Title	Co-Centre for XXX (using two to three words) to describe the general remit of the research
	Proposal ID	Will be pre-populated
Resubmission	Resubmission statement (if relevant).	Max. 1000 words
Research Alignment	Justification of alignment with legal authority of each funder	Max. 500 words
	Research area (Primary and Secondary)	Select from list for each
	Thematic Area	Select Climate or Sustainable and Resilient Systems
Lead Applicant details	*SESAME Profile information	Complete your SESAME profile (including ORCID ID) before proceeding with proposal. profile fields marked in red
	ORCID ID	Link SESAME profile to ORCID ID
	Percentage Time Commitment	Insert time commitment (%)
	DORA-Compliant CV	Max. 6 pages (use template provided)
	Supervisory Experience	Enter details
Co-Applicant details	Add Co-Applicants	All Co-Applicants registered on SESAME must be added to the application page
	*SESAME Profile information	Complete your SESAME profile (including ORCID ID) before proceeding with proposal. profile fields marked in red
	ORCID ID	Link SESAME profile to ORCID ID
	Percentage Time Commitment	Insert time commitment (%)
	DORA-Compliant CV	Max. 6 pages (use template provided)
Supervisory Experience	Enter details if relevant	
Research Funding	Research Funding History	Enter details of funding secured in last 5 years
Collaborator(s) details	Assign Collaborators	Funded Investigators, industry partners, etc. collaborators added
	Name/Contact details etc.	Add contact name, details etc.
Main Body of Proposal	Keywords	Max. 15 words
	Research Abstract	Max. 200 words

Access to SESAME

- <https://grants.sfi.ie>
- All co-applicants will require access
- Researchers from SFI eligible Research Bodies must register through their Research Office
- Researchers from other eligible Research Bodies should request access via centres@sfi.ie
 - A representative from your research office should be copied on request
- It is the responsibility of the Research Body of the lead applicant to submit the application

Review Process

If score for Research Programme is below threshold, application will not proceed to the Full Proposal panel.



Review Criteria:

- ✓ Applicant Team
- ✓ Research Programme
- ✓ Impact
- ✓ Execution and Delivery
- ✓ Education and Public Engagement

Post Award Requirements

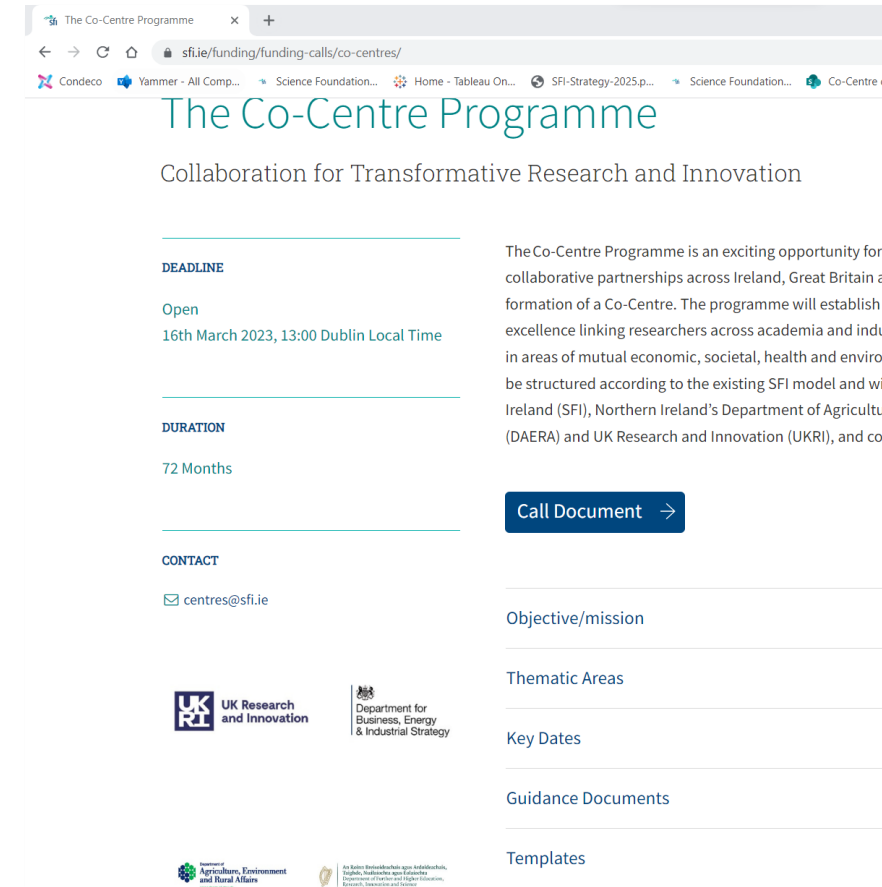
- If funded, UKRI require re-submission through UKRI submission system
- EPE strategy required 6 months into award
- Management and Governance
- Reporting
 - KPIs
 - Annual scientific reports
 - Financial reports
 - State Aid/ Subsidy control
- Progress Reviews

Timeline

- **Call announcement:** 24th November 2022
- **Webinar:** 8th December 2022, 10:00
- **Deadline for abstract submission:** 20th January 2023, 13:00
- **Deadline for submission of full proposals:** 16th March 2023, 13:00
- **Panel Review:** Early August 2023
- **Funding decision:** October 2023
- **Co-Centre start date:** January 2024

Further information

- Post Webinar form – networking card
- Website: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/co-centres/>
 - Call Document and Guidance for Applicants
 - Webinar and FAQ will be available on SFI website early next week
 - Office hours
- Queries: centres@sfi.ie



Q&A Session

- We are now reviewing questions.
- You may submit questions by typing them in the Zoom Q&A box.
- We will deal with as many of these as we can, verbally.
- We will post a recording of this webinar on the Co-Centre webpage.
- Questions can be submitted after the webinar to centres@sfi.ie