



1. Name of Governmental Department or Agency
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation Innovation, Research and Development Policy Unit
2. Title of the Project
Development of a standardised classification scheme for public investment in research.
3. Description of the Project
<p>Currently, each research funding body records their investment in research using a classification scheme that reflects their mandate and domain of operation. The absence of a standardised, system-wide, classification scheme for recording public investment in research is a major impediment to system-level monitoring, management and impact assessment. The need for such a scheme was identified in Action 7.6 of Innovation 2020, Ireland's whole of Government strategy for science and technology, research and development. This research project would provide a detailed review of existing, internationally recognised classification systems and an assessment of their suitability for application to the Irish landscape, which would include an assessment of the schemes currently in place in each research funding organisation in the Irish system. Using these findings, a suitable scheme with an implementation plan would be created, including tools to monitor investment and to identify a set of national key performance indicators to measure the impact of RDI investment. The research should also yield recommendations for associated targets to stretch the performance of the system.</p>
4. Project Scope
<p>The project will seek to assess a number of internationally recognised public research classification schemes from nations with comparable research systems to Ireland (for example the system used in Australia and New Zealand). The researcher may draw on initial work previously carried out by the Classification of Investment in Research Group and a bibliometric analysis performed by the Department as part of the refresh of research prioritisation exercise.</p> <p>The researcher should identify and engage with stakeholders from across the Irish public research landscape to establish how public investment in RDI is currently being recorded, categorised and classified. The researcher could also engage with research performing organisations, for example HEIs or enterprises receiving EI or IDA grants, to see how public money is classified and reported to the funding organisation.</p> <p>Once a suitable standardised scheme of classification is identified the researcher will begin work on adapting it to fit the Irish research system. The scheme should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robust• Inclusive• Transparent• Objective



- Unambiguous
- Mutually exclusive categories
- Internationally comparable
- Balancing stability and adaptability
- Light-weight

The project should aim to identify a set of national key performance indicators to measure the impact of RDI investment and provide recommendations for associated targets to stretch the performance of the system. The researcher may also develop analytical tools to assist in system-level monitoring, management and impact assessment of public investment in RDI, including a dashboard to visualise the overall public spending on RDI. (for example the H2020 tool <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/e8a41234-20b4-4e7e-80ef-335dd9e6ae36/sheet/941d3afe-da24-4c2e-99eb-b7fcbd8529ee/state/analysis> or <https://h2020viz.vinnova.se/>)

The Innovation 2020 Implementation Group should be informed and consulted on progress throughout the project, and the researcher will be required to provide both a written and oral report to the group once the project is completed. The report will include a proposed implementation plan.

Challenges to be overcome may include:

- Diversity in mandates and research domains
- Levels of funding and number of awards
- Multi-annual awards
- Multi-disciplinary
- Confidentiality
- HEI Block Grant

Please note that it is not anticipated that the researcher would create a bespoke classification scheme for the Irish system – although that is not precluded. Rather it is anticipated that an existing system would be chosen / adapted for Irish circumstances and requirements.

5. Skills/Expertise Required

- Expertise in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics discipline;
- Knowledge of the public research system in Ireland and its actors;
- Knowledge of grant processing / reporting systems in use e.g. SESAME;
- Strong interpersonal, oral communication and written skills in order to liaise with stakeholders.

6. Expected Outputs of Project

- An assessment of internationally recognised standardised classification schemes.



- An assessment of how Irish public research organisations are currently categorising their research expenditure.
- Recommendations as to whether an existing classification scheme can be fully adopted, or if it would need to be adapted to the Irish system first.
- A completed classification scheme in the form of a dataset.

7. Working Arrangements

The placement would be in the Department of Business, Enterprise & Innovation offices, 23 Kildare Street. Flexible and remote working arrangements will be accommodated. However, the researcher will be required to engage significantly with stakeholders, many of whom would be in Dublin, therefore being Dublin based would be an advantage.

8. Expected Timeline

- This project should take 6 -12 months of full-time work. Part-time working is also possibility.