

## **Invitation to Tender**

**To Conduct a Scoping Review on the negative impact  
of mis and disinformation on young people in Ireland**

**National Youth Council of Ireland**

**February 2025**

# BRIEF OVERVIEW

## **Background to NYCI**

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. NYCI functions to represent the interests of young people and youth organisations. NYCI's role is recognised in legislation (Youth Work Act) and as a social partner. NYCI aims through its member organisations and its representative role to empower young people to participate in society as fulfilled confident individuals. The work of the Youth Council is based on principles of equality, social justice and equal participation for all. In achieving these aims the NYCI seeks the emergence of a society in which young people are valued citizens who can make a meaningful contribution to their community.

## **Background and Research rationale**

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is increasingly concerned with the negative impact of misinformation and disinformation on young people, communities, and Irish democracy. Through our work with youth organisations and in the overall policy arena, we have identified a growing need to address these issues. Youth workers have reported increasing challenges with misinformation and disinformation within their services, highlighting the need to counteract hateful and false narratives. While there is current literature on disinformation and its link to far-right narratives, there is a lack of research on its impact on young people in Ireland in particular.

## **What we are looking for**

We are seeking a qualified researcher to conduct a comprehensive evidence synthesis through a scoping review. This will include a literature review and preliminary qualitative research involving focus groups with young people and professionals from the youth work sector. The research will explore the topic of misinformation and disinformation affecting young people, identifying key issues, research gaps, and potential areas for further investigation. The researcher will be required to produce a detailed report summarizing findings and proposing future research questions.

## **Your proposal:**

We are seeking proposals from qualified researchers to produce this research report. In your proposal, please include:

- Previous experience and relevant qualifications, including any research previously published
- A brief description of how you would achieve the below outcomes
- Estimated days required and day rate

**Timeframe and application process:**

Closing date for tender applications is **12<sup>th</sup> March**

We will seek to notify the successful applicant by **14<sup>th</sup> March**

## **Project Details**

**Project Title:**

Understanding the Impact of Mis and Disinformation on Young People in Ireland

**Background:**

**Project Description:**

This project aims to produce a detailed evidence synthesis through a scoping review, including a literature review and preliminary qualitative work with focus groups from the youth work sector and NYCI's Young Voices and Local Champions groups. The goal is to identify research gaps and key emerging issues related to misinformation, disinformation, and the growth of far-right narratives in Ireland. This evidence synthesis will provide a snapshot of the current situation, informing further research and action to address these threats.

**Objectives:**

1. Conduct a scoping review to synthesize existing literature on misinformation and disinformation.
2. Identify research gaps and key issues through focus groups with youth workers and young people.
3. Provide a comprehensive evidence synthesis and suggested further research questions to inform policy makers and stakeholders.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- **Comprehensive Evidence Synthesis:** A detailed synthesis of existing literature and evidence related to the impact of misinformation and

disinformation on young people in Ireland, highlighting key findings, gaps, and areas for further investigation

- **Identification of Research Questions:** A set of well-defined research questions that address the identified gaps in the literature and can guide future research projects.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** A report on the engagement with the key stakeholders, including their perspectives, needs, and priorities, to ensure the research is relevant and impactful.

### **Methodology:**

**It is anticipated that the methodology used will be primarily desk- and consultation- based and will suit the project's purpose. This should include but is not limited to: Systematic Literature Review: Conduct a systematic search of peer-reviewed articles, policy reports, and case studies on misinformation, disinformation, and far-right narratives, focusing on the experiences of children and young people.**

- **Focus Groups:** Engage with youth workers and young people (18-24 years old) through consultative focus groups to gather qualitative data. NYCI will organise and recruit these focus groups in collaboration with the researcher.
- **Data Analysis:** Analyse the data to identify research gaps and key issues

NYCI will convene a Research Advisory Group to oversee the research project. The Steering Group will play a proactive, engaging, and supportive role throughout the course of the project. Its functions will include but are not limited to collaborating on the report structure, agreeing search terms and parameters for evidence and literature reviews and providing practical support, including organisation and recruitment of focus groups.

### **Timeline and Key milestones:**

- **Contract issued and project begins:** Mid-March 2025
- **First draft due:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- **Research presented to young people for feedback:** Late June 2025
- **Second draft presented to NYCI for final feedback:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- **Research launched:** Early August 2025

### **Budget**

The maximum budget for this project is €12,000 excluding consultation costs (young people travel, refreshments, room hire etc), inclusive of VAT and this should include all costs such as institutional fees, administration costs and expenses incurred.

Applicants should provide a detailed breakdown of costs.

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will need to provide a tax clearance access code and tax number.

Payments will be made within 30 days of receipt of an invoice. If at any stage during the project, the agreed level of quality of the evaluation research is not adhered to, payment may be withheld.

### **Eligibility & Selection Criteria**

- Applicants must have a proven track record of publishing academic or professional research in relevant fields. Evidence of previous publications is essential
- Experience in the specific topic is desirable
- Experience with youth work and working with young people is desirable

### **Ethical Considerations:**

We will collaborate with young people throughout the project, ensuring their meaningful participation while mitigating risks to their mental health and wellbeing. Focus groups will be conducted with 18-24-year-olds to avoid exposing younger individuals to potentially harmful content.

### **Other considerations:**

Ownership of the research and all publications related to the project will reside with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

All data must be managed in line with GDPR requirements

### **For future information:**

Please submit your Tender document via email to [alison@nyci.ie](mailto:alison@nyci.ie) by close of business on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.