



Invitation to Tender

*An Assessment of the Value of Science, Technology,
Engineering, Arts and Mathematics and Digital Youth
Work delivery in the Youth Work setting*

National Youth Council of Ireland

January 2022

Invitation to submit proposals

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. The 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.

NYCI and Leargas¹ are engaging in an international project – a Strategic National Agency Cooperation (SNAC) on Digital Youth Work – focused on enhancing young people's social and personal and digital competences through youth work projects. As part of this, in 2022, through NYCI's STEAM in Youth Work project, we will partner with ten frontline youth work organisations to deliver a range of STEAM projects to young people in different local areas across Ireland. NYCI will provide youth work partners with project payments of up to €2,500 and a range of support to help them plan, deliver, evaluate and sustain the projects, and connect with STEAM experts. The aim of this partnership scheme² is to:

- provide young people with access to quality STEAM experiences in youth work settings where they feel comfortable to explore and experiment.
- strengthen the capacity of youth work organisations to use STEAM to improve the lives of young people.
- generate evidence of the value and impact of STEAM and Digital Youth Work to young people in a youth work setting.

The partnership scheme is included in an international action research project, which will study the personal and social benefits and digital competencies that young people gain by engaging in STEAM

¹ Leargas the National Agency for Erasmus+ in Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, and Youth

² The partnership scheme and action research is funded by Leargas and Science Foundation Ireland.
National Youth Council of Ireland | 3 Montague Street | Dublin 2 T: +353 1 478 4122 | F: +353 1 478 3974
| E: info@nyci.ie www.youth.ie

and Digital Youth Work. Comparable action research projects will simultaneously be undertaken and national reports developed in Finland and Iceland.

The National Youth Council of Ireland invites tenders from qualified individuals and organisations to:

- conduct the action research within Ireland and produce the Irish research report.
- support, inform and guide the researchers conducting research in Finland and Iceland.
- develop a summary international report based on the research findings from Ireland, Finland and Iceland.

Research Aim

In undertaking this Irish study and focusing exclusively on the ten frontline STEAM partnership projects, the research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What is the value of delivering Digital Youth Work and STEAM in the youth work setting?
2. How does youth work practice contribute to the development and learning of young people in digital and STEAM competencies?
3. What contribution does it make to their lives?
4. What challenges, if any, exist in the delivery of STEAM and Digital Youth Work practice?
5. How do these inhibit the rolling out of high-quality STEAM and Digital Youth Work practice in Ireland?
6. How can these challenges be adequately addressed?

Research Methodology

Applicants are invited to outline the research approach and sampling techniques they intend to employ to conduct this study in Ireland and to demonstrate their knowledge of appropriate research methods to fulfil the brief outlined above. Applicants are also invited to outline how they would coordinate the work of partners conducting research in Finland and Iceland. The methodologies which are proposed will be refined with the successful applicant in collaboration with NYCI and our international partners.

Timeframe

The research should be completed by **30th September 2022**. Applicants should provide a detailed timetable for completion of the research.

Profile of Researchers and Relevant Experience

Applications should include a profile of all personnel to be involved in undertaking the research. This should include a detailed CV of the candidate, demonstrating their experience of undertaking similar studies and including two references.

Ethical, Consent & Confidentiality Procedures

Applicants should outline how they propose to comply with research ethics standards and child protection guidelines.

Roles & Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be responsible for accessing research participants, undertaking the research and producing the final report, developed to publishable standards. Additionally, the successful application will be responsible for coordinating the research methodologies and collection of data from the international research partners and collating the international research outcomes into a summary international report along with a national research report.

Ownership of the information and final report

Ownership of data and reports related to the project will reside with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

Budget

The maximum budget for this project is **€18,600** 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.

Payment

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant. The following schedule is proposed:

- €6,600 to be paid on signing the contract.
- €6,000 to be paid on receipt of intermediate report.
- €6,000 to be paid on receipt of full research report.

Payments will be made within 28 days of receipt of an invoice. If at any stage during the research, the agreed level of quality of the research is not adhered to, payment may be withheld.

Queries

Any queries concerning this document should be e-mailed to Ms. Barbara Nea at Barbara@nyci.ie. Completed proposals should be emailed to Barbara@nyci.ie by no later than **11th February 2022** at **12.00 pm**.