GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD

Call for Tenders: Research on the Social Value on Investment

Gaisce – The President's Award is Ireland's national youth award and is a personal development programme for young people aged 14-25. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly, to all young people to dream big and fulfil their potential. The Gaisce Award programme has three progressive Award Levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. For each award level, participants must undertake Challenge Area activities that fulfil Personal Skill, Community Involvement, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey requirements.

Background

Gaisce – The President's Award proposes to commission a Social Return on Investment (SROI) / Social Value Study to evidence the impact and value of the Gaisce Award for young people engaged in Youth Diversion Projects, Probation Services and justice-adjacent community settings.

The study will be explicitly grounded in Gaisce's core outcomes for young people, positioning the Award as a strengths-based, non-formal education and personal development journey that supports confidence, resilience, purpose, community connection and long-term positive life trajectories as set out in our Strategic Plan.

Using a robust, best-practice SROI methodology, the study will quantify the social, economic and individual value generated through participation, while centering young people's lived experience and voice. The outputs will support Gaisce's strategic objectives around inclusion, access, evidence-led growth and cross-sectoral partnership, particularly within youth justice and diversion pathways.

Organisational Context

Gaisce – The President's Award is Ireland's national youth award and a proven positive youth development programme for young people aged 14–25. It provides a non-competitive, voluntary and inclusive framework through which young people set personal goals, develop life skills, contribute to their communities and have their achievements formally recognised.

Gaisce's strategic focus is on ensuring no young person is left behind who wishes to undertake an Award, including those who experience disadvantage, exclusion or system involvement. Delivery within youth justice, diversion and probation settings represents a critical opportunity to support positive identity formation, engagement and long-term outcomes for young people.

Aim

To evidence and articulate the social value generated by Gaisce participation for young people engaged in youth justice, diversion and probation services, aligned directly to Gaisce's outcomes framework.

Objectives

The study will:

- Demonstrate how Gaisce's personal development journey supports young people in justice settings
- Quantify outcomes using an SROI framework
- Provide funder- and policy-ready evidence of value for money
- Strengthen Gaisce's positioning as a credible, complementary pathway within youth justice

Gaisce Council Members
Dr Shane Bergin | Dr Norah Burns | Jenny Gannon | Áine Kerr (Chair) | Dr Ali Khan | Adam Peerbux | Aoife Prendergast | Vincent Teo | Anna-Marie Turley | Emily Whelton

Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin, The President's Award is a company limited by guarantee (CRO 251020) and with a CHY and RCN number (8482 and 20020903 respectively). Our registered address is Ratra House, Phoenix Park, Dublin D08YD62

services

- Support strategic funding, partnership development and advocacy

Timeline

The research is expected to commence in January 2027 and be completed by December 2028. The consultant will be required to submit:

- A full SROI / Social Value Report
- Case studies illustrating lived experience and impact
- Clear evidence and messaging to support:
  - Mapping to relevant Governmental policies and strategies

Budget

The budget for this work is €20,000. The Consultant will be responsible for all tax, VAT and other associated liabilities. The budget should cover all research costs including data collection, analysis, report writing, and presentation of findings. Payments will be made in equal instalments at key deliverables.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	% Weight
Relevant experience in youth research and programme evaluation	**25**
Proposed outline of research and methodology with timelines	**25**
Proposed budget / value for money	**25**
Risk Assessment	**25**
Total	**100**

How to apply

Tenders should be submitted to Karol Quinn, Head of Programme by 5pm on Friday 11 December 2026. For further information, please contact tenders@gaisce.ie.

The application should include information under the following headings:

- Researcher profile including relevant experience
- Proposed outline of research and methodology
- Proposed budget inclusive of all costs.
- Risk Assessment
- Referees
- Contact details

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