



Economic
and Social
Research Council

‘Transforming global evidence: AI-driven evidence synthesis for policymaking’

Welcome and Introduction

To note:

- This session will be recorded and available following the webinar on the UKRI Funding Finder.
- Please use the Q&A function to ask any questions during the presentation.

ESRC staff:

- ESRC: Alice Taylor, Head of Public Policy Research
- ESRC: James Canton, Deputy Director of Public Policy and Engagement Team
- ESRC Lauren Curtis, Grants Manager
- ESRC Audrey Sharp, Senior Grants Delivery Manager

Strategic Overview

UN Summit of the Future



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations



UK Research
and Innovation



The Global
SDG Synthesis
Coalition



International Network
for Governmental
Science Advice

Strategic Overview

Funding Opportunity

Aim: to develop a transformative global infrastructure capable of providing the latest, relevant, high-quality evidence to national and international policymakers to address key policy challenges and accelerate delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Funding: The 100% FEC of your project can be up to £11.5 million. ESRC has a total fund of £9.2 million for this funding opportunity.

Objectives:

- Advance evidence synthesis capabilities
- Deliver nationally and internationally relevant evidence synthesis products
- Improve the accessibility and useability of evidence synthesis for decision makers

Considerations

- Leadership team
- Partnerships
- Flexibility
- Geographical focus
- Diversity, strength and quality of evidence
- Transferability of evidence
- Local policymaking
- Integration with government systems
- AI for science
- Sustainability

What we will not fund

- a leadership team which does not include internationally-recognised experts in evidence synthesis methodology, including artificial intelligence
- a leadership team which does not include a Project co-Lead (International)
- a leadership team which does not include cutting-edge expertise in bridging research, evaluation and policymaking
- a team which is not able to demonstrate how it will work collaboratively and iteratively with partners both locally, in the UK and internationally
- an infrastructure which does not demonstrate the flexibility to adapt to changing priorities and partnerships, additional investment and opportunities
- bids led from a limited thematic angle (for example, bids focused on a single topic or disciplinary area), rather than from a broader perspective based on a foundational and transformational evidence synthesis infrastructure

Key dates

- 12 December 2024 – application deadline
- Dec – office checks
- Jan-March 2025 - peer review by expert reviewers
- March/April 2025 - Project Lead response – 10 days
- May 2025 - panel meeting
- 5 June 2025 (TBC) - interviews
- 1 Sept 2025 (latest date) – five year award starts
- First 9 months - scoping, engagement and co-design phase

How to Apply

- You should apply using The Funding Service (TFS) using the **Start application** link on the [UKRI opportunity web page](#)
- You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for ESRC funding
- Your application must be within the majority of [ESRC remit](#) but can draw from the wider sciences, as long as the social sciences are more than 50% of the focus and effort.
- Only the lead research organisation can **submit** the application to UKRI (however, we expect all team members and project partners to contribute to the application).
- Make sure you are aware of and follow any internal institutional deadlines
- This must be submitted before the submission deadline 12/12/2024
- You will not be able to apply after this time.
- Please see [further guidance](#) on how to apply through TFS.
- Please follow the [funding opportunity-specific guidance](#) provided, you may also find the guidance on [How to write a good application – ESRC – UKRI](#) useful.

Application and Assessment Process

Core Areas of Assessment

- Vision
- Approach
- Applicant and team capability to deliver
- Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)
- Resources and cost justification
- Data management and sharing
- Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)
- Embedding environmental sustainability

Further details of each criteria is available in the How to Apply section of the [opportunity web page](#)

Inclusion of an International Project Co-Lead

- Your Applicant teams **must** include an international project co-lead
- Please adhere to the opportunity guidance that details eligible costs for international project co-leads. Please see [further guidance](#) on International project co-leads
 - Noting the exception to standard eligibility for co-leads from countries on the [OECD DAC list](#) (excluding India and China).

Inclusion of Business, Third Sector or Government organisations

- Project co-leads from **UK** business, third sector or government organisations **can be included** in the applicant team.
- Project co-leads from **International** business, third sector or government organisations are **not eligible to be included** in the applicant team.
- Research organisations submitting applications will need to ensure they comply with the rules of the [UK Subsidy Control Act 2022](#) when including business or third sector team members.

Questions?



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Thank you