



**SPORT  
IRELAND**



ciste na  
gcuntas díomhaoin  
the dormant  
accounts fund

Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund  
Guidelines

## Innovation for Sports inclusion Fund

Sport Ireland is opening an Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund, accessible to all Sport Ireland funded bodies to test innovative solutions to critical problems in the development of sports participation at national, local, community and individual levels. Funded bodies can apply on an individual basis, in partnership with other funded bodies or as a collective of funded bodies. Applications in partnership with outside organisations and institutions are also encouraged.

Sport Ireland are asking funded bodies to identify real world problems which they believe can be solved through innovation. Interested qualifying organisations should submit proposals on how they aim to solve these problems by testing the creative implementation of new or existing ideas, which foster new collaborations with organisations who are willing to share their concepts to increase sports participation in Ireland. Sport Ireland will invest through a competitive application process.

The National Sports Policy is underpinned by a set of 7 core values and 2 of the values are:

1. **Encourages innovation;** we will encourage and stimulate innovative solutions to the challenges we seek to address around participation and the development of the sports sector
2. **Fosters collaboration;** we will encourage and stimulate collaboration within and beyond the sports sector as a foundation of the policy implementation.

Also supported in the National Sports Policy is Action 10 which focuses on participation in Ireland and can be described as following:

***“In prioritising initiatives and programmes to engage groups with lower participation levels we will use behavioural insights and other research to better understand issues around non-participation.”***

Sport Ireland believes if we can align projects to these values and focus on specific problems we need to solve that we can ultimately provide more opportunities for people to be more physically active thus increasing participation rates in Ireland.

### **Vision and Mission of the Innovation Fund**

**Vision:** The vision of the Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund is to solve critical problems and challenges to increasing the number of people from **economic, social or educational disadvantage, or who have a disability**, participating in sport and physical activity in Ireland.

**Mission:** The mission of the Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund is to Identify problems and challenges in the development of sports participation and to test innovative and scalable solutions to those problems and challenges.

### **What do we mean by innovation?**

Innovation is the process of creating value by solving meaningful problems with novel solutions.

### **Themes of the Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund**

Applications can cover any of the themes below. You must submit your application under one or more of the following themes.

1. **Outdoors** - project should align with **Action 13** within the National Sports Policy
2. **Community Sport** - project should align with either **Action 6, 11 and/or 14** within the National Sports Policy
3. **Youth** - project should align with either **Action 6 and/or 7** within the National Sports Policy
4. **Technology** - project should align with **Action 10** within the National Sports Policy
5. **Inclusion** - project should align with **Action 12** within the National Sports Policy

### **Objectives of the Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund**

The Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund project provides funding to eligible organisations for the development and implementation of innovative projects which aim to solve specific problems and that support the goals set out in the National Sports Policy and National Physical Activity Plan.

The objectives of the Innovation for Sports Inclusion Fund are to:

- Pilot new solutions to problems in the development and promotion of sport participation
- Evaluate and document successes and failures of the approach; and
- Demonstrate replicability and scalability for nationwide use and implementation.

### **Target Group**

Innovation Fund applications must target people who are economically or socially disadvantaged, educationally disadvantages or who have a disability. Evidence of this will be required.

### **Timescale**

All projects must be commenced and completed within 12 months of award of funding.

### **Sustainability**

Projects must demonstrate the ability to have a legacy potential once the Dormant Accounts Funding ceases.

### **Funding Structure**

Applications will be sought from all funded bodies in a competitive bid process under the five theme areas highlighted above and applications will be evaluated against the criteria set.

Please note applications can cover more than one theme. All grants will be paid out within one year of allocation.

The minimum fund available is €50,000 current per application. Total fund value of €990,000 current funding.

All applications are required to demonstrate a match fund to a level of minimum of 25%, of either monetary and / or benefit in kind to ensure partnership working. Application with elevated match funding will receive additional points in the assessment of applications. Investments decisions will also be informed by population reach.