

Empowering Young People through AI, Data and Emerging Technologies

Invitation to tender

Independent evaluation of the Programme “Empowering Young People through AI, Data and Emerging Technologies”

Issued by:

National Youth Council of Ireland, 3 Montague Street, Dublin 2, D02 V327

Deadline for proposal submission:

23rd of May 2025

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1. Introduction and background

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) invites tenders from individuals/organisations with the expertise needed to design, develop and implement a robust project learning and evaluation framework for the programme “Empowering Young People through AI, Data and Emerging Technologies”, Herein the project will be referred to as “AI and emerging technologies”

1.1 About NYCI

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is a membership led umbrella organisation that represents and supports the interests of voluntary youth organisations working with over 380,000 young people in Ireland. We use our collective experience to act on issues that impact on young people. We provide a comprehensive range of advice, information and training programmes nationally. Additionally, we undertake advocacy with policy makers, legislators and funders on behalf of our membership to secure an appropriate political, legal and operational environment for youth work in Ireland. NYCI delivers a range of training and support programmes for youth work organisations, including STEAM engagement, youth health, child protection, international, development education, youth arts, equalities and intercultural programmes.

1.2 About AI and emerging technologies

Empowering Young People through AI, Data and Emerging Technologies is a two-year programme that aims to address significant national concerns and ensuring a positive impact for young people regarding AI, data and emerging technologies. It takes a partnership approach in collaboration with Insights, Dublin City University (DCU), and the Ombudsman for Children’s Office (OCO) The programme aims to stimulate public dialogue and foster interactions between data experts and the community on crucial societal topics where AI and emerging technology play a pivotal role.

Integrating AI education within the Youth Work sector encourages interdisciplinary learning and collaboration, cautioning and preparing young people for diverse opportunities in an AI-driven society. It is therefore ideally positioned to support this project which fosters engagement and conversation amongst a significant cohort who may not typically engage with AI and other emerging technologies.

The Main Project deliverables are as follows:

- 1.** Develop and organise a youth consultation initiative on emerging technologies, data, and AI for children and young people, followed by a report, and an awareness campaign and a report launch to showcase learning to a wider audience.
- 2.** Devise and implement a 20-hour continuous professional development (CPD) course for Youth workers
- 3.** In conjunction with our current Youthwork organisation partners, Insight, the OCO and other relevant stakeholders such as ETBs, NYCI would look to host focus groups sessions and peer learning communities to identify other practical resources needed in the sector following consultation with young people.
- 4.** Partnering with Microsoft Dream Space, NYCI look to develop and adapt an online curriculum piece based on the UNESCO framework for AI in education.
- 5.** Supporting three additional partnerships with youth organisations that work with marginalised young people on three pilot projects that encompass AI, data and or other emerging technologies within the youth work setting.

Further details about the project activities and success criteria are included in Appendix 1.

2. Details of tender

NYCI is seeking an Independent Evaluator on a consultancy basis from May 2025 until December 2026 to evaluate the impact of AI and emerging technologies. The Independent Evaluator will design, implement and report on a comprehensive learning and evaluation framework for the project with support from the project team. More specifically, NYCI envisages that the Independent Evaluator will undertake the following tasks:

Establishing the learning and evaluation framework

1. Review and develop the project results framework, logic model, work plan and log frame.
2. Further develop an evaluation and learning methodology for the project, and associated tools for data collection, storage and analysis; ensure the framework and tools are aligned with NYCI's STEAM in Youth Work framework.
3. Train 3 staff members as required on the evaluation and learning methodology for the project, and on the use of the data collection tools.

Ongoing support

4. Respond to any learning and evaluation issues that arise during the implementation of the learning and evaluation framework.
5. Support the project team to produce 3 – 4 periodic evaluation reports (to be agreed when framework finalised), including an interim evaluation report (where samples of data are pulled, analysed and reported on for the Steering group and partners meetings).

Interim and Final evaluation report

6. Undertake data analysis and complete an interim evaluation report by start of February 2026
7. Undertake data analysis and complete final learning and evaluation report and an accompanying executive summary with key findings, conclusions and recommendations. The final report and the executive summary should be provided to NYCI to publishable standards.

3. Timeframe*

- NYCI's AI and emerging technologies project began in March 2025.
- An interim evaluation report will be ready by November 2025.
- Services provided through AI and emerging technologies will conclude by November 2026.
- The first draft of the final evaluation report will be ready by early December 2026.
- The final draft of the final evaluation report will be ready by 21st January 2027.
- NYCI will submit its final report to Research Ireland by early February 2027

It is hoped that the Independent Evaluator would start work on the project from mid to end of May 2025.

4. Ethnical, consent & confidentiality procedures

Applicants should outline how they propose to comply with research ethics standards and in the event the provision of services involves engaging with children/young people you will comply with NYCI's Code of Behaviour for engaging with children/young people.

5. Roles & responsibilities

The successful applicant will be responsible for accessing evaluation participants, undertaking the evaluation research and producing the final report and executive summary, developed to publishable standards. NYCI will introduce the Independent Evaluator to participants and provide support in accessing participants.

6. Ownership of the information and final report

Ownership of data and reports related to the project will reside with NYCI.

7. Budget and finances

The maximum budget for the work of the Independent Evaluator is €10,000 inclusive of VAT. This sum should cover all costs including the Independent Evaluator's time, reasonable, receipted expenses related to the execution of the above tasks, institutional fees, administration costs etc. Applicants should provide a detailed breakdown of costs in their tender proposals. The successful applicant will need to provide a tax clearance access code and tax number. A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant with instalments being paid on signing the contract, on receipt of the interim evaluation report and on receipt of the final evaluation report. Payments will be made within 28 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.

8. Your tender submission and selection criteria

Tender submissions should include:

- An outline of the methods/approach the applicant would take with this piece of work with a general timeline.
- A statement outlining relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated with examples of roles played in comparable projects.
- CV.

- Costs for entire piece of work (including daily rates and anticipated expenses).
- Two referees (including telephone numbers and email addresses).
- Details of any other relevant information that the applicant considers appropriate.
- Tax Clearance Access Code and Tax Number.
- Disclosures of any conflict of interest.
- Contact information.

An assessment panel will examine all tenders received. The panel will have to be satisfied that the contracted consultant is suitably qualified and has the knowledge, experience and skills needed to successfully design, deliver and report on the learning and evaluation framework for the project, within the timeframe and budget outlined above. The Assessment Panel will determine eligibility for this service in accordance with the following criteria:

- A clear understanding of the brief and the context within which the AI in and emerging technologies project operates.
- Skills and knowledge required to deliver the service successfully.
- Experience of successful delivery on comparable projects.
- Alignment between the outlined approach and the evaluation and learning needs of the STEAM in Youth work project.
- Capacity and resources to deliver the services required within the available budget and timeline for the project.
- Overall costs (NYCI does not commit itself to accepting the lowest of any tender. Once the tender has been accepted, any price increases during the term of contract will not be accepted).

All proposals must be emailed to orla@nyci.ie by Thursday 8th May 2025, 12pm. NYCI may invite applicants for interview on the morning of or at some other time during the week beginning 12th May 2025.

NYCI reserves the right not to award the tender to any of the applications received.

9. Queries

For any queries, please contact Orla Matthews orla@nyci.ie

Appendix 1: Project activities and success criteria

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? OUTCOMES, METRICS AND MARKERS

Total Audience Reach

Direct Engagement (Target Number)

Year 1 445

Year 2 1952

Youth Consultation and Awareness including identifying practical resources needed:

10 nationwide focus groups with a total of 120 participants.

5 online sessions with 75 participants.

8 in person and 3 online Year1 Total: 141

2 in person and 2 online Year2 total: 54

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT:195

Awareness-Raising Campaign:

Year one total: 0

Year two total: 1830

TOTAL DIRECT ENGAGEMENT: 30

TOTAL INDIRECT ENGAGEMENT: 1800

*Campaign after launch will be focused online and aims to engage up to 40,000 stakeholders (not included in the Direct engagement figures)

In person CPD for Youth workers and an online interactive curriculum for young people:

With 20 youth organisations participating to include:

30 practitioners for CPD and subsequent training to youth groups of 20 young people.

Year one total: 172

Year two total: 258

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT: 430

Three youth partnership projects to include:

Total practitioners: 7

Total Young People: 120

Timeline

Year one total: 63

Year two total: 64

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT: 127

An event for young people, Youth workers and the wider sector:

Event will directly engage with up to 30 young people and 50 practitioners directly which will indirectly

benefit up to an additional 1200 young people.

Year one total: 0

Year two total: 1270

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT: 1270

Empowering Young People through AI, Data and Emerging Technologies is funded through the Discover programme by Research Ireland.

