



Partnership grant scheme

Guidelines 2016

Contents

Grant funding introduction & eligibility	2
What the scheme will and will not fund	5
Partnership Scheme 2016	6
Application Process	7

Introduction

Ireland joined the European ESTHER Alliance in 2012. ESTHER Ireland is guided by the Memorandum of Understanding between Irish Aid and the HSE, and will contribute to Irish Aid's objectives for health and development. It is based on a spirit of partnership and equality which is a fundamental principle of Ireland's development cooperation policy. ESTHER Ireland uses the twinning model to foster effective north-south and south-south partnerships that can build capacity of the health workforce and health institutions. It engages with the other European Members to develop a strong network of partnerships for development and health improvement.

Ultimately, ESTHER Ireland aims to improve health outcomes, through the creation and mobilisation of robust partnerships that enhance mutual learning and service improvement for both partners. ESTHER partners work mostly in Africa and Asia to tackle priority issues for health and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The partnerships are based on principles of best practice as set out in the [ESTHER Alliance Charter for Quality of Partnerships](#). Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this important document if considering submission of a proposal.

In 2013 Irish Aid provided €50,000 to ESTHER Ireland for start-up grants. The purpose is to enable an Irish institution to undertake the initial work required to establish a relationship with a potential Southern partner institution, consult with stakeholders, assess needs, and develop a partnership based on a common vision for improving health and health care.

Irish Institutions will be invited to apply for a small grant if they are at the early stages of linking with a Southern institution or institutions and require funding to plan and develop the partnership. Generally, this will involve a visit to the Southern institution or a visit to Ireland by a representative from that institution. In some cases, it may involve meeting with other key international stakeholders.

- Grants will be approved by the ESTHER Ireland Steering Group
- Amounts up to €8000 may be allocated to an individual institution

Eligibility and focus

Irish Institutions are invited to apply for a small grant if they are at the early stages of linking with a Southern institution (s) and require funding to plan and develop a partnership. They may also apply to build and strengthen existing partnerships. Applications are particularly invited that: have a focus on education and training; are from HSE-funded institutions; are from Irish Aid health priority countries (*Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho, Liberia*). Generally, activities involve a visit to the Southern institution or a visit to Ireland by a representative from that institution. In some cases, it may involve meeting with other key international stakeholders. The purpose is to enable an Irish institution to undertake the initial work to establish a sustainable relationship with Southern partner institution, consult with stakeholders, assess needs, and develop a partnership based on a common vision for improving health and health care. ESTHER Ireland particularly encourages the creation of multi-institutional* submissions.

The work of ESTHER Ireland is underpinned with principles of effectiveness, quality, coordination and transparency. Accordingly, ensuring the success of the ESTHER's work and the grants scheme relies on the professionalism and integrity of its partners and applicants. All grant applications are appraised by the ESTHER Ireland Steering Group.

*(*A multi-institution is a group of hospitals, or could be a hospital, a university and/or an NGO applying together.)*

Partnership defined

Partnership is a collaborative relationship between two or more parties based on trust, equality and mutual understanding for the achievement of a specified goal. Partnerships involve risks as well as benefits, making shared accountability critical.

Definition from the WHO APPS Programme.

Partnership characteristics

Some characteristics of strong partnership proposals ...

- ✓ Built on existing links with institutional commitment
- ✓ Demand driven and needs based
- ✓ Country-owned, and aligned with country partner priorities
- ✓ Clear goals, results focussed with a strong potential for impact
- ✓ Guided by the need for sustainability
- ✓ Evidence of mutual accountability, and transparency in the intended use of available resources

Some characteristics of weaker partnership proposals ...

- ✗ Unclear partner capacity and experience
- ✗ One-sided benefits, reciprocity unclear
- ✗ Over ambitious with little attention to sustainability
- ✗ Institution involvement not well articulated
- ✗ Overly project focussed rather than partnership focussed
- ✗ Inconsistent budget with weak focus on goals or results
- ✗ Many applications are not supported by the necessary documents

What the ESTHER Ireland Partnership Scheme will and will not fund

The Partnership Scheme will fund ...

- ✓ Needs assessment
 - ✓ Travel
 - ✓ Accommodation
 - ✓ Communications
 - ✓ Workshops for partnership development
 - ✓ Subsistence allowance at local rates (see www.esther.ie for guidelines)
 - ✓ Publication and development of webpages to enhance partnerships
 - ✓ Monitoring and reporting costs
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The Partnership Scheme will *not* fund ...

- ✗ Programme or project activities
- ✗ Salaries or “top-ups”
- ✗ First or business class travel
- ✗ Fundraising activities
- ✗ Backstopping other grants
- ✗ University fees
- ✗ Volunteer funding
- ✗ Consultants
- ✗ Office space
- ✗ Sitting allowances (for training attendees)
- ✗ Entertainment costs

Partnership Scheme 2016

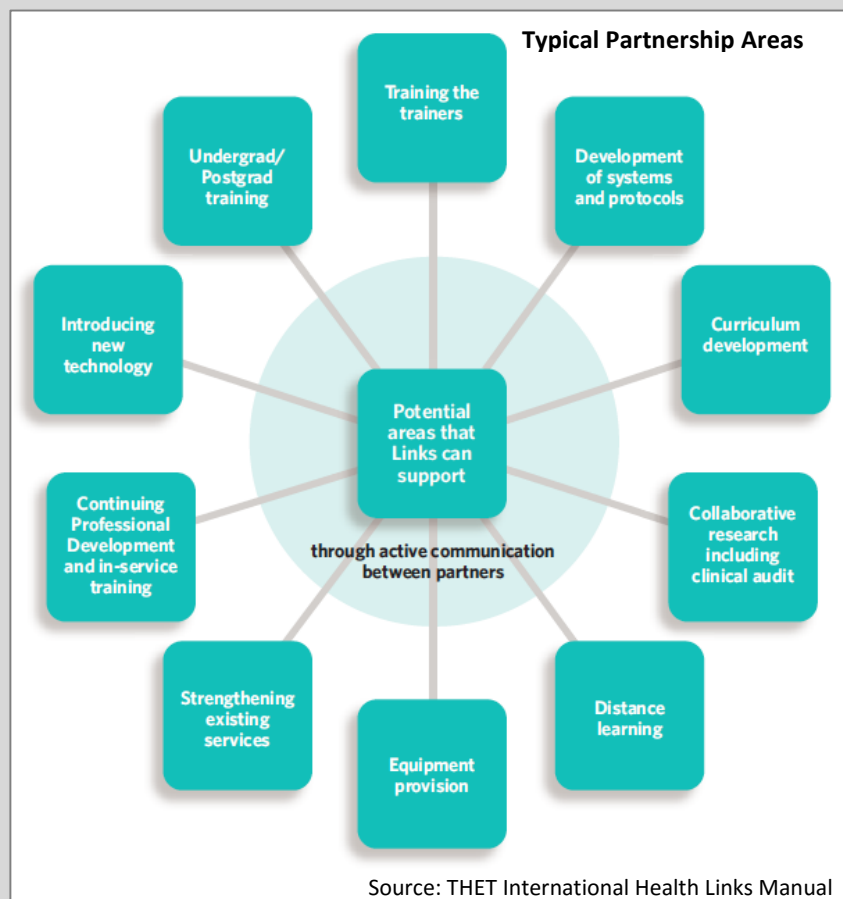
To date, ESTHER Ireland has supported the development of partnerships in a variety of intervention areas, which include:

1. <i>Physiotherapy</i>	7. <i>Leprosy</i>
2. <i>Nursing & midwifery</i>	8. <i>Paediatric Cancer</i>
3. <i>Children's Palliative Care</i>	9. <i>Cancer Research & Education</i>
4. <i>Health care Education & Research</i>	10. <i>Community Health</i>
5. <i>Health care Equipment</i>	11. <i>Mother & Child Health</i>
6. <i>Health Systems Research</i>	12. <i>Surgical training</i>

There are many areas that a partnership might focus on including learning, training, exchange visits, research, and teaching.

Ultimately, the creation of a sustainable partnership should aim to make a contribution to achieving a particular health outcome which has been identified as a priority by the southern partner and their National Health Plan.

All grants are for 12 months' duration with interim & final reporting at 6 and 12 months.



Application process

In 2016 ESTHER Ireland will offer access to two bands of grant funding. The first band will support partnership grants of up to €8000 for individual Irish institutions to design, create and develop relationships with Southern entities from which a sustainable partnership will emerge capable of addressing an identified need.

The second band provides for grants of up to €15,000 for Irish multi-institution groups with a track record to create or build on an existing bilateral partnership with Southern networks. Institutions working within this band will be expected to demonstrate a clear focus on partnership results together with a logical contribution to a health outcome.

ESTHER Ireland will continue to support and monitor active partner participation at all stages of the grant implementation process in particular at the grant planning and reporting stages. Applicants are encouraged to be as clear and succinct as possible in their proposals and ensure all background documentation, including that outlined in the introduction has been consulted.

The deadline for receipt of 2016 grant applications is 24 June 2016. All grants will be assessed by the ESTHER Steering Group.