



Sparkfusion

2023

Introduction

The Spark Innovation Programme is delighted to introduce Spark Fusion, an initiative designed to promote healthcare innovation and collaboration across Irish public sector organisations. This initiative offers funding from €5,000 up to a maximum of €50,000 to innovative cross-sectoral projects with a focus on health.

Project teams, which must be composed of staff from the Health Service Executive AND at least one other public sector organisation, may apply for funding for novel initiatives that have the potential to bring forward the vision of the Healthy Ireland Framework 2013-25. This vision; is a future where people can enjoy physical and mental health/wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported throughout society. Spark Fusion is supported by Healthy Ireland, Our Public Services and the Department of Health.

Principle

As our patient cohort becomes more complex, the nation faces increasing challenges in providing high quality care with the limited resources available. Innovation is a core component of any successful transformation, and an innovative mind-set across public sector organisations will be essential to address the challenges ahead.

Spark Fusion builds on the fantastic work already undertaken as part of the Healthy Ireland Framework 2013 – 2025. This Framework is a broad set of actions being undertaken by government departments, public sector organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing and reduce the risks posed to future generations. The policy is grounded within the understanding of health as a personal, social and economic good that every member of the population has a shared responsibility towards.

At Spark, we have traditionally sought problems from hospitals, CHOs and public health departments, and empowered our exceptional workforce to bring their innovative solutions to reality. However, we understand that many of the factors that determine our health and health outcomes, exist outside the walls of our healthcare settings. Spark Fusion is looking for problems and projects that see a healthcare team partner with another public sector organisation to bring about positive health change in our society. Be it a healthy schools project with the Department of Education, a collaboration with a Local Authority, or a Prisoner Health initiative with the Department of Justice, true cross-sectoral collaboration is the aim of the game!



Eligibility

1. The proposed project must be innovative.
2. The timeline described must be practical and feasible.
3. The expected results must be clearly laid out, realistic and measurable.
4. The expected outputs must align with the above mission of the Healthy Ireland Framework
5. The funding amount sought must be justified and based on a clearly outlined budget.
6. The project team must include at least one clinical healthcare professional working in an Irish HSE site:
Doctor: Non Consultant Hospital Doctor or Consultant AND/OR
Nurse/Midwife: Any grade AND/OR
Health & Social Care Professionals AND/OR
Health Promotion Officer AND/OR
Other
AND Staff from at least one other public sector organisation
7. Signed approval for the project is required from manager.

Key Dates

Launch _____	August 2023.
Open Call for Applications _____	Until 9th October 2023.
Shortlisting _____	September 2023.
Announcement of Successful Applicants _____	October 2023.



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