

Spark Impact: Spark Impact Application Form

1. Spark Impact

Welcome to Spark Impact!

We're so glad you're here and excited that you're thinking about sharing your idea with Spark Impact. This initiative is all about empowering healthcare professionals like you to drive innovation and deliver meaningful change across the health service.

So, what is Spark Impact?

Spark Impact is your launchpad for implementing impactful healthcare innovations. Whether your idea is at concept stage, being piloted, or ready for implementation, Spark Impact offers funding (from €5,000 to €90,000), tailored support as outlined below, and access to a vibrant innovation network to help bring your project to life. Each cycle, we support a number of high-potential projects and yours could be one of them!

What's in it for you?

Every applicant gets access to:

- Resources to kickstart your innovation journey; tools, tips, and guidance to help shape your idea.
- A spot on our [Design Thinking Workshop](#) (DTW). Completion of the DTW is **mandatory** for the lead applicant to be **eligible to apply** for the Spark Impact Initiative. The workshop is a full-day, hands-on experience where you'll learn how to approach problems creatively and user-first. In the morning, you'll dive into the design thinking mindset and tools. In the afternoon, you'll test your

ideas and polish your elevator pitch. This is a key skill for winning support and funding.

- There are two upcoming workshops scheduled for the 10th and 17th of December. Lead applicants must attend this workshop if they have not already attended a DTW.

If you're shortlisted, you'll also get the chance to:

Pitch your idea to Spark, opening doors to support, networking, and potential funding of up to €90,000. If your pitch is successful, you'll not only receive funding but also have the opportunity to showcase your work and yourself through our social media and promotional channels and potentially qualify for the Bright Spark National Innovation Awards.

Important to note:

To guide and support you on your application we have created a set of resources:

- [Spark Impact 2026 Applicant Guide and FAQs](#)
- [DVF Educational Videos](#)
- PDF document to highlight the content of the questionnaire to allow pre submission preparation of your application.

Closing date for applications is Sunday January 4th at 11.59pm

2. Personal Information

1. Do you or a member of your team work in the HSE? (N.B. Spark Innovation Programme can only support HSE and Section 38 organisations) - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Have you ever applied for a Spark Innovation Programme Initiative? If yes, please specify which initiative(s) in the comments box below. - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comment:

3. Have you ever been awarded Spark funding for the Spark Impact project you are currently applying for? If yes, please provide the name and year of the previously funded project in the comments box below-required

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comment:

4. If you answered yes to the question above, is this application a new or refined project? If the project is refined please describe how this project differs from or has evolved since your previous Spark funded project (e.g., new objectives, expanded scope, refined methodology, different audience, or learnings applied) in the comments box below (Max 100 words)

☐ A new project

☐ A refined version of a previously funded project

Comment:

5. Have you received or are you expecting to receive funding for this project from any other source(s)? - required

If yes:

- **Please list the funding body/bodies.**
- **Amount of funding received (or anticipated).**
- **Purpose of the funding (e.g., specific activities, staffing, equipment).**
- **How does this Spark application complement or differ from the other funding?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comment:

6. I confirm that I have attended a Spark Design Thinking Workshop or academic equivalent prior to application (If yes please enter date attended) If you have attended design thinking training other than that provided by Spark, please provide further details of this course - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comment:

7. Have you sought line manager approval (You must have approval to proceed with submitting application)? - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Applicant name - required

9. Name of lead person for the project (if different from above)

10. Role/Job Title - required

☐ Doctor

☐ Nurse

☐ Midwife

☐ Pharmacist

☐ Audiology

☐ Clinical Biochemistry

☐ Clinical Engineering

☐ Clinical Measurement Physiology

☐ Clinical Perfusion Science

☐ Counselling & Psychotherapy

☐ Dietetics

- ☐ Medical Physics
- ☐ Medical Science
- ☐ Occupational Therapy
- ☐ Optometry
- ☐ Orthoptics
- ☐ Phlebotomy
- ☐ Physiotherapy
- ☐ Play Therapy
- ☐ Podiatry
- ☐ Psychology
- ☐ Radiation Therapy
- ☐ Radiography
- ☐ Social Care Work
- ☐ Social Work
- ☐ Speech & Language Therapy

11. Roles of team members (Identify all) - required

- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Midwife
- ☐ Pharmacist
- ☐ Audiology
- ☐ Clinical Biochemistry
- ☐ Clinical Engineering
- ☐ Clinical Measurement Physiology
- ☐ Clinical Perfusion Science
- ☐ Counselling and Psychotherapy
- ☐ Dietetics
- ☐ Medical Physics

- ☐ Medical Science
- ☐ Occupational Therapy
- ☐ Optometry
- ☐ Orthoptics
- ☐ Phlebotomy
- ☐ Physiotherapy
- ☐ Play Therapy
- ☐ Podiatry
- ☐ Psychology
- ☐ Radiation Therapy
- ☐ Radiography
- ☐ Social Care Work
- ☐ Social Work
- ☐ Speech and Language Therapy
- ☐ No other team members
- ☐ Other (Please list below)

Comment:

12. Are you collaborating with other HSE entities outside of your immediate clinical setting? For example, other local community or acute hospital provider. If you answered 'yes' to the above question, please list your collaborators - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comment:

3. Work Background

13. Department - required

14. HSE Region - required

- ☐ HSE Dublin and North East
- ☐ HSE Dublin and Midlands
- ☐ HSE Dublin and South East
- ☐ HSE Mid West
- ☐ HSE South West
- ☐ HSE West and North West
- ☐ National Project

15. Please name the specific healthcare site where this project will be implemented? Please note that this is the location to which funds will be transferred if your application is successful - required

16. To which healthcare setting does your project relate? - required

- ☐ Acute Setting
- ☐ Community Setting
- ☐ Public Health

17. Please provide email addresses for all project team members (please also provide a shared or role-based email to ensure that all correspondence remains accessible to the project team, even if staffing changes occur.):

18. Lead contact phone number - required

4. Project Overview

19. Short Project Title (Max 10 words) - required

20. Project Summary. Consider this your 'Elevator Pitch'. This may be used for reporting and communications purposes if shortlisted for funding (Max 200 words) - required

21. Projects that fall under the following categories will NOT be eligible for Spark Impact Funding:

- Development of new apps
- Development of Electronic Health Records or similar
- Clinical research, translational or otherwise
- Research publication fees
- Medical technology that is not CE marked
- Projects intended for commercialisation
- Projects involving building renovations or new construction
- Applications for WTE to support existing services
- Previously funded Spark projects. Projects must differ from those previously funded (See FAQs)

I confirm my project does not relate to the categories listed above: - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

22. Which priority area(s) does your project align with? If you selected 'other' please document the area in the comment box - required

- ☐ AI and Automation
- ☐ Cancer Services
- ☐ Children's Health
- ☐ Climate Change & Sustainability
- ☐ Disability Services
- ☐ Human Rights, Equality & Social Inclusion
- ☐ Mental Health
- ☐ Older Person's Services
- ☐ Pharmacy- Led Project
- ☐ Preventative Health & Wellbeing
- ☐ Primary Care or Community Care
- ☐ Productivity & Efficiency
- ☐ Sepsis
- ☐ Urgent & Emergency Care or Patient Flow
- ☐ Waiting List Initiatives or Scheduled Care
- ☐ Women's Health
- ☐ Other

Comment:

23. Does your project relate to one of the following categories? If your project category is not listed below please select 'other' and document in the comment section what category it relates to e.g. Service Redesign

(Please note: Applicants will only be directed to the questions relevant to the category selected. For instance, selecting 'Digital Project' will take you to the Digital Project questions only.)

- ☐ AI and Automation Project
- ☐ Purchase of Clinical Equipment Project
- ☐ Digital Project
- ☐ Sustainability Project
- ☐ 'Other' Innovation Project

Comment:

5. Purchase of Clinical Equipment Project Questions

24. Desirability Question

Describe your innovation project, its goals, and key activities. (Max 200 words)

25. Desirability Question

What healthcare challenge are you addressing? Describe the unmet need, current gaps, and who will benefit from your innovation project. (Max 200 words)

26. Desirability Question

Outline how each of your key stakeholders has shaped your project proposal and how you plan to engage with them throughout the innovation project. Why are they important to your project's success? (Max 200 words)

27. Desirability Question

How does your innovation project offer a new or improved solution? If relevant describe how you incorporated design thinking and co-design in your project. (Max 200 words)

28. Desirability Question

What impact will your innovation project have? (Consider the following - patient experience, improved patient outcomes, health equity, sustainability, value for money, or staff experience.) (Max 100 words)

29. Feasibility Question

Can you confirm that the proposed equipment/device is CE Marked?

(Please note: By law, medical devices, electronic equipment and certain other products purchased **MUST be CE marked. A CE mark gives assurance that the device meets essential safety and other requirements set out in EU regulations).**

☐ Yes

30. Feasibility Question

Please confirm that the proposed device/equipment is:

(Consult with clinical engineering, facilities, IT and infection control as needed to confirm the below).

	Yes	No	N/A
Compatible with existing devices (e.g. equipment to which the device may need to connect, consumables needed)	☐	☐	☐
Compatible with existing IT infrastructure and policy (e.g. how	☐	☐	☐

	Yes	No	N/A
device is networked, where data is stored)			
Compatible with existing physical infrastructure (e.g. physical space, power, ventilation and water requirements)	☐	☐	☐
Compatible with local infection control policy and systems	☐	☐	☐

31. Feasibility Question

Has your institution (e.g. Operations Manager or similar corporate manager, Clinical Engineering department) confirmed support for ongoing maintenance, calibration, and servicing of the equipment/device?

☐ Yes

☐ No

32. Feasibility Question

Identify potential barriers to implementation and explain how you plan to overcome them. (Max 200 words)

33. Feasibility Question

Outline the key steps (locally, regionally and nationally) for implementing your project. (Max 200 words)

34. Viability Question

**How could your innovation project be scaled or replicated elsewhere?
(Max 200 words)**

35. Viability Question

Has the sustainability, lifecycle cost (including consumables), and end-of-life management of the equipment been considered, and how will associated costs be met over its lifetime? (Max 200 words) *

36. Viability Question

**How will you sustain this innovation project beyond the pilot phase?
(Max 200 words)**

37. Viability Question

Are there any regulatory, safety or procurement requirements identified by Clinical Engineering that must be addressed? Please give details. (Max 100 words)

38. Viability Question

State the total funding requested (Inclusive of VAT)?

39. Viability Question

(i) Which funding tier does your budget fit in to? (ii) Provide a detailed, itemised budget and justify each cost in the comments box below. (Max 200 words)

- ☐ Between €5,000 — €20,000
- ☐ Between €20,000 — €50,000
- ☐ Between €50,000 — €90,000

Comment:

40. Viability Question

How does your project offer value for money? Include expected cost-savings, efficiencies, or broader benefits. (Max 200 words)

6. AI and Automation Project Questions

41. Desirability Question

Describe your innovation project, its goals, and key activities. (Max 200 words)

42. Desirability Question

What healthcare challenge is your AI solution addressing? Describe the unmet need, current gaps, and who will benefit from your innovation project. (Max 200 words)

43. Desirability Question

How does your innovation project offer a new or improved solution? If relevant describe how you incorporated design thinking and co-design in your project. (Max 200 words)

44. Desirability Question

Describe how the input of all stakeholders has shaped your project proposal and how you plan to engage with them throughout the innovation project. Why are they important to your project's success? (Max 200 words)

45. Desirability Question

What impact will your innovation project have? (Consider the following - patient experience, improved patient outcomes, health equity, sustainability, value for money, or staff experience.) (Max 100 words)



46. Feasibility Question

What steps will be taken to validate the AI system for clinical use, ensure compliance with regulatory and safety requirements (e.g. CE Marking, Medical Device Regulation), and identify and mitigate associated risks? (Max 100 words)



47. Feasibility Question

How will patient data be managed and safeguarded to ensure GDPR compliance, data security, and ethical use, including anonymisation, bias, and fairness considerations (e.g. cloud, e-mail, or external systems)? (Max 100 words)

48. Feasibility Question

Has the project been reviewed with ICT and/or Clinical Engineering to confirm compatibility with existing HSE systems, and what arrangements are in place for system ownership, maintenance, and long-term governance? (Max 100 words)

49. Feasibility Question

Has ethical review been sought, including consideration of bias, fairness and responsible use of AI in patient care? (Max 100 words)

50. Feasibility Question

Identify potential barriers to implementation and explain how you plan to overcome them. (Max 200 words)

51. Feasibility Question

Outline the key steps for implementing your project (locally, regionally and nationally). (Max 200 words)

52. Viability Question

What plans are in place for user training, change management, and sustainable implementation or scaling of the AI system within clinical workflows? (200 words)

53. Viability Question

What plans are in place for user training, change management, and sustainable implementation or scaling of the AI system within clinical workflows? (Max 200 words)

54. Viability Question

Describe how the AI solution will be scaled locally, regionally and nationally? (Max 200 words)

55. Viability Question

State the total funding requested (Inclusive of VAT)?

56. Viability Question

(i) Which funding tier does your budget fit in to? (ii) Provide a detailed, itemised budget and justify each cost in the comments box below. (Max 200 words)

- ☐ Between €5,000 — €20,000
- ☐ Between €20,000 — €50,000
- ☐ Between €50,000 — €90,000

Comment:

57. Viability Question

How does your project offer value for money? Include expected cost-savings, efficiencies, or broader benefits. (Max 200 words)

7. Digital Project Questions

58. Desirability Question

Describe the main digital solution being proposed (e.g. platform, website, digital tool or system enhancement)? (Max 200 words)

59. Desirability Question

Has your project been discussed with HSE Digital and / or your local or regional ICT Department? Please provide the name of the contact person and date of discussion and a brief summary of any feedback received regarding alignment with HSE Digital policy and system compatibility. (Max 100 words)

60. Desirability Question

Describe your innovation project, its goals, and key activities? (Max 200 words)

61. Desirability Question

**What healthcare challenge is your digital solution addressing?
Describe the unmet need, current gaps, and who will benefit from
your innovation project. (Max 200 words)**

62. Desirability Question

How does your innovation project offer a new or improved solution? Describe how it uses design thinking and incorporates co-design (as relevant to this project). (Max 100 words)

63. Desirability Question

Describe how the input of all stakeholders has shaped your project proposal and how you plan to engage with them throughout the innovation project. Why are they important to your project's success? (Max 200 words)

64. Desirability Question

What impact will your innovation project have? (Consider the following - patient experience, improved patient outcomes, health equity, sustainability, value for money, or staff experience.) (Max 100 words)

65. Feasibility Question

How does your project align with HSE Digital's policies and standards? Please give details (Max 200 words) ([See the HSE National Policy- Digital Services Standard](#))

Please confirm that:

- The project does not propose a standalone website, and will be integrated into existing HSE Digital platforms where applicable.
- You will engage with HSE Digital to ensure compliance with the HSE Digital Service Standard, Design System and Content Standards.

66. Feasibility Question

Identify potential barriers to implementation and explain how you plan to overcome them. (Max 200 words)

67. Feasibility Question

Outline the key steps for implementing your project (locally, nationally and regionally). (Max 200 words)

68. Feasibility Question

How will the project ensure compliance with data protection, cybersecurity, and interoperability requirements? Please include details on data handling, security measures and compatibility with local, regional or national ICT systems (Max 200 words)

69. Viability Question

What ICT support will be required for implementation, maintenance and long-term sustainability of this project? Please also describe how accessibility and inclusion (e.g. WCAG compliance, user testing, SME input) will be ensured in the design and delivery of the digital solution (Max 200 words)

70. Viability Question

How could your innovation project be scaled or replicated elsewhere? (Max 200 words)

71. Viability Question

State the total funding requested (Inclusive of VAT)?

72. Viability Question

(i) Which funding tier does your budget fit in to? (ii) Provide a detailed, itemised budget and justify each cost in the comments box below. (Max 200 words)

- ☐ Between €5,000 — €20,000
- ☐ Between €20,000 — €50,000
- ☐ Between €50,000 — €90,000

Comment:

73. Viability Question

How does your project offer value for money? Include expected cost-savings, efficiencies, or broader benefits. (Max 200 words)

8. Sustainability Project Questions

74. Desirability Question

Describe what aspect of healthcare delivery or equipment is being made more sustainable? (max 200 words)

75. Desirability Question

What reduction in energy use, waste, or emissions do you anticipate? (max 100 words)

76. Desirability Question

What healthcare challenge are you addressing? Describe the unmet need, current gaps, and who will benefit from your innovation project. (Max 200 words)

77. Desirability Question

How does your innovation project offer a new or improved solution? Describe how it uses design thinking and incorporates co-design (as relevant to your project). (Max 100 words)

78. Desirability Question

Describe how the input of all stakeholders has shaped your project proposal and how you plan to engage with them throughout the innovation project. Why are they important to your project's success? (Max 200 words)

79. Desirability Question

What impact will your innovation project have? (Consider the following - patient experience, improved patient outcomes, health equity, sustainability, value for money, or staff experience.) (Max 100 words)

80. Feasibility Question

How will you measure environmental impact alongside clinical outcomes? Please give details. (Max 100 words)

81. Feasibility Question

Identify potential barriers to implementation and explain how you plan to overcome them. (Max 200 words)

82. Feasibility Question

Outline the key steps for implementing your project (locally, regionally and nationally). (Max 200 words)

83. Viability Question

How will you sustain this innovation project beyond the pilot phase? (Max 200 words)

84. Viability Question

Could this model/equipment be scaled across other services? (Max 100 words)

85. Viability Question

State the total funding requested (Inclusive of VAT)?

86. Viability

(i) Which funding tier does your budget fit in to? (ii) Provide a detailed, itemised budget and justify each cost in the comments box below. (Max 200 words)

- ☐ Between €5,000 — €20,000
- ☐ Between €20,000 — €50,000
- ☐ Between €50,000 — €90,000

Comment:

87. Viability Question

How does your project offer value for money? Include expected cost-savings, efficiencies, or broader benefits. (Max 200 words)

9. 'Other' Innovation Project Questions

88. Desirability Question

Describe your innovation project, its goals, and key activities. (Max 200 words)

89. Desirability Question

What healthcare challenge are you addressing? Describe the unmet need, current gaps, and who will benefit from your innovation project. (Max 200 words)

90. Desirability Question

How does your innovation project offer a new or improved solution? Describe how it uses design thinking and incorporates co-design (as relevant to your project). (Max 100 words)

91. Desirability Question

Describe how the input of all stakeholders has shaped your project proposal and how you plan to engage with them throughout the innovation project. Why are they important to your project's success? (Max 200 words)

92. Desirability Question

What impact will your innovation project have? (Consider the following - patient experience, improved patient outcomes, health equity, sustainability, value for money, or staff experience.) (Max 100 words)

93. Feasibility Question

Identify potential barriers to implementation and explain how you plan to overcome them. (Max 200 words)

94. Feasibility Question

Outline the key steps for implementing your project (locally, regionally and nationally). (Max 200 words)

95. Viability Question

How will you sustain this innovation project beyond the pilot phase? (Max 200 words)

96. Viability Question

**How could your innovation project be scaled or replicated elsewhere?
(Max 200 words)**

97. Viability Question

State the total funding requested (Inclusive of VAT)?

98. Viability

(i) Which funding tier does your budget fit in to? (ii) Provide a detailed, itemised budget and justify each cost in the comments box below. (Max 200 words)

- ☐ Between €5,000 — €20,000
- ☐ Between €20,000 — €50,000
- ☐ Between €50,000 — €90,000

Comment:

99. Viability Question

How does your project offer value for money? Include expected cost-savings, efficiencies, or broader benefits. (Max 200 words)

10. Outcome Measures

100. Please list the specific metrics you will use to measure the impact of your project in bullet points. (Max 200 words) *(Please note: If your application is successful, these metrics will be included in your memorandum of Agreement (MoA). You will be expected to report on them as part of your interim and final reports.)* - required

11. Communications and Consent

101. I have read and understand the Spark Impact applicant guide - required

☐ Yes

102. Do you consent to be added to the Spark Innovation Programme mailing list so that you can hear about any new initiatives in the future? - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

103. In order to promote our various initiatives, images may be shared on social media. Please indicate if you are happy for your project or image to be used in this promotion. Any intellectual property is excluded - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

104. At HSE Spark we continually evaluate and seek feedback on our activity to inform further iterations. Please confirm if you would be happy to be contacted by a member of HSE Spark in the future to participate in this service evaluation. - required

☐ Yes

☐ No

105. Where did you hear about Spark Impact 2026? (if you selected 'other', please document your communication source in the comment box below) - required

☐ HSE Spark Innovation Programme Mailing List

☐ LinkedIn

☐ X

☐ Instagram

☐ Bluesky

☐ From a Colleague

☐ HSE Communication

☐ Other

☐ Other (please specify):