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## Request for Tender

**To develop a Transition Year education module, with teacher support materials on catchment management and water quality issues**

**Closing Date:  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Queries to be addressed to:**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION TO AN FÓRAM UISCE – The Water Forum

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) was established in June 2018 in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the Water Services Act 2017. The Forum is the only statutory body representative of all stakeholders with an interest in the quality of Ireland’s water bodies. It consists of 25 members including representatives from a wide range of organisations with direct connection to issues relating to water quality and also public water consumers. Approximately 50 different organisations were involved in the nomination of members.

The Water Services Act 2017 provides the statutory basis for the Water Forum. The Water Forum has advisory roles in relation to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Irish Water, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and also the Water Policy Advisory Committee.

The Water Forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to debate and analyse a range of issues with regard to water quality, rural water concerns, issues affecting customers of Irish Water and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland. The Water Forum is an independent entity and has discretion to determine its own work programme and means of communicating its views and analysis. To this end, it has adopted its [Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup>](#) for 2022-2027.

The Forum secretariat is headquartered in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Mr Donal Purcell is Senior Executive Officer.

## 2. BACKGROUND

One of the measures in the draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2022-2027 is the development of 46 catchment plans that will provide sub-plans to the National Plan. These plans and the actions identified within them will be developed and implemented by local authorities over the course of the RBMP cycle to 2027.

The Water Forum policy, A Framework for Integrated Land and Landscape Management<sup>2</sup>, seeks to take a systems-based approach to integrated catchment management in that all spheres of the environment are considered together. Therefore, when implementing actions for water resource management account should be taken of the impacts for biodiversity, climate mitigation and soil health so that co-benefits and trade-offs can be achieved for the most impactful environmental outcomes. A key part of this proposal is that communities are involved at all stages of the process. This means that scientists, agencies and experts would need to work with local communities to support the creation of a community ‘vision’ for their catchment. Catchment science, data and local knowledge would be integrated so that communities have a role in developing and implementing a solutions-focused action plan and are kept informed of progress at all stages of implementation.

Best practice in public participation and deliberative democracy requires that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to local decision making. This means people are provided with the necessary

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<sup>1</sup> [Our Work - An Fóram Uisce \(thewaterforum.ie\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [TWF-FILLM-Report-Feb21-v9WEB.pdf \(thewaterforum.ie\)](#)

information and accommodated through deliberative fora to discuss and make informed decisions so that citizens views shape decision-making for future-proofed results. Effective engagement is not only about 'raising awareness', addressing 'a knowledge deficit', or encouraging behaviour change; it also includes a commitment that the public, broadly defined, is involved in decision-making processes and outcomes.

Research states that this level of participation is required to deliver more just, equitable, and sustainable decision-making. This approach should facilitate multiple viewpoints and interests, and recognises inequity and diverse expertise in the design, delivery, and outcomes of decision-making around water resources and environmental management.

### 3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Water Forum is planning to sponsor an award with the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) from January 2023. In preparation for this, we wish to develop an education programme to enable students to develop their understanding and knowledge of river catchments and water management in Ireland.

This project therefore seeks to develop a curriculum-linked education module and teaching support resources for a Transition year programme of learning. The purpose is to develop students understanding of the value of local water resources, the ecosystem services provided by catchments, how river catchments are managed and how they can get involved in protecting local water quality.

The project will provide self-directed learning resources for students to identify the water quality status of local water bodies, how water resources are used (industry, drinking water, agriculture, recreation, protected areas and habitats), and the pressures impacting on water quality (most if this information is available on [catchments.ie](http://catchments.ie) website).

Students should be directed to resources and methods to explore the cultural heritage of the local catchment, the history and heritage, recreation and tourism opportunities and protected species and habitats and the cultural ecosystems services provided by their local waterbody (folklore, aesthetic value, sense of place).

Students should be encouraged to work in teams to explore local community action for water quality, where possible engage with local authorities, experts and community groups to learn more about water-related activities in their local water body.

Each participating team/class will be required to use the information they have gathered to prepare a *storyboard/presentation* on their local catchment or waterbody to include why it is important that local communities value the ecosystem services catchments provides, this will include its particular value for recreation, biodiversity, habitats, heritage, tourism, economic benefits and for health and well-being.

Each team/class will be required to prepare a short storyboard, powerpoint presentation, or video presentation on their catchment, no longer than 15 minutes, covering their key findings and what is particularly special and unique in their area of study.

Recommendations for an assessment process for the storyboards and presentations and a potential awards mechanism is to be defined possibly in a collaboration of local catchment groups and Rivers Trusts with Local Authorities, that can be supported and promoted by the Water Forum.

Resources should be developed to support teachers to deliver the module and to support students to participate in the programme. The tenderer is to identify potential opportunities to integrate this programme into the formal school curriculum such as being identified as an action to deliver the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

The tenderer will be required to pilot and refine the resources and processes in number of schools and the results shared with the Water Forum.

The programme will address each of the following components shown in Table 1:

**Table 1: Components to be addressed in this work programme**

Component	Items to be addressed in this study
1. Module content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to a river catchment.</li> <li>• How rivers are managed with a brief introduction to the what the EPA, Local Authorities and agencies do for managing water.</li> <li>• Introduction to water quality in Ireland, how it is assessed, its current status and what the significant pressures are.</li> <li>• Why rivers are important the concept of ecosystem services and the impacts of biodiversity, climate change on water.</li> <li>• Self-directed learning tools to discover what is unique and important about your own local river, include heritage, biodiversity, recreation, tourism, water resources, industry, health and well-being (giving details on sources of information for each of these areas)</li> <li>• Outline the process to develop a storyboard on a local waterbody covering its unique characteristics</li> <li>• Details of how to create a 15 minute presentation to share the catchment facts with the local community and on the school website.</li> </ul>
2. Schools pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot programme in at least 4 schools, at least one urban and one rural will be trialled to include an evaluation of learning achieved by the students and teachers.</li> </ul>
3. Curriculum links and teacher’s resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the links to the curriculum and the key learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, personal development) for the programme, scheme of work and resources to support the teacher to deliver the programme in the classroom.</li> </ul>
4. Awards system pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify if there is an awards system that could be used to promote the programme</li> <li>• Develop criteria for assessments of the award</li> <li>• Suggestions for a suitable award scheme</li> </ul>

Applications are welcome from single service providers or consortiums of multiple service providers. See Section 9: Terms and Conditions for further information.

Potential next steps:

Successful delivery of this programme could potentially lead to the development of a second phase to the programme whereby the researcher will engage a number of school groups to develop a catchment plan for their local waterbody using any of the tools in the Deliberative Democracy Toolkit Imagining 2050 or the RIPPLE community development approach to catchment planning. The students will use the knowledge gained in phase one to agree a vision and plan of action to protect water quality in their local waterbody.

Some communities are currently using deliberative democracy and participatory approaches to develop local catchment visions and plans and the researcher will be required to assess the differences and similarities between the action plans developed in the two contexts (school v community) using the considerations of best practice in participative democracy.

#### 4. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables are required for **all** awarded tenders:

- Transition Year Education module content,
- Implement a pilot engagement programme in a number of schools,
- Resources for teachers to support the implementation of the programme of learning,
- A pathway proposal for an assessment and awards system

#### 5. BUDGET

The currency and invoices in which all prices and rates shall be quoted, and which payments under the contract will be paid, shall be Euros (€).

The **maximum budget is €25,000**, inclusive of VAT and overheads where applicable.

##### 5.1 Payment Schedules

An upfront payment of 50% of the total agreed budget will be made upon receipt of invoice from the contracted service provider or institution following the initiation of the project.

A final payment of the remaining 50% of the total agreed budget will be made on project completion within the timeframes stated within Section 6 and following receipt of the final resources.

#### 6. TIMELINES

The proposed timeframes for project delivery are outlined in Table 2, however, these are subject to confirmation at the project initiation meeting.

**Table 2:** Proposed timeframe for project delivery

Publication of tender	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Deadline for tender submissions	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Award of tender and start of project	August 2022
Project pilot in schools	January 2023
Draft report submitted	April 2023

Project review meetings will take place throughout the course of the programme development, to ensure the learning objectives and outcomes are in line with the Forum's strategic policy.

## 7. MARKING SCHEME

All submissions will be assessed by a panel of suitably qualified persons.

Marks will be awarded (maximum 100 marks) based solely on the information provided in the submission, as follows:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the subject matter of the brief and the requirements of the project (40 marks).
- Project management arrangements including piloting arrangements (20 marks).
- Details of budget and timeline, including compliance within the stated budget and specified timelines (10 marks). A GANTT chart outlining the timeline for project actions and deliverables is mandatory.
- Demonstrated relevant education track record of the team/consortium appropriate to the subject matter, including previous/ongoing education programmes and projects delivered and education resources developed (30 marks).

## 8. SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

Applications must be submitted no later than **4pm 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022** via email to Dr Gretta McCarron, Communications and Education Lead, An Fóram Uisce: [gretta@nationalwaterforum.ie](mailto:gretta@nationalwaterforum.ie).

Submissions must include:

- A completed application form.
- A CV (max 4 pages) of the lead person to whom the tender will be awarded.

An acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be issued within 48 hours of the submission deadline.

## 9. AWARD OF TENDERS

**One** award will be made through this request for tender.

Applicants will be notified of the success of their submissions no later than **30<sup>th</sup> August 2022** .

Bodies of work may be initiated immediately from the date of award, with an initial project meeting to take place at a mutually agreed time shortly thereafter and further interim project development meetings will be agreed between parties.

## 10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All applications must be made using the official application form.
- Applications may be received from consortiums of individuals from different institutions. Such applications must identify the **lead person** to whom the tender may be awarded. All other members of the consortium will be sub-contracted by the lead person. The maximum total budget of €25,000 (inclusive of VAT and overheads) is applicable to single service provider applications and consortium applications respectively.
- The Water Forum will disqualify incomplete applications, applications not using the application form provided and any application received after closing time/date. Compliance with the word limitation contained on the Application Form is a requirement of the application process.
- It is a necessary requirement of the application process that the successful applicant must provide a copy of their Organisation/University/Institution's current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- Failure to address within the final report each of the items included under Section 3 will result in the withholding of final payment until all requirements are met.
- The Water Forum will have copyright ownership of any material developed for use by the Water Forum under the terms of this tender. The service provider may have a non-exclusive licence to use such material but only for its own purposes (to be agreed with the successful service provider).
- The principles of Ireland's National IP Protocol 2019 will be applied where there is any potential for commercial exploitation of project outputs resulting from this tender.
- The Water Forum encourages an open access publication policy. Publications arising from tender awards funded by the Water Forum should, as a minimum, ensure open access via Green methods (depositing the peer-reviewed manuscript in an online repository before, at the same time, or after publication). All resources will be uploaded to, and publicly accessible via, the Water Forum's website: [www.thewaterforum.ie](http://www.thewaterforum.ie).
- Any publications arising from tender awards funded by the Water Forum must acknowledge An Fóram Uisce - The Water Forum as the source of funding.
- Projects funded by the Water Forum must uphold the highest standards of research integrity and the Water Forum expects all tender awardees to abide by the guidelines outlined in the National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland; and the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information – When an application is received by the Water Forum, a record is created in the name of the applicant. This information will be stored by the office of the Water Forum, where relevant, in paper/electronic form. Information that is collected by the Office, including information that you give us, is added to the record. You have the right, given by the Data Protection Act of 1988 and 2003, to a copy of your information at any time. The Office is also subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2014.

The information we record is used for the following purposes:

- Processing and assessing of applications;
- Payment arrangements;
- Auditing requirements;
- Informing and advising the Water Forum in relation to the Project and using same as a basis for further consideration by the Water Forum including research projects and policy analysis and recommendations;
- Publication of the Project Outcomes.

**End/**