

Grant application form - Project v2017 - A

Submission Date	2017-12-22 10:00:20
Name of applicant	Dr Caitriona Henchion
Job title	Medical Director, Irish Family Planning Association
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A short CV of the applicant (or the principal investigator) should be provided here.	<p>Applicant: Dr Caitriona Henchion, IFPA Medical Director</p> <p>Registered Medical Council Number 012401 Graduated University College Dublin, 1988 Qualifications: MB BCh BAO, Dip Child Health, Dip Obstetrics; Family Planning Certificate, Contraceptive Tutor</p> <p>Dr Henchion is an experienced healthcare professional who worked as a sessional General Practitioner for several years before joining the IFPA, where she took over as Medical Director in 2008. Dr Henchion has extensive knowledge of women's health needs in the reproductive health context. She specialises in sexual health and contraception and is a member of the Irish Association of Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Professionals and of the European Society of Contraception.</p> <p>In her role as Medical Director, Dr Henchion leads the IFPA medical services, including our post-abortion medical care service. As well as clinical work, she delivers the IFPA's bi-yearly medical CPD training for health professionals, which is approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI).</p> <p>Person responsible: Maeve Taylor IFPA Director of Advocacy</p> <p>Maeve Taylor has a background in human rights law (BCL from University College Dublin (UCD), LL.M in Human Rights Law from Queen's University Belfast) and in adult education. As Director of Advocacy and Communications team of the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), she leads the IFPA's work global advocacy, parliamentary and human rights programmes.</p> <p>She has delivered undergraduate and post-graduate modules on gender and development at University College Dublin (School of Social Justice) and the Centre for Global Health at Trinity College. She has published articles on abortion and human rights in <i>Entre Nous</i>, the WHO's European Magazine for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2016); the <i>International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics</i> (2015) and contributed a chapter to <i>The Abortion Papers</i> (2015: Cork University Press).</p>
Submission date of this form	22-12-2017

Is the person responsible for the project different to the person named in box A

Yes

Name of person

Maeve Taylor

Job title

Director of Advocacy and Communications

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Title of the project

Incorporating WHO Safe Abortion Guidelines into discourse and attitudes of healthcare providers in Ireland

Comprehensive description of the project: rationale, methods, approach, outcome (max 500 words)

Rationale

Ireland is at a critical juncture in terms of reproductive health. Notwithstanding historical stigmatisation and politicisation of abortion, a parliamentary committee on abortion recently recognised safe abortion access as a clinical necessity and integral to reproductive healthcare. A referendum on abortion access is likely in early summer 2018.

With just 25 legal abortions provided in Ireland in 2016 however, healthcare providers' familiarity with best practice in abortion care cannot be taken for granted. The IFPA's experience from biannual delivery of contraception courses and other training is that knowledge is generally inconsistent, and HCPs largely uninformed about abortion care provision, notably medical abortion. At the same time, a growing public health crisis of clandestine access to abortion medication outside lawful healthcare pathways is motivating HCPs, as well as politicians, to recognise the need for law reform.

Research elsewhere has suggested that knowledge of best practice in abortion care provision can decide individual attitudes to its provision, and hence influence care of women experiencing unintended or crisis pregnancy. In this context, lack of data on the attitudes towards abortion access in this cohort is of great concern.

The scarcity of data on the views and knowledge of healthcare providers in Ireland on abortion is of concern for provision of a service susceptible elsewhere to access barriers and stigmatisation.

Resources

In late 2017, the aforementioned parliamentary committee heard evidence from 19 medical experts, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), British Pregnancy Advisory Service, a past president of FIGO, the Irish College of General Practitioners, the Irish Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (IOG), and the IFPA.

We propose creating an online toolkit for healthcare providers in Ireland, using this evidence to build a comprehensive overview of best practice abortion care provision (and the integration of enhanced, affordable contraceptive care). The toolkit will highlight the alignment between WHO Safe Abortion Guidelines and medical ethics guidelines of the Irish Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and potential future access to abortion for Irish residents.

Methods

The toolkit will be based on qualitative thematic analysis of official transcripts and documentation of the expert medical testimony presented to the parliamentary committee, using NVivo software to code the data. Data will be coded to themes of best practice abortion and contraception care provision and medical ethics highlighted in the WHO and HIQA guidelines. The toolkit will be disseminated to healthcare providers through professional bodies such as the IOG.

We will design and disseminate a survey to record the views and self-reported knowledge of healthcare providers in Ireland regarding current (illegal) and future (legal) abortion care provision. Survey results will be analysed using Microsoft Excel and NVivo, using grounded theory methodology.

Outcomes

- Educational online toolkit for Irish healthcare providers on best practice abortion care provision.
- Rich analysis of views of healthcare providers in Ireland on abortion care provision.
- Insightful data and analysis for the European context regarding decriminalisation of abortion and introduction of community based abortion care.
- Poster and/or workshop presentation to ESC Annual Congress in Ireland in 2020.

When would it start / finish? (Max 20 words)

The project would start in February 2018 and finish in December 2018.

Where will it take place – country / town, establishment? (Max 20 words)

Dublin Head Office of Irish Family Planning Association. The target group is healthcare providers based in the Republic of Ireland.

Objectives and needs identified. (Max 100 words)

1. To address the current knowledge gap on best practice regarding integrated contraception and abortion care provision by developing a online toolkit comprising
 - a summary of the evidence presented to the 2017 joint parliamentary committee
 - clinical guidelines of the World Health Organisation and Irish Health Information and Quality Authority
2. To assess views and knowledge of integrated contraception and abortion care provision of healthcare providers in Ireland
 - o Development of a survey of attitude and knowledge of healthcare providers in relation to abortion provision.
 - o Dissemination of the survey
 - o Collation of results
3. Dissemination of results

Sector in the area of contraception, sexual and reproductive health:

Abortion care provision and its integration with contraceptive care

Is it a 'new' project?

Yes

What outcomes will be measured? List. (Max 50 words)

1. Online toolkit
 - (i) Positive response from key influencers/practitioners.
 - (ii) Uptake of toolkit (e.g. downloads from IFPA website, requests for copies)
2. Survey
 - (i) support from key institutions (e.g. Irish College General Practitioners, Irish Institute Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Irish Association Practice Nurses) in disseminating survey; (ii) response rate/volume of response.

Do you foresee any reasons (political, climatic, etc) why this project may be adversely affected? (Max 20 words)

Stigma re abortion may inhibit some HCPs from disseminating survey to colleagues, but current political context should mitigate the risk.

Are there other partners or organisations supporting this same project?

No

Will this be part of a larger fund or stand alone? (Max 20 words)

This will be a stand-alone fund.

Have you already obtained any funding or still awaiting a response towards this project?

Yes

If yes or still awaiting a response, please give details (Max 20 words)

Additional project costs will be covered by IFPA.

How much money is required for the project in total?

€14,491

How much are you requesting from ESC?

€9,691

Please provide a detailed budget here. This must include total costs and, if appropriate, list those costs associated with your grant from the ESC.

Researcher salary cost (6 months 3.5 days per week) €9,691

Overheads €600

Dissemination costs €250

Proof-reading €250

Design & layout costs (toolkit and survey results) €2,500

Launch event €1,200

€14,491

The IFPA will cover the additional costs of the project, and provide the direct supervision and overall management of the research project.

The ESC may not be in a position to fully fund all applications; you must indicate whether / how part funding may impact your project. (Max 100 words)

Both aspects of the project are innovative, timely, but the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Partial funding would require us to drop one element to the detriment of the project, whereas as mutually reinforcing elements the added value of each is enhanced by the other, The toolkit fills a knowledge gap, but it also intended to encourage response to the survey. The survey will provide a new bank of data and, we expect, highlight to HCPs the gap in knowledge. The availability of the toolkit allows HCPs an immediate resource to begin to address this gap.

Who will oversee the budget & keep accounts? Provide name, title, contact number and email address

Ben Howe
IFPA Financial Controller
(01) 607 4456
ben.howe@ifpa.ie

If you or your department has received funding from ESC for a project or course before, please give details of the date of funding, contact person and title of project or course.

A Study of Women's Attitudes to Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive Devices
Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) – 2013-2014

Contact person: Dr Caitriona Henchion, IFPA Medical Director

We, as responsible agents for this project, agree to the following 8 points:

	yes
We agree that all monies will be spent appropriately	
We agree to work with the nominated Mentor	
We agree to advise you at the earliest time if this project is delayed or cannot be completed	
We agree to provide an interim report(s) part way through the project and a final report to the ESC within 6 months of the end of the project.	
We agree to provide the ESC with an interim budget(s) and a detailed budget at the end of the project. NOTE funding will be awarded in stages and will be dependent on appropriate reporting.	
We agree to provide receipts for monies spent if requested.	
We agree that if we need to make any significant changes to the duration, contents or funding of the project after it has been awarded, I/we will advise the nominated mentor.	
We agree to acknowledge the ESC as a donor in any publications and oral communications resulting from this project. Ideally any manuscript should be sent to the ESC journal in the first instance.	

Full Name

Caitriona Henchion

Full Name

Maeve Taylor

Date

22-12-2017