

**Invitation to quote for research project to review and analyse existing national and international data to inform the development of NALA's online e-learning platform**

**Closing date for receipt of tenders:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 at 5pm.

**Return tenders to:** [tbyrne@nala.ie](mailto:tbyrne@nala.ie)

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## Background information

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) invites tenders from interested and experienced researchers to carry out a review and analysis of national and international data to inform the development of NALA's new online learning platform, Learn with NALA ([www.learnwithnala.ie](http://www.learnwithnala.ie)) based on NALA's resources on preparing learning materials.

### About NALA

NALA is an independent charity committed to making sure people with literacy, numeracy and digital skills difficulties have access to educational opportunities that meet their needs. Our vision is an Ireland where adult literacy is a human right, where everyone can develop their literacy, numeracy, and digital skills, and where individuals can take part fully in society. Our mission is to advocate for literacy as a human right and to collaborate with our partners to influence policy and practice to support the development of literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

NALA is the only organisation in Ireland that is solely dedicated to improving adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills. We are a membership organisation and a registered charity that is publicly funded. We carry out our work with an independent voice in the interests of the public. We learn from, and contribute to, literacy developments at European and international levels. We are both an advocate for, and a provider of, adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills supports. Our advocacy role includes trying to advance policy through engagement with government departments and relevant organisations.

### Context

In NALA's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2022 we have an objective to 'increase literacy, numeracy and digital skills through research, innovation and effective communication.' We believe there are many benefits to increasing levels of adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills in Ireland; benefits to the individual, to communities, and to the economy.

A large part of our role is to make supports accessible and available to anyone who needs and wants them, when they want them. This requires us to be innovative in how these supports are researched, designed, communicated and promoted.

## NALA's online learning platform

NALA's new online learning platform, [Learn with NALA](#), launched in February 2020 and builds on the expertise, experience and insights gained through the 11 years of the former platform WriteOn.ie. During that time, NALA supported over 50,000 learners in accessing National Framework of Qualifications level 1 to 4 courses in reading, writing, maths and technology with Major and Minor Award certification options at level 2 (General Learning) and level 3 (ICT, Employability Skills and General Learning).

In 2019, NALA began a project to implement a new online learning platform from Desire2Learn (D2L) called Brightspace to adopt the offering available to adults via WriteOn.ie but also allow the organisation to expand other areas of work, including professional development training for practitioners, to online and blended learning delivery. In order to capture all of these areas and incorporate all 'learning' work at NALA the brand concept 'Learn with NALA' was created.

## Project status

Migration of courses for learners between level 1-4 began in 2019 and continues with eight level 2 courses and one level 3 course now live.

The first pilot professional development course for practitioners is in development and is due to launch in August 2020. This will be a standalone online course. Two further pilot courses for practitioners are planned in 2020 outside of this project.

## Requirements

### Project aim

The aim of the research project is to review and analyse existing data including evaluations on WriteOn.ie and other relevant national and international data with a view to informing the development of our new e-learning platform. This project is the first step in an on-going research process to make NALA's digital literacy supports more accessible and known to adult literacy learners and practitioners alike.

### Objectives

The objectives are to:

1. review and analyse national and international data on online learning and digital learning supports, to include:
  - A review and analysis of research on NALA's Writeon.ie digital learning platform.
  - Review and analyse other relevant national and international data on similar online offerings outlining their impact and benefits.
  - Research options around the impact of similar type strategies, in similar sized countries, identifying lessons which we could learn from, what we could use or adapt and what to avoid.
  - Carrying out individual interviews with stakeholders who were involved in the design, delivery and use of Writeon.ie.
2. This will be done with a view to informing the design of a framework that will effectively measure the impact of the new e-learning project.

## Key requirements

We will require an outline of the following from the tenderer:

- Relevant research/third level qualifications
- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research approaches and methodologies
- Track record in undertaking similar work ☐ Any experience in adult literacy or adult education
- A proposal and plan for implementing the research, demonstrating an understanding of the objectives of the work and detailing capacity to carry out the work within the agreed timescale
- An estimate of the number of days' work involved and an overall project costing including VAT
- The lead researcher and/or person who will take overall responsibility for the project should be named within the tender document. Please provide full contact details for two referees.

## Specification scoring and award criteria

Evaluation of quotes will be based on the following award criteria:

	Marks
Details about the candidate and their previous experience	30
Plan for the work	25
Knowledge and experience of carrying out research in the area of adult learning	25
Added value <sup>1</sup>	10
Cost	10

The award will be based on the responses to this specification, which in the opinion of NALA best demonstrates the respondent's capacity to deliver the service required.

## Project details

**Duration of contract:** 3 months: September - December 2020.

**Geographic location:** Republic of Ireland.

**Estimated value of the contract:** The estimated total value of the contract is in the region of €7,000 - €10,000 (ex. VAT).

The successful candidate will work with the NALA project team and will have access to current NALA professional development content and resources.

## Deadline for submission of tender

Please return tender by email to Tina Byrne [tbyrne@nala.ie](mailto:tbyrne@nala.ie) by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 5 pm.

For further information please contact: Tina Byrne, research officer NALA

Telephone: 01 412 7917 (direct) or email [tbyrne@nala.ie](mailto:tbyrne@nala.ie)