

Invitation to tender for a research project to review and analyse existing national and international data on effective literacy, numeracy and digital skills models and policies

Closing date for receipt of tenders: Monday 31st August 2020 at 5pm.

Return tenders to: tbyrne@nala.ie

Background information

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) invites tenders from interested and experienced researchers to review and analyse existing national and international data on effective literacy, numeracy and digital skills models and policies

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.

Requirements

Project aim

The aim of the research project is to review and analyse existing data including NALA's Guidelines for Good Adult Literacy Work (2012), NALA's policy and practice research reports and evaluations and other relevant national and international data with a view to;

- firstly; identify effective adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills models and policies, and
- secondly, provide evidence of the benefit to adult learners of improved literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

Objectives

The objectives are to:

1. review and analyse national and international data on effective literacy, numeracy and digital skills models and policies including:
 - A review and analysis of NALA's Guidelines for Good Adult Literacy Work (2012), NALA's policy and practice research reports and evaluations research and evaluation reports, and other relevant national and international data with a particular focus on models of practice and policy 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 relevant stakeholders.
2. Provide evidence to help NALA provide leadership on effective literacy, numeracy and digital skills models and policy.
 3. To share this research evidence with relevant stakeholders and policymakers

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 and 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 ¹	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 by Monday 31st August at 5 pm.

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

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