

Secondary Data Analysis Projects (SDAP) 2023

Seminar 21th Sep 2022

*Dr Caitriona Creely, Programme Manager
Christina Rushe, Project Officer*

**Research.
Evidence.
Action.**

HR^B Health
Research
Board

Overview

- HRB: Trusted Data Objective
- SDAP scheme
- Application and review process
- Assessment criteria
- Insights from prior panel meetings

HRB Strategy 2021-2025



Strategic objective 3. Trusted data

Promote and enable the use of data to shape health policy, enhance healthcare delivery, and drive broader research and innovation initiatives

- **DASSL Model** - HRB Proof of Concept Project
- **Covid-19 Research Data Hub**: mechanism to access Covid-19 data for research purposes (in partnership with Central Statistics Office and Dept Health)
- **Secondary Data Analysis Projects**
- **Health Information Bill**

Joint Action: Towards a European Health Data Space (TEHDAS)



PHIRI

Population Health Information
Research Infrastructure



F
Findable



A
Accessible



I
Interoperable



R
Reusable



HRB Strategy 2021-2025

Strategic objective 3. Trusted data

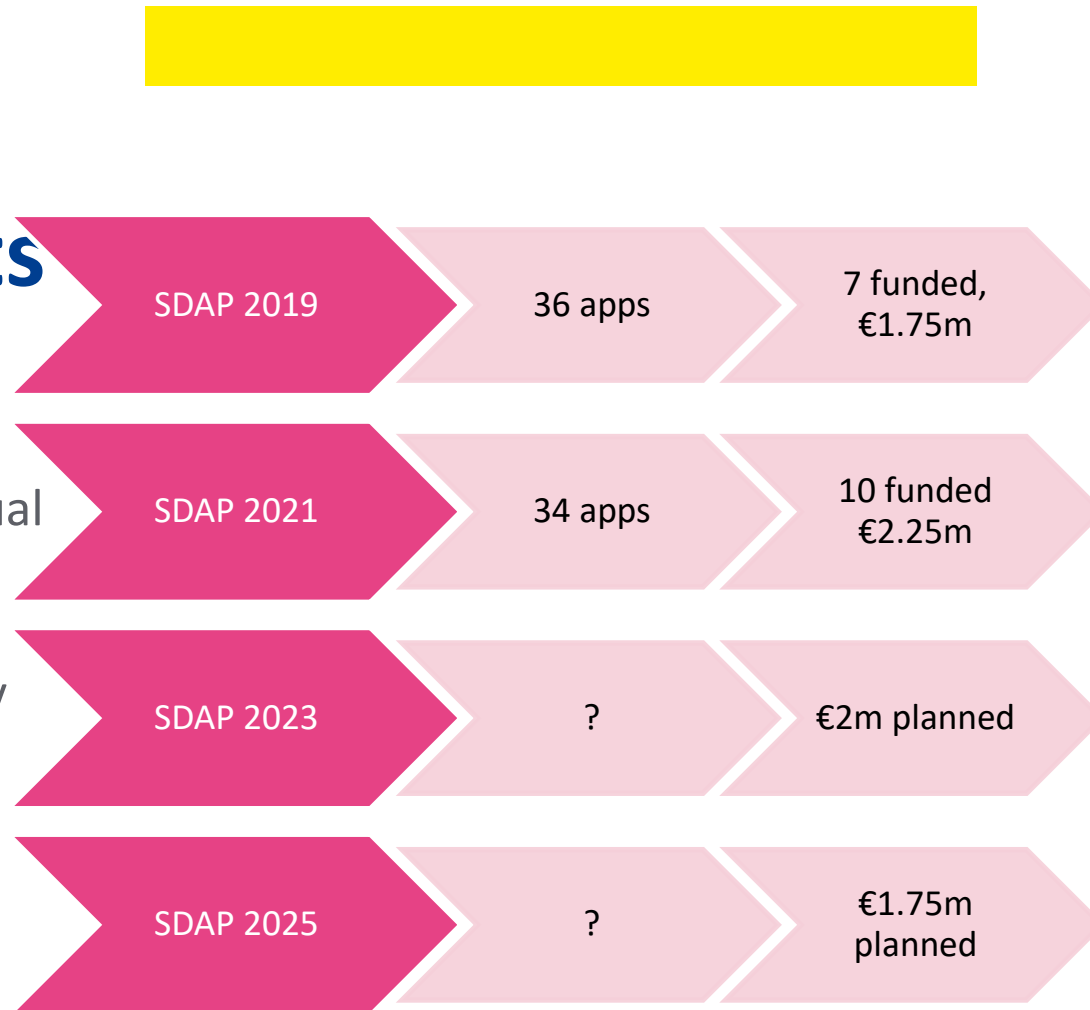
Promote and enable the use of data to shape health policy, enhance healthcare delivery, and drive broader research and innovation initiatives

Action 3.1. Play a leading role with other stakeholders to promote and enable the infrastructure and environment for the optimal use of health and social care data and statistical data for research.

Implementation action 3.1.4 Invest in research projects which employ secondary data analysis and record linkage.

HRB funding of Secondary Data Analysis Projects

- SDAP is the Dedicated funding stream established under HRB strategy 2016-2020 for individual projects
- We plan to run three rounds under the current HRB Strategy 2021-2025



The background features several large, abstract, rounded pink shapes that create a modern, geometric design. One large shape is at the top, and two others are positioned at the bottom left and bottom right, framing the central text.

Secondary Data Analysis Projects 2023

Aim



The overall objective is to make best use of existing health and social care data sources, in order to deliver high quality, high impact evidence for policy and/or practice.

Key principles

- Encourage **partnerships with non-academic stakeholders** to ensure impact on policy and practice.
- Importance of **knowledge translation**, emphasised in the Guidance Notes & assessment criteria
- Opportunity to work with international partners and to use **data resources from other countries**.
- Data infrastructures without mechanisms and systems in place to provide access to data for research purposes and **preparatory actions or supports may be required to enable secure access**. Where detailed and justified in the application, 36 months project will be considered.
- Research team contains the necessary **breadth and depth of skills and expertise** in all the methodological areas required to deliver the proposed study. Having an experienced statistician on the applicant team was an area highlighted by the panel in previous round/s.
- Develop the capacity and skills of the health and social care research community in using large and complex secondary data: This round encourages **education and upskilling of team members** including in statistics
- Applicants are required to contact the relevant data controller and obtain **approval from the relevant approvals body prior to submitting their proposal** for SDAP funding. Applicants must include proof of this approval as part of their proposal.
- The **SDAP 2023 round will operate as two cycles**: applicant can submit to the cycle closing in mid-December, or to a later cycle, planned to close October 2023

Objectives

- i. To answer policy and/or practice-relevant questions through the use of secondary data
- ii. To develop and strengthen partnerships between researchers, data controllers and knowledge users in the area of secondary data analysis
- iii. To enhance capacity for further research of this nature in Ireland through upskilling, training and education of team members where possible.

Scope

- Findings will have direct relevance to policy and/or practice in the Irish health and social care system.
- Research should be explicitly linked to the documented evidence needs of the Knowledge User organisation.
- Development of tools to make data sets accessible and/or more widely available.
- Proposals must include at least one existing Irish or International dataset.
- Applications may be related to, but must be distinct from, the specific aims of the original data collection.

Not in Scope

- ✘ Projects involving additional primary data collection studies or bio-specimen analysis.
- ✘ Projects seeking to design and evaluate a trial or intervention.

Applications which are solely/predominately:-

- ✘ Literature reviews, audits, surveys or needs assessments
- ✘ Health service developments/evaluations (although these elements may form part of a wider research study)
- ✘ Developing the infrastructure for bio banking, databases or patient registers.

HRB SDAP 2023 - Key Characteristics proposed

- Projects between 18-24 months
- Up to 36 months if tools included to make datasets more accessible for research
- Max funding per project = €250k
- Co-funding from project partners welcomed
- Expect 8 awards
- **NEW:** two cycles proposed

SDAP 2023: Cycles 1&2 (DRAFT)

Cycle 1 (2022-2023)

- October 3rd Call opens
- Dec 15th Cycle 1 closes
- Jan-Mar Peer Review
- Late May Panel meeting cycle 1
- Late June Board decision
- July - Communicate with applicants under cycle 1
- Projects begin Oct 2023 onward

Cycle 2 (2023-2024)

- Oct 2023 Cycle 2 closes
- Oct-Dec Peer review
- March Panel meeting cycle 2
- March Board decision
- April - Communicate with applicants under cycle 2
- Projects begin June 2024 onward

Application Team

- Lead Applicant, Co-Applicants (up to 10)
- Team **must include** a researcher and knowledge user
- Collaborators (up to 10)
- Applications should be made on behalf of a team made up of **researchers, data controllers/processors and knowledge users.**
- Public and Patient Involvement Contributors as appropriate (Co-apps/Collaborators)

The background features several large, abstract, rounded pink shapes that create a modern, geometric aesthetic. One large shape is at the top, and two others are positioned at the bottom left and bottom right.

Overview of the application and review process

Review process – 2 stage review process

Peer review
Public review

- International academic experts in content area: Scientific Criteria
- Public reviewers: quality of the Public and Patient involvement

Right to
Respond

- Shortlisted applicants only
- Response from the lead applicants to reviewers comments (Peer and Public)

Panel Review

- Consider applications, reviews and PI response
 - Scientific Criteria
 - Knowledge Translation Criterion
- Successful applicants expected to score highly on both criteria

Review Criteria



Scientific criteria

- Does the research address a policy or practice question relevant to the Irish health and social care system?
- Will the research design and methodology answer the research question?
- Does the research team have the expertise and experience to deliver on the proposed project **and where possible, are there plans for relevant education and training in skills relevant to secondary data analysis?**
- Do the proposed processes, protocols and safeguards reflect best practice data governance?
- Is it a genuine partnership between researchers, data controllers/processors, PPI contributors and knowledge users?

Review Criteria



Knowledge translation criterion

- Are there credible plans for the outputs of this project to impact policy and/or practice in Ireland and beyond **within 1-2 years post project?**
- Are there credible plans described to enable ongoing deliberation between researchers and knowledge users and to translate findings and learnings into policy and/or practice throughout the project (not just at the end)?
- Is there appropriate justification for the KT approach being proposed?

For applications applying for additional time to develop tools:

- Will the research contribute to improving the accessibility of a dataset and/or make it more useful to knowledge users?

Panel members will consider PPI aspects raised as appropriate to either assessment criteria where relevant

Public review criteria

Public reviewers will only assess the quality of PPI in the proposal, they will provide comments and a rating but not a score. The public review comments and rating will be shared with applicants and the review panel.

Public Reviewers are asked to comment on the following:

- The Plain English Summary (Lay Summary)
- Relevance of the Proposed Research Question
- Public and Patient and Carer Involvement in development of and throughout the project
- Research Design
- Dissemination of the Proposed Work

Panel feedback: common problems

- **Knowledge translation** needs to be approached more thoughtfully –theoretically-informed approach required for effective knowledge translation
- Ensure your **research question** is communicated with clarity, and aligns with stated aims and objectives of your project
- Generally, lack of **statistical analysis** in the application (also relates to team members). Panel members note that typically it is not sufficient to request funding to procure or engage unnamed statistical support upon receipt of funding/access to the datasets. This expertise is required at the outset to engage with the data providers to assess the variables, quality and strengths and limitations of the available data for answering the research questions posed, to ensure the study is adequately powered and to support the development of the data analysis and management plan to be detailed in the application.
- Use your **Applicant response** to address any weaknesses highlighted; lengthy recapitulation of positive reviewer comments doesn't make best use of word count..... and maintain a respectful tone! A good applicant response is valued by funding panels

Panel feedback

- Element of risk where the quality of the data is unknown - this can be worth it, but needs to be well-justified
- Public reviews offer really useful insights for the panel members – ensure you consider your response to these
- Statistical expertise would ideally be within the applicant team, rather than outsourced. Acknowledged pool of statisticians small. This round of SDAP now encourages education and upskilling of team members in areas that enhance capacity for future secondary data analysis; this would include in statistics
- Community building – consider mentor/mentee relationships
- Links with international networks (e.g. HDRUK) could be useful

Contact

- Project Officer
- Christina Rushe
- crushe@hrb.ie