

# Secondary Data Analysis Projects (SDAP) 2025 Call

29 January 2025

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Research & Innovation Infrastructures Unit

Research. Evidence. Action.

# Welcome

## & Thank you!

# Agenda

- Irish Data Context
- HRB Strategy
- Key Features of SDAP Call
- Changes For This Round
- Application Process & Timeframe
- Questions & Answers

# Irish Data Context

- **No existing centralised data infrastructures, or EHRs**
  - Multiple data silos/systems, fragmented approach across different government/regulatory agencies
  - CSO Covid-19 Data Hub established during pandemic for access to specific health data sets
- **Data Access Storage Sharing and Linkage (DASSL)** Proof of Concept funded by HRB in 2019 & published 2023
- Work progressing to establish an Irish Health Data Access Body(HDAB) via Department of Health and **Health Information Bill**
- **Individual Health Identifiers(IHIs)** being rolled out by the Health Service Executive



# 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

- **Key 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.



# Secondary Data Analysis Projects (SDAP) 2025 Call

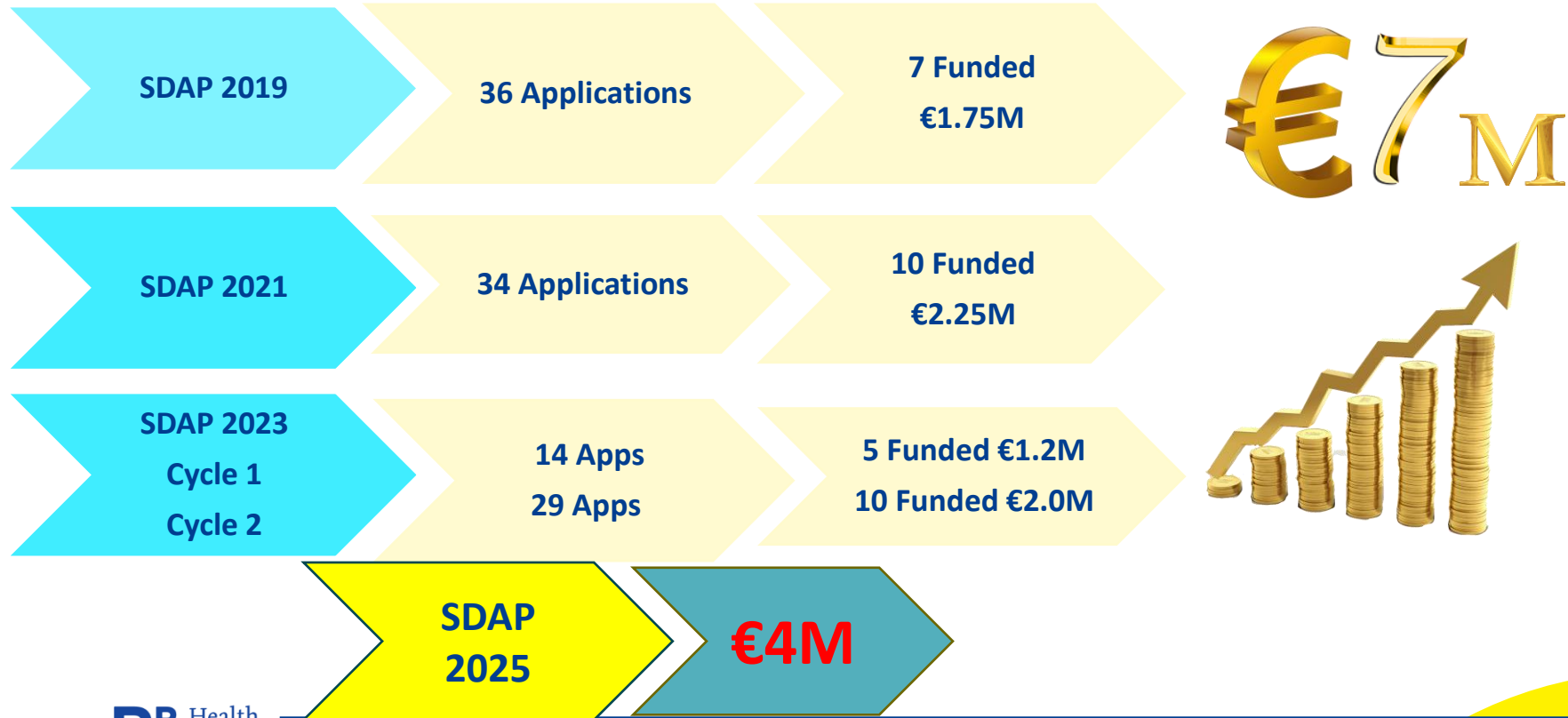
# Secondary Data Analysis Projects (SDAP) 2025

**Aim:** To optimise the use of existing health and social care data sources to deliver high-quality, high-impact evidence for policy and/or practice

## **Objectives:**

- i. To answer policy and/or practice-relevant questions using secondary data
- ii. To develop and strengthen partnerships between researchers, data controllers & 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.

# Overview of HRB investment in SDAP





# 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

# Out of 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, service improvements, 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

# Dataset Requirements

- Require to meet **HIQA Information Management Standards for Health and Social Care Data Collections**
- Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) generally seek to answer one specific question under certain conditions, with limited scope outside the specific trial parameters. Data from **RCTs are not appropriate** when seeking to make more generalised policy and practice decisions and should ideally be avoided as dataset sources without specific justification
- **Data Controller(s) must agree to provide access to the dataset.** Exceptions:
  - Where a dataset is publicly available, details must be included in the application. A separate letter of support from the data controller is not required.
  - For datasets held by the CSO where permission to access data is under review, a ‘letter of comfort’ indicating access has been applied for is sufficient at the application stage. Confirmation of access will be required at contracting for successful grants.
- Where the process to allow access to data only commences once research funding has been secured, correspondence from the data controller that the data is available for access is required

# Applicant Team

- Applications should be made on behalf of a team made up of **Researchers, data controllers/processors and knowledge users**:
  - Lead Applicant
  - Co-Applicants (up to 10)
  - Collaborators (up to 10)
- Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) encouraged as appropriate

# Changes for SDAP 2025

# Key Changes For 2025 Call

## 1. Grant Budget

- Increasing from **€250,000 to €350,000** enhanced budget empowers capacity building across the system enhancing data expertise & skillsets

## 2. Project Duration

- Grant duration will increase to a minimum of **36 months or up to 42 months if developing a tool** in recognition of potential challenges regarding data curation, hiring of suitable personnel and dissemination activities to conduct SDAP. This should reduce the requirement for NCE

## 3. PPI & Identify Knowledge Translation Framework to Implement

- The HRB encourages PPI to be actively considered for inclusion in all proposals where appropriate. In the event of PPI being excluded in a proposed project appropriate justification will be needed and this will be considered by the review Panel

# SDAP Review Process & Criteria

# 2 Stage Review Process

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2

S  
T  
A  
G  
E  
1

## Peer & Public Review

- International academic experts in content area: Scientific Criteria
- Public Reviewers: Quality of the PPI

## Right to Respond

- Shortlisted applicants following peer review only
- Response from the Lead Applicant to Reviewers' Comments (Peer & Public)

## Panel Review

- Consider Applications, Reviews and Lead Applicant Response
- Examine Scientific Criteria & Knowledge Translation Criterion
- Successful Applications expected to score highly on both criteria



# Scientific Review Criteria

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

# Knowledge Translation Criteria

- Is there potential for 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?

# Review Criteria-Protocols, Practices & Tools

- Will the project contribute to improving the future accessibility of a dataset for research purposes in accordance with best practice and transparent data governance processes?
- Panel members will be advised to take PPI approaches into consideration under any of the assessment criteria if considered relevant beyond the specific reference under partnership.

# Public Review Criteria

Public Reviewers will only assess the quality of PPI in the application and will provide comments and an overall rating which will be shared with the Panel. Public Reviewers will not provide a score.

## **Public Reviewers are asked to comment on the following:**

- The plain English summary (Lay Summary)
- Relevance of the proposed research question
- PPI in development of and throughout the project
- Making it straightforward for research

# GEMS Application Process

Sudipta Saha

*Project Officer*

# Create or Update your GEMS Profile

The screenshot shows the HRB Grant E-Management Systems (GEMS) interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the HRB logo and the text "HRB Grant E-Management Systems (GEMS)". Below the header, a sidebar on the left contains a list of navigation links: Home, My Applications, My Co-applications, My Grants, My Research Outputs, My Reviews, Manage My Details, Contact Us, Logout, and Technical Guidance Notes. The main content area displays a welcome message to Mr Sudipta Saha. A red box highlights a message: "Please ensure your 'Basic Information' and 'CV' are up-to-date, these can be edited within 'Manage my Details'". Below this, there is a section titled "DATA RETENTION ANNOUNCEMENT....." followed by text for applicants, co-applicants and sponsors. A red circle highlights a link "click here" in the text "To apply for funding from the HRB click here." Below this, a list of bullet points provides instructions for Lead Applicants, including creating an application on GEMS, registering, and adding CV details. At the bottom, there is a footer with the SYMPLECTIC Grant Tracker logo, the text "Part of DIGITAL SCIENCE", and links to the HRB Privacy Policy and HRB Terms and Conditions.

HRB Health Research Board

HRB Grant E-Management Systems (GEMS)

Mr Sudipta Saha

Welcome to Health Research Board grant application system, Mr Sudipta Saha.

Please ensure your 'Basic Information' and 'CV' are up-to-date, these can be edited within 'Manage my Details'.

DATA RETENTION ANNOUNCEMENT.....

For applicants, co-applicants and sponsors

Please maintain up-to-date information for your 'basic information' and 'curriculum vitae' within 'Manage my Details' as these will be included in your application.

New Grant Application

To apply for funding from the HRB [click here](#).

- **Lead Applicant** creates application on GEMS: <https://grants.hrb.ie>
- Register (new applicants)/log in on GEMS
- Can then be jointly completed with named **Co-Applicants**.
- Add/edit CV details in **"Manage My Details"** and **"My Research Outputs"**.

SYMPLECTIC Grant Tracker

Part of DIGITAL SCIENCE

[HRB Privacy Policy](#)

[HRB Terms and Conditions](#)

# Select SDAP 2025

Mr Sudipta Saha

Home

New Application

My Applications

My Co-applications

My Grants

My Research Outputs

My Reviews

Manage My Details

Contact Us

Logout

Technical Guidance Notes

Please select the correct application or report type and funding to begin application. Criteria and further information can be found at <http://www.hrb.ie/funding/funding-schemes/>

**Please Note:** Host Institutions will approve and submit each application on behalf of the applicant. Please make this a time consideration when preparing your grant application. There is only one deadline for submission of applications. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the host institution approves the application before the application deadline.

In the case of HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme, the co-funding charity will submit and endorse the application.

Click **More info** to view additional information about each funding round.  
Click **Apply** to access the online application form for the type of grant you wish to apply for.

Grant Type	Funding Round	Closing Date	More Info	Apply
<b>Secondary Data Analysis Projects</b> Rolling call with <u>two</u> separate closing dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cycle 1 closes 30 May 2025</li><li>Cycle 2 closes 09 January 2026</li></ul>	SDAP 2025	30 May 2025 13:00 BST	<a href="#">More info</a>	<a href="#">Apply</a>

# Complete Eligibility Questions

Eligibility Questions

Indicate Likely Eligibility

Eligibility Questions

Previous

Next

Save

Save And Close

Eligibility

After answering all questions on this page, click on Next or Indicate Likely Eligibility in the left navigation menu to validate all mandatory questions have been answered.

I have read the Guidance Notes for the SDAP 2025 call and reviewed the main changes applied to the 2025 round.

☐ Yes ☐ No

I am clear about the role of the authorised signatory in the nominated Host Institution and I am aware that I need to build sufficient time into the application process for the HI to access, review and approve my final application for submission to the HRB through the GEMS system.

☐ Yes ☐ No

I can confirm that each of the datasets proposed for this project are aligned with the scheme requirements, meeting the standards of the HIQA Information Management Standards for Health and Social Care Data Collections, as per the SDAP 2025 Guidance Notes.

☐ Yes ☐ No

I can confirm that the (Co-applicant team) fulfils the requirement of having a researcher and knowledge user.

☐ Yes ☐ No

I can confirm that no primary data collection is required for this project.

☐ Yes ☐ No

By submitting this application, I consent to (a) sharing of my data outside of the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of international peer review, and (b) the use of my data for assessment of my application; monitoring of successful awards; and evaluation of HRB's approach to funding and investment in research, in line with HRB policies and as detailed in the SDAP 2025 Call Guidance Notes.

☐ Yes ☐ No



# View & Navigate the Application Form

SDAP 2025  
3531  
[Details...](#)

0% complete

- Preface Definitions
- Introduction
- Host Institution
- Signatory Notification
- 1. Lead Applicant
- 2. Co-Applicants
- Details
- 3. Collaborators
- Details
- 4. Project Details
- 5. Project Description
- 6. Details of the Research Team
- 7. Infrastructure and

## Preface Definitions

[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Save](#)[Save And Close](#)

### Key to form symbols:

[Previous](#)

This button will take you to the previous available page and save all content on the current page

[Next](#)

This button will take you to the next available page and save all content on the current page

[Save](#)

This button will save all content within the form and allow further editing

[Save And Close](#)

This button will save all contents of the form and return to the previous area



This icon indicates that a question is mandatory



Clicking this icon will display help information related to this question



Click and drag the green arrow to move items up and down in a list



Page Read and Complete



Page read however some actions remain



Unread page

# Identify HI & Notify Signatory

institutions. The Host Institution name on this list is the only one the GEMS system will recognise. Although there are other Irish institutions listed on GEMS, only the recognised host institutions listed on the PDF should be selected. If your Host Institution does not appear in this list, please contact the HRB at [gemshelp@hrb.ie](mailto:gemshelp@hrb.ie).

University College Dublin (UCD)

- **Signatory Notification**

The signatory's details are pre-populated. Click **'Notify'**

*\*Prior to submission, applications must be reviewed and approved by the HI. Leave sufficient time for this prior to the submission date. Be aware of any internal HI deadlines for review and approval, distinct from the HRB deadline.*

# Validation

SDAP 2025

3524

[Details...](#)

98.9% complete

✓ Preface Definitions

✓ Introduction

✓ Host Institution

⚠ Signatory Notification

✓ 1. Lead Applicant

⚠ 2. Co-Applicants  
Details

✓ 3. Collaborators  
Details

✓ 4. Project Details

✓ 5. Project Description

✓ 6. Details of the  
Research Team

✓ 7. Infrastructure and  
Support

✓ 8. Project Budget

✓ 9. Ethical Approval

✓ Supporting  
Documentation

⚠ Validation Summary

## Validation Summary

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

[Save](#)

[Save And Close](#)

Please complete the validation checks below before submitting this application.

### Signatory Notification

- [Please notify the Dean of Research.](#)

### 2. Co-Applicants Details

- [Co Applicant - Sudipta Saha must confirm their participation before submitting.](#)

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

[Save](#)

[Save And Close](#)

# SDAP 2025 Call Timeframe

## Key Dates

### Cycle 1

#### Call Opens

03 February 2025 @ 13:00

#### Closing Date

30 May 2025 @ 13:00

Peer Review Period

May – July 2025

Applicant Response

Late July 2025

Panel Meeting

Sep 2025

Grant Must Start Before

15 December 2025

Earliest Start Date

01 November 2025

### Cycle 2

#### Call Opens

01 September 2025 @13:00

#### Closing Date

09 January 2026 @ 13:00

Peer Review Period

Jan – March 2026

Applicant Response

Early April 2026

Panel Meeting

May 2026

Earliest Start Date

01 June 2026

Grant Must Start Before

14 Dec 2026

# HRB SDAP 2025 Seminar

Where:

HRB Offices

When:

Wednesday  
26 Mar 25

13:-00-15:30

Eventbrite

Registration Opens

03 Feb 25

**HRB** Health  
Research  
Board

Time	Topic	Speaker
Session 1: SDAP Experience		
13:00	Welcome & Scene Setting	HRB
13:10-14:00	SDAP Grant Holders' Experience Previous SDAP Grant Holders' present their work and experience conducting SDAP	SDAP Grant Holders
14:00	Q&A	All
14:15	Break	
Session 2: Datasets & SDAP 2025 Scheme		
14:30	National Care Experience Programme	HIQA
14:40	HRB National Health Information Systems	NHIS
14:50	CSO Health Research Data Centre	CSO
15:00	HRB Management & Sharing of Research Data Policy Review	HRB
15:10	SDAP 2025 Scheme	HRB
15:25	Q&A	

# Contact Details



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Sudipta Saha

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## Questions?

