Raising Learning Outcomes 2015 Call Webinar: Welcome and participant instructions

- Will last no more than one hour.
- Presentation from ESRC, followed by Q&A
- Please **TURN OFF** your webcam
- Please **TURN OFF** your microphone
- If you are having difficulties during the webinar, please email eddev@esrc.ac.uk and we will try to resolve them if we can.
- In Q&A please **type** your questions and share in the webinar chat window – this will make best use of time
- If your question isn’t answered in the webinar, or is very specific to your proposal please email eddev@esrc.ac.uk
- Slides from the webinar will be emailed to participants shortly
Why was the Raising Learning Outcomes Programme created?

- Many more children are now in school **BUT**
  - access to formal education still an issue for millions of children
  - learning levels for those with access can be low
  → focus on improving learning outcomes and quality for all
- Evidence suggests it is not just a matter of more inputs and resources – but *how* we use them.
- We know very little about how to improve learning and quality of education in developing country contexts
- We need to understand the complex, contextual dynamics that influence educational quality and the effectiveness of policies/ interventions intended to raise learning outcomes
What is the focus of the programme?

- Three broad areas of research
  - How do interacting dynamics in the social, political, economic and cultural context enable or inhibit the delivery of quality education in specific developing country contexts?
  - How do specific policies or interventions designed to deliver quality education and learning for all interact with these contextual dynamics, and with what impact?
  - How do we better understand, measure and evaluate educational quality and learning outcomes in development contexts?

- Research will focus on how to raise learning outcomes for all i.e. consider equity as well as quality dimensions of education

- £20 million, funding awarded in three annual calls, each with a different but complementary thematic focus, decided annually
What are the aims of the programme?

- provide policymakers and practitioners with concrete ideas on how to improve learning and an understanding of how these will translate to their specific context and institutions
- contribute to improving the quality of social science for education and development, and enhancing its diversity

Achieve this by:

- Supporting projects from diverse social science disciplines, encouraging multi/inter disciplinarity, and facilitating innovative research
- Investing in a diversity of methods, encouraging strong mixed-methods approaches, and promoting reporting of methodology
- Encouraging policymaker involvement from the outset of projects and supporting the accessibility and use of research on education
- Supporting activities to strengthen capacity of Southern researchers
The 2015 call application process step by step

Key websites and documents:

▶ Call website
▶ Call specification
▶ Je-S guidance for applicants
▶ Costing guidance for non-UK institutions and partners
▶ Countries of focus
▶ Frequently asked Questions
▶ See also other resources e.g. ESRC impact toolkit, ESRC Research Funding Guide

Programme Secretariat: eddev@esrc.ac.uk
What will the 2015 call fund?

- Up to a total of £6.5 million available, for c. 12-16 grants
- Grants of fEC value of £200,000-£700,000, 1-4 years duration
- Thematic focus on ‘Challenging contexts’: where education systems face particular challenges, what enables and/or inhibits the raising of learning outcomes?
- Must focus on low-income countries plus a select group of other priority countries
- Must embed consideration of equity as well as quality dimensions of education and learning outcomes
- Must unpack what is meant by learning/learning outcomes and how to understand, measure and evaluate education quality
Call thematic focus: ‘Challenging Contexts’

- Must examine learning outcomes in developing country education systems through a ‘contextual lens’
- Must focus on one or more of three specific ‘challenging contexts’: remote rural; urban slums; border cities
- Can address the range of different contextual and within-system dynamics, any element(s) of an education system, and any level of education provision
- Must focus on provision taking place through or in conjunction with government/ large-scale private sector providers
Other key requirements

▶ clear relevance to decision-makers and practitioners
▶ clear alignment with the scope and focus of the programme
▶ involvement of non-academic stakeholders, including potential research users, in design and delivery
▶ at least 50% social science
▶ building in of consideration for key cross-cutting issues: structural inequalities; and metrics and measurement
▶ active consideration of potential impacts of research on policy and practice, and clear plans to maximise and develop these
We encourage and welcome…

▶ Developing country leads and/or partners
▶ Inter/multi-disciplinary collaboration
▶ Strong mixed methodological approaches
▶ Fundamental or more applied research topics
▶ Proposals challenging existing policy and practice assumptions
▶ Comparative/ cross-context or single context studies
▶ Innovative approaches to user engagement, knowledge exchange and research uptake activities
▶ Capacity building opportunities set out in relation to the core intellectual agenda of the research
We will **not** fund:

- Proposals duplicating work previously supported by ESRC or DFID
- Contract research or consultancy work where the results and physical outputs are to some extent already pre-defined and known
- Education interventions
- Project/intervention or process evaluations not guided by social science-driven questions of broader relevance and applicability
- Standalone doctoral students, standalone masters and ad hoc courses for UK students
Indicative timeline

17 March 2015
- Call for proposals launched

14 May 2015
- Submission deadline
- 16.00 UK time

August 2015
- PI response to peer review

November 2015
- Funding decisions communicated

March 2016 onwards
- Awards start
Assessment process

- Proposals submitted: initial checks for fit to call/scope
- Review by academic assessor pool
- Applications progressing to panel can respond to assessor comments
- Assessment by panel members
- Funding recommendations made by panel
- Applicants informed of outcome
- **If funded:** there will be checks, including detailed costings checks, within the contracting process
Assessment criteria

Assessors and Commissioning Panel will focus on:

- Research agenda
- Project management
- Capacity building
- Research impact
- Value for money
- Research partnerships
Eligibility

▶ UK and non-UK research institutions, including not-for-profit organisations **with demonstrable research capacity** should be eligible to apply as host organisation*

▶ All investigators (PI and Co-Is) and their institutions **must** have Je-S registration:
  – RCUK-recognised UK institutions (e.g. UK HEIs)
  – Je-S-registered overseas organisations
  – ‘**self-registered**’ organisations

*please contact the call secretariat (eddev@esrc.ac.uk) to discuss this further
Your proposal in Je-S

- Research organisation, project title, suitable reference
- Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators
- Project partners
- Full budget
- Impact summary

Key attachments include:
- Case for support (max. 6 sides of A4)
- Justification of resources (max. 2 sides of A4)
- Pathways to Impact (max. 2 sides of A4)
- Data management plan (max. 3 sides of A4)
- CVs for named researchers (max. 2 sides of A4 for each researcher)
- Letters of support, where applicable

ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST BE IN MINIMUM FONT SIZE 11
Case for support (maximum 6-sides of A4)

This attachment is the main body of the research proposal and should cover the main feature of the research, including:

- Aims and objectives
- Academic, policy and practice background
- Research question(s)
- Relevance to the scope of the programme
- Proposed research methodology
- Analysis framework
- Details of any capacity building activities, including details of any project-linked studentships
Justification of resources (maximum 2-sides of A4)

In this attachment, you should:

▶ Provide justification for why the requested resources are appropriate to undertake the proposed research.

▶ Clearly identify any costs incurred by non-UK institutions at 100% full Economic Cost (fEC).

N.B. This attachment should not simply be a list of the resources required.
Submission deadline

Applications **must** be submitted to Je-S* by **4pm UK time** on 14 May 2015

* if your institutions is **not** self-registered, make sure to forward your application to your Research Office/submitter pool in good time (at least 48 hours before the deadline)

Please note: the Je-S system will be unavailable from 16:00 (UK time) on Thursday 16\(^{th}\) April until 8.30 (UK time) on Wednesday 22\(^{nd}\) April.
Do get in touch

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Thank you!