



Research Call 2026

#ThinkLanguages Week

Impact Evaluation

Overview

[Post Primary Languages Ireland](#) (PPLI) is a dedicated unit providing expertise and support for foreign languages education in Ireland. PPLI is fully funded by the Department of Education and Youth and has a remit to diversify, enhance and expand the teaching and learning of languages in post primary schools throughout Ireland.

PPLI delivers the [Languages Connect](#) awareness raising campaign as part of Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education, promoting the value of foreign language learning and engaging learners, educators, industry and wider stakeholders. [#ThinkLanguages](#) is a flagship Languages Connect event for Transition Year students, designed to raise awareness of and engagement with language learning and to promote intercultural awareness.

As #ThinkLanguages has developed and expanded, PPLI is seeking to build a stronger evidence base on its impact and inform its future development. This evaluation will also provide timely evidence to support the development of the next national strategy for languages in education.

Call for Proposals

Applicants are invited to propose an appropriate evaluation framework, research question(s) and methodology. The successful research team will work collaboratively with PPLI to inform the collection of relevant data and will undertake independent analysis and evaluation of the evidence generated. The research should provide a robust, evidence based assessment of the impact of #ThinkLanguages Week, identify implications for its future development, and contribute to the development of the next national strategy for languages in education, following [Languages Connect: Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017–2026](#).

Funding

Funding of up to €15,000 is available for one project. Applicants should provide a budget demonstrating how the proposed expenditure is necessary and proportionate to the research design. Eligible costs may include researcher time, research assistance, data analysis, research consumables and other directly related research costs.

PPLI will undertake data collection through its established #ThinkLanguages programme delivery, school networks and feedback mechanisms, informed by the agreed evaluation framework and research design. Anonymised data will be made available to the successful research team for independent analysis and evaluation, subject to applicable data protection and consent requirements.

Eligibility

The Principal Investigator must be based at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) in Ireland and hold a contract of sufficient duration to undertake and complete the project. Applications may be submitted by individual researchers or research teams. Collaborative applications involving researchers from more than one institution are eligible. Previous knowledge of, engagement with or research relating to #ThinkLanguages or comparable language awareness initiatives will be considered desirable.

Criteria for proposals

Proposals will be assessed with particular regard to the quality and relevance of the proposed evaluation framework and methodology, the feasibility of the research design and work plan within the project timeframe, the expertise of the research team, value for money, and the potential to generate actionable policy and strategic insights.

Conditions of funding

- The successful research team will be responsible for meeting any institutional ethical and data governance requirements applicable to its role in the research.
- The research team must participate in project onboarding and relevant #ThinkLanguages project meetings and maintain regular communication with PPLI throughout the project.
- The research team will work with PPLI to agree the evaluation framework and inform the design of relevant data collection instruments and processes.
- An interim insight report must be submitted in February 2027. This should identify significant early patterns and insights that inform PPLI planning and strategy development.
- A full evaluation report must be submitted by the agreed deadline in April 2027. The report should provide actionable insights regarding the impact and development of #ThinkLanguages Week and identify relevant implications for national language education policy.
- Funding from PPLI must be acknowledged in outputs arising from the project. Any dissemination or publication arrangements arising from the research will be agreed with PPLI.

Key dates and figures

Stage	Date
Application deadline	9 October 2026
Notification of successful applicant	19 October 2026
Onboarding and research planning	26-30 October 2026
Evaluation framework and data collection planning	October-December 2026
#ThinkLanguages Week	16-20 November 2026
Interim insight report	February 2027
Final evaluation report	April 2027

For further information or queries, please contact chang.zhang@ppli.ie.