



December 2012

Invitation to Tender for Evaluation of the 'Y Factor' – a project of the National Women's Council of Ireland

The Y Factor project is an exciting new initiative of the National Women's Council of Ireland, aimed at empowering young women and men (in the 16-25 year age-group) to advocate for women's equality. Tenders are invited from experienced and qualified individuals or organisations to undertake an ongoing, inductive evaluation of the Y Factor project.

Project Description

The Y Factor commenced in June 2012 as a 3 year project whose aim is to support and empower young women and young men to advocate for gender equality. The need for the project emerged from research previously undertaken with young women by young women working with the NWCI, in addition to engagement by the NWCI with emerging young feminist organisations in Ireland. These engagements revealed a high level of interest and concern among young women and young feminists about women's equality and the needs of young people for support, information, education and consciousness-raising with regard to gender inequality. The NWCI successfully sought funding to develop a three-year project (the Y Factor) that would specifically target young people for support, education and empowerment towards active engagement within the women's movement and within the NWCI.

Core Project Actions

Since the project commenced in June 2012, it has set about undertaking a number of core actions to achieve that aim:

- It provides a space for young people to discuss, tease out, share experiences and inform one another and voice their views on women's equality and what that means in the lives of young people. This mostly happens through on-line platforms such as our website (currently in development), Facebook, Twitter and hopefully Youtube too
- It involves young people in organising events that draw attention to the issues that most concern them and to profile and celebrate what is important and relevant about young women's contribution to society
- It supports learning and awareness raising among young people about gender equality and inequality by developing and delivering discussion/education programmes in school and youth projects- initially on a pilot basis, with a view to having a suite of tools and resources

that can be used by any and all schools and youth projects as part of the curriculum or youth programme.

- It supports young people to take action on the issues that most concern them
- It creates space for young people's voices within the women's movement and particularly within the National Women's Council and ensure that the NWCI includes the voices and issues of young people in its lobbying and campaigning work

Purpose of the Evaluation

The Evaluation is intended to assess the relevance, performance, management arrangements and progress of objectives, realization of outcomes and overall success of the project. This external evaluation will be conducted on an ongoing basis over the course of the three years of the project from its commencement and will be comprehensive, consultative and inductive. It will both measure and assess the achievements of the project **and** based on these findings, inform how the project should proceed or be directed. At the outset, a clear evaluation methodology, terms of reference, set of progress indicators and framework for integrating ongoing evaluation findings into the future direction of the project will be devised by the evaluator /evaluation team.

The evaluation will assess the project with a view to its relevance to the work of the NWCI and the ongoing sustainability of the project or key elements of its work. It will identify and document lessons learned and make recommendations that the Y Factor and the NWCI, might use to improve the design and implementation of other related projects and programs.

Scope and timeframe of the evaluation

The total duration of the evaluation will be **2½ years** within the period of 1 January 2013- May 2015, according to the following plan:

- Collection of and acquaintance with the project document, project progress reports and other relevant project-related materials;
- Designing the detailed evaluation scope and methodology (including the methods for data collection and analysis);
- Setting up the meeting dates and preparation of the detailed information requirements in cooperation with the Y Factor Project Co-ordinator. The Project Co-ordinator will be the key contact with the Evaluator and enable access to information and contact with other project stakeholders
- Undertaking evaluation of project through agreed methods and processes according to agreed framework
- Communication with the Project Co-ordinator to clarify any other matters.

Evaluation Outputs

Tenders submitted should include proposals for how evaluation findings will be reported to the Y Factor, outlining format and frequency of reporting.

Required Qualifications

- Knowledge and experience in project assessment and evaluation, including demonstrated knowledge of both participatory and inductive evaluation methodologies
- Understanding of the equality sector with a demonstrable insight into gender and women's equality

- Understanding of the community sector and its relationship with State policy and decision making and insight into issues of civil society engagement and participation
- Experience and or understanding of the education, curriculum development and youth sectors
- Excellent writing skills;
- Strong communication skills with an ability to engage with a range of diverse audiences

Closing date for receipt of tenders

Tenders must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 9th January 2013 by post to:

Y Factor Co-ordinator
National Women's Council of Ireland
2-3 Parnell Square
Dublin 1

Or by email to elvaoc@nwci.ie

Interviews will be held following shortlisting on Wednesday 16th January 2013.

Further information

Detailed terms of reference for this project can be obtained on the NWCI website or by contacting Y Factor Project Co-ordinator, Elva O'Callaghan at elvaoc@nwci.ie