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## **RESEARCH TENDER CALL**



## **TENDER INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**Project Reference No.: 04-2020**

**Project Title:**

**“Secondary analysis of dietary survey data of children’s diets on the island of Ireland”**

**1. Objective/Knowledge Gap:**

To fully exploit existing publicly funded dietary survey data on the island of Ireland to provide regional and national evidence for public health messages to support healthy eating among children aged 2-12 years.

**2. Background**

Public health awareness campaigns are a key element in promoting health on the island of Ireland. The START campaign is aimed at parents/guardians of children up to the age of 12 years. The core health messages include – more fruit and vegetables, less sugary drinks and more water and milk, less ‘treat’ foods, give child sized portions, more sleep, less screen time and more physical activity (1). These behaviours are associated with weight status in children. The availability of local (i.e. regional or national) evidence is an important facilitator in media awareness campaigns. The media and general public are more likely to engage with health messages that are supported by local data.

A number of publicly funded surveys have been conducted that have collected data on diet and other related behaviours of children aged 2-12 years such as the National Diet and

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Nutrition Survey in Northern Ireland (NDNS NI) and National Children’s Food Survey II (NCFS II) in Republic of Ireland (ROI) (2, 3). There has been analysis and results published from these surveys but there is scope to further analyse the data

### **3. Approach**

The approach in this project is to conduct secondary analysis of existing publicly funded dietary intake data sets on the island of Ireland in the diet topics relevant to the START campaign.

### **4. Technical Specification**

- (a) Scope of research
- (b) Literature review
- (c) Qualitative and quantitative work
- (d) Analysis
- (e) Data handling and Reporting
- (f) Quality assurance

#### **(a) Scope of the research**

Use publicly funded survey datasets such as the NDNS NI and NCFS II (2, 3). The most recent data available should be used.

This research should build on existing analysis and apply novel approaches that go beyond total intakes of nutrients and foods and explore factors such as eating occasions, frequency of consumption and relationships with food related behaviours. Some examples of how research findings have been used in the START campaign can be found in the news section of **safefood**’s website (4-11). Consideration should be given to the practicality of information for parents and guardians.

This project will not fund data analysis that has already been conducted. However, existing relevant analysis should be referenced. Provide comparable data for NI and ROI – the purpose here is to provide similar data where possible north and south taking into consideration the differences between datasets. **safefood** do not wish to compare the

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results between both jurisdictions, and socio-economic status should be considered where possible.

### **(b) Literature review**

A literature review may be carried out to provide context and comparison to international data.

### **(c) Qualitative and quantitative research**

The research is expected to be predominantly quantitative. This does not exclude the use of qualitative measures if available and where appropriate. A full justification and rationale for the proposed methodology and analytical approach will be required. It will be necessary to indicate for all aspects of the project how the proposed data will be analysed and reported.

### **(d) Analysis**

The contractor will provide explicit details of all analytical methods. Quality control must be evident in the analysis.

### **(e) Data Handling and Reporting**

- An interim report (electronic and hardcopy) containing a summary of the findings to date will be submitted to **safefood** at six monthly intervals of the research.
- The contractor is responsible for collating all results and a final report will be submitted to **safefood** on completion of the study.
- All forms, documentation and electronic files must be retained by the contractor until further notice from **safefood** in case of issues arising after the completion of the research.

### **(f) Quality Assurance**

- All necessary permissions and procedures for accessing the databases must be sought and adhered to.
- The contractor will use validated methods where applicable and will apply best practice quality controls to approaches.

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- **safefood** can visit contractors during the course of the survey to assess how the work is being carried out.

### **5. Proposed Activities/Deliverables**

The proposed activities and deliverables will be dependent on the methodology proposed and will include

- Submission on a 6 monthly basis of an interim report
- Submission of a final report to be submitted to **safefood** at the end of the 12 month study period
- Results will be detailed separately for ROI and NI.

### **6. Other requirements**

Total costings are to be included in the tender.

### **7. Evaluation of Tenders**

Quality of the proposal:

- ✓ Anticipated deliverables;
- ✓ Research method and facilities;
- ✓ Value for money;
- ✓ Potential for application;
- ✓ Work plan, including the overall timeframe.

Quality of Applicants:

- ✓ Experience in subject area;
- ✓ Quality Assurance and Quality Control measures in place.

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## 8. Duration of Project

Estimated duration of the project: Total of 12 months max. A detailed timescale of research should be submitted by each applicant.

## 9. Tender Application Forms and Guidelines

The Tender Application Form and associated Guidelines can be downloaded from [www.safefood.eu](http://www.safefood.eu). They can also be obtained by emailing [research@safefood.eu](mailto:research@safefood.eu), quoting the project reference number **04-2020**. Alternatively please contact **safefood** as per the details below.

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**The closing date** for receipt of applications by **safefood** is no later than **4pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020**.

### References

1. safefood. Make a Start 2019 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/Start/Welcome.aspx>].
2. Northern Ireland and Statistics Research Agency. National Diet and Nutrition Survey 2019 [Available from: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/national-diet-and-nutrition-survey>].
3. Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance (IUNA). National Children's Food Survey II - Summary Report 2019.
4. Safefood. Northern Ireland children are eating 7 times more 'Treat' foods on a daily basis than recommended 2019 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2019/Northern-Ireland-children-are-eating-7-times-more-'Treat'-foods-on-a-daily-basis-than-recommended.aspx>].
5. Safefood. START campaign says that parents who say no to treats are heroes 2019 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2019/START-campaign-says-that-parents-who-say-no-to-treats-are-heroes.aspx>].
6. Safefood. START campaign encourages parents to give their kids healthier after-school and evening snacks 2019 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2019/START->

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[campaign-encourages-parents-to-give-their-kids-healthier-after-school-and-evening-snacks.aspx](#).

7. Safefood. New research reveals foods high in fat, salt and sugar are the second-most consumed food group by children 2019 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2019/New-research-reveals-foods-high-in-fat,-salt-and-sugar-are-the-second-most-consumed-food-group-by-ch.aspx>].

8. Safefood. Press pause for play to start your kids on the way to a healthier life - NI press release 2018 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2018/Press-pause-for-play-to-start-your-kids-on-the-way-to-a-healthier-life-NI-press-release.aspx>].

9. Safefood. Press pause on screen time and help start children on the way to a healthier life - ROI press release 2018 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2018/Press-pause-on-screen-time-and-help-start-children-on-the-way-to-a-healthier-life-ROI-press-releas.aspx>].

10. Safefood. Northern Ireland families spending more on "treat" foods than fruit and vegetables 2018 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2018/Northern-Ireland-families-spending-more-on-treat.aspx>].

11. Safefood. Let's beat the trend and encourage a higher spend on fruit and veg rather than treats for our kids 2018 [Available from: <https://www.safefood.eu/News/2018/Let's-beat-the-trend-and-encourage-a-higher-spend.aspx>].