

# Q&A webinar: Evidence use in policymaking

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)  
Research Commissioning Centre

[rcc@3ieimpact.org](mailto:rcc@3ieimpact.org)

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

# Session agenda

Welcome and housekeeping	5 mins
Addressing existing questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FCDO Research Commissioning Centre</li><li>• Research programme scope and objectives</li><li>• Eligibility</li><li>• Commissioning and selection process</li><li>• Budgets and value for money</li></ul>	20 mins
Q&A	30 mins
Next steps and close	5 mins

# Housekeeping

- The session is being recorded for future reference.
- Please use the **Q&A function** to enter questions not covered in the opening presentation.
- Participants are muted by default. **Raise your hand** to ask a question.
- **Live captioning** is available.
- We will share slides and written FAQs with registered participants and post them online by 8 May.

# Contributors



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# FCDO Research Commissioning Centre (RCC)

The FCDO RCC is an inclusive, responsive, and efficient funder of high-quality, policy-relevant and impactful research informing the most pressing global challenges of our time.

Funding calls through the evidence use in policymaking programme are open to organisations **within and outside** the RCC consortium.



# RCC programme on evidence use in policymaking

## Strand 1:

### Conceptual framework and measures inventory

**Objective:** Produce an overarching conceptual framework to identify constructs of interest and a toolkit of robust measures and associated guidance that can be used to track and assess evidence use and factors that facilitate it

**Timeline:** Completed

## Strand 2:

### Studies of evidence use in practice

**Objective:** Understand the role of research evidence in economic policymaking and draw actionable conclusions on the factors, levers or entry points that enabled evidence use

**Submission deadline:** 30 May  
**Award size:** max £200k

## Strand 3:

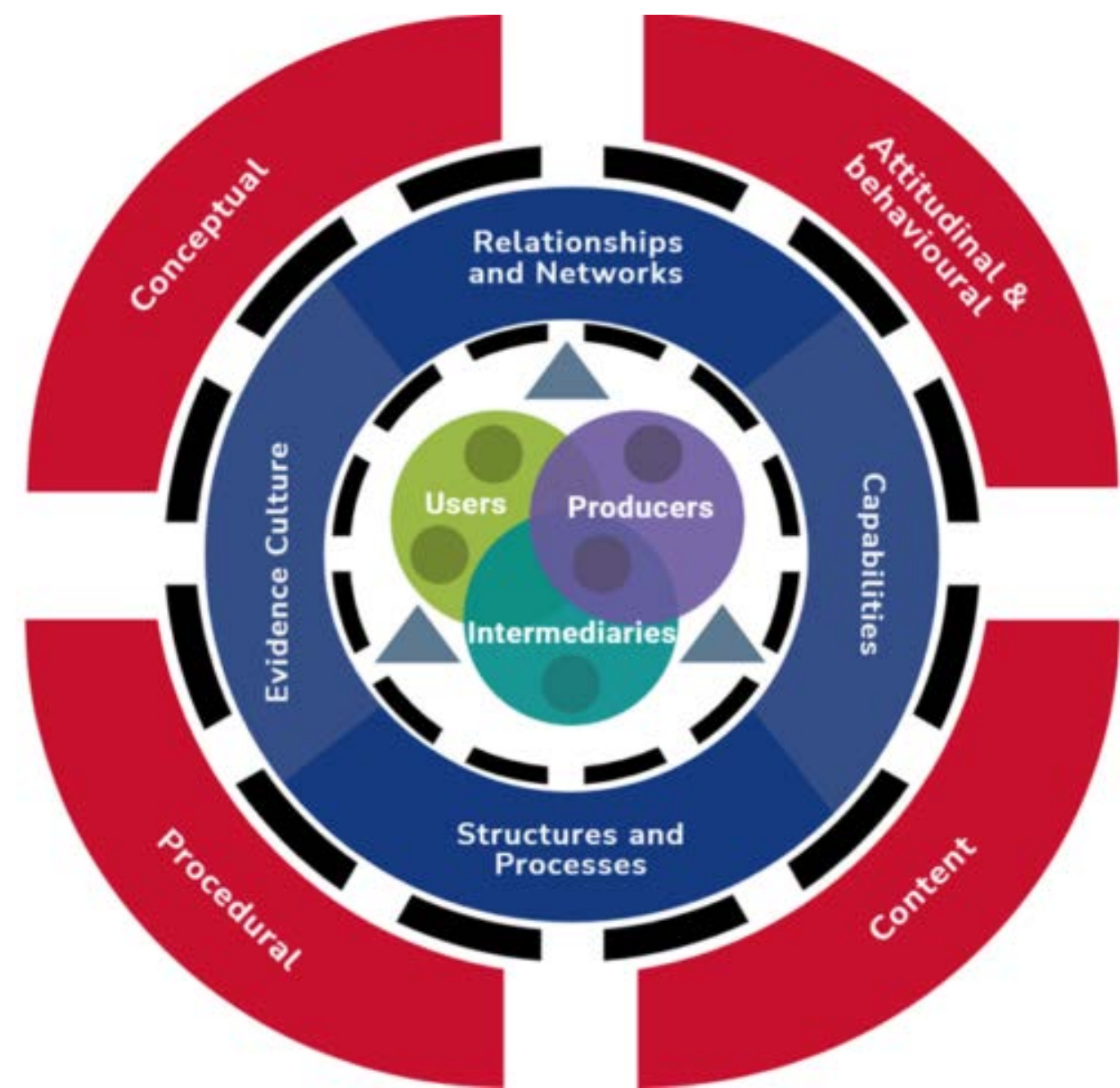
### Interventions to influence use of evidence in policymaking

**Objective:** Advance empirical knowledge on how to improve the use of research evidence in policymaking through rigorous evaluation of evidence-use interventions

**Submission deadline:** 27 June  
**Award size:** max £400k

# Strand 1 resources

## Conceptual framework



## Measures inventory

### Measures Inventory

Search for EIPM measures by name

Framework category

Validity/reliability

Construct

Sector

Country

**A tool tracking number of requests placed by policymakers for evidence (Crowley et al. 2018)**

☒ N/A (direct observation)

Construct  
Demand for evidence

Sector  
Other

Country  
USA

Target respondent  
Elected/state legislators, Legislative staff

**Observation tool (Hämäläinen 2017)**

☒ N/A (direct observation)

Construct  
Facilitators of evidence use

Sector  
Health

Country  
Finland

Target respondent  
Miscellaneous policy stakeholders

**Document review (Waller et al. 2022)**

☒ N/A (direct observation)

Construct  
Evidence use

Sector  
Health

Country  
Australia

Target respondent  
Not applicable

**Administrative Evidence-Based Practices (A-EBPs) Questionnaire (Allen et al. 2013)**

☒ Evidence of both reliability and validity

Construct  
Access to evidence, Participatory decision making, EIDM Knowledge and Skills, Perceptions of EIDM, Organisational capacity for EIDM, Administrative evidence-based practices

Sector  
Health

Country  
USA, na

Target respondent  
Professionals/practitioners, Officials at government/state agencies

**Questionnaire and interview (Wilson et al. 2011)**

☒ Evidence of both reliability and validity

Construct  
Intention to use research evidence, Perceptions of evidence

Sector  
Health

Country  
UK, Canada, Low and middle-income countries, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, na

Target respondent  
Officials at government/state agencies, Policy advisors & analysts at government/state agencies, Policymakers (unspecified), Miscellaneous policy stakeholders, Researchers, Professionals/practitioners, Policymakers at government/state agencies, Representatives of professional associations

**Questionnaire (Amara et al. 2004)**

☒ Evidence of both reliability and validity

Construct  
Evidence use

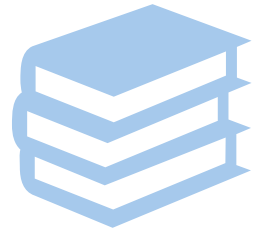
Sector  
Other

Country  
Canada

Target respondent  
Officials at government/state agencies, Representatives of local government agencies



# Pathfinding paper



Systematic review with PACE on what works to increase use of evidence for policy decision-making<sup>1</sup>



Consultations with researchers, practitioners and funders



Consultations with senior economic policymakers in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia



Additional literature scoping to inform research agenda

## Overarching recommendations

- Move beyond identifying barriers and facilitators of evidence use to actionable knowledge
- Actively engage policymakers in research design and implementation
- Embrace interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and learning across policy sectors
- Adopt a systems perspective, recognising the political, institutional and systemic influences on evidence use
- Continue building the evidence base from low- and middle-income countries

## Future workstreams

- Understand how policymaking works in practice
- Understand interventions to influence evidence use

<sup>1</sup> Nduku et al. (2025) [in press]



# RCC programme on evidence use in policymaking

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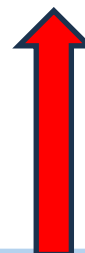
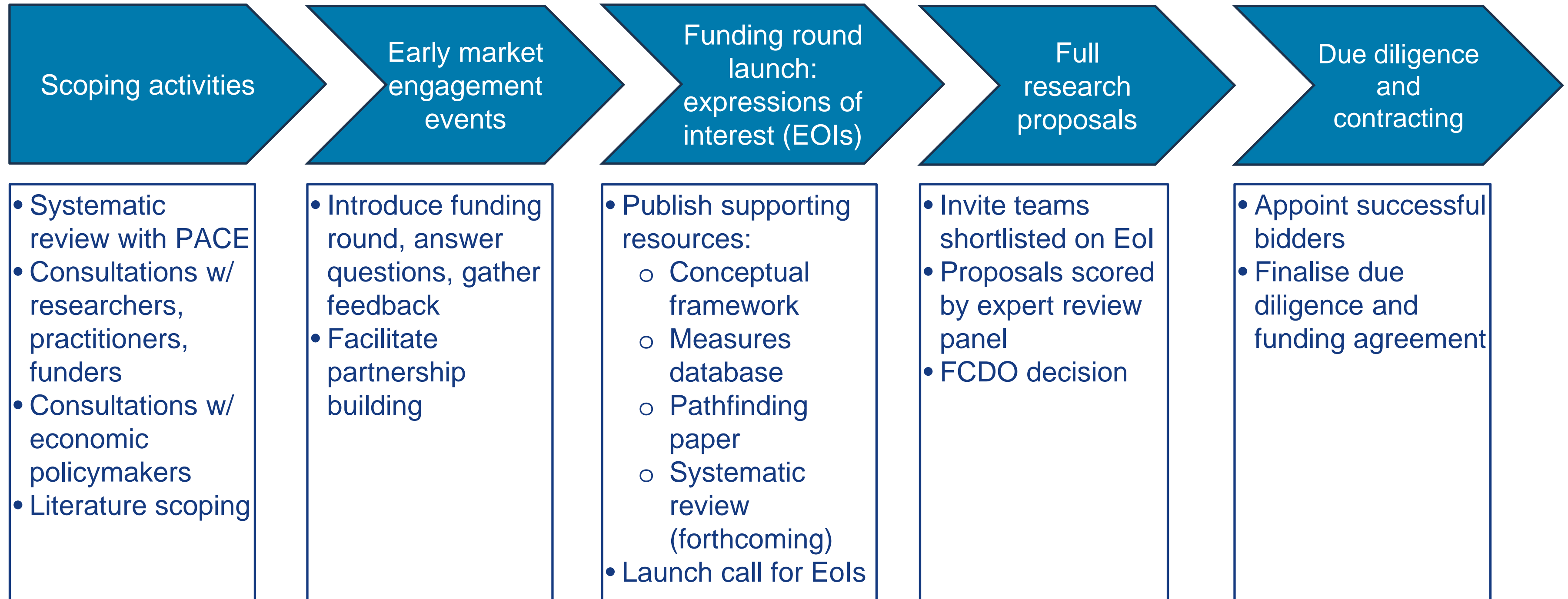
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# Project parameters at a glance

	Studies of evidence use in practice	Interventions to influence the use of evidence
<b>Award size</b>	Up to £200k	Up to £400k
<b>Project duration</b>	1 year from agreement signing	2 years from agreement signing, open to longer with strong rationale
<b>Number of projects funded</b>	5-10 (anticipated)	5-10 (anticipated)
<b>Policy sector(s) of focus</b>	National economic growth (e.g., energy systems, high-volume transport, industrial policy, labour markets, trade policy)	Preference for economic growth policy but open to any sector(s) lacking strong evidence
<b>Countries of focus</b>	Low- and lower-middle income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia <a href="#">following World Bank classifications</a> (Note that South Africa is included). No specific priority countries.	
<b>Eligible applicants</b>	Research teams from legally registered organisations with the requisite expertise and capacity, independently or in consortia. No restrictions on organisation type or geography. Individuals may not apply.	

# Commissioning process



# Assessment criteria - Eol

#	Criterion	Description	Score weighting
1	Understanding of the Expression of Interest	The extent to which the application reflects the call for Eols and meets the objectives of the project and the needs of the intended audience.	25%
2	Methodological approach	The extent to which the methodological approach, at a high level, is appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project.	25%
3	Proposed team	The extent to which the proposed core team demonstrates the required contextual, methodological and project management expertise to carry out the project.	25%
4	Equity and inclusion	The extent to which the project involves a diverse research team with an equitable distribution of roles and responsibilities and substantively engages researchers and other key stakeholders from the country(ies) or region(s) in which it takes place.	25%



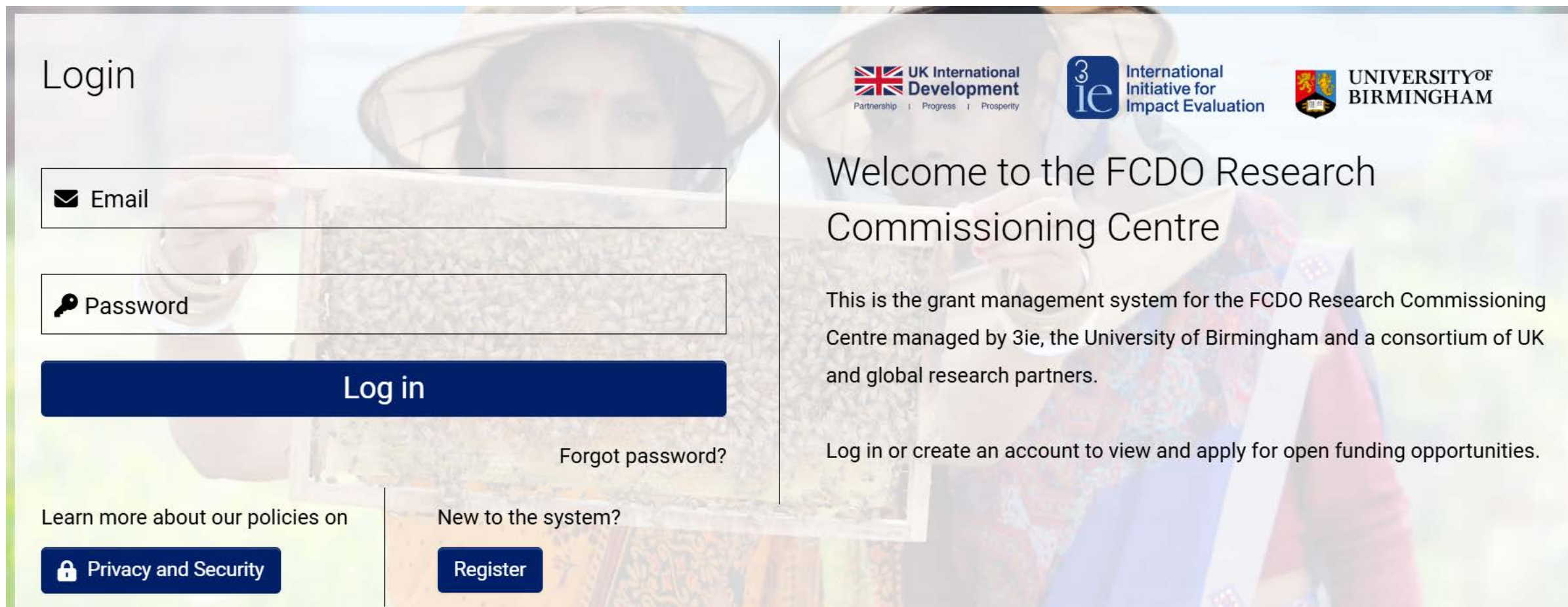
# Budgets and value for money

- Budgets not required at EoI stage
- Budget template will be provided to shortlisted teams for full research proposals
- Projects should be fully costed and demonstrate value for money (please note that £200k and £400k award sizes are ceilings; project costs should be commensurate with complexity and scope of work)

Eligible costs - examples	Ineligible costs - examples
Salaries (+ benefits)	Per diems
Indirect costs ( <a href="#">NPAC</a> , TRAC (for universities), other indirect costing methodology traceable through audited accounts)	
Travel under actuals basis	

# Submitting Eols

Please review the full call for expressions of interest and apply through the [RCC grant management system](#)



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 **UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

## Welcome to the FCDO Research Commissioning Centre

This is the grant management system for the FCDO Research Commissioning Centre managed by 3ie, the University of Birmingham and a consortium of UK and global research partners.

Log in or create an account to view and apply for open funding opportunities.

[RCC grant management system user guide](#)



**Questions**

# Key dates

	Strand 2: Evidence use in practice	Strand 3: Interventions
Written FAQs posted	8 May	8 May
Eol submission deadline	30 May [17:00 GMT]	27 June [17:00 GMT]
Invitations to full proposal	w/c 30 June or 7 July	w/c 28 July or 4 August
Proposal submission deadline	26 August [17:00 GMT]	26 September [17:00 GMT]
Decisions communicated	w/c 29 September	w/c 28 October
Signing of accountable grant	Dependent on due diligence	Dependent on due diligence



# Subscribe for further updates

<https://www.grtd.fcdo.gov.uk/about-rcc/>

## Contact us

If you have questions regarding the Research Commissioning Centre (RCC), please write to us at [rcc@3ieimpact.org](mailto:rcc@3ieimpact.org)

## Follow us on social media

News and updates about the RCC will also be shared on 3ie's and University of Birmingham's social media channels

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