

NICVA Centre for Economic Empowerment

Economic Inequality

Invitation to Tender

1 Introduction

The Centre for Economic Empowerment is commissioning research on economic inequality. This document sets out the terms of reference for the research and the requirements of tenders. Submissions should be sent to eoin.rooney@nicva.org by 5pm on Friday 17 July 2015.

2 Background

As in many OECD countries, wealth and income inequality in the UK have widened over the last three decades.¹ There is evidence that higher levels of economic inequality are associated with detrimental social outcomes² (in areas such as health, crime, social mobility, and educational attainment) and harmful effects on the broader economy³ (including depressed consumption, lower levels of economic growth, and higher debt). In this context economic inequality is becoming a focus of research and policy debate.

Bringing that debate to Northern Ireland poses particular challenges. For example should economic inequality be measured within Northern Ireland or in the UK as a whole? What data is available to measure economic inequality? And what role can the Northern Ireland Executive play in addressing economic inequality given its limited powers? NICVA wishes to appoint a contractor to work through some of these questions.

3 Terms of Reference

The contractor will provide an analysis of economic inequality as it relates to Northern Ireland. This will include an assessment of:

1. Levels of economic inequality.
2. The policies and practices that determine levels of inequality.
3. Social and economic implications of inequality.
4. How levels of economic inequality can be managed (including a consideration of what powers could be devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive for this purpose).

¹ OECD (2011) *Divided We Stand* page 24.

² Wilkinson and Pickett (2009) *The Spirit Level*.

³ Berg and Ostry (2014) *Redistribution, Inequality and Growth*: IMF. Lansley, S (2012) *The Cost of Inequality: Why Economic Equality is Essential for Recovery*.

4 Format of Tenders

Tender submissions should include details of:

- The consultant's relevant knowledge and expertise (including of economic analysis).
- A proposed methodology.
- Proposed timelines (including one day for the launch of the report) with the final report to be completed by December 2015.
- Costs (including daily rates).

5 Budget

A budget of up to £20,000 (inclusive of VAT and expenses) is available for this project. Payments will be made in two stages – on agreement of a Project Initiation Document (34%) and on acceptance of a final report (66%).

6 Award Criteria

The selection panel will assess the tenders on the basis of expertise (30%), methodology (30%), costs (25%), and timelines (15%).

7 Further Information

NICVA welcomes proposals for other research relevant to, but not specified, in the above terms of reference. Please cost any additional proposals separately.

If you require any further information please contact Eoin Rooney on 028 9087 777 or eoin.rooney@nicva.org.