



Questions about whether the Alliance is right for your organisation or about completing the nomination form? Contact AIA Manager, **Eileen O'Malley at eileeno@wheel.ie**.

To ensure consistency and transparency, anonymised responses to queries will be shared with all prospective applicants through updates to this document.

All text in red are additional responses added since the last version of the FAQ.

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

Purpose, Governance and Policy Influence

1. Is the Alliance advisory, or could its work commit a participating organisation to a position or action?

The Alliance is intended to be collaborative and policy-influencing rather than a statutory decision-making body. Members may agree shared priorities, recommendations or areas for joint work, but participation will not commit an organisation to a position or action without its own agreement and approval.

2. Is there a Terms of Reference or founding document available before applying?

The InsightLink project will establish, facilitate and develop an All-Island Alliance with a focus on addressing legal and administrative barriers to cross-border cooperation.

The intention is for Alliance members to help shape how it works in practice, including its priorities, decision-making arrangements and how members' input is used. The first residential meeting will be an important part of this process, including agreeing the Terms of Reference and planning the Alliance's activities.

3. Which policy audiences will the Alliance seek to engage?

The Alliance will support engagement with policymakers and government across both jurisdictions, as well as the North-South and East-West institutions established under the Good Friday Agreement.

This includes the North/South Ministerial Council, its implementation bodies, the British-Irish Council and other relevant policymakers and stakeholders. There may also be opportunities to share learning through SEUPB, PEACEPLUS and wider UK or European channels where relevant, but the core focus is on strengthening North-South and East-West policy engagement.

Duration, Meetings and Participation

4. How long will the Alliance operate?

InsightLink is funded until January 2029, and participating organisations are being asked to engage for the duration of the project. The ambition is to establish a strong and sustainable



mechanism for cross-border engagement. Any continuation of the Alliance beyond January 2029 would depend on the model, agreement and resources available at that stage.

5. What is the expected time commitment?

The Alliance will meet four times each year through to the end of the InsightLink project in January 2029. The residential on 29–30 September 2026 will count as one of the four meetings in the first year.

There may also be opportunities to join smaller working structures or contribute to shared policy or research activity, depending on the priorities agreed by members. Some preparation and follow-up is therefore likely, although the detailed arrangements are still being developed and clearer guidance will be provided before participation is confirmed.

6. Where will Alliance meetings take place?

The inaugural residential on 29–30 September is expected to take place in a border-region location for participants from both jurisdictions.

Future meetings are likely to take place across a mix of locations, potentially including Belfast, Dublin and a border location. Further details will be confirmed as the Alliance programme develops.

7. What happens if an organisation needs to change its representative or withdraw?

Organisations are being asked to participate through to January 2029 and, where possible, to retain the same representative, particularly during the Alliance's initial phase.

The practical arrangements for changing a representative, stepping back or withdrawing will be included in the Terms of Reference. Where an organisation's circumstances change, any necessary arrangements would be discussed and managed reasonably with the organisation concerned.

8. What if the proposed representative cannot attend the inaugural residential on 29–30 September?

The residential will be the Alliance's first formal meeting, and the nominated representative of each selected organisation will be expected to attend. Relationship-building will be central to the Alliance, and the residential will involve significant foundational work, including agreeing the Terms of Reference and future plans. Continuity of representation will therefore be particularly important during the initial phase.

The nominee remains a decision for each organisation. Where more than one colleague could represent the organisation at the appropriate level, the organisation should nominate the person best placed to attend the residential and participate on an ongoing basis. The nomination must be supported by the organisation's CEO, Director or Chair.



Costs and Practical Arrangements

9. Are there any costs associated with membership?

There is no membership fee. Accommodation and subsistence costs associated with attending the residential will be covered through InsightLink project funding. Quarterly meetings will be held in person and eligible subsistence costs associated with attendance will also be covered.

Applying, Representation and Internal Approval

10. Is the organisation or the individual the member of the Alliance?

Membership of the Alliance sits with the organisation, with a named representative participating on its behalf. The application can therefore reflect both the organisation's relevant experience, reach and perspective and the particular knowledge and experience of the individual being nominated.

11. Is the nominated representative expected to be the organisation's CEO?

Not necessarily. Each organisation should nominate the person best placed to represent it. This may be the CEO or another senior representative or recognised voice of influence with the capacity to act and make decisions on the organisation's behalf. The nomination must be supported by the organisation's CEO, Director or Chair.

12. Can an organisation nominate one of its own staff members or representatives?

An organisation may nominate one of its own staff members or representatives, provided the nominee meets the relevant criteria and is supported by the organisation's CEO, Director or Chair.

13. Does an organisation need Board approval before submitting an application?

The application process does not require separate Board approval unless this forms part of the organisation's own internal governance procedures.

All nominations must, however, have the support of the organisation's CEO, Director or Chair.

Assessment and Notification

14. When will applicants be informed of the outcome?

The formal assessment is expected to take place by 25 August 2026. Subject to the assessment process being completed as planned, the intention is to notify all applicants of the outcome shortly thereafter.

The All-Island Alliance forms part of InsightLink, a PEACEPLUS project led by NICVA in partnership with The Wheel. PEACEPLUS is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.