

Terms of Reference Dóchas Learning Groups

1. In contrast to Dóchas Working Groups, Learning Groups do not require approval of the Dóchas Board for their establishment. They can operate informally, with the consent of the Dóchas Director, and do not need to consist of a majority of Dóchas member organisations.
2. Dóchas Learning Groups provide informal fora for discussion and reflection, and do not need to be established for a minimum of three years.
3. Any proposal or project emanating from a Learning Group is not undertaken in the name of Dóchas, but of the participating agencies. If the group, however, was to undertake activities in the name of Dóchas, it needs to seek approval of the Dóchas Board, through the Dóchas Director.
4. Each Learning Group is eligible for support from the Dóchas secretariat, provided its activities are in line with the Dóchas Strategic Plan and supported by a number of Dóchas member organisations. The type and extent of support depends on the nature of the activities, and on Dóchas' capacity to support the group.
5. As with Working Groups, Learning Groups are expected to be self-sufficient: they do not depend on the Dóchas secretariat for their convening or their minute-taking.
6. Membership of Learning Groups is open to any organisation interested in the theme around which the group is formed. Member agencies are simply asked to notify the Dóchas secretariat in writing of the name (or names) of those they wish to represent them in each Learning Group.
7. The Director is responsible for reporting to the Dóchas Board on the activities of each Learning Group.