



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

Project Directory

2018



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INTRODUCTION |

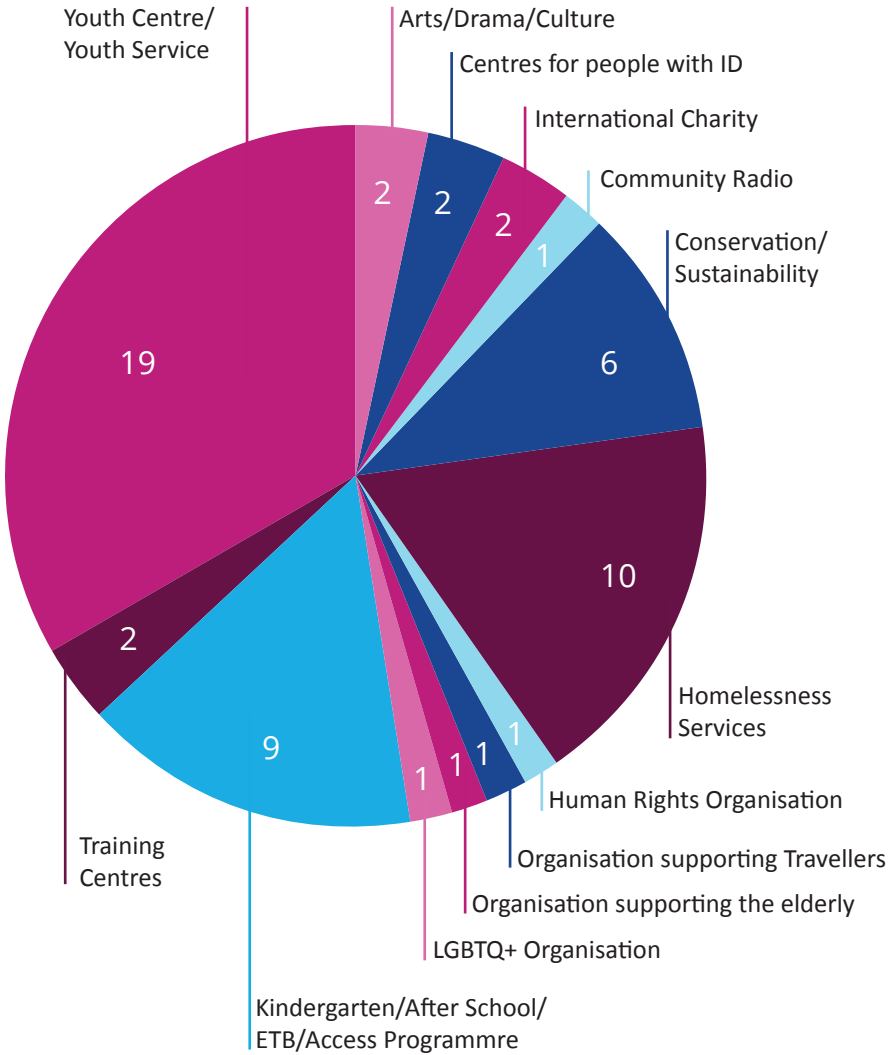
For more than 20 years—through Erasmus+ and earlier programmes such as the European Voluntary Service—Léargas has supported Irish organisations in the community and voluntary sector through international volunteering projects. The European Voluntary Service (EVS) supported young people to travel and volunteer across the European Union, encouraging non-formal learning and acknowledging the learning and development resulting from experiencing cultural diversity.

In Léargas we have been privileged to work with participating organisations and young people, enabling them to achieve high quality projects and supporting them to develop their volunteer programmes. Now in 2019, we are delighted to implement a fully-fledged new programme: the European Solidarity Corps (ESC).

In introducing the new programme, we think it's a good time to reflect on and celebrate the great work achieved to date. This directory provides an insight into volunteering projects that have taken place in 2017 and 2018. It also provides a showcase into the wide range of organisations, successful projects, and diverse themes that can be addressed through the European Solidarity Corps. We hope you find the directory informative, interesting and inspiring!

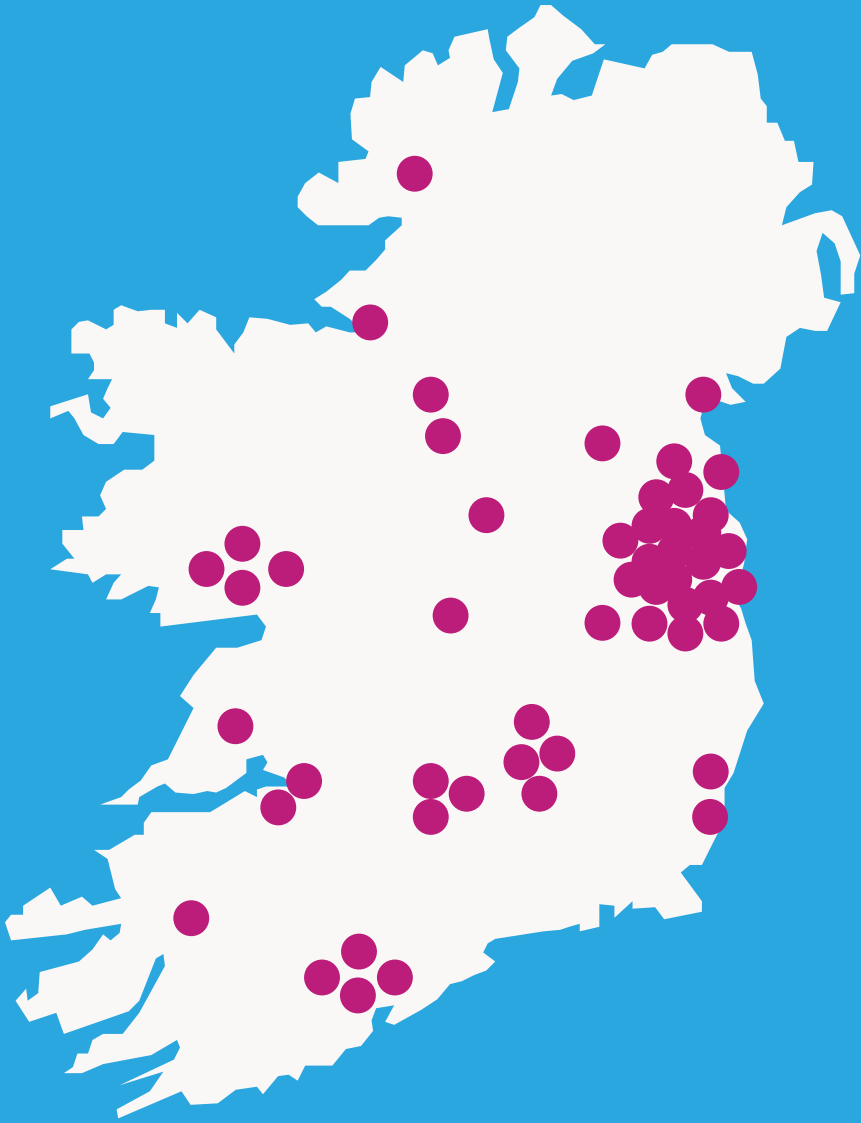


INTERESTING FIGURES |



57

European Solidarity Corps organisations in Ireland



52

**European Solidarity Corps
Quality Label Holders**

In 2017

Deadlines	Successful projects	Grant Allocated
	9	€210,052
	19	€766,692
	9	€275,985
Total		€1,252,729

In 2018

At the time of writing this is the result of two deadlines

Deadlines	Successful projects	Grant Allocated
	12	€490,148
	13	€775,287
Total		€1,265,435



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PROJECT EXAMPLES |

Youth Service Projects



Finglas Youth Resource Centre

First Steps

€7,841 | Sending 2 Volunteers

The Finglas Youth Resource Centre (FYRC) is a youth service based in an urban area of Dublin. While the centre had experience in hosting EVS volunteers for a number of years, this project aimed to send young people on a short-term volunteering placement (two months) for the first time. From their experience of hosting volunteers, FYRC staff knew that volunteering had increased confidence, self-awareness and self-belief and enhanced personal growth significantly. They wanted to offer the same opportunities to their own young people through enabling them to volunteer abroad.

The volunteers lived and worked together in a Children and Youth Centre. They developed a wide range of skills: from practical skills—including painting walls, making and renovating furniture, working in the garden and with animals—to creative communication and social skills gained from joining or leading activities for children, youth and disabled people.



Ballyfermot Youth Service

HiTech 4

€28,362 | Hosting 4 Volunteers

Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS) work within the principles of youth work to provide a safe, supportive and positive environment that encourages the social and personal development of all young people. BYS has completed many projects with volunteers in the organisation and has seen the positive effects on their young people.

This project hosted volunteers to help develop solidarity and promote tolerance among their young people through youthwork practice and a variety of non-formal approaches.

The project focused on young people with fewer opportunities--the participants had been connected with their youth centre for a number of years. BYS were motivated to receive the young volunteers and to give them an opportunity that they would not otherwise have had, and to create conditions for active participation in their own community, country and beyond.



Donegal Youth Service

Donegal International Volunteering Endeavours

€74,468 | Hosting 6 Volunteers

Donegal Youth Service (DYS) is a leading youth work organisation in Donegal with a mission to offer young people opportunities to develop holistically through informal education in a safe and equitable environment. DYS operate a range of specific core projects such as The Youth Outreach Project, Daybreak, Youth Information, Breakout, LOFT Health Café, and Teen Talk.

This project ran over two years and involved six volunteers working strategically across an integrated Youth Service. Running a two-year project allowed the organisation to measure the impact of the project in relation to long-term desired outcomes. An underlying objective was to allow young people to immerse themselves in a new culture and gain new skills, resulting in benefits for the organisation, the volunteers and the local community.



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Social Justice Projects



Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT)

Peter McVerry 2017

€33,126 | [Hosting 4 Volunteers](#)

Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) provides low-threshold entry services, primarily to younger persons with complex needs, and offers pathways out of homelessness based on the principle of the Housing First model.

Depending on their placements, the volunteers in this project worked directly with people across a wide range of services. The aims of this project were two-fold: to develop the volunteers' skills in interacting, working and engaging with a marginalised group; and to help the young people who use the service to experience a greater diversity of engagement with different cultures and other nationalities.



Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT)

Peter McVerry Trust Sending 2017-2020

€25,922 | [Sending 11 Volunteers](#)

Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) works with some of the most marginalised youths in Ireland. Homelessness is a marginalising experience, associated with addiction, mental health issues, reduced independence and decreased self-esteem.

This project is a long-term (three-year) endeavour involving 11 young adults—who are currently homeless, or have a history of homelessness—in short-term volunteering placements. These young people have a history of social care, mental health problems and/or addiction issues. Each activity focuses on taking the volunteers outside of their comfort zone and requires a level of preparation, responsibility and reflection which may not be typically experienced by these young people. While PMVT has a long history with hosting European volunteers, this is their first time as a sending organisation.



Galway Simon Community

Providing services to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Galway

€59,622 | [Hosting 6 Volunteers](#)

Since 1979, Galway Simon Community have been providing support services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Galway Simon Community have a long history of hosting European volunteers who work alongside staff in supported houses.

With this project, Galway Simon wanted to encourage volunteer and service-user interaction so that all could learn new skills and improve self-esteem, forming trusting relationships which in turn would lead to positive impacts on individuals' well-being. Galway Simon Community report that volunteers inject vibrancy and vitality to the organisation; they bring fresh perspectives which enhance the service offered to clients.



DePaul Ireland

Depaul Ireland EVS programme

€49,475 | [Hosting 5 Volunteers](#)

Depaul Ireland supports people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It is part of Depaul International, a group of charities working to support people who are homeless and marginalised around the world. The organisation's services span Community and Outreach, Vulnerable Families, Harm Reduction, Accommodation services, Criminal Justice and Mental Health services.

This project aimed to help the volunteers develop their skills while providing service users with opportunities that enable Depaul Ireland to offer a more multifaceted approach to their services. In the words of Jason Flynn, Depaul's Volunteer Coordinator:

“Volunteers gain a comprehensive experience, and learn to appreciate the issues faced by [our service users].

Our volunteers bring skills, abilities, ideas, objectives, energy and enthusiasm to the organisation, enriching our work and supporting our aims, our vision, mission and values. They form informal relationships with our service users that are unique and valuable. In return, they receive support, supervision and mentoring, and have ample opportunities to explore new interests, develop themselves and seek challenges.”



European Network Anti-Racism Ireland
Youth Exchange for Learning in Diversity
€12,051 | **Hosting 1 Volunteer**

ENAR Ireland is a network of organisations fighting racism in Ireland. One of the organisation’s new objectives is to have specific action targeting youth and the fight against racism.

This project brought a volunteer into the organisation to assist in its mission to get involved in youth work. ENAR staff believe strongly that the young people they hope to reach will identify more readily with a peer and so they wanted to host a young volunteer.

The organisation is also committed to supporting young people with fewer opportunities and the volunteer was selected on this basis. The organisation has set out a clear plan of support for the young person whilst simultaneously ensuring the objectives of the project will be met.



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Sustainability Projects



Cloughjordan Community Farm (CCF)

Growing Together

€40,320 | Hosting 4 Volunteers

Cloughjordan Community Farm is a member-owned and operated Community Supported Agriculture initiative based in Cloughjordan ecovillage. As a social enterprise the Community Farm promotes a healthy food culture and aims to guarantee a secure local food supply, as well as providing training in resilient food systems and sustainable agriculture.

Cloughjordan Community Farm (CCF) hosted four volunteers for twelve months. The volunteers were involved in activities that promote CCF as a model for other community food projects, as well as the ideas of self-sufficiency, sustainable living and local food production. This project contributed to CCF's mission of promoting healthy eating, sustainable food production, sustainable development, raising environmental awareness and intercultural understanding.



Good Energies Alliance Ireland (GEAI)

Good Energies 2020

€117,770 | Hosting 9 Volunteers

Good Energies Alliance Ireland (GEAI) is an environmental NGO based in Leitrim, and is a member of national and international environmental networks. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of GEAI work. Through research, advocacy, education and campaigning, GEAI works to support the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy resources and uses in Ireland.

Good Energies 2020 is a two-year project that will use the enthusiasm and skills of nine volunteers to contribute towards "Powerful Communities", a new campaign coordinated by GEAI. This campaign will focus on the potential of communities to generate their own electricity from renewable energies while at the same time generating revenue and jobs.



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Arts Projects



Galway Community Circus **Youth Circus in Ireland 2017**

€27,359 | **Hosting 3 Volunteers**

Galway Community Circus (GCC) is the flagship for youth and social circus education in Ireland, advancing education and promoting social inclusion for young people. It does this through the provision of circus arts education programmes, youth exchanges, youth arts performances and outreach programmes with schools and youth and community groups.

GCC brought three volunteers to promote solidarity, cultural diversity, active citizenship and healthy lifestyle through participation in circus activities. The project provided European volunteers—who brought their knowledge and practice of circus arts and circus education—the opportunity to immerse themselves within Ireland’s culture. They also had the opportunity to improve their English language skills while participating in activities they are passionate about, gaining valuable experience in an Irish community organisation.



Crooked House Theatre **EVS Youth Drama Project**

€26,169 | **Hosting 3 Volunteers**

This was an EVS project with Kildare Youth Theatre. Volunteers from the European Union, Turkey and Russia came to Ireland for periods lasting from six months to one year. They worked alongside their peers in drama, workshops, and developing new theatre and film projects. They also became involved in the day-to-day running of the youth theatre. The volunteers wanted to work in English-speaking theatre. They wanted to deepen their knowledge of drama facilitation and to develop their own performance and acting skills. They were introduced to some of the theory underpinning the use of drama as a medium for youth development, and especially to its use as a tool for improving mental health in young people.



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Education Projects





Bantry & Dunmanway School Completion Programme

Bantry & Dunmanway School Completion Programme Activity Assistants

€32,664 | [Hosting 4 Volunteers](#)

Situated in West Cork, Bantry & Dunmanway SCP has been set up to combat early school leaving. The organisation supports young people and their families in the areas of retention, attendance and participation at school. By supporting young people at risk of leaving school early to get the most from their education, the organisation is helping to fight youth unemployment along with poverty and marginalisation.

Involving volunteers assists the SCP in running a greater number of activities and gives a broader dimension to their work. Coming from different European countries, the volunteers bring interest and challenge to their clients, by showing them wider horizons, broader views and cultural diversity. The aim of this project was to develop an awareness of the issues associated with early school leaving and build skills, knowledge and attitudes that help to address it.



Kilkenny Steiner School

Kilkenny Steiner School

€10,666 | [Hosting 2 Volunteers](#)

Kilkenny Steiner School provides Steiner Education for children aged three to 12. Toddler groups and Kindergarten are offered in Ballyhall, a charitable Community Kindergarten. They welcome children of all abilities and from all faiths and backgrounds. The priority of the Steiner ethos is to provide an unhurried and creative learning environment where children can find joy in learning and experience the richness of childhood rather than early specialisation. To treat all subjects as inter-dependent, so that languages,

science, art and craft weave a meaningful whole, with the human being at the centre.

This project welcomed two volunteers to join classes, assisting the children and learning about Steiner Education.



The Aisling Project

Long Term EVS Aisling Project, Ireland

€59,727 | Hosting 5 Volunteers

The Aisling project is an after-school initiative operating in Ballymun, Dublin. They currently run five projects, in various areas of Ballymun, working with more than 100 young people aged from eight to 15 years. The main aims of the Aisling project are to prevent early school leaving, benefit the community, and advance education by running an after-school intervention project for children at risk. This intervention provides purposeful activity in a caring, secure environment in an attempt to meet the young people's developmental needs. The service provides a hot meal every day, homework supervision and a range of developmental activities—drama, art, music, swimming, sports, gardening, arts and crafts etc.

The volunteering project aims to develop links with other parts of Europe so that young people from different countries can experience different cultures. The volunteers will learn more about Irish culture as they immerse themselves in it, and also about youth work practices within an Irish context.



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