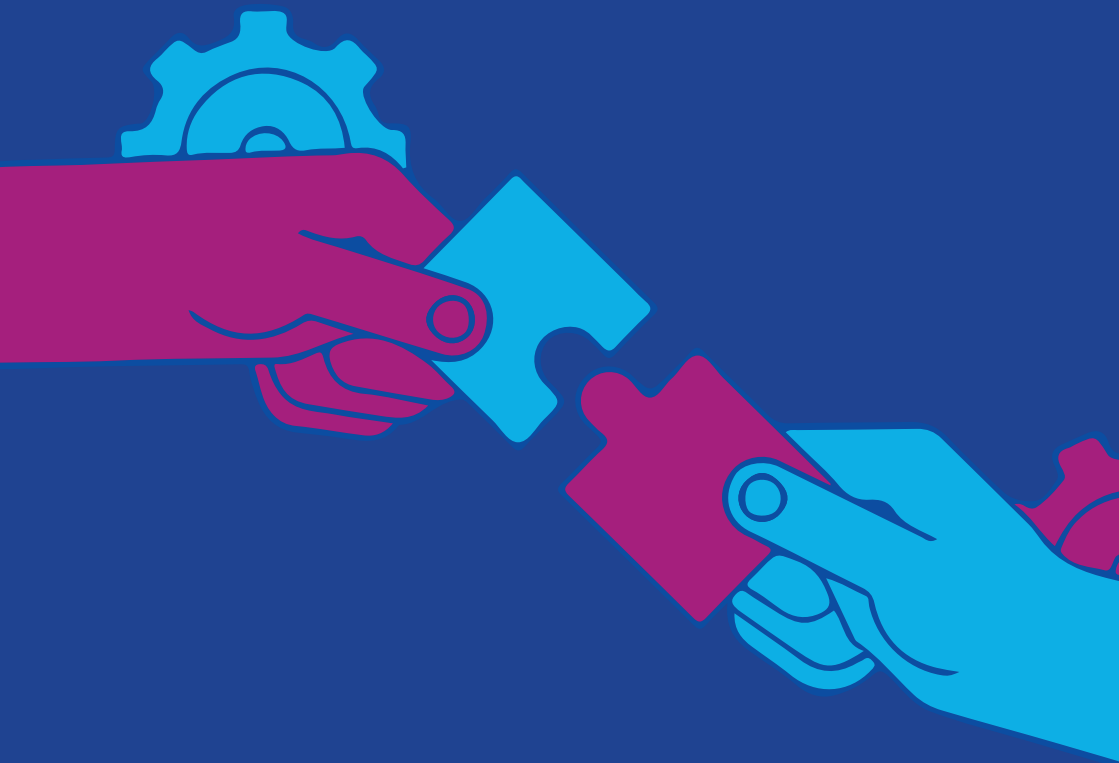


# 2019

## Project Directory

 léargas



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**



Riailtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



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# Introduction

2019 has been a busy year and has seen many Irish organisations successfully implement European Solidarity Corps projects. These projects build solidarity within communities, include national and international volunteers, address important issues at grassroots level and result in positive, visible outcomes.

With the support of the European Solidarity Corps, organisations who believe in change are forging their way in creating a more inclusive society. These change-makers are engaging with volunteers, as agents of change, to achieve this goal.

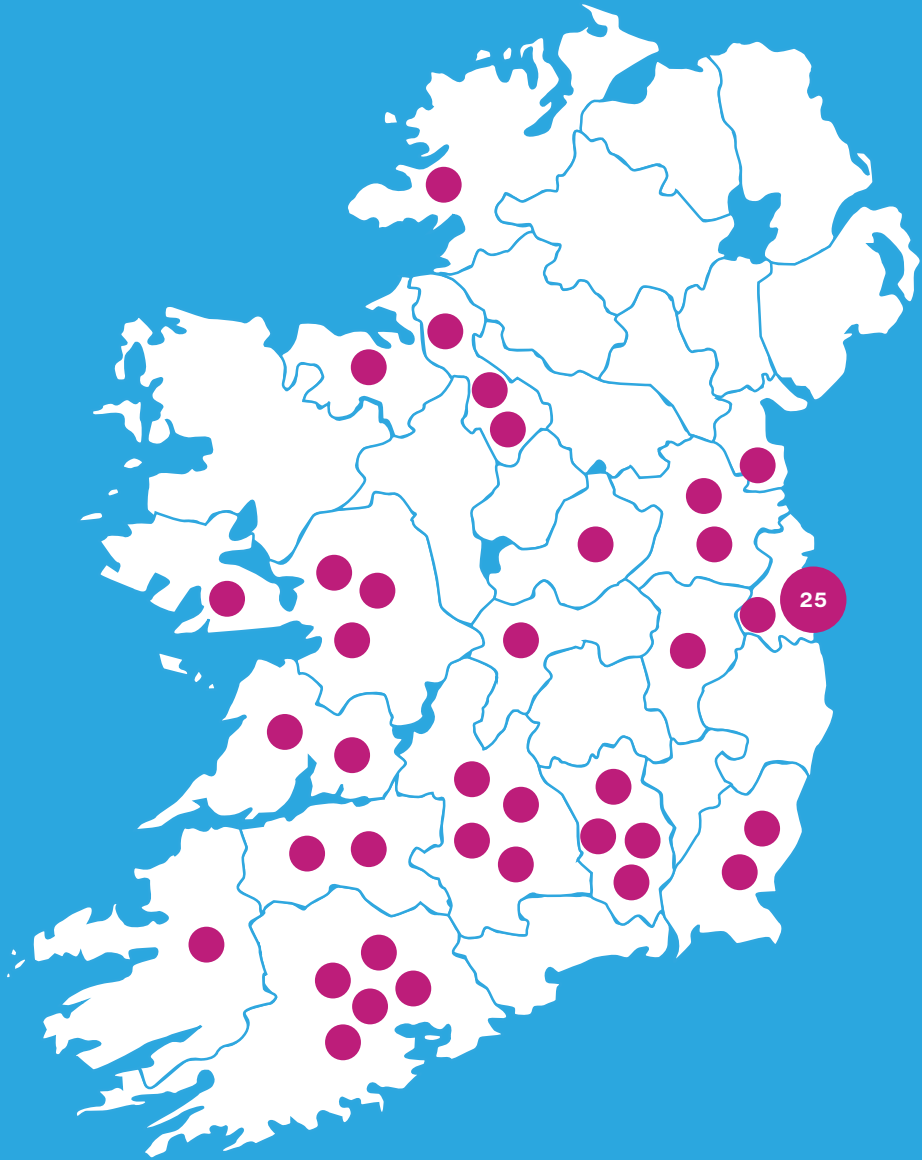
Léargas has been privileged to work in solidarity with these organisations, supporting their work and assisting them and their volunteers in achieving high quality projects.

This directory provides an insight into the projects that have taken place in 2019. It aims to showcase 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!

**Suzanne and Noeleen**  
**European Solidarity Corps**





# 61 European Solidarity Corps Organisations

# Types of organisations

Arts/Drama/Culture

Centres for People with Intellectual Disabilities

International Charities

Community Radio

Conservation/Sustainability/Animal Welfare

Homelessness Services

Human Rights Organisations

LGBTQ+ Organisations

Organisations Supporting People from  
the Travelling Community

Organisations Supporting the Elderly

Kindergarten/After School/ETB/  
Access Programmes

Training Centres

Youth Centres/Youth Services

Community Law Centres

# In 2018

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Round	Volunteering projects	Solidarity projects	Jobs	Grant Allocated
 1	4	2	1	€140,032

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**Total** €140,032

# In 2019

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Round	Volunteering projects	Solidarity projects	Jobs	Grant Allocated
 1	7			€247,416
 2	8			€381,147
 3	8	5		€215,553

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**Total** €885,116

# Quality Label

To participate in the European Solidarity Corps, organisations apply for the European Solidarity Corps Quality Label. This Quality Label shows that the organisation can ensure the conditions necessary for young people to take part successfully in activities. It demonstrates compliance with the mission and principles of the European Solidarity Corps, and shows that organisations agree to carry out the responsibilities relating to each stage of the solidarity activities. An organisation can apply for different Quality Labels depending on the actions it wishes to be involved in:

- Quality Label for Volunteering
- Quality Label for Traineeships
- Quality Label for Jobs.

In 2019, six new organisations received the European Solidarity Corps Quality Label.

Organisation	Quality Label
Kingsriver Community Holdings	Occupational-Traineeship
Ringsend Irishtown Youth Service	Volunteering
The Organic Centre	Volunteering
Cloyne Diocesan Youth Service	Volunteering
Community Law and Mediation	Volunteering
Irish Bioeconomy Foundation	Volunteering

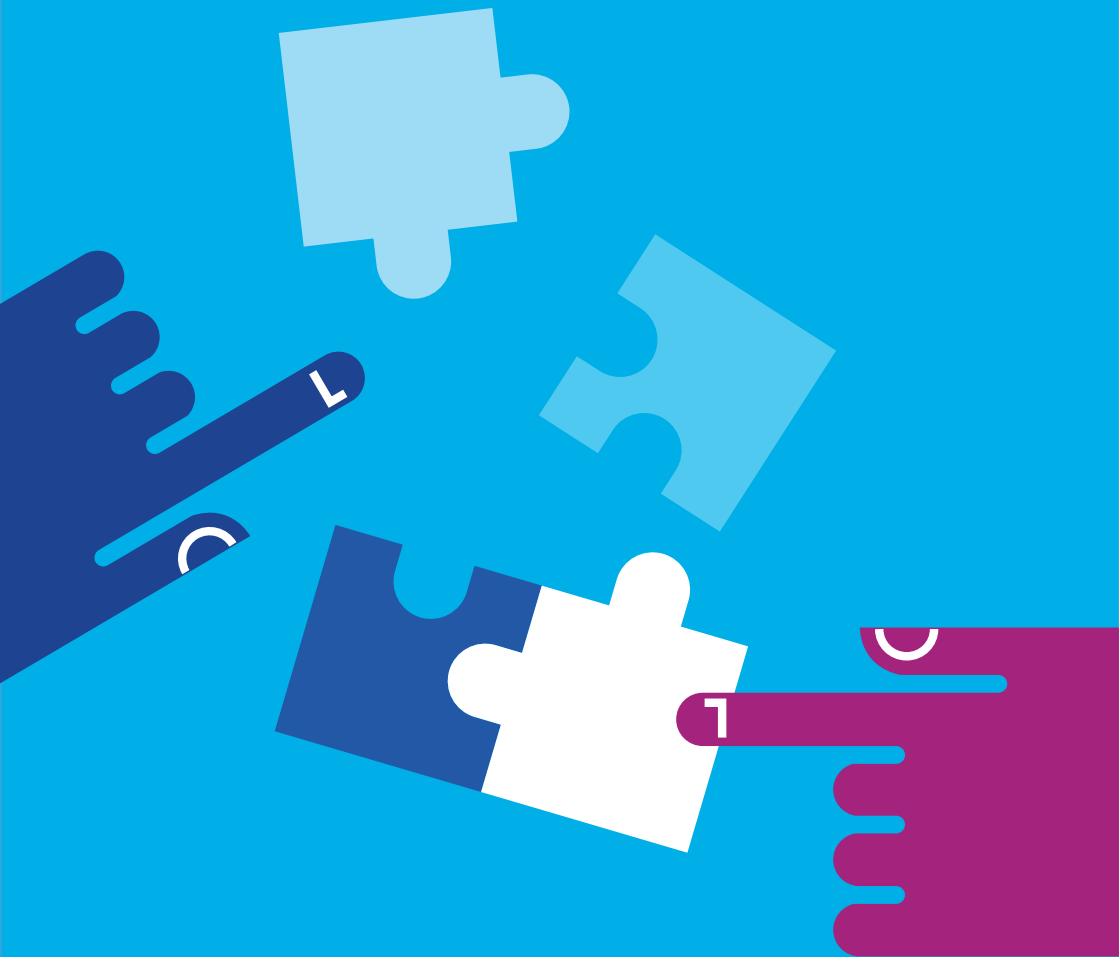




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# Youth Service

Project Examples





**Kerry Diocesan Youth Service**  
**eurÓg Killarney European Youth Centre**  
€33,528 | Hosting 2 Volunteers

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service is a local Youth Service with five youth centres spanning the south west of Ireland. KDYS eurÓg Killarney Youth Centre is one of these centres. This project provided an opportunity for two volunteers from Europe to join the KDYS eurÓg team. The volunteers worked with young people daily over a 12-month period. They assisted in the delivery of programmes that help young people overcome isolation. These programmes help the young people feel a part of their community and aid personal and social development. Through non-formal learning they build confidence, self-esteem and personal development. Many of the young people have left school early or are at risk of early school leaving. They experience economic, social and cultural disadvantage, including intergenerational unemployment, high levels of addiction, low education attainment and family breakdown. The volunteers increased the range of programmes and supports available for all young people in Killarney, and in turn gained an invaluable learning experience which improves their own employability.



**National Council of YMCAs Ireland**  
**Ballincollig YMCA**  
€9,674 | Hosting 1 Volunteer

YMCA is a voluntary organisation that works with disadvantaged children, young people and families in the community. Underpinned by Christian principles, each YMCA responds to local needs and seeks to share and learn from being part of a national and international movement. The Ballincollig YMCA project brought one volunteer to their Ballincollig organisation for ten months to assist in the delivery of the Parents and Kids Together (PAKT) programme. PAKT is a community-based family support programme which aims to improve family relationships in families with children aged 6-16 years. The programme aims to reduce the possibility of children leaving school early and engaging in anti-social behaviour. Children engage in activities like art, crafts, and drama, and the families come together at events like treasure hunts and barbecues. Parents also participate in their own support programme. PAKT aims to provide a quality intervention that is designed to promote resilient young people, with social competence, self-efficacy, physical well-being, participation, spirituality and parental and family support.



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# Social Justice

Project Examples





## **Camphill Communities Ireland** **KCAT Arts Centre**

€31,794 | Hosting 3 Volunteers

KCAT Arts Centre is an example of inclusive art practice both in Ireland and internationally. Based in Callan in Kilkenny, KCAT works in the field of disability art. Artists facilitate, collaborate and educate people of all abilities who attend the centre. Through their artist-led framework they hope to nurture and foster access and inclusion, stability, continuity and durability of their project. KCAT hosted three volunteers in different areas of the organisation: in their studio, theatre and art studio. Through a variety of programmes, the volunteers helped the facilitators to deliver workshops. The volunteers bring enthusiasm, ideas and valuable support. KCAT's mission is to create an environment in which artists, actors and students from different backgrounds and with a range of abilities can work together and create as equals. They believe in life-long learning for all. In the long-term KCAT hopes that through this project they can evolve and change perceptions and misconceptions of arts, disability and participation.



## **Kingsriver Community** **Kingsriver Life-Sharing Community**

€79,107 | Hosting 5 Volunteers

Kingsriver Community is a life-sharing community that works with people of all abilities on a residential and day basis in Kilkenny. This project had long and short-term aims including raising awareness of people's abilities rather than disabilities,

reducing discrimination and in the long-term addressing inclusion and equality issues. Kingsriver Community proposed to bring five volunteers to their organisation in Kilkenny. The volunteers were involved in weekly programmes including crafts, sports and gardening. It is through these activities that positive relationships, improvements in communication and interpersonal skills will be nurtured. These activities also challenge prejudices of the volunteers and their perception of disability. Kingsriver Community is an organisation with an established positive reputation in the community and many local links. The volunteers have access to these links and are encouraged to integrate with the local community.



**Involvement Ltd**  
**YOUth Worker**  
€15,659 | Hosting 1 Irish Volunteer

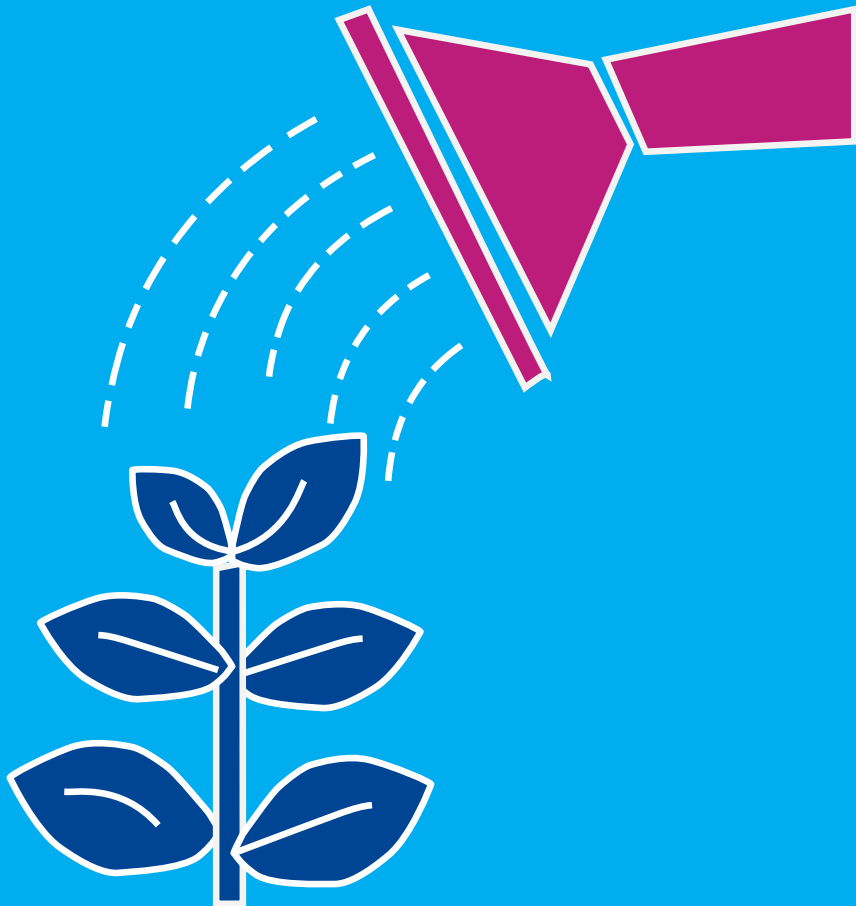
Involvement Project Meath engaged for the first time with the European Solidarity Corps by hosting an in-country volunteering placement in their youth project in Trim. As an organisation supporting the Traveller community, the organisation promotes greater awareness of traveller culture, anti-discrimination and inclusion. The volunteer was given opportunities to promote the Travelling Community through many different activities and assisted in running several of the organisation's anti-discriminatory programmes.



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# Conservation & Sustainability

Project Examples





## **Good Energies Alliance Ireland**

### **Forest Care in Greece 2019**

€11,322 | Sending 6 Volunteers

Good Energies Alliance Ireland is an environmental NGO based in Leitrim. They work through research, advocacy, education and campaigning to influence decision-makers and the public in Ireland on the challenges of climate change. They take part in the youth-based international movement to fight climate change, and encourage the movement towards community-based sustainable energy sources and uses. For this European Solidarity Corps project, they supported six young volunteers with fewer opportunities to work with an environmental project in Xylocastro, Greece on a one-month placement. The volunteers were based in a small village 100 km south of Athens and were tasked with the maintenance of the local forest and beach. They kept paths clear, cleared dead vegetation, planted new trees, repaired forest furniture and collected litter during the summer months. They were part of a group of ten international volunteers hosted at the organisation.





## Cloughjordan Community Farm

### Growth in Solidarity

€56,795 | 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.

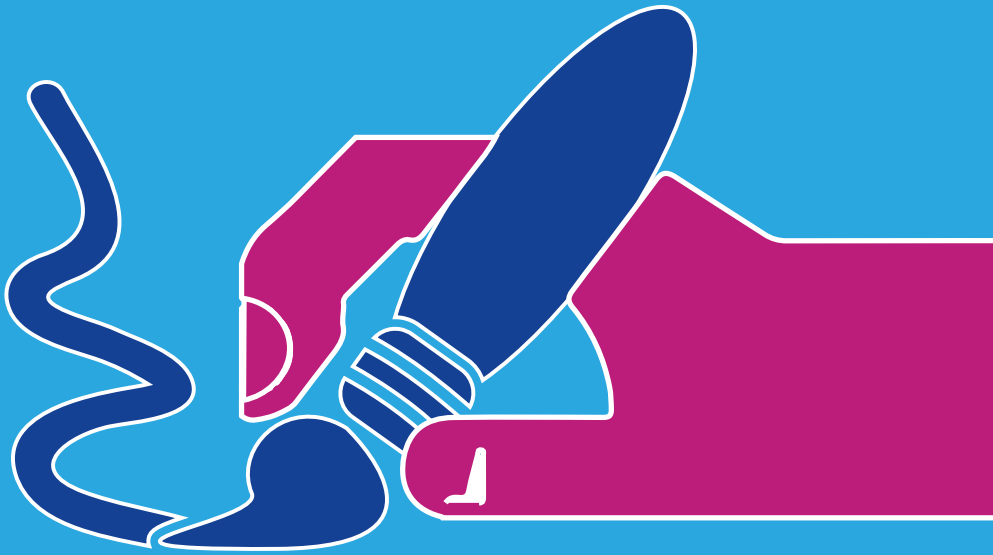
This European Solidarity Corps project hosted four volunteers over 12 months. These volunteers overlapped with four volunteers that Cloughjordan Community Farm were also hosting at the time. The idea of the overlap was to build a stronger sense of community among the volunteers with shared support and peer learning. Two of the volunteers were young people with fewer opportunities. One volunteer was an 'in-country volunteer' from an asylum seeking/refugee background. The intended learning outcomes for all volunteers were to develop 'green' skills, empower them as active citizens, and develop planning and strategic skills for designing non-formal activities addressing climate change and sustainability issues.



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# Arts

## Project Examples





## **Crooked House Theatre**

### **Project 6: Drama for Social Change**

€51,234 | **Sending 4 Volunteers**

Crooked House Theatre provide an innovative forum for young people to develop their skills and become active and creative citizens. They organise and run many drama-based activities and promote positive mental health initiatives. They work with marginalised young people and early school leavers.

This European Solidarity Corps project addressed issues of high unemployment across EU countries and the lack of recognition of theatre as a tool for non-formal learning in education systems across Europe. The aim of the project was to give four volunteers exposure to this non-formal educational tool and help them influence their peers and communities when they returned home.

The project gave them access to activities that equipped them with skills that are recognised within their chosen sector of drama and the arts. The volunteers have developed practical skills that can be transferred to any workplace environment.

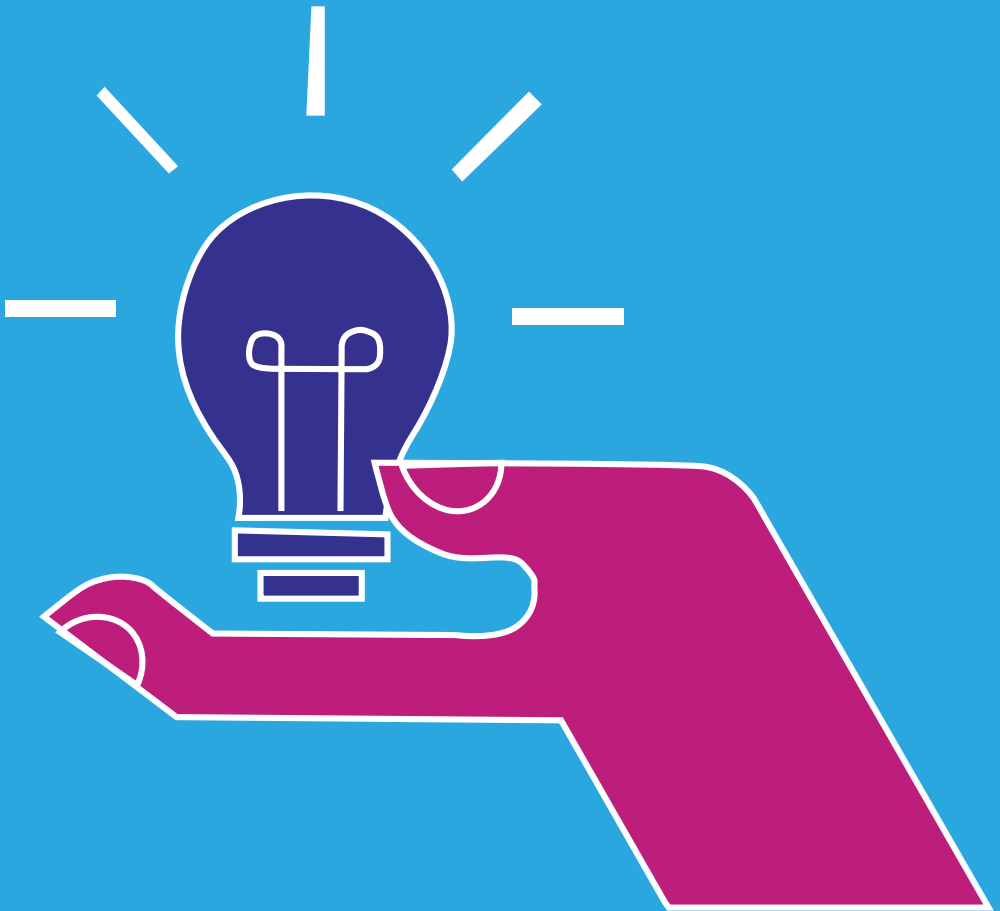
At the same time the organisation focused on the issues facing young Irish people due to the current housing crisis: the lack of opportunity to move, isolation and limited choices. The project aimed to demonstrate the opportunities that young people gain by taking part in a European Solidarity Corps project and the possibility of travelling and living independently for a period.



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# Education

Project Examples





## **Galway Steiner National School**

### **Galway Steiner National School**

€10,598 | **Hosting 1 Volunteer**

Galway Steiner National School hosted one volunteer from Spain in this European Solidarity Corps project. Their aim was to foster a spirit of intercultural sharing and demonstrate to pupils that cultural sharing and diversity are important aspects of learning. With 'Interculturalism' playing an overarching role for the duration of the project, the hope was that Steiner teaching methods would offer a unique experience for the volunteer and give them an opportunity to witness and be part of an educational alternative to the more traditional formal schooling models.



## **Citywise Education**

### **CitywisE+6**

€48,732 | **Hosting 3 Volunteers**

Citywise Education provides support to young people experiencing high levels of disadvantage by helping them increase their educational achievement and progression. In this European Solidarity Corps project, Citywise hosted three volunteers from Turkey, Spain and Austria over a 12-month period. The organisation is actively addressing the issue of low education attainment in an area of socio-economic disadvantage and used European Solidarity Corps volunteers to help them in their work. The project's goal was to ensure equal access to education for all young people. Volunteers worked in the project

as positive role models helping to inspire young people to think about possibilities beyond their own community norms. Having the volunteers for this work enabled the expansion of services that Citywise could provide and helped them in their outreach work. The volunteers shared their cultural knowledge and experience adding depth and value to the project.

## Get in Touch



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