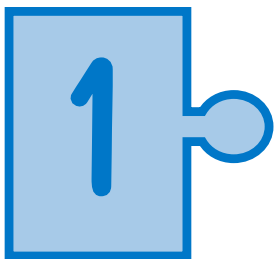


# 1 2 3 OF POLICY

## Linking your Erasmus+ Youth project to national and European Youth Policy



### WHAT IS POLICY?

Policy is the set of values and objectives that guide the work of organisations or bodies. This includes for example, the Irish Government and the European Union.



### WHY IS POLICY IMPORTANT?

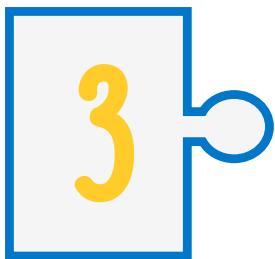
Policy is important because it tells us what certain organisations and bodies hope to achieve and how they will be guided in their work.

Government policy tells us what the Government's priorities are and what it plans to accomplish. It sets out the commitments it is making on a range of different issues.

For example: mental health; housing; young people; climate change; education; employment; people with disabilities; migrants; Travellers' rights etc.



Take  
Government  
policy for  
example:



## HOW IS POLICY RELEVANT TO MY ERASMUS+ PROJECT?

### European Youth Policy

The EU has a number of important policy documents in the youth field. These documents set out the EU's priorities and commitments to improve the situation for young people in Europe. Some of the main policy documents are:



#### EU YOUTH STRATEGY

This is the EU's plan for young people. It has two main aims: providing more and equal opportunities for young people in education and the job market; and encouraging young people to actively take part in society.



#### EUROPE 2020

This is the EU's plan to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It sets out targets for employment, research and development, climate/energy, education, social inclusion, and poverty reduction.



#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2020

This is the EU's plan on education and training. It aims to achieve different objectives including: making lifelong learning and mobility a reality; improving the quality and efficiency of education and training; promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

The projects and activities that take place as part of Erasmus+ are an important way of helping to achieve the aims and objectives of the EU policies listed above.

Just some examples:

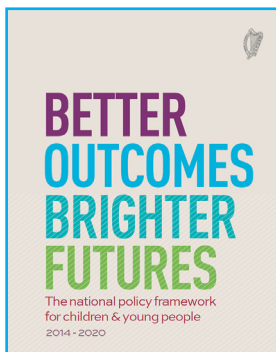
- Erasmus+ prioritises projects that address the issue of inclusion (Europe 2020)
- Erasmus+ supports people to spend time abroad to volunteer, train, upskill etc (Education and Training 2020)
- Erasmus+ funds projects that support young people to have their voices heard and to take part in policy discussions with decision makers about issues that affect their lives (EU Youth Strategy)



*European  
policy and  
your project:*

## National Youth Policy

Similar to the EU, our own Government also has a number of important policy documents that set out what it plans to do for young people in Ireland. Some of the main policy documents are:

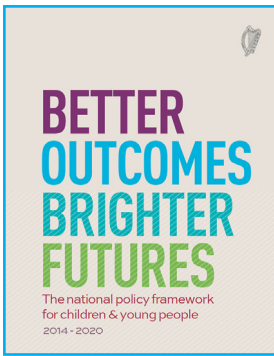


### BETTER OUTCOMES BRIGHTER FUTURES

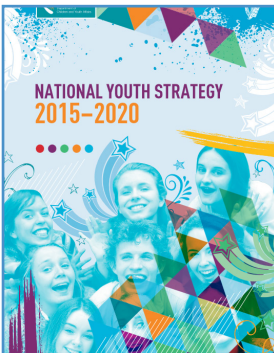
The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2014-2020

This is the framework that sets out the Government's agenda and priorities regarding children and young people under the age of 25. It provides for the development and implementation of policies and services with the aim of achieving the following outcomes:

- **Active and healthy with physical and mental well-being** (includes healthy lifestyle, taking part in youth work, arts, sports)
- **Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development** (includes enhancing skills, competencies and attributes through formal and non-formal education)
- **Safe and protected from harm** (particularly vulnerable and marginalised young people)

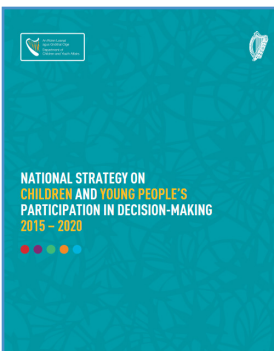


- **Economic security and opportunity** (including participating in the labour market, enhancing employability skills, training, entrepreneurship, social inclusion and combatting poverty)
- **Connected, respected and contributing to the world** (including active citizenship, political, social and civic engagement)



## NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY 2015-2020

The National Youth Strategy aims to enable all young people to realise their maximum potential with regard to the outcomes set out in Better Outcomes Brighter Futures for example enhancing employability skills, social inclusion, and active citizenship. It looks to do this by respecting young people's rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood.



## NATIONAL STRATEGY ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING 2015-2020

The goal of this strategy is to ensure that children and young people have a voice in decisions made about them as individuals or their collective lives in their communities, in education, on their health, well-being and the other outcomes listed in Better Outcomes Brighter Futures. The strategy aims to mainstream the participation of children and young people in the development of policy, legislation and research. It is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We can see that our own Government and the EU want to realise similar things for young people:

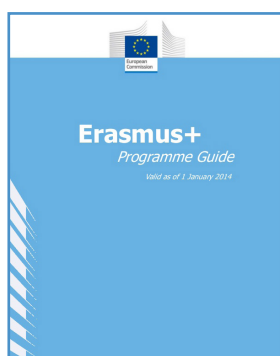
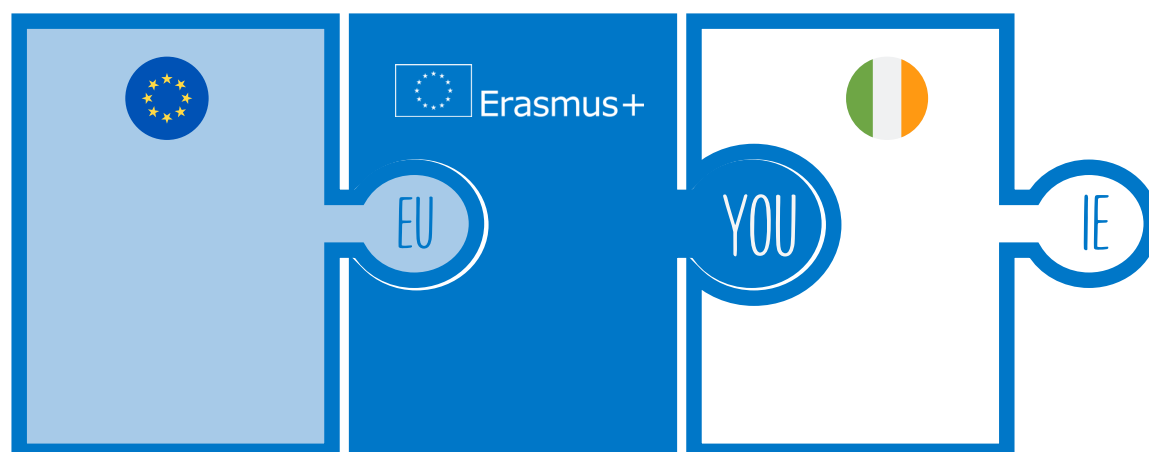
- active citizenship
- social inclusion
- enhancing employability and other skills
- improving education
- reducing poverty
- equality of opportunity for all young people

Your Erasmus+ project can play a role in achieving these aims and help to make positive changes for young people, be that at a local, national or international level.



For example:

- Your project can directly tackle some of the issues affecting young people that are set out in EU or national policy priorities
- Your project can give young people a voice in discussions around national or EU policy that affect their lives, thereby ensuring accountability



## LÉARGAS – THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ERASMUS+ YOUTH IN ACTION PROJECTS IN IRELAND

For support with your Erasmus+ project in Ireland contact the Léargas Client Services Team at [ClientServices@leargas.ie](mailto:ClientServices@leargas.ie)

Notes:

