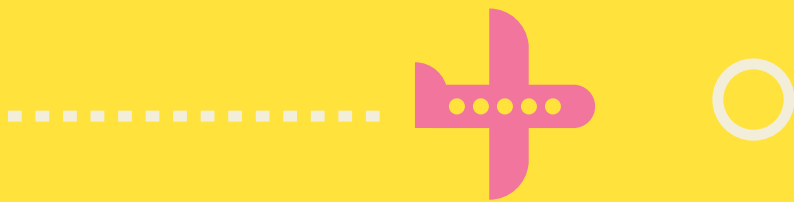


Annual Report 2019





An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs

Peace 
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund



European
Commission



Erasmus+



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



EPALE
Ireland

Causeway
British - Irish Exchange



eurodesk



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
MODERN LANGUAGES
E C M L
C E L V
CENTRE EUROPEEN POUR
LES LANGUES VIVANTES



Youth Wiki



 **léargas**



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Introduction

From Our Interim Executive Director

It's almost impossible to look back at 2019 without recognising how much life has changed since then. At the time of writing this message, the COVID-19 pandemic had taken a hold of the country and the world. In line with the Irish government restrictions imposed in March 2020, the staff of Léargas and NCGE were no longer able to travel into the office. Fortunately, our business continuity plan facilitated the continued operation of the organisation, which enabled staff to continue to work remotely from home.



The health, safety and the well-being of our staff has always been a priority for Léargas but never more so than in dealing with this crisis. At this time we are making preparations to facilitate a return to the office environment, albeit a staged return with staff capacity recommendations being strictly observed.

Communication, both internal and external, on all planning and developments has been at the forefront of managing our way through this difficult time. The staff of Léargas and NCGE have worked together commendably during this period of uncertainty, and it has been a true testament to the strong cultures of both organisations.

Another significant event at the time of writing this message, was the retirement of Jim Mullin at the beginning of April 2020. Jim led the organisation through continued growth and change during his 29 years of leadership. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Unfortunately, we were unable to properly acknowledge and celebrate his achievements at the time of his departure. We very much hope to have an opportunity to do this in the very near future.

This 2019 Annual Report then represents the last year under Jim's stewardship, as well as the penultimate year of the seven year Erasmus+ funding cycle. We continued to build on our strategy to provide a supportive service to people in Ireland who wish to take part in our programmes. We continued to promote our programmes and create increasing visibility through our online campaigns, networking and a wide variety of events.



We achieved a commitment rate of 97% for **Erasmus+ in 2019**. This includes the funds reserved for Transnational Cooperation Activities. The commitment rate for **European Solidarity Corps** (ESC) was lower, at approximately 75%, as we continued to transition from the European Voluntary Service under Erasmus+ to Volunteering activities in ESC. In 2019 we implemented a range of actions to support former EVS projects to transition to ESC, with several organisations due to complete Strategic EVS projects in 2020. We expect these organisations will also transition into ESC Volunteering Partnerships.

There were 213 Erasmus+ KA1 projects, across all fields, contracted under the 2019 agreement. These projects supported 5,602 participants. This was a 37% increase on the number of KA1 projects funded in 2018, and a 24% increase in the number of participants. The largest increase was in School Education, with a huge 139% increase on the number of projects funded in 2018. We saw other large increases in VET (59%) and KA3 Youth Structured Dialogue projects (75%).

One of our key values is the supportive approach we bring to the work we do. We held workshops for applicants, Project Management sessions for successful applicants where information and training was provided on good practice in administering projects. During 2019 our teams delivered a number of successful regional workshops on the Mobility Tool. These workshops provided a high level of support to beneficiaries in completing and submitting their final reports. Our Programme Finance and Operations team completed a significant number of on-the-spot checks to projects. These checks also allow organisations to showcase the good work they are doing, that isn't always visible from application forms and reports.

We held nationwide campaigns for Youth week and Schools week, and a number of virtual outreach activities: webinars for final reports, videos for ESC and an enhanced digital strategy launched by the Communications team. In December 2019 we held a very successful Forum in Dublin Castle Conference Centre, showcasing the work of all our programmes: Erasmus+, ESC, eTwinning, EPALE, Eurodesk, IAESTE and Languages.





There was continued growth in our Transnational Cooperation Activities across 2019. We invested over €550k compared to €500k in 2018. These training events and seminars are invaluable in bringing people together in a learning environment.

2019 was also a busy year for our Strategic Initiatives team. Some of the highlights were:

Eurodesk established its Young Ambassadors project, a good practice model implemented by a number of other EU countries in which young people are recruited and trained to be multipliers of the Eurodesk platform/ European opportunities within their communities.

eTwinning Ireland hosted the Annual Thematic Conference in the Aviva Stadium, bringing together over 300 teachers from across Europe. 2019 was also a record-breaking year for new teacher registrations on the platform from Ireland.

The **EPALE** Conference 'Technology as a Tool for Inclusive Education', held in conjunction with Rehab, was an extremely popular and successful event.

The **European Language Label Award** increased its range of entrants widely, with many entries coming from non-formal languages initiatives. Previously, entries had come almost exclusively from the formal education fields.

We carried out the first review of **ECVET** in Ireland, with nationwide one-to-ones and two large scale events. This has resulted in 2020 with a paper by the reviewer on progression routes for the ECVET model in Ireland.

In 2019 Léargas continued to proudly partner with the Education Authority in Northern Ireland in the **Collaboration and Sharing Education project (CASE)**.

The €28.9m CASE project is a collaborative journey of shared education in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, and the projects aims to engage 280 schools and 135,000 pupils in shared education by 2022. The shared education concept is a fundamental element of the PEACE IV Programme, helping





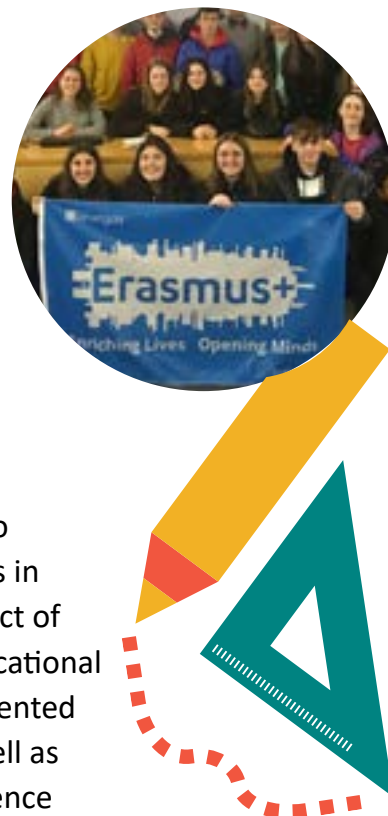
bring school children and teachers from different communities and backgrounds across the region together in a shared learning environment. To date, the project has actively engaged 387 schools – surpassing the original target of 280, and has over 65,000 pupils involved. To date, over 1,200 teachers have delivered shared education and approximately 700 have participated in Teacher Professional Learning.

While we recognise the value of the programmes we manage and the benefits they bring to those who take part, we also know that it's important to gather and publish good evidence to support this. In 2019 we carried out significant qualitative and quantitative research in two key areas: the impact and experience of foreign languages in Erasmus+ in all sectors in Ireland, and the long-term impact of European work placements on the lives and careers of vocational learners from Ireland. This research-in-progress was presented at international conferences in Slovenia and Poland, as well as nationally with the Adult Learning Advisory and EU Reference Groups. We also began our support of PhD research on the impact of eTwinning as a 'virtual transition bridge' between primary and post-primary teaching in Ireland. We've strongly encouraged our programme beneficiaries to share and celebrate the impact of their own projects, by providing impact training at events throughout the year and illustrating how European research from the RAY Network can inform the work of Irish Youth organisations.

We were also very pleased to increase the number of people we can connect with through social media, increasing our Facebook and Twitter followers by a third and doubling our Instagram followers over the year.

As an organisation Léargas continues to reflect best practice. In 2019 a working group for inclusion policy and strategy was formed. The group will look at strategies on how Léargas works more inclusively. These initiatives will further develop the organisational values and are also a major policy priority in the new Erasmus programme.

Léargas staff are also represented on a number of Commission working groups/consultative groups in preparation for the future programme post-





2020. This has been of the utmost importance due to the uncertainties caused by COVID-19. We are in the midst of dealing with the challenges of implementing alternative dimensions other than to face-to-face collaboration and learning. While digital activities feature within Erasmus+ and there have been on-going developments in the area into the next programme cycle, COVID-19 has most certainly brought it to the forefront where travel and face-to-face interaction is not possible. Other challenges ahead include the continued uncertainties of the terms of the UK exit from the EU at the end of 2020.

I have been in a truly privileged position as Interim Executive Director, in witnessing first-hand the dedication and comradery of all our staff, which was ultimately tested during the COVID-19 crisis. Their hard work, commitment and creativity is reflected in the continued success and growth of this organisation. The COVID-19 crisis has brought about many difficulties for everyone in all of society. Our teams have coped enormously well with the additional pressures of managing and supporting all our beneficiaries where projects and have been impacted.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued support and engagement of the Board of Léargas and our colleagues in the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Nicki Maguire

Interim Executive Director

June 2020



Teachtaireacht

ónár Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin Eatramhach Nicki Maguire

Is ar éigin is féidir féachaint siar ar 2019 gan a aithint cé chomh mór agus atá an t-athrú atá tagtha ar an saol ó shin. Nuair a bhí an teachtaireacht seo á scríobh bhí an phaindéim COVID-19 tagtha ar an tír agus ar an domhan ar fad. De réir na srianta rialtais a cuireadh i bhfeidhm i mí Mhárta 2020, ní raibh foireann Léargas agus NCGE in ann taisteal isteach san oifig a thuilleadh. Ar an dea-uair, éascaíodh oibriú leanúnach na heagraíochta trínár bplean leanúnachas gnó, rud a chuir ar chumas na foirne leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair go cianda ón mbaile.



Bhí sláinte, sábháilteacht agus folláine ár bhfoirne mar thosaíocht i gcónaí ag Léargas ach ní raibh an tosaíocht chomh mhór riamh ná mar a bhí sí agus sinne ag déileáil leis an ngéarchéim seo. Ag an am seo táimid ag déanamh ullmhúcháin chun filleadh ar thimpeallacht na hoifige a éascú, ach tá sé seo á dhéanamh i gcéimeanna agus sinne ag cloí go docht leis na moltaí maidir le hacmhainn foirne.

Tugtar tús áite do chumarsáid, idir inmheánach agus sheachtrach, ar an bpleanáil agus an bhforbairt ar fad atá ar siúl againn maidir lenár mbealach a bhainistiú le linn an ama dheacair seo. Is maith a d'oibrigh foireann Léargas agus NCGE le chéile le linn na tréimhse neamhchinnteachta seo, rud a chruthaigh go bhfuil cultúr láidir ag an dá eagraíocht.

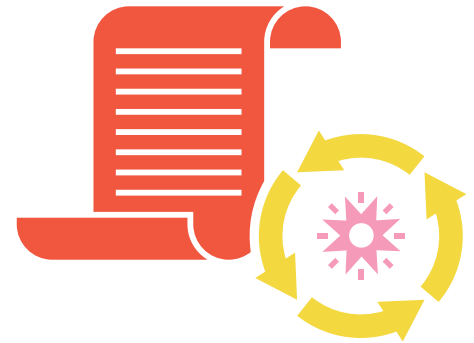
Ócáid shuntasach eile ag an am a bhfuil an teachtaireacht seo á scríobh is ea dul ar scor Jim Mullin ag tús mhí Aibreáin 2020. Bhí Jim i gceannas ar an eagraíocht le linn di a bheith i mbun fáis agus athraithe leanúnaigh ar feadh 29 mbliana. Táimid uile go mór faoi chomaoin aige. Ar an drochuair, ní rabhamar in ann aitheantas ceart a thabhairt dá bhfuil bainte amach aige agus é a cheiliúradh. Táimid go mór ag súil go mbeidh deis againn é seo a dhéanamh roimh i bhfad.

Mar sin, léiríonn an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2019 seo an bhliain seo caite faoi mhaoirseacht Jim, chomh maith leis an mbliain leathdheireanach den timthriall maoinithe seacht mbliana Erasmus+. Leanamar orainn ag tógáil ar ár straitéis chun seirbhís thacúil a chur ar fáil do dhaoine in Éirinn ar mian leo páirt a ghlacadh inár gcuid clár. Leanamar orainn ag cur ár gcláir chun cinn agus chruthaíomar infheictheacht níos fearr trínár bhfeachtais ar líne, líonrú agus réimse leathan imeachtaí.

Bhaineamar amach ráta gealltanais 97% do **Erasmus+** in 2019. Áirítear leis sin na cistí atá curtha ar leataobh le haghaidh Gníomhaíochtaí Comhair Trasnáisiúnta. Bhí an ráta gealltanais don **gCór Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach** níos lú, thart ar 75%, agus sinne ag leanúint orainn ag aistriú ón tSeirbhís Dheonach Eorpach faoi Erasmus+ chuig gníomhaíochtaí saorálaíochta sa Chór



Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach. In 2019 chuireamar réimse gníomhaíochtaí i bhfeidhm chun tacú le hiarthionscadail na Seirbhíse Deonaí Eorpaí a aistriú chuig an gCór Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach agus tá roinnt eagraíochtaí ar tí tionscadail straitéiseacha de chuid na Seirbhíse Deonaí Eorpaí a chur i gcrích in 2020. Táimid ag súil go n-aistreoidh na heagraíochtaí seo go dtí Comhpháirtíochtaí Saorálaíochta an Chóir Dhlúthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh.



Bhí 213 tionscadal Erasmus+ KA1 ar conradh faoi chomhaontú na bliana 2019 i ngach réimse. Thacaigh na tionscadail seo le 5,602 rannpháirtí. Ba mhéadú 37% é seo ar líon na dtionscadal KA1 a maoiníodh in 2018, agus méadú 24% ar líon na rannpháirtithe. Tháinig an méadú ba mhó ar Oideachas Scoile - méadú ollmhór 139% ar líon na dtionscadal a maoiníodh in 2018 a bhí i gceist. Chonaiceamar méaduithe móra eile ar ghairmoideachas agus oiliúint (GOO) (59%) agus ar thionscadail Idirphlé Struchtúrtha Óige KA3 (75%).

Ceann dár bpríomhluachanna is ea an cur chuige tacaíochta a thugaimid don obair a bhíonn ar siúl againn. Reáchtálar ceardlanna d'iaratasóirí, seisiúin Bhainistíocht Tionscadail d'iaratasóirí rathúla inar cuireadh eolas agus oiliúint ar fáil ar dhea-chleachtas maidir le riarachán tionscadal. I rith 2019, chuir ár bhfoirne roinnt ceardlanna réigiúnacha ar fáil ar an Uirlis Soghluaisteachta ar éirigh go breá leo. Chuir na ceardlanna seo ardleibhéal tacaíochta ar fáil do thairbhíthe chun a dtuarascálacha deiridh a chríochnú agus a chur isteach. Chríochnaigh ár bhfoireann Airgeadais agus Oibríochtaí Clár líon suntasach seiceálacha ar an láthair do thionscadail. Tugann na seiceálacha seo deis d'eagraíochtaí freisin an dea-obair atá ar siúl acu a thaispeáint, nach bhfuil le feiceáil i gcónaí ó fhoirmeacha iarratais agus tuarascálacha.

Reáchtálar feachtais ar fud na tíre le haghaidh seachtain na hÓige agus seachtain na Scoileanna, agus roinnt gníomhaíochtaí for-rochtana fíorúla: seimineáir ghréasáin do thuarascálacha deiridh, físeáin don gCór Dlúthpháirtíochta agus straitéis dhigiteach fheabhsaithe a sheol an fhoireann Cumarsáide. I mí na Nollag 2019, reáchtálar Fóram in Ionad Comhdhála Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath ar éirigh go breá leis. Taispeánadh obair ár gcuid clár ar fad: Erasmus+, Cór Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach, EPALE, Eurodesk, IAESTE agus Teangacha.

Bhí fás leanúnach ar ár nGníomhaíochtaí um Chomhar Trasnáisiúnta i 2019. D'infheistíomar breis agus €550k i gcomparáid le €500k in 2018. Tá na himeachtaí agus na seimineáir oiliúna seo thar a bheith luachmhar chun daoine a thabhairt le chéile i dtimpeallacht foghlama.

Bliain ghnóthach a bhí in 2019 freisin dár bhfoireann um Thionscnaimh Straitéiseacha. Ar na buaicphointí áirítear:



Bhunaigh **Eurodesk** an tionscadal Ambasadóirí Óga, eiseamláir dea-chleachtais a chuir roinnt tíortha AE eile i bhfeidhm ina n-earcaítear daoine óga agus ina gcuirtear oiliúint orthu le bheith ina n-íolraitheoirí ar ardán Eurodesk/deiseanna Eorpacha laistigh dá bpobail.

D'óstáil **eTwinning Éire** an Chomhdháil Théamach Bhliantúil i Staid Aviva, áit ar tháinig os cionn 300 múinteoir le chéile ó gach cearn den Eoraip. In 2019 chláraigh níos mó múinteoirí nua as Éirinn ná riamh ar an ardán. Bhí an-éileamh ar an gComhdháil **EPALE** 'Technology as a Tool for Inclusive Education' (An Teicneolaíocht mar Uirlis le haghaidh Oideachais Chuimsithigh) a reáchtáladh i gcomhar le Rehab agus d'éirigh thar barr leis.

Chuir an gradam **Séala Eorpach Teanga** go mór leis an réimse iontrálaithe agus tháinig go leor iontrálacha ó thionscnaimh teangacha neamhfhoirmeálta. Roimhe seo, níor tháinig iontrálacha ach ó réimsí an oideachais fhoirmiúil amháin, nach mór.

Rinneamar an chéad athbhreithniú ar **ECVET (An Córas Creidiúnaithe Eorpach do Ghairmoideachas agus Oiliúint)** in Éirinn, le himeachtaí duine le duine ar fud na tíre agus dhá imeacht mhórscála. Mar thoradh air sin, bhreac an t-athbhreithneoir páipéar ar shlite chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh don tsamhail ECVET in Éirinn in 2020.

In 2019 lean Léargas ar aghaidh sa chomhpháirtíocht leis an Údarás Oideachais i dTuaisceart Éireann sa tionscadal Oideachais Um Chomhar agus Comhroinnt (CASE). Is turas comhoibríoch an oideachais chomhroinnte é an tionscadal **CASE** dar luach €28.9m, i dTuaisceart Éireann agus i gcontaetha teorann na hÉireann, agus tá sé mar aidhm ag an tionscadal páirt a thabhairt do 280 scoil agus 135,000 dalta san oideachas comhroinnte faoi 2022. Is gné bhunúsach den gClár PEACE IV é an coincheap oideachais chomhroinnte, rud a chabhraíonn chun leanaí scoile agus múinteoirí ó phobail agus ó chúlráí éagsúla ar fud an réigiúin a thabhairt le chéile i dtimpeallacht foghlama chomhroinnte. Go dtí seo, tá 387 scoil gafa go gníomhach sa tionscadal – rud a sháraíonn an sprioc a bhí ann i dtosach, is é sin, 280 scoil, agus tá os cionn 65,000 dalta rannpháirteach ann. Go dtí seo, tá breis agus 1,200 múinteoir tar éis oideachas comhroinnte a sheachadadh agus ghlac thart ar 700 duine páirt i bhFoghlaím Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí.

Cé go n-aithnímid luach na gclár atá á mbainistiú againn agus na tairbhí a thugann siad dóibh siúd a ghlacann páirt, tá a fhios againn freisin go bhfuil sé tábhachtach fianaise mhaith a bhailiú agus a fhoilsiú chun tacú leis sin. In 2019 rinneamar taighde suntasach, idir cháilíochtúil agus chainníochtúil, in dhá phríomhréimse: tionchar agus eispéireas na dteangacha iasachta in Erasmus+ i ngach earnáil in Éirinn, agus tionchar fadtéarmach socrúcháin oibre Eorpacha ar shaol agus ar ghairmréimeanna gairmfhoghlaiméirí as Éirinn. Chuireamar tús freisin lenár dtacaíocht do thaighde Dochtúireachta ar thionchar eTwinning mar 'dhroichead aistrithe fíorúil' idir teagasc bunscoile agus teagasc iar-bhunscoile in



Éirinn. Cuireadh an taighde-idir-lámha seo i láthair ag comhdhálacha idirnáisiúnta sa tSlóivéin agus sa Pholainn agus go náisiúnta in éineacht leis an nGrúpa Comhairleach d'Fhoghlaim Aosaigh agus Grúpaí Tagartha an AE. Táimid tar éis spreagadh láidir a thabhairt dár dtairbhíthe cláir tionchar a dtionscadal féin a roinnt agus a cheiliúradh, trí oiliúint tionchair a chur ar fáil ag imeachtaí i rith na bliana agus a léiriú conas is féidir le taighde Eorpach ó Lónra RAY a bheith ina bhonn eolais don obair a dhéanann eagraíochtaí óige in Éirinn.

Bhí an-áthas orainn freisin líon na ndaoine ar féidir linn nascadh leo tríd na meáin shóisialta a mhéadú. Chuireamar an tríú cuid dár lucht leanúna Facebook agus Twitter leo agus d'éirigh linn ár lucht leanúna Instagram a dhúbailt i rith na bliana.

Mar eagraíocht, tá Léargas ag léiriú dea-chleachtais i gcónaí. In 2019 bunaíodh meitheal le haghaidh beartais agus straitéise um chuimsiú. Féachfaidh an grúpa ar straitéisí maidir leis an gcaoi a n-oibríonn Léargas ar shlí níos cuimsithí. Forbróidh na tionscnaimh sin na luachanna eagraíochtúla tuilleadh agus is mórtosaíocht beartais iad freisin sa chlár nua Erasmus.

Tá ionadaíocht ag foireann Léargas freisin ar roinnt meithleacha/grúpaí comhairliúcháin de chuid an Choimisiúin mar ullmhúchán don gclár a bheidh ann amach anseo tar éis 2020. Tá sé seo thar a bheith tábhachtach mar gheall ar na neamhchinnteachtaí de bharr COVID-19. Táimid i mbun déileáil leis na dúshlán a bhaineann le gnéithe malartacha a chur i bhfeidhm seachas comhoibriú agus foghlaim duine le duine. Cé go bhfuil gníomhaíochtaí digiteacha laistigh de Erasmus+ agus cé go bhfuil forbairtí ar siúl i gcónaí sa réimse isteach sa chéad timthriall eile den chlár, is cinnte go dtugtar tús áite dó anois de thoradh ar COVID-19 nuair nach féidir taisteal nó tabhairt faoi idirghníomhú duine le duine. I measc na ndúshlán eile atá romhainn tá neamhchinnteachtaí leanúnacha faoi na téarmaí a bhaineann le himeacht na Ríochta Aontaithe as an Aontas ag deireadh 2020.

Ba mhór an phribhléid dom a bheith i mo Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin Eatramhach, agus mé ag feiceáil díograis agus comrádaíocht ár bhfoirne go léir ar taispeánadh a mianach go huile agus go hiomlán le linn na géarchéime COVID-19. Léirítear a gcuid oibre crua, a dtiomantas agus a gcruthaitheacht i rath agus fás leanúnach na heagraíochta seo. Tá go leor deacrachtaí ag gach duine sa tsochaí ar fad mar gheall ar an ngéarchéim COVID-19. Is go hiontach ar fad a dhéileáil ár bhfoirne leis an mbrú breise a bhí orthu agus iad ag bainistiú ár dtairbhíthe agus ag tacú leo sna cásanna inar cuireadh isteach ar a gcuid tionscadal.

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt freisin don tacaíocht agus rannpháirtíocht leanúnach a thugann Bord Léargas agus ár gcomhghleacaithe sa Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna agus sa Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige.

Nicki Maguire

Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin Eatramhach

Meitheamh 2020



Message from our Acting Chairperson

I cannot report on the activities of 2019 without firstly acknowledging the extraordinary achievements of 2020 so far. Everyone in Léargas has faced the difficulties that COVID-19 has caused, and tackled them with hard work and innovation. The resolve they have shown is inspiring.

Looking back on 2019 shows it was a pivotal year in the history of Léargas. After having benefitted from Jim Mullin's leadership for nearly thirty years, we entered the final full year of preparing for his retirement in early 2020. The Board focused much of its energy in planning for this. We were acutely aware that it was through Jim's guidance that Léargas became the successful organisation that it is today. Jim was instrumental in forming the ethos and set of values that define Léargas. Managing this succession was a very important process.

2019 also saw significant milestones in the life of Léargas programmes. As Erasmus+ approached the end of its seven-year cycle we saw significant increases in the numbers of participants, ranging from 24% to 139% in various sectors.

The extraordinary success in achieving this growth was the result of many years of building networks throughout the country. The organisation's key values of listening to and supporting the people we engage with, and developing their capacity to work successfully on European projects, contributed to this success.

In 2019, Léargas held a number of successful regional workshops and nationwide campaigns to coincide with Youth Week and School Week. In December, we held a very successful Forum in Dublin Castle where we showcased the work of our programmes including Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, eTwinning, EPAL, Eurodesk, IAESTE and Language.

Working with the Department of Education and the Education Authority in Northern Ireland, along with our own Department of Education and Skills, Léargas is proud to be engaged with the achievements of the Peace IV Collaboration and Sharing Education project (CASE). It was originally hoped that 280 schools in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties would take part and, to date, 387 schools and 65,000 pupils have participated in this programme.

The ongoing excellent working relationship that Léargas enjoys with the European Commission, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs has contributed greatly to the success of Léargas and we look forward to their continued support and guidance in the years ahead.

Hugh MacConville

Acting Chairperson
Léargas Board



Teachtaireacht ónár gCathaoirleach Gníomhach

Ní féidir liom tuairisc a thabhairt ar ghníomhaíochtaí 2019 gan aitheantas a thabhairt ar dtús do na gaiscí thar na bearta a rinneadh in 2020 go dtí seo. Thug gach duine i Léargas aghaidh ar na deacrachtaí a raibh COVID-19 mar chúis leo, agus chuaigh siad i ngleic leo le hobair chrua agus le nuálaíocht. Tugann a ndiongbháilteacht inspioráid dúinn.

Ag féachaint siar dúinn ar 2019 is léir gur bliain ríthábhachtach a bhí inti i stair Léargas. Chuaigh ceannaireacht Jim Mullin chun tairbhe dúinn ar feadh tríocha bliain nach mór, agus in 2019 chuamar sa bhliain dheireanach iomlán leis mar chathaoirleach agus sinne ag ullmhú dá scor go luath in 2020. Dhírigh an Bord cuid mhaith dá fhuinneamh ar phleanáil ina chomhair seo. Bhí a fhios againn go rímhaith gur mar thoradh ar an treoir a thug Jim atá Léargas ina heagraíocht rathúil sa lá atá inniu ann. Bhí ról lárnach ag Jim maidir leis an éiteas agus sraith na luachanna a chruthú a leag amach cad is Léargas ann. Próiseas fíorthábhachtach a bhí i gceist le comharbas Jim a bhainistiú.

In 2019, baineadh garspriocanna suntasacha amach i saol clár Léargas freisin. De réir mar a bhí Erasmus+ ag druidim le deireadh a thimthriall seacht mbliana, tháinig méadú suntasach ar líon na rannpháirtithe idir 24% agus 139% in earnálacha éagsúla.

Ba mar thoradh ar líonraí a thógáil ar feadh na mblianta fada ar fud na tíre a baineadh an fás iontach seo amach. Chuir príomhluachanna na heagraíochta, is é sin, éisteacht leis na daoine a bhfuil caidreamh againn leo, agus a gcumas a fhorbairt chun oibriú go rathúil ar thionscadail Eorpacha, chuireadar siúd leis an rath sin.

In 2019, reáchtáil Léargas roinnt ceardlanna réigiúnacha agus feachtais ar fud na tíre ar éirigh go breá leo. Cuireadh ar siúl iad le linn Seachtain na hÓige agus Seachtain na Scoile. I mí na Nollag, thionólamar Fóram an-rathúil i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath, áit ar thaispeánamar obair ár gclár lena n-áirítear Erasmus+, An Cór DLúthpháirtíochta Eorpach, eTwinning, EPALE, Eurodesk, IAESTE agus Teanga.

Agus sinne ag obair leis an Roinn Oideachais agus leis an Údarás Oideachais i dTuaisceart Éireann, mar aon lenár Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna féin, tá Léargas bródúil as a bheith páirteach leis an méid atá bainte amach ag an tionscadal Oideachais um Chomhoibriú agus Comhroinnt Peace IV (CASE).



Bhíothas ag súil ar dtús go nglacfadh 280 scoil páirt i dTuaisceart Éireann agus sna contaetha ar thaobh theas na teorann, ach go dtí seo, ghlac 387 scoil agus 65,000 dalta páirt sa chlár seo.

Chuir an caidreamh oibre fíormhaith atá ag Léargas leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach, leis an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna agus leis an Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige go mór leis an rath atá ar Léargas agus táimid ag súil lena dtacaíocht agus lena dtreoir leanúnach sna blianta amach romhainn.

Hugh MacConville

Cathaoirleach Gníomhach
Bhord Léargas



Erasmus+

In 2019 we awarded more than €17 million in funding to Adult Education, School Education, vocational training and education, and Youth projects across Ireland. This funding enabled people active in these fields to train, work and exchange with their peers in Europe; to work together on key issues; and to build sectoral knowledge and expertise while also developing strong international relationships.

Erasmus+ has three main project types.

Key Action 1 is all about mobility, where participants travel to another country for exchange, training, job shadowing or professional development.

Key Action 2 supports partnership projects, where Irish organisations work with other groups to meet common challenges in innovative ways and exchange good practice.

Key Action 3 enables young people to hold dialogue with policy makers and supports policy reform.



Erasmus+ Highlights of 2019

Our Erasmus+ Transnational Cooperation Activity “**Mythbusting European Project Management for Strategic Partnerships**” ran in Dublin in February 2019, and resulted in a Project Management handbook specifically designed for European project managers! You can download it from our [website](#).

Irish organisations **H2 Learning** and their partner **City of Dublin Education and Training Board** received a VET Excellence Award for their Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships project [Skills4Work](#). The award was presented at a ceremony in Helsinki, Finland as part of Vocational Skills Week 2019.

Our **Schools Week** campaign created visibility for schools involved in Erasmus+, encouraging them to share and promote their activities locally as well as online. More than 30 schools across the country celebrated the sense of European and global citizenship that came from their Erasmus+ projects, and some hosted special guests including Sean Kelly MEP! You can see highlights on our [Schools Week microsite](#).

Schools Weeks was also an opportune time to launch our **Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Project Directory**, as it showcases so many schools that are using Erasmus+ to support inclusion and diversity! Léargas staff travelled to Claddagh National School in Galway for the launch, where the pupils were particularly energised by another special guest – Leitrim hurler Zak Moradi. You can download the [Inclusion and Diversity Project Directory](#) from our website.





We worked with the **Irish Prison Education Association** to bring an Erasmus+ Project Partner-finding section to the European Prison Education Association conference hosted in Dublin in June 2019. Prison education has a long history of European collaboration through sharing of practice, approaches and innovation. The Project Partner space supported and nurtured this connection to the wider field of European practice.

We were delighted that our **Youth Key Action 3 projects** this year supported a high number of young people with fewer opportunities (936) and young people with disabilities (479) to take part. The projects addressed key thematic areas including the rights of young people with disabilities, sustainability and the circular economy, empowerment of young Travellers, climate change, and EU Youth Dialogue.

Erasmus+ Stories:

“Bhain mé an taitneamh as an turas. Tá cairde an-mhaith déanta agam agus tá brón orm anois mar tá an malartú críochnaithe. Bhí am iontach againn agus d’fhoghlaimuid an-chuid faoin nGailís”.

M’eispéireas as Ghailís

“All of us who attended the Claddagh Inclusion Project trip to Malta highly recommend Erasmus+ Job Shadowing to other teachers and schools. Erasmus+ has been an enriching and enlightening experience for all of us.”

Erasmus+ Job Shadowing: Including Children with Special and Additional Needs in the Maltese Classroom

“Our organisation has become more connected to European thinking and to other training projects or organisations. We feel less isolated and more part of a European-wide Adult Education movement.”

Using Erasmus+ for Continuous Professional Development in Community Education



Léargas Support

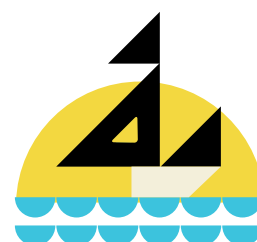
For more information, get in touch with our Programme Support and Development or Programme Finance and Operations teams at psdt@leargas.ie and opsfin@leargas.ie.



Erasmus+ Adult Education

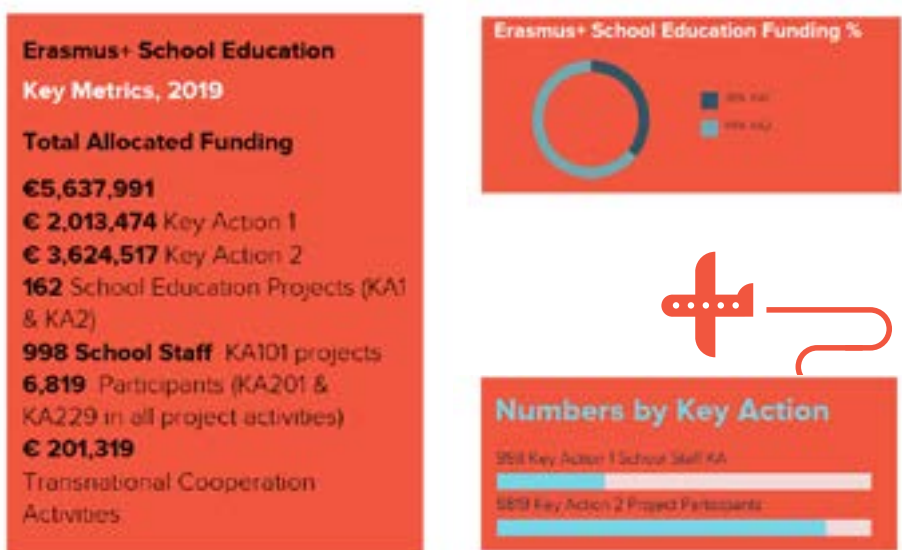


Erasmus+ Vocational Education & Training





Erasmus+ School Education



Erasmus+ Youth





Erasmus+ Insight:

Providing an anchor

How Sail Training Ireland and Erasmus+ Supports Young People

Sindy Offer is the Trainee Programme Manager with Sail Training Ireland, a Dublin-based Youth development charity. In 2019, they received funding through Léargas for three projects. The first was a Mobility of Youth Workers and the second two were Youth Exchange Projects - one focusing on 15 to 17 year-olds and the other on 18 to 30 year-olds. In total 76 participants and Youth leaders were involved, with a budget of €32,295. We spoke to Sindý about the impact Erasmus+ Youth Exchange Projects have had on the lives of young people, and why all the most significant learning happens outside one's comfort zone.

“All of our trainees come from all walks of life,” Sindý tells us. “Inclusion is a very big part of what we do.”

With their differing backgrounds and varying abilities, trainees with Sail Training Ireland create an exceptionally tight-knit community and visibly flourish under the watchful eye of the organisation's mentors. Sail Training Ireland offers trainees the opportunity to develop, improve upon and implement a variety of personal and professional skills – a mission which continuously bears fruit for all those involved.

With the sea as the school and the tall ship as the classroom, trainees' horizons are infinitely broadened through non-formal education, all of which has had positive long- and short-term impact.





From displaying increased confidence and motivation levels to subsequently pursuing degrees in the field, Sail Training Ireland trainees thrive when taken out of their comfort zone. Indeed, it is, as Sindy says, ‘where all the learning happens’.

“We’re very lucky in the sense that what within a six or a ten-day voyage, we see the difference by the end of the voyage. I’m very, very proud to say that we have a number of young people who were on Erasmus+ with us who have progressed to Maritime College studying Nautical Science.”

Every year, Sail Training Ireland runs two voyages funded through Léargas; one for 15 to 17-year-olds and the other for 18 to 30-year-olds. And every year, crew and mentors board the ships armed with the knowledge that each trainee has an abundance of untapped personal and professional potential. Together, over the course of the voyage, they explore and nurture that potential.

“We have 28 trainees, and nine to 11 professional crew on board as well,” Sindy explains. “Within that, we also put three Sail Training Ireland mentors on board, and they run workshops around diversity, encourage discussion about what the young people already know about and explore it even further.”

With inclusion, diversity and personal development playing such pivotal roles in the story of each voyage, Sindy has little trouble remembering one specific trainee for whom the project was particularly impactful.

“One that sticks out in my mind was a young lady who was blind, and she actively participated in every aspect of the voyage and her comment was that she couldn’t believe her mum wouldn’t let her push a trolley around Tesco, but we let her drive the ship.”

Similarly, she recalls another young female trainee who progressed rapidly once Sail Training Ireland mentors identified her specific learning style, and swiftly adapted their teaching style to complement it.

“We had a young lady that suffered very badly with social anxiety disorder,” Sindy remembers. “The first day she was on, even the crew were worried and thought, you know, she’s definitely not going to make this. We were prepared to divert the ship and bring her home.”

“As it happens, we had a particular mentor on board and we had a female captain, and she sat down with her and had a chat with her and said ‘Stay on board tonight, and see how you feel tomorrow. We can always bring you ashore tomorrow.’”

“What it was – she was very much a visual learner, and she sat back that day and she watched, and by day two, the mentor had encouraged her to come out with the ‘Watch’ and become somewhat involved. By day three, she was practically running the show,” Sindy laughs.





Indeed, with mentors playing such a vital role in the trainees' experience with Sail Training Ireland, it's perhaps no surprise many trainees seek to put their newly acquired skills to use in the hope they too might have a similar impact on others.

"A lot of the individuals would actually aspire to become a mentor because the mentor has impacted so much on their life. They would aspire to come back and become a mentor and give other young people the opportunity they got."

From encouraging personal growth and supporting social development to influencing professional goals and impacting career paths, the Sail Training Ireland projects are clearly an all-encompassing learning experience.

However, there is little doubt that friendship is at crux of each voyage. Indeed, it acts as an anchor at a time when many participants might feel at-sea.

"The classic one was the Erasmus+ exchange last year. We had a group of young people who had to go back to Liverpool and I was escorting them, and I went to the ship to collect them that morning and I literally had to prise them apart. The tears! The tears! They didn't want to leave each other. They got so much out of it," Sindy recalls.

"The friendships that are developed are literally - when I say life-lasting - I mean it. We've had reunion balls for a number of trainees that went out 40 years ago with us, and they're still friends today."





Erasmus+ Insight:

Sowing the Seeds of Success

How the Leadfarm Project Reinvigorated Agri-Food Cooperatives

Billy Goodburn is Head of Learning and Development with the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society. In 2017, the NGO received Erasmus+ Key Action 2 funding through Léargas for a project aimed at improving agri-food cooperatives through new and innovative young farmer leaderships. The project partnership was formed by five organisations from five EU Member States: Spain, France, Latvia, Ireland and Sweden. With a budget of €279,573, pilot sessions ran in France, Ireland, Latvia and Spain. We spoke to Billy about LeadFarm and the influence it has had throughout Europe.

“For me, this is just huge, huge, huge. I can’t emphasis enough how big I believe the impact of this programme is,” Billy told us when reflecting on LeadFarm’s two-year run and its subsequent successes. This is our flagship project, it really is. And to have been the leader of that project feels absolutely phenomenal”.

Indeed, when you consider the progress made by individual farmers at ground level as well as the advances made within the overall sector at international level as a result of the project, Billy’s enthusiasm is wholly understandable.

What started as an initiative to bridge the gender, generational and communicative gaps in the co-operative agricultural sector quickly accelerated, setting in motion a series of developments and subsequent successes which few could have anticipated in the project’s earliest stages.

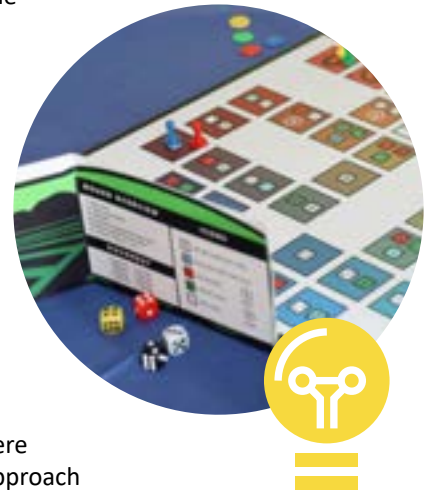




On the surface the LeadFarm project consisted of a Young Farmer Development Programme, which focused on Basic Farm Management and Co-operative Values and Cultures, an online learning platform, and the development of a train-the-trainer programme.

At its core, however, lay the concept of community and co-operation - a contingent of young farmers, who, from the very beginning, were given the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Reflecting on the aims of the project, Billy elaborated on the challenges posed by the communicative gaps. Indeed, establishing access to young farmers had presented problems in many countries – an issue which became a prime focus of the project. As opposed to automatically relying on digital platforms to bridge communication gaps, young farmers were invited to participate in focus groups and share their thoughts on the issue. There they revealed more than a passing interest in adopting a hands-on approach to rectify the issue.



“We ran a number of focus groups with young farmers to identify what the best ways were [to communicate] and surprisingly we all thought it would be technology, Zoom and Facebook and all of those kinds of things,” Billy recalls.

“It turned out that, actually, that that wasn’t what they wanted. They wanted more involvement in co-operative structures and to be invited to have a look around and see how cooperatives work.”

Given the open dialogue established between young farmers and project partners in the initial stages of the project, it’s perhaps no surprise that the former committed themselves to networking throughout, and were eager to maintain the newly-established lines of contact and communication with one another post-project.

“We have WhatsApp groups, and the young farmers are engaging with each other directly through WhatsApp groups from various countries,” Billy tells us when highlighting findings from a follow-up impact study currently being conducted.

“One of the impact indicators we had in place [for the post-project impact study] was, ‘Is the networking element still happening? Are they speaking to each other? Are they asking advice?’ And that has absolutely categorically happened...the individual farmer formed a network of people, they got to see how the co-operatives operate, they were able to support their farm business at a local level.”

And while the positive impact at an individual level is undeniable, the overall impact of the LeadFarm project has been truly impressive.

From Europe-wide dissemination and the introduction of the project’s learning materials to Teagasc agricultural colleges to the subsequent establishment of committees and associations, LeadFarm is responsible for a seismic shift in the sector.



Both Ireland and Spain have established Young Farmer Representative Committees. Ireland are in the process of establishing a specific forum for women in agriculture at a national level, while Spain has started an Association of Women in Agriculture known as 'We the Women.'

Referring to one particular element of the project which proved enormously successful, Billy explained that six learning games, which were developed to support trainers in teaching the learning materials, were exhibited in a Tech and Innovation conference in Dublin as well as being subsequently integrated into other courses in Latvia.

"In Latvia, they have put over 100 young farmers through the Young Farmer Development Programme, and approximately 20 trainers in Latvia. They've incorporated the games into other trainings that they deliver that are not necessarily for young farmers. When they run leadership skills course, or run leadership games, or if they're running a finance module for other people other than young farmers, they'll use the games in those trainings," Billy explains.

Back at home in Ireland, the outcomes can be seen in both the educational and agri-food sectors, with dissemination going from strength to strength.

"We have trained three groups in Kildalton and the plan pre-COVID was to roll it out into Ballyhayes Ag College and also into Clonailty Ag College. It is currently being run with the 2nd year advanced Dairy programme students," Billy says.

Referring to Ireland's five largest cooperatives - namely Glanbia, Kerry Group, Dairygold, Lakeland and Aurivo - Billy added: "They've all started Young Farmer Committees, and we deliver the programmes on their behalf and educate the young farmers using this programme."

From professional development in a personal capacity to widespread generational, gender and communicative advancements within the sector, LeadFarm has delivered on its aims, and then some. And there's more to come - the LeadFarm project has ultimately given way to the proposal and development of two brand-new projects. Watch this space!





European Solidarity Corps

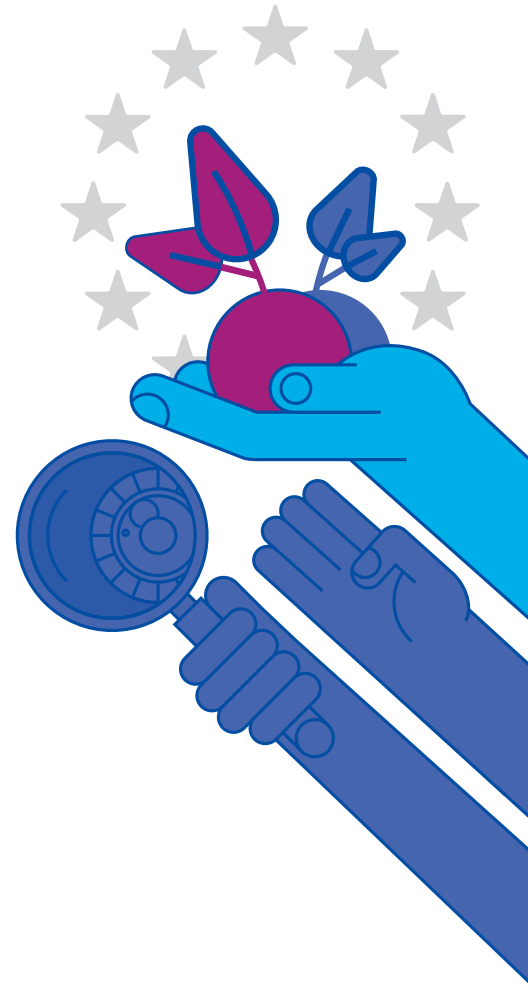
The European Solidarity Corps funds and supports young people between 18 and 30 to volunteer or work in projects that benefit communities. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for those who want to help others as well as learn and develop themselves. Young people can volunteer or work, in their own country or abroad, through the Volunteering, Traineeships, Jobs, or Solidarity Projects strands.

European Solidarity Corps Highlights of 2019

In April 2019 we ran a residential training course called 'Be the Spark!', to help young people be the change that they want to see in their community and beyond. It was specifically designed to help young people develop their own Solidarity Projects, and the projects that emerged as a result addressed many difficult issues in communities - including inclusion, climate action, active citizenship and solidarity.

In 2019 we also selected and trained a pool of 'Quality Label experts', to help us reach out to rural communities. These experts supported local organisations across the country to explore how they could use the programme to support and complement their own work.

Involvement in the European Solidarity Corps continued to rise across Ireland, and by the end of year we had reached a 90% geographical spread. We had also set ourselves a target that in 2019, 35% of participants in the volunteering strand would be young people with future opportunities. We exceeded that target and by the year's end almost 60% of participants were young people with fewer opportunities.





European Solidarity Corps Stories:

“The Room: Community Drama project was born out of curiosity: ‘Who are the asylum seekers who live in the hotel that’s just 20 metres from our studio?’ We passed by the hotel every day, and eventually even said hi to some people there, but we really wanted more: we wanted to get to know them, learn from them and give something in return.”

The Room: Community Drama

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our Programme Support and Development or Programme Finance and Operations teams at psdt@leargas.ie and opsfin@leargas.ie.





European Solidarity Corps Insight:

From Cookbooks to Kindergarten:

Sow Far, Sow Good on Cloughjordan Community Farm

Conor Mongey is the coordinator of the Sow Far Sow Good project at Cloughjordan Community Farm. The farm is a member-owned and operated Community Supported Agriculture initiative in Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Co. Tipperary. It is set in 67 acres of land which is dedicated to ecological housing, woodland and active food production. The ecovillage is home to approximately 55 households along with a hostel and a number of non-profit educational enterprises. Their European Solidarity Corps project Sow Far Sow Good ran for 12 months, and had a budget of €49,761. We spoke to Conor about the incredible impact that project had, not only on its volunteers and farm, but on the wider Cloughjordan community.

What determines a project's success? Development at micro level? Advancement at macro level? Personal growth? Professional growth? Growth in any respect at all? If only it was that simple! As each project has a unique set of aims, each 'success' is measured differently, so there is no definitive answer to that question. However, if you burrow to the heart of Sow Far Sow Good, you'll find a particularly impressive example of a project with true impact.

Cloughjordan Community Farm hosts longer-term ESC volunteers, and as Conor says this allows them to "get a full life cycle of a growing season, get to know what's in the community better and become more integrated into it, rather than just arrive for two weeks at a time and never really get a good induction."





“As opposed to starting from scratch every time with volunteers and having to introduce them to the community... by having four people there already, it means we could do a better handover and then they could do more peer-to-peer learning.”

On the surface, the Sow Far Sow Good project focused on the promotion of a healthy food culture, the importance of a local food supply and the strengthening of social ties, but dig a little deeper and you'll find more. The project also aims to nurture the personal passions of its volunteers - the results of which can be felt far outside the farm gates.

“The project exceeded our expectations in lots of ways, but mostly what we really focused on in the Sow Far Sow Good project was developing personal projects for the volunteers,” Conor explains while reflecting on their experience at Cloughjordan Community Farm.

With the benefit of hindsight and the memory of past projects still clear in his mind, Conor recognised the importance of identifying volunteers' passions at the earliest opportunity. This allowed all those involved to support the volunteer's pursuits and ultimately reap rewards as a community.

“Now we see the unexpected outcomes to be the most interesting for the project. There are so many more benefits for us as an organisation and for the young people in question,” he explained, before highlighting three specific mini-initiatives born out of the initial Sow Far Sow Good project.

“Two volunteers were really interested in natural building. We paid for them to go and do external training on building a cob oven for the community on the farm. So, they went and did training and then they came back, and we had another trainer in town who helped them realise it on the ground here. So, with the other volunteers, they built this amazing cob pizza oven which is now the centrepiece of a lot of social activities. “

“It always was a centrepiece for social activities, but now it's got this added value, and it meant the new volunteers who came in afterwards also got to help finish it off and work on it.”

Next came the impromptu establishment of a kindergarten which drew young and old members of the community towards the farm! Discussing how it came to be, Conor explained that the arrival of a couple and their four-year-old daughter acted as the primary catalyst.

They were both very driven to be part of the project. So, speaking with [the mother], what we devised was that we would set up a farm kindergarten. So once a week, the woman, her daughter and a bunch of others including myself and other local parents would come down and have our kids on the farm for a couple of hours learning and running wild in nature.”

“[The mother] helped nurture that space and she was a really good artist, and all the parents worked together, so that also had a great outreach in the community because it brought a bunch of young parents together. We couldn't have foreseen that; we couldn't have written that into the project!”





And from cob ovens and kindergartens to community cookbooks!

“Another one of our volunteers was really interested in local food, so she came up with this Cloughjordan Community Cookbook,” Conor reveals. “The idea was to help our members to make the most of the vegetables we’re producing, particularly in winter when there isn’t necessarily that much of a selection; how to use them, the veg we have at that low time of year.”

“So, with the help of a bunch of volunteers and a publisher in the town – using other people in town, we call them technical mentors - she devised this amazing cookbook. It was a real collaboration, involving intergenerational volunteering and members of the community.”

This kind of collaboration and strengthening of social ties contributed to the success of Sow Far Sow Good. As Conor explains, the engagement which takes place between volunteers and members of the community is massively reinvigorating.

“Our community, being a small rural community, often misses out on this Youth demographic in town because a lot of them finish school and head elsewhere. So, one of the things we always say is that [the volunteers] really come and kind of augment our community of young people in town.”

“It adds that extra energy that adults with young kids wish we still had! There are new chances to create these collaborations between different entities in the community through their interests.”

And while these mini-initiatives had a huge impact on the personal and community levels, it’s important to remember that the improvement of the farm remains the volunteers’ primary focus throughout their time on the project.

“These initiatives were on top of the support they give our mostly community-run farm, which is the main project itself!” Conor laughs. “They’re always making improvements down there, giving their energy, supporting our farm team – that’s the main project.”

“I always go off on these other little tangents, but for us that’s the most important contribution that they make really, and everything else is just a bonus!”





Programmes:

Languages



European Language Label Awards 2019

Nine innovative and creative [language initiatives and projects](#) received the European Language Label at our ceremony in Croke Park, Dublin on 10 October. Dr Déirdre Kirwan, former principal of Scoil Bhríde Cailíní and European Ambassador for Languages, presented the Awards to:

- **Experience Japan**

for *10th Anniversary of EJ: Supporting Japanese learning through Beyond the Classroom Engagement*

- **Balbriggan ETNS**

for *Celebrating Linguistic Diversity: European Day of Languages*

- **Gaeilg' Aip**

for *Labhair Gaeilge Liom*

- **Manor House School**

with *CLIL en français*

- **Meánscoil San Nioclás**

for *Seanchas Ár Muintire/Oral History: Our Community*

- **Salesian Secondary College**

for *The Power of Reading/El Poder de la Lectura*

- **PDST**

for *Foireann na Gaeilge PDST*

- **Club na Maidineacha Caife**

for *Club na Maidineacha Caife Project*

- **Comeragh College**

for *eClusion - An exploration of eTwinning and VR in the MFL classroom*





European Day of Languages

We supported more than 300 teachers nationwide by supplying resources to help celebrate the beauty of a multilingual society on the European Day of Languages, 26 September.

Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

In 2019 Léargas' Languages programme organised the first two language-themed Transnational Cooperation Activities. The activities brought together a total of 65 language educators from Ireland and abroad, allowing participants to meet schools active in the Erasmus+ programme that showcased what they are doing and the impact of their projects.



European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

With our support, three Irish participants travelled to the ECML in Graz, Austria in 2019 to take part in these events:

- The workshop "Learning environments where modern languages flourish" (March 2019)
- ECML Conference "Languages at the heart of learning: 25 years of inspiring innovation" (December 2019)

Collaborative events

Léargas encourages collaboration and exchange and this also applies to our own programmes! In March 2019, in conjunction with EPAL, the Languages programme organised two workshops on "Drama for adult language learning" in Dublin and Cork.

For more information on Languages, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.

Languages Programmes are funded by:





Programmes:

eTwinning



e Twinning is a free online platform linking a community of more than 500,000 teachers across Europe. It supports primary and post-primary schools to find partners and work on joint projects in any curricular area, using new technologies.

eTwinning Highlights of 2019

eTwinning was included in the 2019-20 Action Plan for the Department of Education and Skills' Digital Strategy for Schools. This was a significant development, and represented further progress in the mainstreaming of eTwinning into the Irish education system.

2019 was another record year for registrations: we had 731 new teacher registrations, an increase of 67% on 2018, and 322 project registrations, an increase of 68% on 2018.

eTwinning Thematic Conference

In May 2019 we organised and hosted the eTwinning Thematic Conference in the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, bringing together almost 250 principals and teachers from across Europe. The Conference was a three-day event dedicated to promoting and strengthening eTwinning schools as cohesive learning organisations.



eTwinning National Quality Label

We awarded National Quality Labels to 27 teachers for their projects, which then received European Quality Labels. The winners were celebrated at a special prize giving ceremony in Croke Park Conference Centre on 10 October.



We also undertook a nationwide evaluation of eTwinning in 2019, and were pleased to support a PhD study looking into eTwinning in the context of Initial Teacher Training.

eTwinning Stories:

“The conference was terrific. I experienced great enthusiasm from all involved. There is no substitute for meeting people face to face in terms of creating a successful project.”



When Education Met Democracy – eTwinning Annual Conference 2019

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.

eTwinning is funded by:



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Programmes:

Eurodesk



Eurodesk is a free information service on EU funding and opportunities to work, study, volunteer and travel in Europe. It is intended for young people and those who work with them.

Eurodesk Highlights of 2019

2019 was a very creative and exciting year for Eurodesk Ireland!

In preparation for the European Parliament Elections in May, we designed and ran a special survey for young people called 'European Parliament Elections – What Do You Think?' We received seventy replies which clearly showed young people's interest in European matters and programmes. Many respondents expressed their intention to take part in the EU elections, be it to exercise their right to vote, to have a say in matters that are important to them, or to "make a difference".

European Youth Week 2019

The survey results were used as a basis for European Youth Week 2019 activities run by Eurodesk multipliers. One such event was an interactive workshop European U, designed and run by Ger Cronin from Kildare Youth Service. The workshop was offered to young people in the local Youthreach centre, and included a debate about European elections and their priorities, a survey, and even a practice registration and voting exercise at a mock polling station! Participants were encouraged to take part in the European Parliament Elections, and discussed issues important to them.

Other European Youth Week events were organised by Eurodesk network members in Killarney, Letterkenny and Tipperary. They included activities such as a Taste of Europe quiz, European food and dance evening, a Democracy and Me workshop, as well as meetings with MEPs and Youth activists.





Time To Move 2019

In October, Eurodesk multipliers in Dublin, Sligo, Tipperary, Galway, Waterford, Letterkenny, Naas, Limerick and Ennis ran local and regional 'Time To Move' information and networking events, debates and workshops promoting European Youth mobility, opportunities and programmes. The events offered peer-to-peer learning where young people shared their international mobility experience such as volunteering, working or studying abroad.

In Letterkenny, a group of European Solidarity Corps volunteers organised and ran an event together with Katarzyna Kurzeja from Donegal Youth Service. Their innovative event 'Get Up, Go, and Explore!' was for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. They had the opportunity to navigate a virtual airport and its facilities. The aim of the event was to familiarise young people who have never travelled abroad with physical international travel, and to inform them in a Youth-friendly way about EU initiatives and programmes such as DiscoverEU and European Solidarity Corps.

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.





Programmes:

Youth Wiki



Youth Wiki

Youth Wiki is Europe's online encyclopedia for national Youth policies. Its overall purpose is to help the European Commission and Member States in their decision making, by providing information on reforms and initiatives. The collection of qualitative information also allows the exchange of learning and innovative approaches, and can support peer learning.

Youth Wiki offers a comprehensive database of national structures, policies and actions supporting young people. The information can be explored using interactive maps, researching one of the 29 countries represented, or by reading 'Chapters' about specific aspects of Youth policy.

Youth Wiki Ireland

Youth Wiki Ireland joined Léargas' family of programmes during 2019. While Youth Wiki Ireland was not officially launched until 2020, there was a lot of work going on behind the scenes in 2019 to prepare for the launch.





The first five chapters of Youth Wiki were written, reviewed by the Advisory Panel and published during 2019. These chapters are:

- Youth Policy Governance
- Voluntary Activities
- Employment and Entrepreneurship
- Social Inclusion
- Participation

Léargas Support

For more information on Youth Wiki, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.

Youth Wiki is funded by:



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



Programmes:

EPALE



The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe

EPALE is a multilingual open membership community for professionals in the adult learning sector across Europe, including teachers, trainers, guidance practitioners, researchers and policy makers. It connects those working and volunteering in Adult Education.

EPALE aims to strengthen the adult learning community across Europe, through the sharing of ideas, resources and more. EPALE is co-funded by the European Commission and SOLAS, and is free for users.

EPALE Highlights of 2019

We collaborated with An Cosán VCC to organise their annual Partnership Conference in Dublin in May 2019. We welcomed Bairbre Nic Aongusa, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Rural and Community Development, as keynote speaker. The event brought together over 100 representatives from community education, public policy, local development, stage agencies and corporate sectors to explore how technology is impacting the future of education, jobs, digital literacy, social enterprise and social inclusion at grassroots level across Ireland.

In October 2019 we joined with the Rehab Group to organise the Education and Technology Conference in Trinity College Dublin. The Rehab Group champion the value of inclusion for people with disabilities, so the conference was an opportunity to explore the importance of technology for inclusion in education and employability.

The Conference delegates attended workshops on Educational Technologies in the Classroom, Eportfolios in Education and heard from Stephen Howell, Academic Evangelist and Accessibility Lead at Microsoft Ireland, on how accessibility can be improved using software which instantly turns speech into text. This technology enables deaf or hearing-impaired learners to follow live lessons through subtitles.





We were delighted to be joined by guest speaker Minister Finian McGrath, Minister for Disabilities. We also heard from Dr Mark Glynn, Head of the Teaching Enhancement Unit at DCU; Stephen Howell, Academic Lead and Accessibility Evangelist at Microsoft; and Roisin Doherty, Director of Active Inclusion at SOLAS.

Also in October 2019 we sent six Irish delegates, including five Irish Adult Education practitioners, to the EPALE Stakeholder Conference in Warsaw, Poland in October 2019. The pan-European conference included over 200 national government representatives, EPALE members, European stakeholders and representatives from the European Commission. The conference included two workshop presentations from the Irish delegation, EPALE co-ordinator Laura Austen-Gray and Dearbháil Lawless from AONTAS.



The conference aimed to engage European and national adult learning stakeholders, adult educators and EPALE users in constructive discussions about creating the best future for the EPALE community. These discussions enabled the European Commission and EPALE to gather concrete suggestions from delegates to ensure that work on EPALE took stakeholder and user views and ideas into account where possible.

We also worked closely with the other EPALE National Support Services in 2019, including facilitating a workshop in Brussels and hosting study visits to Léargas from a French EPALE Ambassador and EPALE staff from Lithuania, Luxemburg, Poland, Estonia, and Turkey. Laura Austen-Gray from EPALE Ireland also presented at the conference 'European development policies in life long learning and career guidance and their application in the EU and Slovak', in Bratislava, Slovakia in December 2019. Laura also represented the other National Support Services on the Usability Group in Brussels. This allowed EPALE Ireland to represent Irish and international stakeholders' views, many of which have already been incorporated in recent improvements to the EPALE platform.

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.



Programmes:

ECVET

European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training



The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) aims to:

- make it easier and more attractive for people to move between different countries and learning environments in Europe
- make it simpler for people to get validation and recognition of work-related skills and knowledge gained in different systems and countries
- increase the compatibility between different VET systems across Europe
- improve the employability of VET graduates abroad, and enhance the confidence of employers that each VET qualification reflects specific skills and knowledge.

ECVET Highlights of 2019

During 2019 we maintained our focus on raising ECVET's national profile as a tool for VET mobility projects. We hosted the 2019 National ECVET Meeting, disseminating ECVET updates. Interactive discussions took place around ongoing ECVET activities, the User Group, Future of Programme, ECVET National VET and Adult Education event and ECVET's Work Plan.

We also held a national ECVET conference 'Mobility: The Inclusive Experience for Vocational Education and Training'. The event included ideas for using both ECVET and Léargas' support to make mobility projects increasingly inclusive. SOLAS's Roisin Doherty, National Director of Further Education and Training Inclusion, also informed the conference about developments in the upcoming Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024.



We also continued to support members of ECVET's Irish community of practice to attend international learning events. These events included:

- the 24th ECVET Users Group Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. Participants attended a study visit to a Qualifica Centre and were presented with the '[Advisory Committee on Vocational Training Opinion on the Future of Vocational Education and Training post-2020](#)' and the final outcomes of the 'Study on the Instruments Supporting the European Union Vocational Education and Training Policy'.
- the Annual ECVET Forum, held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The Forum included 10 workshops, an idea incubator with nine thematic discussion groups and 23 engaging presentations of projects, programmes, tools and services related to ECVET and the future labour market. It was also a productive networking experience for the 137 participants from 29 countries.
- 'Tools for VET-Learner Mobility', a Thematic Seminar in Brussels, bringing together 40 participants from 22 countries. The European Commission presented an EU-level policy update summarising progress with ECVET implementation, and an overview on recent developments in the field of Validation of non-formal and informal learning. Discussions also included comparisons of Learning Agreement templates and recognition of a move towards a digitalised workflow for VET learner mobility.

Léargas also presented on the Irish Credit System and its relation to the ECVET systems and principles, in Tallinn, Estonia, during the international Peer Learning Activity 'The Benefits of Credit Systems for Curricula, Qualifications and Validation'.

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.





Programmes:

IAESTE

IAESTE Ireland



IAESTE is an international exchange programme that runs in over 85 countries worldwide. Members of the network send and receive students for relevant work experience in technical fields like Science, Engineering, IT and Architecture. IAESTE was founded in 1948, just after the end of the Second World War, to help build bridges between nations. Ireland has been a member of the IAESTE Association since 1962.

IAESTE Ireland Highlights of 2019

In 2019, IAESTE Ireland forged new connections with several higher educational institutions resulting in more than 120 students signing up to take part in traineeships. We also engaged with organisations that work with third-level students and STEM employers, including Engineers Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA. As a result of this engagement, we were delighted to have companies like Learnovate and DPS Group Global come on board to host international trainees. Given the high calibre of IAESTE trainees, Trinity College Dublin also offered a research position to an IAESTE student to take part in a biodiversity audit of Áras an Uachtaráin and its famous grounds.

The summer of 2019 was a busy one, with our local committee organising five cultural weekends around the country for our trainees - who came from both sunny countries like Greece and Brazil and the polar ice caps of Sweden! IAESTE trainees from Northern Ireland also joined us on some of these cultural trips. Irish students participated in traineeships in Austria, Germany, Tunisia, Australia, Ghana and China to name a few countries. Happily, 80% of our students reported progressing into employment, with their IAESTE traineeship playing a distinguishing role in their careers.

Our volunteer local committee was joined by four new members, and two of them took part in the IAESTE CONNECT Forum in Glasgow, Scotland. In September 2019, we also celebrated the IAESTE International Day by organising an event for prospective students, local committee, alumni and our international trainees.





Outgoing Irish Trainees Worked in:

Austria | Germany | Australia | China | Tunisia | Ghana

Incoming International Trainees Worked in:

Tara Mines Boliden
Trinity College Dublin
VMWare
Guidewire

IAESTE Stories

“Being an IAESTE member helped me develop all different kinds of soft skills that I wouldn’t necessarily acquire during my studies.”

[A Conversation with Gosia Grzyb of SmartSimple on her transformative IAESTE journey](#)

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team at strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie.





Programmes: **CASE**



CASE is for primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. Its focus is on schools with no or limited previous experience of providing shared education opportunities to their children and young people. CASE aims to build a culture of good relations among school children and to equip them with the skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken and a culture of collaboration and cooperation is the norm.

The Education Authority in Northern Ireland and Léargas work in partnership to implement the Peace IV Collaboration through Sharing in Education (CASE) programme.

CASE Highlights of 2019

During 2019 more and more schools began to take part in CASE. Initially schools undertook shared pupil activity, and new elements of the programme were introduced as the year progressed. CASE allows for three distinct types of school partnerships – between two or more schools in Northern Ireland; between two or more schools in the Border Counties of Ireland; and Cross Border partnerships. By the year's end we had surpassed our goal for schools participating, with 377 schools engaged in 162 partnerships involving 35,142 pupils.

In 2019 we also introduced the Joint Practice Development element of the programme. The aim of this is to:

- support the educational workforce to work collaboratively
- enhance professional relationships
- develop shared and mutually beneficial approaches to delivering the school curriculum, bringing about sustained educational improvement.

Joint Practice Development is based on shared need and uses mixed methods such as sharing expertise, co-construction, expert input, observation of learning, action research, self-evaluation and reflection. This contrasts with standard CPD where external facilitators impart programmes and participants consume the knowledge.





Joint Practice Development acknowledges that a key source of best practice lies within schools and among practitioners. Partnerships that had completed 30 hours of shared pupil activity were eligible to apply for Stage 2 programmes and 42 partnerships were successful in their application.



Autumn 2019 saw the commencement of Continuous Professional Development courses offered to teachers from participating schools and delivered by organisations external to CASE such as University of Ulster, Stranmillis College, Leonedu, Queens University in various locations in the Border Counties North and South. To further enhance and embed collaboration schools were encouraged to attend with their partner school/s. 228 teachers took part in these courses:

- Delivering Effective Collaboration and Sharing in Primary Schools
- Understanding and Managing Diversity Within the Shared Classroom
- Supporting Shared Education Through Online Collaboration
- Sharing Through Play
- Developing Effective Sharing Through the Primary Curriculum - Outdoor Play
- Developing Effective Sharing Through the Primary Curriculum - Investigative Maths.

Léargas Support

For more information, get in touch with our CASE Development Officer at mheraughty@leargas.ie.



Programmes:

Causeway



Causeway Highlights of 2019

The Causeway British-Irish Exchange Youth Programme concluded at the end of 2019. Two projects from Ireland received funding in the last Causeway application round.

- **St. Andrew's Talk About Youth, Dublin organised "Cause Me Can Using Sports and Team Challenges"**
- **Youth Work Ireland organised "Brexit and the Five Nations".**

The Youth Work Ireland project brought together young people and youth leaders from Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to explore what Brexit could mean for them. It was also an opportunity to learn about each other's cultures, as some of the feedback from young people and youth leaders makes clear:

"I learned about other people's views of Brexit that are different to my own. I learned about some positive points potentially that I had never heard before."
(Youth Action NI, young participant)

"For our group it was shocking to hear that some others didn't know we have our own language." (Youth Cymru, Leader's Report)

"Young people are seeing that their opinions are being heard at the highest levels of their organisations, and they are understanding the wider context of Brexit - which a lot of them originally thought was 'above them'"

(UK Youth, Leader's report).

"The young people really enjoyed meeting new people and learnt a lot; they gained a lot of self-confidence."
(Youth Scotland, Leader's Report)

The young people from Ireland said that they had learned a lot about politics, Brexit, religion, and sectarianism, and that "It allowed me to meet other young people that I wouldn't otherwise".





The influence of this project on the views and attitudes of young people, and its role in forging connections between different groups, is an echo of the impact of Causeway as a whole. Over its twenty-year span, Irish participants in the programme told us they had learned that “The only thing stopping me is myself”, and that even when they didn’t agree with someone “I’ve learned to respect (their) opinion”.

Youth workers reported that:

“Life-long friendships were made, young people became more aware of themselves and others throughout the project. Throughout the workshops, cultural and social awareness and knowledge of similarities in each country were raised. Young people were also given strategies and ideas on how to live a healthier life and how to make healthier life choices. The young people became more and more empowered throughout the project which enabled them to achieve personal and group goals.”

(Irish Youth Worker, 2004)

“Some of the youth had never travelled before so this was a major trip for them and they thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to travel and learn about other cultures in a fun and safe environment.” (UK Youth Worker, 2015)

“It was beautiful to see youth who would struggle socially or in a school setting flourish, become more confident, make friends and increase their personal development.” (UK Youth Worker, 2016)

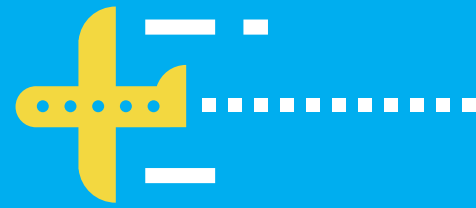
“The project has opened the group up to a new and diverse experience [...] they now have an understanding of the history of Northern Ireland. The group are now confident in working with groups from a different youth project. Individual young people emerged as leaders whilst participating in the team challenges.” (Irish Youth Worker, 2017)

We are proud of the contribution that Causeway made to increasing understanding between the islands of Ireland and Great Britain, and would like to thank everyone who took part in the programme.





Léargas Reports for 2019



Click on the links below to download the 2019 report from our website.

[NCGE Report 2019](#)

[Léargas Financial Statement 2019](#)

[Léargas Committees 2019](#)

[Léargas Summary of Accounts 2019](#)

Léargas



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Leargas – The Exchange Bureau
(a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial Statements
for the financial year ended
31 December 2020

Registration Number: 208725

LEARGAS – THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
COMPANY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Directors	Hugh MacConville Maria Lorigan Jean-Marie Cullen Nuala Keher Frank Crummey Dipti Pandya Margie Waters
Secretary	Nicola Maguire
Company number	208725
Charity RCN	20020330
Registered office	King's Inns House Parnell Street Dublin 1 D01 A3Y8
Business address	Avoca House and King's Inns House Parnell Street Dublin 1 D01 A3Y8
Auditors	JPA Brenson Lawlor Brenson Lawlor House Argyle Square Morehampton Road Donnybrook Dublin 4
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Baggot Street Dublin 2
Solicitors	Harry Mooney & Co. Solicitors 7 Orchardstown Park Rathfarnham Dublin 14

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Internal Financial Controls

On behalf of the Board of Léargas I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated. The Board of Léargas has responsibility for the organisation's system of financial controls.

The Board acknowledges that the system can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- Clearly defining management responsibilities, in a defined organisational structure with clear segregation of duties;
- Adopting the principles of corporate governance as outlined in the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 bearing in mind the size and nature of Léargas; and
- Establishing formal procedures to monitor the activities, and safeguard the assets of the organisation while ensuring compliance with European funding regulations.

The key procedures established by the Board to provide effective internal financial control are set out in an Operations Manual clearly defining management responsibilities and steps to be taken in the event of control failures.

The effectiveness of the control environment set out in the Operations Manual has been reviewed through a number of audits carried out in the past 12 months by our external auditors; additionally internal audits are undertaken by our own internal auditors, Crowleys DFK. Audits have also been carried out on behalf of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) by ASM (B) Limited.

The Board has implemented a full system of risk management including:

- The identification of significant strategic, financial, operational and reputational risks;
- The assessment of the appropriateness and strength of management controls surrounding risk areas; and
- The highlighting of key risk areas for specific management attention and Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee focus.

An annual budget is compiled and approved by the Board. Monthly accounts are produced showing variances between actual and budget. These are reviewed by management and the Board on a regular basis.

A full system of internal financial control is in place covering all aspects of delegation, authorisation, segregation of duties and prevention and detection of fraud.

Léargas outsources its internal audit function to Crowleys DFK, who report directly to the FAR Committee. The FAR Committee meet on a regular basis to review accounts, internal audit reports and staffing matters. Management receives and reviews accounts on a monthly basis.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal controls on an annual basis through the work of the FAR Committee and the reports provided by Crowleys DFK (Internal Auditors) and ASM (B) Limited (auditors for DFHERIS and DCEDIY).

No material losses have been incurred arising from weaknesses in internal financial control and therefore there has been no requirement for disclosure in the financial statements or the auditor's report on the financial statements. No fraud has been detected.

All recommendations by Crowleys DFK and ASM (B) Limited have been or are in the process of being acted on.

There have been no significant commercially sensitive developments in the preceding twelve months and as a non-commercial state body, Léargas is not likely to experience any such developments in the short to medium term.

I can confirm that there are no off- balance sheet transactions to report.

I can confirm that all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, travel, procurement and asset disposal are being carried out.

I can confirm that the Board has established a Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Employees and that the policy is being adhered to.

I can confirm that Government policy on the pay of Chief Executives and all State body employees is being complied with.

I can confirm that no fees are paid to the Directors of Léargas.

I can confirm that there have been no significant post balance sheet events.

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending code.

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with DPER Circular 13/2014.

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with its Protected Disclosures Policy and received and granted three protected disclosures in the reporting period up to 31 December 2020.

The required Protected Disclosures Annual Report will be published on our website following the Annual General Meeting.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I can confirm that Government travel policy requirements are being complied with in all respects.

I can confirm that Léargas has no Capital Expenditure Proposals.

I can confirm that Léargas has been in compliance with its obligations under tax law.

I can confirm that Léargas is not involved in any legal disputes involving other state bodies.

I can confirm that Léargas has adopted the 2016 Code of Practice and is in compliance.

I can confirm that Léargas has no subsidiaries and it continues to remain in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the consent under which it was established. Léargas is not involved in joint ventures or share acquisitions but does however host the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE).

For your information, a statement of expenses paid to members of the Board in 2020 including our Executive Director and also a statement of remuneration paid to key staff is set out below. We also include schedules of travel and hospitality expenses. Members of the Léargas Board do not receive fees or any remuneration. Also set out below is a statement of expenses paid to the members of the NCGE Management of Guidance Committee and the remuneration of the Director of the NCGE.

Léargas Board Expenses

Fidelma Collins	€6,911.18
Hugh MacConville	€3,438.61
Frank Crummey	€ Nil
Jean-Marie Cullen	€ Nil
Nuala Keher	€ Nil
Maria Lorigan	€ Nil
Michael McLoughlin	€ Nil
Dipti Pandya	€ Nil
Margie Waters	€ Nil

Executive Director:

Salary	€99,570.93
Expenses	€3,727.59

Director:

	Jennifer McKenzie
Salary	€104,779.00
Expenses	€ 2,388.13

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Staff pay bands

	2020 Number
€60,001 to €70,000	1
€70,001 to €80,000	1
€80,001 to €90,000	2
€90,001 to €100,000	2
€100,001 to €110,000	0
€110,001 to €120,000	0

Consultancy costs

Legal	€17,411
Health & Safety	€23,493

Travel and subsistence and hospitality expenses

(including Board, ED and NCGE director travel as set out in the attached schedules)

Foreign travel and subsistence	€6,827
Home travel and subsistence	€29,900

NCGE Management of Guidance Committee Expenses

Mr Paul King (Chairperson)	€443.61
Ms Karen Murtagh	Nil
Ms Josephine McGread	Nil
Mr Justin McGree	Nil
Ms Kathy Finnegan	Nil
Mr Jim Mullin	Nil
Ms Roisin Doherty	Nil
Dr Stephen Fitzgerald	Nil
Ms Fiona Davis	Nil
Dr Mary B Ryan	Nil
Mr Joe Cunningham	Nil
Mr Sean P O Briain	Nil
Ms Maire Quinn	Nil
Ms Jennifer McKenzie	Nil

Signed:



Hugh MacConville
Acting Chairperson

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Michael McLoughlin (Chairperson, resigned 5th June 2020)

Fidelma Collins (Resigned 7th December 2020)

Hugh MacConville (Appointed Acting-Chair 5th June 2020)

Maria Lorigan

Jean-Marie Cullen

Nuala Keher (Appointed 7th December 2020)

Frank Crummey (Appointed 7th December 2020)

Dipti Pandya (Appointed 7th December 2020)

Margie Waters (Appointed 7th December 2020)

Structure, Governance and Management of Léargas

Léargas is constituted as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital as set out under parts 1-15 of the Companies Act 2014. Its purpose and objects are set out in the Memorandum of Association and how it conducts its business is set out in the Articles of Association. These documents are available from the Companies Registration Office website (www.cro.ie) and also the Charities Regulator website, (www.charitiesregulator.ie).

Léargas is governed by a board of directors with a maximum membership of nine people, one of whom is nominated by the National Youth Council of Ireland. All members of the board are appointed by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS). Appointments are for a period of three years.

One third of the membership of the board is rotated off the board at the AGM. However such members may be re-elected to the board by the membership or be replaced by new appointees by the Minister, at the Minister's discretion. In 2020 two members of the board were resigned by the Minister, one of which was the Chairperson. There were four new appointments in December 2020. As at the end of December 2020, there were seven Board members on the Board of Léargas. one of which is Acting Chairperson.

The board meets a minimum of eight times annually.

Board Sub-groups

Léargas has six standing sub-groups, the FAR Committee, the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) Management Advisory Committee, the Erasmus Plus Youth in Action Selection Committee, the Erasmus Plus Adult Education Selection Committee, the Erasmus Plus Vocational Education and Training Selection Committee and the Erasmus Plus Schools Selection Committee.

The FAR Committee meets a minimum of seven times annually. The NCGE Management Advisory Committee meets five to six times annually, the Erasmus + Youth in Action Committee meets three times annually, Adult Education meets twice, and the VET, ESC selection and Schools Committees meet annually.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The number of meetings for each selection committee may increase depending on the number of grant calls in each year.

Records of attendance at each of the committees above can be found on the Léargas website. The board of Léargas is represented on each committee.

Policies and Procedures for the Induction of New Board Members

All new board members receive an induction which includes a Board Induction pack. The induction pack contains all the information and documentation that board members require to carry out their role including the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the board Member Code of Conduct, the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and a list of matters reserved to the Board. The Executive Director meets with each new board member within the first two months to brief them on the organisation's operations and to respond to any queries.

Board members are also provided with copies of the organisation's current strategic plan.

Matters Reserved for the Board of Léargas

The following are the matters reserved for the Board of Léargas:

- Significant acquisitions, disposals and retirement of assets of the State body or its subsidiaries;
- Major investment and capital projects;
- Delegated authority levels, treasury policy and risk management policies;
- Approval of terms of major contracts;
- Annual review of risk and internal control;
- Litigation;
- Compliance with statutory and administrative requirements in relation to the approval of the number, grading and condition of appointment of all staff;
- Approval of annual budgets and corporate plans;
- Productions of annual reports and accounts;
- Appointment/removal of Auditors;
- Appointment, remunerations and assessment of the performance of, and succession planning for the Executive Director;
- Appointment of Programme/Unit Managers; and
- Significant amendments to the pension benefits of the Executive Director and staff (which may require Ministerial approval).

Staff

Léargas has a staff team based in Dublin and headed by an Executive Director who reports directly to the Board through the Chairperson. A management team of five people report to the Executive Director and all other members of the staff report to members of the management team.

The Board of Directors delegates certain responsibilities and duties to the Executive Director and through him/her to the staff team. These include implementation of the Léargas Strategic Plan, leading, managing and developing the Léargas staff team, the implementation of the programmes managed by Léargas, finance and overall administration so that Léargas achieves its overall mission, vision and strategy in a manner consistent with its values.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Reserves policy

Léargas has developed a reserves policy. The working capital requirements of the organisation are so that there can be time lags between spending and in-coming grants. The reserves policy outlines arrangements for an operational reserve to manage cash-flow.

The policy was approved by the Board in 2020 and is subject to an annual review. The policy outlines the requirement to build up a cash flow designated reserve to provide a working capital equivalent of a minimum of 3 months on-going operational expenditure. The policy is in accordance with good practice as outlined in the charities code.

Internal Controls

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- Clearly defining management responsibilities, in a defined organisational structure with clear segregation of duties;
- Adopting the principles of corporate governance as outlined in the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 bearing in mind the size and nature of Léargas; and
- Establishing formal procedures to monitor the activities, safeguard the assets of the organisation while ensuring compliance with European funding regulations.

The key procedures established by the Board to provide effective internal financial control are set out in an operations manual clearly defining management responsibilities and steps to be taken in the event of control failures.

The Board has implemented full system of risk management including:

- The identification of significant strategic, financial, operational and reputational risks;
- The assessment of the appropriateness and strength of management controls surrounding risk areas; and
- The highlighting of key risk areas for specific management attention and Audit and Finance Committee focus.

An annual budget is compiled and approved by the Board. Monthly accounts are produced showing variances between actual and budget. These are reviewed by management and the Board on a regular basis.

A full system of internal financial control is in place covering all aspects of delegation, authorisation, segregation of duties and prevention and detection of fraud.

Léargas outsources its internal audit function to Crowleys DFK, who report directly to the FAR Committee. The FAR Committee meet on a regular basis to review accounts, internal audit reports and staffing matters.

Crowleys DFK (Internal Auditors) and ASM (B) Limited (auditors for DFHERIS and DCEDIY) review the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control on an annual basis. Note; The Internal audit plans for 2020 were not carried out due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the move to remote working. However a review of Léargas Internal Audit function and specific internal controls was carried out by Crowe Limited in quarter four of 2020.

No material losses have been incurred arising from weaknesses in internal financial control and therefore there has been no requirement for disclosure in the financial statements or the auditor's report on the financial statements. No fraud has been detected.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

All recommendations by Crowleys DFK or ASM (B) Limited have been acted on. During 2020, Léargas carried out a project to strengthen policies and procedures in relation to its Information Security and Management Systems. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the first quarter in 2021.

Léargas conducts an annual risk review process that is assessed in detail by the Board annually, which involves identification of the major risks to which Léargas is exposed, an assessment of the likelihood of these happening, their potential impact and possible mitigating strategies. Risk is an item on the agenda of all meetings of the Management Team, meetings of staff teams, FAR Committee and of the Board.

Health and Safety of Employees

It is the policy of the company to ensure the health and welfare of employees by maintaining a safe place and system of work.

This policy is based on the requirements of employee legislation, including the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989.

Principal activities and business review

Léargas provides management and development services to a range of European and bilateral co-operation and exchange programmes in the youth, education, training, and guidance sectors.

The principal activity of the company during the year was the administration and distribution of grants on behalf of the European Commission and the National Authorities i.e. the Department of Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The grants managed are funded by the Erasmus + programme, the European Solidarity Corp Programme, as well as bilateral programmes such as CASE, PEACE IV.

This means that Léargas acts as a conduit between these agencies and the final grant recipients and holds grant monies in trust for the funders and distributes it to the final recipients according to the rules and regulations of the funder concerned.

Léargas also has responsibility for the National Centre for Guidance in Education, (NCGE).

The NCGE is an agency of the Department of Education, operating under the aegis of Léargas, with responsibility to support and develop guidance practice in all areas of education and to inform the policy of the Department in the field of guidance. The role and remit of the Centre includes to advise on policy and strategies for the promotion of a continuum of guidance in the context of lifelong learning; provide advice, support, materials and resources for guidance counselling in education and to contribute to the exchange of information on guidance counselling provision and practice with other guidance and employment services, through the National Resource Centre, i.e. Euroguidance Centre.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have identified that the key risk and uncertainty Léargas faces is the risk of grant funding being reduced and the consequent impact that this would have on the ability of the company to act as a conduit between European Commission, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and the final grant recipients.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Léargas mitigates these risks as follows:

- The company continually monitors the level of activity, prepares and monitors its budgets, targets and projections; and
- The company closely monitors emerging changes to the rules and regulations of the funders concerned on an ongoing basis.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of financial policies and procedures which controls the authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Léargas has no currency risk and no credit risk. It has no interest rate risk due to the fact that it has no borrowings. However, negative interest charges have now been implemented by financial institutions on both current and deposit accounts.

The directors are aware of the key risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the company and are satisfied that there are appropriate systems in place to mitigate these risks appropriately.

Covid 19

During March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and all government control measures including a countrywide lockdown occurred.

Léargas's business continuity plan facilitated the continued operation of the organisation in a remote working environment. As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, all staff have been required to work remotely from home; and the health, safety and well-being of our staff is continuously monitored.

In relation to the events that Léargas manage, cancellations and postponements have been necessary. A significant move to on-line facilitation has been achieved. Communication on developments in this regard are made directly to existing participants and also via the website and social media. Léargas's work also continues in the management of our programmes, which are being fully supported throughout this period.

The impacts of Covid-19 on the organisation and of the wider community in which we operate, are considered as part of our risk management process. We are actively involved in various forums to ensure we continue to operate in line with our contractual obligations, also allowing for the preparation and timely action for dealing with impacts to the organisation in the short, medium and longer term.

Likely future developments

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future. The organisation is preparing for a new funding cycle and expecting increases in funding.

Dividends

During the financial year the directors have not paid any dividends or recommended payment of any dividend.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no events subsequent to the year-end which require any adjustment to, or additional disclosure in the financial statements.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at the company's registered office.

Auditor

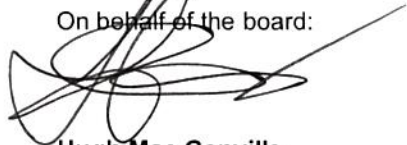
In accordance with the Companies Act 2014, Section 383(2) JPA Brenson Lawlor continue in office as auditors of the company.

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

On behalf of the board:



Hugh Mac Conville
Acting Chairperson

Date: 15th June 2021



Jean-Marie Cullen
Director

Date: 15th June 2021

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board:



**Hugh Mac Conville
Acting Chairperson**

Date: 15th June 2021



**Jean-Marie Cullen
Director**

Date: 15th June 2021

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
PROGRAMME REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Current Programmes

Erasmus +

Erasmus + is the current EU programme for education, training, youth and sport and covers the period 2014-2020. A new programme cycle commenced in 2021, this programme will run until 2027.

The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising education, training, and youth work.

Léargas has been appointed as a National Agency for the management of actions under the Erasmus + programme targeted at the vocational training, schools, adult education and youth work sectors in Ireland.

To manage the programme there are five operational units as follows:

Programmes Support and Development Unit

Operations and Programme Finance Unit

Communications Unit

Strategic Initiatives Unit

Finance and HR Unit

Léargas manages the following actions and activities:

KEY ACTION 1 - MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

This Key Action supports:

Mobility of learners and staff: opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country.

KEY ACTION 2 - COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

This Key Action supports:

Transnational Strategic Partnerships aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
PROGRAMME REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

IT support platforms, such as eTwinning, the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) and the European Youth Portal, offer virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practice and other online services for teachers, trainers and practitioners in the field of school and adult education as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe and beyond.

KEY ACTION 3 - SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM

This key action promotes the active participation of young people in democratic life in Europe. It stimulates and provides a framework for debate about issues affecting young people. Structured Dialogue is the name used for discussions between young people and decision makers that should ultimately inform policy-making.

A Structured Dialogue project has three phases: planning and preparation; implementation; and evaluation (including reflection on a possible follow-up). The project can last for three months to two years. Young people must be involved at all stages of the project and it is they who lead the activities.

European Solidarity Corps Programme

The European Solidarity Corps enables young people to respond to important societal needs by taking part in solidarity activities across the European Union. It creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work (in their own country or abroad) in projects that benefit communities and people. Through Volunteering, Traineeships, Jobs, or Solidarity Projects in their own communities, young people contribute to strengthening communities while gaining experience, skills and competences for their own personal, educational, social, civic and professional development.

Léargas manages the following activities

Volunteering Activities

Individual volunteering lets young people participate in the daily work of organisations and lasts between 2 and 12 months, and in some cases, 2 weeks and up. Participants can volunteer abroad or in their country of residence for projects covering social inclusion, environment, culture, and more.

Volunteering teams are groups of 10-40 young people from at least two different countries who volunteer together for a period of between 2 weeks and 2 months. The costs of accommodation and food are covered. Participants also receive a small allowance for personal expenses.

Traineeships and Jobs

Traineeships count as full-time work practice and last between 2 and 6 months – renewable once. They are paid for by the organisation responsible for the traineeship. Trainees develop their personal, educational, social, civic and professional skills.

Jobs are full-time and last between 3 and 12 months. They are paid for by the organisation employing the participant.

Traineeships and jobs can take place in the participant's country of residence or abroad. If abroad, participants receive a small allowance to help them relocate and settle in a foreign country.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
PROGRAMME REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Participants of **volunteering activities, traineeships** and **jobs** get online linguistic support, training and mentoring. Their travel costs to and from the project venue are covered.

Solidarity Projects

Solidarity projects are initiated, developed and implemented over a period of 2 to 12 months by at least five young people who want to make a positive change in their local community. Young people who want to run a solidarity project in their country of residence must register in the European Solidarity Corps portal.

This Key Action supports:

Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth for evidence-based policy making and monitoring in the framework of Europe 2020, in particular:

- country-specific and thematic analysis, including through cooperation with academic networks;
- peer learning and peer reviews through the Open Methods of Coordination in education, training and youth;

Initiatives for policy innovation to stimulate innovative policy development among stakeholders and to enable public authorities to test the effectiveness of innovative policies through field trials based on sound evaluation methodologies;

Support to European policy tools to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, to foster quality assurance, support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. This Action also includes the support to networks that facilitate cross-European exchanges, the learning and working mobility of citizens as well as the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education, training and youth;

Cooperation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity (such as the OECD and the Council of Europe), to strengthen the impact and added value of policies in the fields of education, training and youth;

Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion with public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth are necessary for raising awareness about Europe 2020, Education and Training 2020, the European Youth Strategy and other European sector-specific policy agendas, as well as the external dimension of EU education, training and youth policies. They are essential to develop the capacity of stakeholders to concretely support the implementation of policies by stimulating the effective exploitation of the Programme results and generating tangible impact.

Other Programmes

Léargas also manages additional programme activities including:

Peace IV

The Education Authority in Northern Ireland and Léargas work in partnership to implement the Peace IV Collaboration through Sharing in Education (CASE) programme.

CASE is for primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Its focus is on schools with no or limited previous experience of providing shared education opportunities to their children

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
PROGRAMME REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

and young people. CASE aims to build a culture of good relations among school children and to equip them with the skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken and a culture of collaboration and cooperation is the norm.

The key aim of CASE is to provide direct, sustained, curriculum-based contact between children and teachers from all backgrounds, through collaboration between schools from different sectors and diverse backgrounds in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a cohesive society.

CASE is open to all schools in the six border counties of Ireland and schools in Northern Ireland which are not currently involved in the DSC Signature Project for Shared Education.

Languages

Promoting languages and language learning through the European Day of Languages, European Centre for Modern Languages and The European Award for Languages - the Language Label.

IAESTE

IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) programme which is a reciprocal international exchange programme which operates in over 80 countries and provides short-term relevant work experience abroad for technical students in their own field of study. As at the end of 2020, Léargas no longer facilitates the IAESTE Ireland programme.

eTwinning

The Community for Schools in Europe.

eTwinning is a free online platform linking a community of more than 500,000 teachers across Europe. It supports primary and post primary schools to find partners and work on joint projects in any curricular area, using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Learn how five Irish schools use.

Eurodesk

Eurodesk is a free information service on EU funding and opportunities to work, study, volunteer and travel in Europe. It is intended for young people and those who work with them.

Eurodesk supports and contributes to the European Youth Portal, a European Commission website which publishes articles, news and events for young people. The site gives information around nine main themes, covers 33 countries and is available in 27 languages.

Youth Wiki

Youth Wiki is Europe's online encyclopedia for national youth policies. Its overall purpose is to help the European Commission and Member States in their decision making, by providing information on state of play on reforms and initiatives. The collection of qualitative information also allows the exchange of information and innovative approaches and can substantiate peer learning activities.

Youth Wiki offers a comprehensive database of national structures, policies and actions supporting young people. The information can be explored using interactive maps, researching one of the 29 countries represented, or by reading 'Chapters' about specific aspects of youth policy.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
PROGRAMME REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

EPALE

The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) is a multilingual open membership community for professionals involved in Adult Learning in Europe.

It was designed with input from practitioners and is intended for all those active in the field, including teachers, trainers, researchers, academics, and policy makers.

EPALE is operated by the European Commission and supported by the governments of member states. Léargas is the National Support Service for EPALE in Ireland.

ECVET

ECVET is the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training. It is a framework for the transfer and recognition of learning outcomes across VET learning environments. It allows learners to accumulate their vocational experience with a view to achieving a qualification. ECVET is particularly useful to VET professionals who send their learners on mobility placements.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Léargas - The Exchange Bureau (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU

Other information

(continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that in our opinion:

- the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE MEMBERS OF LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU**

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/International-Standards-on-Auditing-for-use-in-Ire/International-Standards-on-Auditing-\(Ireland\)/ISA-700-\(Ireland\)](http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/International-Standards-on-Auditing-for-use-in-Ire/International-Standards-on-Auditing-(Ireland)/ISA-700-(Ireland)). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Thomas McDonald
for and on behalf of JPA Brenson Lawlor

Statutory Audit Firm

15th June 2021

Argyle Square
Morehampton Road
Donnybrook
Dublin 4

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 €	2019 €
Income	6	5,334,641	5,333,861
Administrative expenses		(5,051,941)	(5,265,564)
Surplus before taxation		282,700	68,297
Tax on surplus		-	-
Surplus for the financial year		282,700	68,297
Transfer to designated reserves		(282,700)	(68,297)
Net surplus or the financial year		-	-

The Income and Expenditure Account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020


	2020 €	2019 €
Surplus for the financial year	282,700	68,297
Income and expenditure reserve at the start of the financial year	68,451	68,451
Designated reserve at the start of the financial year	68,297	-
	<u>419,448</u>	<u>136,748</u>
Income and expenditure reserve at the end of the financial year	68,451	68,451
Designated reserve at the end of the financial year	350,997	68,297
	<u>419,448</u>	<u>136,748</u>

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING SHARE CAPITAL)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	36,618	19,480
Net bursaries			
Bursary grant bank accounts		14,497,743	14,854,135
Bursary funding	9	<u>(14,497,743)</u>	<u>(14,854,135)</u>
		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	10	578,245	488,033
Cash at bank and on hand		<u>1,567,723</u>	<u>1,391,756</u>
		2,145,968	1,879,789
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	11	(951,935)	(594,092)
Operational grants in advance		<u>(280,182)</u>	<u>(649,401)</u>
Creditors and grants in advance		(1,232,117)	(1,243,493)
Net current assets		<u>913,851</u>	<u>636,296</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		950,469	655,776
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	<u>(531,021)</u>	<u>(519,028)</u>
Net assets		419,448	136,748
Reserves			
Income and expenditure reserves	14	68,451	68,451
Designated reserves	14	<u>350,997</u>	<u>68,297</u>
Total reserves		419,448	136,748

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on and signed on behalf of the board by:


Hugh MacConville
Acting Chairperson
Date: 15th June 2021


Jean-Marie Cullen
Director
Date: 15th June 2021

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 €	2019 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	-	-
Adjustments for :		
Depreciation of tangible assets	19,369	16,935
Accrued (income) / expenses	(86,516)	153,053
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	(90,212)	(2,782)
(Decrease) / increase in trade and other creditors	369,833	204,364
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows (absorbed by) operations	212,474	371,570
Net cash used in investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(36,507)	(6,922)
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	175,967	364,648
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	1,391,756	1,027,108
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	1,567,723	1,391,756
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LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Company information

Léargas – The Exchange Bureau is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, domiciled and incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office is King's Inn House, Parnell Street, Dublin 1, and its company registration number is 208725.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

The financial statements are prepared in euros, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest €.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income and expenditure

Income and expenses are included in the financial statements as they become receivable or due.

Expenses include VAT where applicable as the company cannot reclaim it.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. Accounting policies

(Continued)

any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	33% straight line
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If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded, or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Taxation

The company has obtained exemption from the Revenue Commissioners in respect of corporation tax, it being a company not carrying on a business for the purposes of making a profit. DIRT is payable on any interest income received in excess of €32.

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

4. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

(Continued)

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognized in the financial statements:

Useful lives of tangible assets

Long-lived tangible fixed assets comprising primarily of fixtures, fittings and office equipment are stated at cost less depreciation in note 8 to the financial statements. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated life of each type of asset. The directors regularly review these useful lives and change them, if necessary, to reflect current conditions. In determining these useful lives, the directors consider technological change, patterns of consumption, physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation charge for the financial year. The net book value of tangible fixed assets subject to depreciation at the financial year end date was €36,618.

Going Concern

The directors have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the directors consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

5. Limited by guarantee

The company is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding €1.27.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6. Income

Income arises from:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Grants	5,334,641	5,333,861
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Grant income received from the Department of Education and Skills during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Grant income received	1,434,589	1,434,589
Grant income deferred	<u>(159,589)</u>	<u>(159,589)</u>
	<u>1,275,000</u>	<u>1,275,000</u>

The total income of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the Republic of Ireland.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

7. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year, including the managers, was as follows:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Management	7	7
Finance	16	16
Operations	33	33
Administration	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	58	58

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Wages and salaries	2,615,550	2,598,714
Social insurance costs	285,595	279,856
Other retirement benefit costs	<u>113,287</u>	<u>133,874</u>
	3,014,432	3,012,444

Staff pay bands

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
€60,001 to €70,000	1	2
€70,001 to €80,000	1	2
€80,001 to €90,000	2	1
€90,001 to €100,000	2	1
€100,001 to €110,000	-	-
€110,001 to €120,000	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	6	7

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment
	€
Cost	
At 1 January 2020	241,977
Additions	36,507
At 31 December 2020	278,484
 Depreciation	
At 1 January 2020	222,497
Depreciation charged in the year	19,369
At 31 December 2020	241,866
 Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2020	36,618
At 31 December 2019	19,480

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

9. Bursary accounts

Léargas receives grants from the European Commission and various Departments for distribution to Colleges, Schools, Voluntary Groups, Companies and Individuals. On an ongoing basis, it has a balance of grants on hand for either distribution to the final beneficiaries or for repayment to the source funder. This amount is reflected in the bursary bank balances held at the end of the year and as these amounts are not the property of Léargas but are held in trust, the same amounts are shown as grants in advance in the creditors section of the balance sheet. These grants are funded by the European Commission in advance with the grants being paid when 50% of the initial payment is expended by Léargas on beneficiary funding. While Léargas receives these funds in advance, it will have at any time retained a portion of these due to contractual arrangements with beneficiaries. For example, funds may be retained if all contractual arrangements are not in place or if final or interim reports have not been received.

	Balance at 1 Jan 2020 €	Grant income to Dec 2020 €	Other movements €	Grants paid in the year €	Balance at 31 Dec 2020 €
Youth Work Services	125,581	-	105,915	(9,338)	222,158
Lifelong Learning Programme	39,163	-	(195)	(3,709)	35,259
Erasmus+	14,689,391	15,473,306	-	(15,922,371)	14,240,326
	14,854,135	15,473,306	105,720	(15,935,418)	14,497,743

10. Debtors

	2020 €	2019 €
Debtors	578,245	488,033

Debtors relates to monies due to Leargas on projects.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	€	€
Trade creditors and accruals	836,170	444,631
PAYE	65,765	99,461
Staff termination provision	50,000	50,000
	<u>951,935</u>	<u>594,092</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2020	2019
	€	€
Total staff termination provision	581,021	569,028
Included within creditors falling due within one year	(50,000)	(50,000)
	<u>531,021</u>	<u>519,028</u>

13. Financial instruments

The carrying amount for each category of financial instruments is as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Debtors	578,245	488,033
Cash at bank and in hand	1,567,723	1,391,756
	<u>2,145,968</u>	<u>1,879,789</u>

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

13. Financial instruments	(Continued)	
	2020	2019
	€	€
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors and accruals	1,182,117	1,193,493
Staff termination provision	581,021	569,028
	<u>1,699,868</u>	<u>1,762,521</u>

14. Reserves

The income and expenditure reserves include all current and prior period retained surpluses and deficits.

The designated reserves include operational reserves designated by the directors.

15. Post balance sheet events

As these financial statements are being finalised the Covid 19 Pandemic and all government control measures including a country-wide lockdown continue. As a result, our staff are working remotely from their homes, some events have been cancelled and some have been postponed. Our work continues and our programmes are being fully supported throughout this period.

16. Controlling party

The company's ultimate controlling party in 2020 is the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The National Authority and ultimate controlling party has been changed in 2021 to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

17. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 15th June 2021.

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements.

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED INCOME REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appendix 1

	2020 €	2019 €
<u>Income</u>		
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	1,275,000	1,275,000
European Commission (EC)	1,723,217	1,698,002
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	538,456	507,846
Eurodesk (DCYA)	51,710	52,320
Eurodesk (EC)	41,526	44,529
Causeway (DCYA)	-	40,000
Epale	77,068	96,505
E-Twinning (DES)	34,865	47,151
E-Twinning (EC)	139,459	186,092
IAESTE	-	3,116
ECVET	16,220	26,084
Other Education Programme	515,491	440,744
<u>NCGE Income</u>		
Department of Education	600,000	600,000
National Resource Centre (EC)	43,629	38,473
Solas – FET	278,000	278,000
Total income	5,334,641	5,333,861

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED INCOME REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appendix 1

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Income</u>		
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	1,275,000	1,275,000
European Commission (EC)	1,723,217	1,698,002
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	538,456	507,846
Eurodesk (DCYA)	51,710	52,320
Eurodesk (EC)	41,526	44,529
Causeway (DCYA)	-	40,000
Epale	77,068	96,505
E-Twinning (DES)	34,865	47,151
E-Twinning (EC)	139,459	186,092
IAESTE	-	3,116
ECVET	16,220	26,084
Other Education Programme	515,491	440,744
<u>NCGE Income</u>		
Department of Education	600,000	600,000
National Resource Centre (EC)	278,000	38,473
Solas – FET	43,629	278,000
Total income	5,334,641	5,333,861

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED EXPENDITURE REPORT – PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT
UNIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appendix 2

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	806,375	779,266
Staff training	29,430	20,933
Grants	-	29,538
Office supplies	9,547	12,293
IT maintenance and supplies	29,271	50,515
Meetings / workshops	36,877	44,345
Travelling and subsistence	9,655	63,232
Service providers	188,564	163,452
Other costs	45,653	14,834
Building costs	83,008	64,501
Publications	10,627	40,525
Communications	3,915	5,335
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	1,252,922	1,288,769
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LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED EXPENDITURE REPORT – COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Appendix 3

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	267,084	267,440
Staff training	20,207	7,987
Office supplies	4,362	4,704
IT maintenance and supplies	23,455	36,675
Meetings / workshops	20,246	10,802
Travelling and subsistence	1,998	8,312
Service providers	64,031	25,664
Other costs	26,876	8,088
Publications	14,879	8,458
Building costs	50,938	39,414
Communications	2,403	6,687
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	496,479	424,231
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED EXPENDITURE REPORT – STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Appendix 4

	2020 €	2019 €
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	485,001	528,709
Staff training	14,766	34,599
Office supplies	6,211	12,747
IT maintenance and supplies	35,242	52,946
Meetings / workshops	49,549	131,590
Grants	198,929	300,077
Travelling and subsistence	14,381	96,526
Service providers	69,873	51,459
Other costs	38,955	13,880
Publications	50,118	37,882
Building costs	76,417	61,993
Communications	3,341	5,692
Total expenditure	1,042,783	1,328,100

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED EXPENDITURE REPORT – OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMME FINANCE UNIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appendix 5

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	704,700	712,482
Staff training	24,437	10,053
Office supplies	7,202	8,468
IT maintenance and supplies	30,138	50,801
Meetings / workshops	280	1,947
Travelling and subsistence	4,129	16,862
Service providers	37,648	24,392
Other costs	45,460	13,690
Publications	-	-
Building costs	80,415	64,501
Communications	3,921	5,378
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	938,330	908,574
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED EXPENDITURE REPORT – NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GUIDANCE IN
EDUCATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appendix 6

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	523,925	454,521
Staff training	7,935	8,755
Grants	192,723	226,212
Office supplies	1,845	7,059
IT maintenance and supplies	47,664	19,029
Meetings / workshops	5,712	7,769
Travelling and subsistence	4,600	12,329
Service providers	35,582	69,921
Other costs	19,185	14,513
Publications	23,436	35,897
Building costs	50,416	51,830
Communications	8,607	8,638
Total expenditure	921,630	916,473

**LEARGAS - THE EXCHANGE BUREAU
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
DETAILED EXPENDITURE REPORT – FINANCE AND HR UNIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Appendix 7

	2020	2019
	€	€
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Salaries	261,828	256,337
Staff training	5,334	17,503
Office supplies	5,126	5,999
IT maintenance and supplies	17,949	31,840
Meetings / workshops	49	303
Travelling and subsistence	1,965	5,206
Service providers	28,502	27,688
Other costs	26,905	7,745
Publications	-	-
Building costs	49,750	43,943
Communications	2,389	2,853
Total expenditure	399,797	399,417

Léargas Board

2019

Board Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance							Total	Notes
	29 January 2019	05 March 2019	30 April 2019	28 May 2019	01 October 2019	05 November 2019	10 December 2019		
Des O'Loughlin	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance				4	Resigned May AGM
Fidelma Collins	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	7	
Hugh MacConville		In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	6	
Jean Marie Cullin	In attendance		In attendance	In attendance		In attendance	In attendance	5	
Maria Lorigan	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance		In attendance	6	
Máire Quinn	In attendance		In attendance	In attendance				3	Resigned May AGM
Michael McLoughlin	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	7	

Léargas Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

2019

Committee Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance							Total	Notes
	29 January 2019	05 March 2019	30 April 2019	28 May 2019	01 October 2019	05 November 2019	10 December 2019		
Des O'Loughlin	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance				4	Resigned May AGM
Fidelma Collins	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	7	
Hugh MacConville					In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	3	Acting appointment from October
Helena Hanna	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance					3	Resigned from October
Margaret Guinan							In attendance	1	Appointed December
Michael McLoughlin	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	In attendance	7	

Léargas Summary of Accounts

2019

	Income (€)	Expenditure (€)	Retained surplus/ deficit for the year (€)
Programme Support and Development	1,288,769	1,288,769	
Programme Finance and Operations	908,574	908,574	
Strategic Initiatives	1,328,100	1,328,100	
Communications	424,231	424,231	
Finance and HR	399,417	399,417	
NCGE	916,473	916,473	
	5,333,861	5,265,564	68,297