

1,2,3 of **Policy**

Linking your
Erasmus+
Youth Project
to National and
European Policy





What is policy?

Why is policy important?

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

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

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

These commitments could include education and training, employment, mental health, the rights of people with disabilities, migration, and so forth.

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National Policy



National Youth Policy

Our Government has a number of important policy documents that set out what it plans to do for young people in Ireland. Some of the main policy documents are:

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children & Young People (2014-2020)

was the framework that set out the Government's agenda and priorities regarding children and young people under the age of 25. This policy expired in 2020, but the Government are currently developing a successor strategy and this is outlined in the Department of Children, Education, Disability, Integration and Youth's Statement of Strategy (2021-2023). This framework provided for the development and implementation of policies and services with the aim of achieving the following outcomes:

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING (includes healthy lifestyle, taking part in youth work, arts, sports)

ACHIEVING FULL POTENTIAL IN ALL AREAS OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (includes enhancing skills, competencies and attributes through formal and non-formal education)

SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM (particularly vulnerable and marginalised young people)

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY (including participating in the labour market, enhancing employability skills, training, entrepreneurship, social inclusion and combatting poverty)

CONNECTED, RESPECTED AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD (including active citizenship, political, social and civic engagement).

National Youth Strategy (2015-2020) aimed to allow all young people to realise their maximum potential regarding the outcomes set out in “Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures”. For example: enhancing employability skills, social inclusion, and active citizenship. It did this by respecting young people’s rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood. The Government are currently developing a successor policy document based on this Strategy.

National Strategy on Children and Young People’s Participation in Decision-Making (2015-2020)

aimed to ensure that children and young people have a voice in decisions made about them as individuals or their collective lives in their communities, in education, on their health, well-being, and the other outcomes listed in “Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures”.



LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy (2018-2020) was the first of its kind. It adopted a cross-governmental approach to serving the needs of LGBTI+ people aged 10-24. The Strategy draws on “Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures” and includes three main goals:

- Create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for LGBTI+ young people
 - Improve the physical, mental and sexual health of LGBTI+ young people
 - Develop the research and data to better understand the lives of LGBTI+ young people.
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The Youth Justice Strategy (2021-2027) works with Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDP) and aims to expand the GYDP projects in Ireland, prevent further offending by children and young adults and enhance the criminal processes and supports available to vulnerable children and young adults.

The Youth Employment Initiative (2014-2020) ran until 2020 and aimed to tackle youth unemployment and implement the ‘Youth Guarantee’ by providing jobs, education, and training opportunities for individuals under 25 who are not in employment, education, or training. Social Justice Ireland and other youth organisations have called for the adoption of a new Youth Employment Strategy as the current programme for Government does not refer to youth unemployment and the effects of Covid-19 on youth employment.

How does your Erasmus+ project link to national policy?

The projects and activities that take place as part of Erasmus+ can help to achieve national youth policy objectives. For example:

- Erasmus+ supports projects that promote active citizenship of young people (Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures; National Youth Strategy)
- Erasmus+ projects can connect young people and decision makers to ensure that young people have a voice in decision-making that affects their lives (National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making)
- Erasmus+ prioritises projects focused on inclusion (Better Outcomes Brighter Futures; LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy 2018-2020)
- Erasmus+ projects can focus on entrepreneurship, employability and training of young people (Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, The Youth Employment Initiative).



European Policy



European Youth Policy

New EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 aims to bring the EU closer to young people and help address issues of concern to them. The new EU Youth Strategy will focus on three main things:

ENGAGE: Encouraging young people to take part in civic and democratic life

CONNECT: Connecting young people across the EU and beyond to promote volunteering, opportunities to learn abroad, solidarity and intercultural understanding

EMPOWER: Supporting young people's empowerment through innovation, quality and recognition of youth work.

Europe 2020 is the EU's plan to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It sets targets for employment, research and development, climate/energy, education, social inclusion, and poverty reduction.

Education and Training 2020 is the EU's plan on education and training. It aims to achieve various objectives including: making lifelong learning and mobility a reality; improving the quality and efficiency of education and training; promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

The Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy

was published in 2020 and addresses many crosscutting issues that young people face. It outlines five main priorities for the future according to young people:

1. Improving young people's skills and increase access to training opportunities
 2. Boosting employment for young people in Europe
 3. Simplification of rules and a better communication via digital tools
 4. Addressing Climate Change issues for a better future
 5. Boosting citizens' engagement in policy making and implementation
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How does your Erasmus+ project link to European policy?

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

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

Connections between national and European policy

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

- Active citizenship
- Social inclusion
- Enhancing employability and other skills
- Equality of opportunity for young people
- Reducing poverty.

Your Erasmus+ project can develop new and innovative ways to achieve the priorities that are set out in national or EU policy, helping to make positive changes for young people, be that at a local, national or international level.

Get in touch

For support with your Erasmus+ project in Ireland contact the Léargas Programmes Support & Development Team:

✉ psdt@leargas.ie

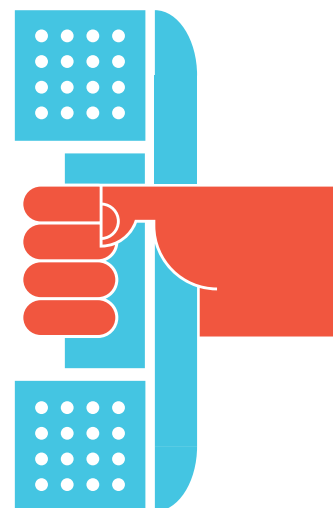
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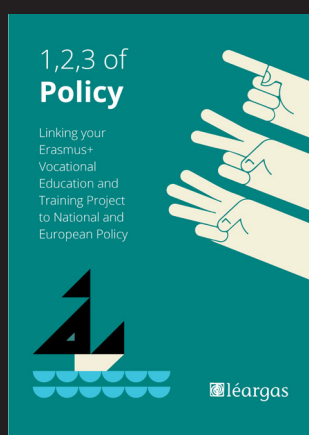
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