



# léargas

## ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022





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## MESSAGE FROM ACTING CHAIR

FRANK CRUMMEY



2022 was a very exciting year, a year with many new opportunities for Léargas as an agency, novelties within the programmes, and much change. In my role as Acting Chair I am extremely proud to pay tribute to the work of Léargas, its staff, and in particular Executive Director Lorraine Gilligan. I would also like to sincerely thank the Léargas Board for their dedication throughout 2022.

Léargas is extremely fortunate to have such a strong and engaged Board and we look forward to welcoming a new Chairperson along with new Board Members in 2023.

As National Coordinator for the European Year of Youth (EYY), Léargas took the opportunity to create an entirely new national funding stream for activities with young people across all sectors of education and training. Working closely with colleagues in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) made this possible. The new initiative was the highly successful EYY Microgrant Scheme. This offered grants worth up to €5,000 for projects that benefitted young people and reflected the EYY priorities.

An impressive 106 projects gained EYY Microgrant funding, across 6 application rounds. We are delighted that it attracted so many new organisations, with 81% of Microgrant beneficiary organisations not having taken part in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC).



Participants at the EYY All Aboard Event

The logo for the European Year of Youth, featuring a circle of twelve yellow stars on a white background, with a yellow banner below it containing the text 'EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH' in bold black letters.

**EUROPEAN  
YEAR OF  
YOUTH**

Arguably two of the most successful – undisputedly the noisiest! – events were the ‘All Aboard’ national events. They took place on trains, with young people boarding in different counties, engaging in everything from discussion on EU opportunities to intense karaoke competitions. The ‘European YouthFest’ event also brought together young people and youth workers from across the country to celebrate the learning that young people achieved during 2022 through Erasmus+ and ESC. These events were energising and inspirational for everyone involved.

However, youth was by no means the only focus of Léargas during 2022. It saw continued increases in the number of applications received across many of the Erasmus+ strands. In the field of School Education, a report launched in 2022 on the impact of Erasmus+ Mobility projects found that staff who participated in opportunities such as training and job shadowing in other European countries reported improvements in skills such as collaboration, leadership, analytical problem-solving, and creativity, as well as increases in motivation and job satisfaction.

Erasmus+ School Education: The Impact of Mobility Projects on the Professional Development of Staff’ also found that 89% of participants reported Erasmus+ as having provided support for schools to address national educational priorities that would not have been possible without the project.

I was pleased to see the return to hosting the Léargas annual cross-sectoral flagship event, ‘The Léargas Gathering’ (previously known as ‘The Léargas Forum’), as a face-to-face event for the first time since 2019. There was a palpable excitement as current and potential beneficiaries came together in person to network and learn more about opportunities funded by the European Union (EU). The event celebrated the winning projects of three different but interlinked initiatives: eTwinning National Quality Label, the European Language Label, and the European Innovative Teaching Award.



In 2022, I was particularly proud that Léargas was appointed as the National Agency for Erasmus+ Sport. We look forward to this exciting development taking full shape in 2023, when the field of grassroots sport in Ireland can apply for Erasmus+ Mobility projects. We were also delighted to welcome the Early Years sector to be eligible under the Erasmus+ programme to undertake Mobility Opportunities in Key Action 1. I had the pleasure of speaking to a kick-off international event hosted by Léargas in collaboration with Early Childhood Ireland in summer 2022, 'Early Childhood Education and Care Exchange'.

Léargas itself underwent a restructure to facilitate the growing staff numbers and to foster greater collaboration between different programmes and initiatives. I want to thank the Léargas leadership team for their excellent work in implementing these changes so smoothly and quickly.

2022 also marked an end to the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), which until then had fallen under the aegis of Léargas. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the NCGE staff and thank them for all their hard work over the years.

I look forward to a successful and fruitful year for Léargas in 2023 as we build on the great successes of 2022. We will continue to deliver superb programmes to a wide range of participants across all sectors of education, training, and volunteering. These projects will no doubt continue to provide significant opportunities, possibilities, and impact for all involved.

Frank Crummey

Acting Chair Léargas Board



## TEACHTAIREACTH ÓN CHATHAOIRLEACH GNÍOMHACH

FRANK CRUMMEY



Bliain an-spreagúil ab ea 2022, bliain ina raibh go leor deiseanna nua ann do Léargas mar ghníomhaireacht, chomh maith le forbairtí nua sna Cláir agus an-chuid athraithe. I mo ról mar Chathaoirleach Gníomhach táim thar a bheith bródúil as aitheantas a thabhairt d'obair Léargas, dá foireann agus go háirithe don Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin, Lorraine Gilligan.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil freisin le Bord Léargas as a dtiomantas i rith 2022. Tá an t-ádh ar Léargas go bhfuil bord láidir aici a ghlacann páirt, agus táimid ag súil le fáilte a chur roimh Chathaoirleach nua in éineacht le baill nua an bhoird in 2023.

Mar chomhordaitheoir náisiúnta do Bhliain Eorpach na hÓige thapaigh Léargas an deis sruth maoinithe náisiúnta go hiomlán nua a chruthú do ghníomhaíochtaí le daoine óga ar fud gach earnáil oideachais agus oiliúna. Bhíomar in ann é sin a dhéanamh trí bheith ag obair go dlúth le comhghleacaithe sa RLCMLÓ.

Ba é an tionscnamh nua an Scéim Micridheontais EYY, tionscnamh ar éirigh thar barr leis. Cuireadh deontais dar luach suas le €5,000 ar fáil ann do thionscadail a chuaigh chun tairbhe do dhaoine óga agus a léirigh tosaíochtaí EYY. Fuair líon chomh mór le 106 tionscadal maoiniú Micridheontais



Rannpháirtithe ag an imeacht Gach duine ar Bord de chuid Bliain Eorpach na hÓige

**EUROPEAN  
YEAR OF  
YOUTH**

EYY i sé chinn de bhabhtaí iarratais. Tá ríméad orainn gur mheall sé an oiread sin eagraíochtaí nua a raibh 81% díobh ina dtairbhí Micridheontais nár ghlac páirt in Erasmus+ ná in ESC roimhe.

Ar dhá cheann de na himeachtaí is mó ar éirigh leo agus ba mhó a rinne torann gan dabht bhí na himeachtaí náisiúnta 'All Aboard'. Reáchtáladh iad ar thraenacha, le daoine óga ag dul ar bord i gcontaetha éagsúla, agus iad ag tabhairt faoi gach rud idir phlé ar dheiseanna AE agus dhianchomórtais cáirióice sna tithe tábhairne. Tugadh daoine óga agus oibrithe óige ó gach cearn den tír le chéile ag ócáid 'European Youthfest' chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an bhfoghlaim a bhain daoine óga amach le linn 2022 trí Erasmus+ agus an Cór Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach. Bhí na himeachtaí seo bríomhar agus spreagthach do gach duine a bhí páirteach iontu.

Ach ní ag díriú ar an óige amháin a bhí Léargas le linn 2022, áfach. Tháinig méadú leanúnach ar líon na n-iarratas a fuarthas thar go leor snáitheanna de chuid Erasmus+. I réimse an oideachais Scoileanna fuarthas amach i dtuarascáil a seoladh in 2022 ar thionchar tionscadal soghluaisteachta Erasmus+ gur thuairiscigh baill foirne a ghlac páirt i ndeiseanna ar nós oiliúna agus scáthú poist i dtíortha Eorpacha eile feabhsuithe ar scileanna ar nós comhoibriú, ceannaireacht, réiteach fadhbanna anailíseach agus cruthaitheacht, chomh maith le méadú ar spreagadh agus ar shásamh poist. Lena chois sin fuarthas amach in 'Erasmus+ School Education: The Impact of Mobility Projects on the Professional Development of Staff' (Oideachas Scoile Erasmus+: Tionchar na dTionscadal Soghluaisteachta ar Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Foirne) gur thug 89% de na rannpháirtithe a thuairiscigh Erasmus+ tacaíocht do scoileanna chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar thosaíochtaí oideachais náisiúnta nach bhféadfaí a bhaint amach murach an tionscadal.

Bhí áthas orm a fheiceáil gur fhilleamar ar príomhimeacht bliantúil trasearnála de chuid Léargas, 'The Léargas Gathering' (Tionól Léargas) (ar a dtugtaí Fóram Léargas roimhe seo), a óstáil mar imeacht duine le duine den chéad uair ó 2019. Tháinig sceitimíní orainn go léir de réir mar a tháinig tairbhithe reatha agus tairbhithe ionchasacha le chéile chun líonrú agus tuilleadh eolais a fháil ar dheiseanna atá á maoiniú ag an Aontas Eorpach.



## Teachtaireacht ón Chathaoirleach Gníomhach





## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LORRAINE GILLIGAN



2022 has been a year of milestones. While Ireland prepared to celebrate 50 years of EU membership, in Léargas we have been privileged to support the European Year of Youth. Over the year, we were able to shine a spotlight on the achievements of young people in all areas of society, to support their ideas for solidarity and participation in their communities.

In 2022 we also celebrated 35 years of European programmes promoting exchange and cooperation which had begun with Erasmus. In my reports for 2020 and 2021, I spoke about the enormous challenge and disruption to life and work that resulted from COVID-19 and the global pandemic. For the early part of 2022, we were still very much coping with the ongoing challenges of restrictions due to the need to protect public health. The benefits of this caution and the careful preparation became evident in the mid and latter parts of the year.

It was the return of in-person events such as an annual cross-sectoral event 'The Gathering' (formally 'The Forum') that meant we could re-energise and reconnect with each other, our programme partners and beneficiaries, and our engagement activities for newcomers. International Partnerships and our relationships with beneficiaries and National Agencies and Commission colleagues, as well as among ourselves, were resuscitated in the revival of travel and in-person meetings. The return of these opportunities and spaces where we could gather and share our experiences and ideas has really brought a renewed life to all of our work.



Staff, Board Members and Department of Education representation at the Léargas Gathering



War in Ukraine beginning in the spring of 2022 impacted on millions of people across Europe. Those fleeing from war and those who were seeking to make their journeys safe challenged us all to live up to European values and to demonstrate our solidarity through actions. We worked with our National Agency partners and the European Commission to adapt activities and opportunities for beneficiary schools, institutions, and communities across Ireland that were seeking to engage and support Ukrainian refugees who began to arrive in Ireland.

During 2022, Léargas reviewed its internal structural and resourcing arrangement in order to support us in becoming a more agile and effective organisation, better positioned to achieve our organisational and programme objectives for the coming years and throughout the lifecycle of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes. This new internal structure established two sectorally focussed development teams that parallel the programme structures at EU level and enhance our ability to target our responses to the specific needs of different sectors who need more support and focus. We engaged in a series of change management dialogues across the organisation and launched our new internal structure on 5 September as follows:

- ▶ **Youth, Sport & ESC Development Team** headed by Celine Martin [cmartin@leargas.ie](mailto:cmartin@leargas.ie) (Erasmus+ Youth, Sport and the European Solidarity Corps programmes along with initiatives such as Eurodesk)
- ▶ **Educational & Training Development** Team headed by Deirdre Finlay [dfinlay@leargas.ie](mailto:dfinlay@leargas.ie) (Erasmus+ School Education, Adult Education and VET along with initiatives such as VET Team, eTwinning, EPALE, and CASE)
- ▶ **Strategic Engagement & Communications Team** headed by Emma Grainger [egrainger@leargas.ie](mailto:egrainger@leargas.ie) (Communications, Inclusion and other Horizontal Engagement activities)
- ▶ **Programme Finance & Operations Team** headed by Weronika Gasior [wgasior@leargas.ie](mailto:wgasior@leargas.ie) (Erasmus+ and ESC programme compliance, eligibility checks, finance and contracts across all programmes and sectors)



- **Finance & Corporate Services** headed by Derek Garland dgarland@leargas.ie (Accounts, Financial Controls, Governance and Compliance, IT, HR and Facilities support)

After many years of supporting the work and objectives of the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) within the governance and structure of Léargas, the activities of the NCGE were wound down on 31 August 2022. This came as a result of the progression in government policy and other decisions by the Department of Education on the future of guidance at the national level in Ireland. The decision and timeline resulted in the cessation of all aspects of NCGE operations. Léargas would like to thank all those who contributed to that work over the years, particularly the members of the Management of Guidance Committee, and the staff of NCGE who made valuable contributions that continue to influence the future of guidance in Ireland.

The European Parliament and European Council officially designated 2022 the European Year of Youth (EYY). Its aims set out to celebrate, support, and engage young people across the EU, in recognition of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the lives and opportunities of young people. This resulted in a range of EYY activities and initiatives organised at national, local, and European levels throughout the year for young people and those who work to help them discover more about the opportunities available to them and how to participate in them.

In Ireland, the EYY was coordinated by Léargas in partnership with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) with the unwavering support of a multi-agency steering group. Members of that group included the DCEDIY Youth Affairs Unit; the DCEDIY Participation Unit; Léargas; Eurodesk; European Commission Representation; the National Youth Council of Ireland; the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA); Creative Europe; Education and Training Boards Ireland; the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS); the Department of Education (DoE); Gaisce; the Higher Education Authority (HEA); Creative Europe Desk; Eurofound; the European Parliament Liaison Office; and Young Journalist/Young Voices representatives.



Léargas considered the EYY to be an exciting opportunity to amplify and bolster the work already undertaken by our beneficiaries in their work with young people, but we also embraced the opportunity to connect, engage, and empower those working with young people who were not involved in EU programmes. This was how we communicated our strategy for the year at the Oireachtas committee meeting on 23 February 2022.

The EYY also delivered some powerful local impact through the 106 projects successfully awarded Microgrants throughout the year. This scheme was so successful that we were delighted to see the initial grant topped up by the DCEDIY. Minister Roderic O’Gorman announced the scheme on 22 March at the ‘Connect with Europe’ event.

Just one example is the ‘Nasc Project: Integration Activities with Ukrainian and Local Youth’ by Castlecomer Discovery Park, Kilkenny. The project was awarded €4,000 in Round 4. It was developed by Ossory Youth and Castlecomer Discovery Park, and took place over three weeks in November 2022. It brought together young people from an Irish secondary school and Ukrainian Youth, one day per week, at Castlecomer Discovery Park. The programme focussed on diversity and inclusion by providing a community space and activities for young people from both communities to engage in team-building exercises, environmental education, and adventure activities. One aspect of the project was the production of a mini documentary shot and edited by a member of the Ukrainian group who is an experienced filmmaker.



Participants of the Nasc Project with Ukrainian and Local Youth by Castlecomer Discovery Park

DiscoverEU is an action that saw our focussed attention in 2022. A newly encompassed part of the Erasmus+ programme, it gives young people, aged 18, the opportunity to discover Europe through learning experiences. Travelling predominantly by rail (there are exceptions to include those living on islands or in remote areas), these young people are supported to discover and explore Europe's landscapes and its variety of cities and towns. We were additionally delighted in 2022 to deliver the first call for applications under DiscoverEU – Inclusion, which seeks to intentionally engage organisations working with young people with fewer opportunities and to support and encourage them to take up this amazing opportunity.

Not only were we able to support 80% of applicants to a successful outcome, but we know that these projects will support 20 young people with fewer opportunities to travel and discover Europe. We were commended by the European Commission for having one of the highest success rates in the EU with the DiscoverEU Inclusion programme.

Another area that received special attention in 2022 was the inclusion of Early Years under the Schools banner of Erasmus+. Much cross-departmental work resulted in the promotion of staff mobility and international CPD (Continuing Professional Development) activities for this cohort of staff. A dedicated Transnational Cooperation Activity (TCA) event for Early Years practitioners was hosted in June 2022.

In 2022 we observed a higher number of organisations applying for accreditations across all sectors in the Erasmus+ programme as well as for the Quality Label in the European Solidarity Corps programme. This translated into applications requesting funding for a significantly increased number of Mobility participants – learners, pupils, young people, staff, and volunteers.

Other achievements across programmes include increased participation and engagement. Within the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE), engaged users from Ireland rose by 17% in 2022 compared with 2021. EPALE Ireland also rolled out a new national initiative – 'Increasing Digital Reach' – resulting in adult education organisations gain valuable equipment for their services. As part of our Training and Cooperation Activities in 2022, we hosted 39 events both online and in person, facilitating the learning of more than 2,000 participants.





In November we welcomed our stakeholder community to our first in-person #LeargasGathering since 2019. The team in Léargas felt it was important to create a dynamic and fun moment to celebrate our connection, our shared values, and the 35 years of Erasmus – a very special birthday of European Exchange and Cooperation programmes under the banner of Erasmus.

From the many strands of separate European programmes that began with Erasmus 35 years ago, we have seen programmes emerge such as Leonardo, Comenius, European Voluntary Services (EVS), Youth for Europe, and others. Over time, these have transformed into a single but very diverse programme. In Léargas, we work to deliver the full scope of these extraordinary programmes across diverse communities of learning and education, and we frequently emphasise the ‘PLUS’ in Erasmus+. In 2022, the diversity of the programmes is still expanding.

We were appointed as the National Agency for Erasmus+ Sport, and from 2023 onwards we are excited to introduce a new Erasmus+ Sport Mobility community to the range of opportunities for learning, exchange, and cooperation that we support in Léargas.

The connection between sport and key priorities like inclusion and diversity, participation, and health and wellbeing are long established, I am convinced that the new Erasmus+ Sport strand, targeting grassroots sports, coaches and volunteers, will unlock new experiences and practices under shared values and priorities of Erasmus+. It will bring even more diversity to the family of Erasmus+ and create more opportunities for people to exchange and connect, share experiences, and ultimately find that we have more in common than we sometimes think.



Zainab Boladale, Igor Khmil and Lorraine Gilligan at the Léargas Gathering

In December, we welcomed hundreds of young people and youth workers to our #YouthFest event in the National Convention Centre. Young people, volunteers, youth workers, and many groups and organisations joined us to celebrate our European youth community and to recognise and celebrate young people's participation in projects in the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

It was an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that young people who actively engage in European Exchange programmes bring to their communities and to share the benefits of exchange in helping young people to develop and appreciate the core skills and competencies at the heart of these experiences.

Throughout 2022, we sought to create spaces for connection and reconnection. In Léargas, we see events – like 'The Gathering' and 'YouthFest', our workshops, and our international seminars – as opportunities to showcase and celebrate our shared success. They enable us to acknowledge the work and effort that goes into creating European opportunities and for organisations to know and speak of the transformational learning that takes place.

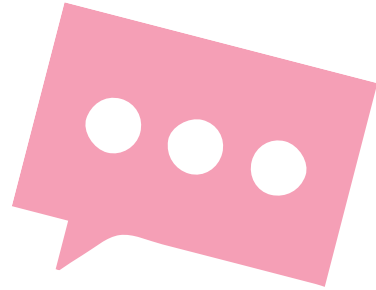
We are lucky in Léargas to hear all of your stories and challenges. The space created in 2022 supports our beneficiaries to share them even further with a range of informative, inspiring, fun, and engaging activities and workshops spread over the year. These are valuable tools in bringing different people together under a common banner. We want to recognise the role our projects, participants, and beneficiaries play in bringing these transformational programmes – their values, opportunities, and priorities – to life in their day-to-day work.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and support of our Board, which is committed to achieving the highest standards of good governance and transparency, as evidenced in the Governance and Financial sections of this Report. I would like to thank our outgoing board member Mr Hugh MacConville, who completed an extended term of service to the Board in April 2022. He concluded his service in passing the baton of Acting Chair of the Board to Mr Frank Crummey, who continues to ensure that Léargas meets its commitments and strategic objectives.



I would also like to acknowledge the continued support and engagement from our colleagues in Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Department of Education. None of these achievements could be celebrated without acknowledging the expertise of our staff, who continue to grow in leadership and collaborative working to achieve our shared vision for:

“An inclusive Ireland where we all can participate in and enjoy the transformational value of national and international lifelong learning experiences and be supported to reach our potential.”



Our staff team share the responsibility of delivering our programmes and communicating the range of activities, and we know their work has a profound impact on individuals, organisations, and communities across Ireland and Europe.

Lorraine Gilligan

Executive Director





## TEACHTAIREACHT ÓN STIÚRTHÓIR FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN

LORRAINE GILLIGAN



Ba bhliain í 2022 inar bhaineamar garspriocanna amach. Tá Éire ag ceiliúradh 50 bliain de bhallraíocht san Aontas Eorpach, agus bhí sé de phribhléid againne i Léargas tacú le Bliain Eorpach na hÓige. I gcaitheamh na bliana, bhíomar in ann aird a tharraingt ar ar bhain daoine óga amach i ngach réimse den tsochaí, chun tacú lena gcuid smaointe maidir le dlúthpháirtíocht agus rannpháirtíocht ina bpobail. In 2022 rinneamar ceiliúradh freisin ar 35 bliain de chlár Eorpacha a chuir chun cinn malartú agus comhar ar cuireadh tús leo le Erasmus.

I mo thuarascálacha do 2020 agus 2021, labhair mé faoin dúshlán agus an cur isteach ollmhór ar an saol agus ar an obair a bhí againn mar thoradh ar COVID-19 agus ar an bpaindéim dhomhanda. Go luath in 2022, bhí a lán oibre againn fós agus sinne ag déileáil leis na dúshláin leanúnacha a bhain le srianta an ghá le sláinte an phobail a chosaint. Ba léir i lár agus i ndeireadh na bliana gur mhór gurbh fhiú dúinn a bheith cáiréiseach agus ullmhúchán cúramach a dhéanamh. Ba é fillleadh imeachtaí pearsanta mar an t-imeacht trasearnála bliantúil 'The Gathering' (go foirmiúil 'The Forum') a chuir ar ár gcumas athcheangal a dhéanamh lena chéile, lenár gcomhpháirtithe cláir agus lenár dtairbhíthe, agus lenár ngníomhaíochtaí rannpháirtíochta do dhaoine nua agus an obair seo ar fad a athspreagadh.

Rinneadh comhpháirtíochtaí idirnáisiúnta agus ár gcaidrimh le tairbhíthe agus le comhghleacaithe na Gníomhaireachtaí Náisiúnta agus an Choimisiúin, agus inár measc féin freisin, a athbheochan trí thaisteal agus trí chruinnithe pearsanta.



Baill den bhfoireann, den bhord agus ionadaithe na roinne ag Cruinniú Léargas

Mar thoradh ar na ndeiseanna seo a bheith ag teacht ar ais mar aon leis na spásanna seo ina bhféadfaimis teacht le chéile agus ár dtaithí agus ár smaointe a bhailiú agus a roinnt, tá beocht athnuaite tagtha inár gcuid oibre ar fad.

Bhí tionchar ag an gcogadh san Úcráin a thosaigh in earrach 2022 ar na milliúin daoine ar fud na hEorpa. Thug na daoine a bhí ag teitheadh ón gcogadh agus iad siúd a bhí ag obair chun a dturais siúd a dhéanamh sábháilte dúshlán dúinn go léir beart de réir briathair a dhéanamh i dtaobh luachanna Eorpacha agus ár ndlúthpháirtíocht a léiriú trí ghníomhartha. D'oibríomar lenár gcomhpháirtithe sna Ghníomhaireachtaí Náisiúnta agus leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach chun gníomhaíochtaí agus deiseanna a oiriúnú do scoileanna, d'institiúidí agus do phobail is tairbhí ar fud na hÉireann a bhí ag iarraidh cúram a thabhairt do dhéanaithe ón Úcráin a thosaigh ag teacht go hÉirinn, agus tacú leo.

Le linn 2022, rinne Léargas athbhreithniú ar a shocrú inmheánach struchtúrtha agus acmhainní chun tacú linn a bheith inár n-eagraíocht níos solúbtha, níos éifeachtaí atá in áit níos fearr chun ár gcuspóirí eagraíochtúla agus cláir a bhaint amach do na blianta amach romhainn agus ar feadh shaolré chláir Erasmus+ agus an Chóir Dlíthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh (ESC). Bhunaigh an struchtúr inmheánach nua seo dhá fhoireann forbartha atá dírithe ar an earnáil, de réir struchtúir na gclár ag leibhéal an AE. Feabhsaíonn siad ár gcumas díriú ar ár bhfreagraí ar riachtanais shonracha earnálacha éagsúla a dteastaíonn níos mó tacaíochta agus fócais uathu. Chuamar i mbun sraitheanna d'idirphléite maidir le hathrú bainistíochta ar fud na heagraíochta agus sheolamar ár struchtúr inmheánach nua ar an 5 Meán Fómhair mar seo a leanas:

- ▶ **Foireann Forbartha na hÓige, an Spóirt agus an Chór Dlíthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh** faoi cheannas Celine Martin [cmartin@leargas.ie](mailto:cmartin@leargas.ie) (Cláir Erasmus+ Óige, Spóirt agus Cór Dlíthpháirtíochta Eorpach mar aon le tionscnaimh amhail Eurodesk)
- ▶ **Foireann Forbartha Oideachais & Oiliúna** faoi cheannas Deirdre Finlay [dfinlay@leargas.ie](mailto:dfinlay@leargas.ie) (Erasmus+ Oideachas Scoile, Oideachas Aosach agus Gairmoideachas mar aon le tionscnaimh ar nós eTwinning, EPAL, agus CASE)
- ▶ **Foireann Rannpháirtíochta Straitéisí & Cumarsáide** faoi cheannas Emma Grainger [egrainger@leargas.ie](mailto:egrainger@leargas.ie) (Cumarsáid, lonchuimsiú agus gníomhaíochtaí eile Rannpháirtíochta Cothrománaí)



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- **Airgeadas & Seirbhísí Corparáideacha** faoi cheannas Derek Garland dgarland@leargas.ie (Cuntais, Rialuithe Airgeadais, Rialachas agus Comhlíonadh, TF, Acmhainní Daonna agus tacaíocht Áiseanna)

Tar éis a bheith ag tabhairt tacaíochta d'obair agus do chuspóirí an Lárionaid Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas (NCGE) leis na blianta fada anuas laistigh de rialachas agus struchtúr Léargas, foirceannadh gníomhaíochtaí an NCGE an 31 Lúnasa 2022. Tharla sé seo mar thoradh ar an dul chun cinn i mbeartas an rialtais agus cinntí eile ón Roinn Oideachais maidir le todhchaí na treorach ag an leibhéal náisiúnta in Éirinn. Mar thoradh ar an gcinneadh agus ar an amlíne, cuireadh deireadh le gach gné d'oibríochtaí NCGE. Ba mhaith le Léargas buíochas a ghabháil leo siúd go léir a chuidigh leis an obair sin i gcaitheamh na mblianta, go háirithe baill an Choiste Bainistíochta Treorach, agus NCGE a rinne obair luachmhar a leanfaidh de bheith ag dul i gcion ar thodhchaí na treorach in Éirinn.

D'ainmnigh Parlaimint na hEorpa agus an Chomhairle Eorpach 2022 go hoifigiúil mar Bhliain Eorpach na hÓige (EYY). Is é is aidhm di daoine óga ar fud an Aontais a cheiliúradh, tacú leo agus dul i dteagmháil leo, mar aitheantas ar an tionchar a bhí ag an bpaindéim COVID-19 ar shaol agus ar dheiseanna daoine óga.



Mar thoradh air sin, eagraíodh réimse gníomhaíochtaí agus tionscnamh EYY ar an leibhéal náisiúnta, ar an leibhéal áitiúil agus ar an leibhéal Eorpach i rith na bliana do dhaoine óga agus dóibh siúd a oibríonn chun cabhrú leo tuilleadh a fháil amach faoi na deiseanna atá ar fáil dóibh agus conas páirt a ghlacadh iontu. In Éirinn, chomhordaigh Léargas an EYY i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,

Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige (DCEDIY) le tacaíocht gan staonadh ó ghrúpa stiúrtha ilghníomhaireachta. Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige (DCEDIY) le tacaíocht gan staonadh ó ghrúpa stiúrtha ilghníomhaireachta. I measc bhaill an ghrúpa sin bhí Aonad Gnóthaí Óige DCEDIY; Aonad Rannpháirtíochta DCEDIY; Léargas; Eurodesk; Ionadaíocht an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh; Comhairle Náisiúnta Óige na hÉireann; Gníomhaireacht Faisnéise agus Comhairleoireachta na hEorpa don Óige (ERYICA); An Eoraip Chruthaitheach; Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna na hÉireann; an Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta (DFHERIS); an Roinn Oideachais (DoE); Gaisce; an tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas (HEA); Deasc na hEorpa Cruthaithí; Eurofound; Oifig Idirchaidrimh Pharlaimint na hEorpa; agus ionadaithe Iriseoirí Óga/Guthanna Óga.

Ghlac siad páirt i gceardlanna agus i ngníomhaíochtaí spráíúla chun cabhrú leo foghlaim faoina chéile, faoina gcuid difríochtaí agus cosúlachtaí. Chabhraigh na himeachtaí seo leo foghlaim faoi dheiseanna do dhaoine óga agus mheasamar gur éirigh go hiontach leo mar chonaiceamar iad ag teacht mar strainséirí ar maidin agus ag tabhairt barróga dá chéile agus ag caoineadh agus iad ag roinnt uimhreacha fóin sular fhág siad an stáisiún an tráthnóna céanna.

Chomh maith leis sin, bhí tionchar áitiúil fíor-láidir ag an EYY tríd an 106 tionscadal ar bronnadh Micri-dheontais orthu i rith na bliana. D'éirigh chomh maith sin leis an scéim seo go raibh lúcháir orainn a fheiceáil gur chuir an DCEDIY breis airgid leis an deontas tosaigh. D'fhógair an tAire Roderic O'Gorman an scéim an 22 Márta ag an imeacht 'Connect with Europe' (Ceangail leis an Eoraip).

Sampla amháin is ea an Tionscadal 'Nasc: Gníomhaíochtaí Comhtháthaithe le Daoine Óga ón Úcráin agus Daoine Óga na hÁite' de chuid Discovery Park, Chaisleán an Chomair, Cill Chainnigh. Bronnadh €4,000 ar an tionscadal i mBabhta 4.





D'fhorbair Ossory Youth agus Discovery Park Chaisleán an Chomair é, agus bhí sé ar siúl ar feadh trí seachtaine i mí na Samhna 2022.

Thug sé daoine óga ó mheánscoil Éireannach agus daoine óga ón Úcráin le chéile i Discovery Park Chaisleán an Chomair, lá amháin sa tseachtain. Dhírigh an clár ar éagsúlacht agus ar chuimsiú trí spás agus gníomhaíochtaí pobail a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga ón dá phobal chun dul i mbun cleachtaí tógála foirne, oideachas comhshaoil agus gníomhaíochtaí eachtraíochta. Gné amháin den tionscadal ba ea clár beag faisnéise a rinne ball de ghrúpa na hÚcráine agus a chuir in eagar é. Scannánóir a bhfuil taithí aige is ea é.

Dhíríomar aird ar an ngníomh DiscoverEU in 2022. Mar chuid den chlár Erasmus+, tugtar deis do dhaoine óga, atá 18 mbliana d'aois, eolas a chur ar an Eoraip trí eispéiris foghlama. Agus iad ag taisteal ar thraein den chuid is mó (tá eisceachtaí ann dóibh siúd atá ina gcónaí ar oileáin nó i gceantair iargúlta), faigheann na daoine óga seo tacaíocht chun eolas a chur ar thírdhreacha na hEorpa agus ar éagsúlacht a cuid cathracha agus bailte agus chun iad a iniúchadh.

Bhí an-áthas orainn freisin in 2022 an chéad ghlaó ar iarratais a sheachadadh faoi DiscoverEU – Inclusion, a fhéachann le heagraíochtaí a oibríonn le daoine óga a bhfuil níos lú deiseanna acu a mhealladh d'aon ghnó agus tacú leo agus iad a spreagadh chun an deis iontach seo a thapú.



Rannpháirtithe de Thionscadal Nasc agus daoine óga ón Úcráin agus de mhuintir na háite ag Discovery Park Chaisleán an Chomair

Ní hamháin go rabhamar in ann tacú le 80% d'iarratasóirí chun gur éirigh leo ach tá a fhios againn go dtacóidh na tionscadail seo le 20 duine óg a bhfuil níos lú deiseanna acu taisteal agus eolas a chur ar an Eoraip. Thug an Coimisiún Eorpach moladh dúinn as ceann de na rátaí rathúlachta is airde san Aontas a bheith againn leis an gclár DiscoverEU Inclusion.

Réimse eile ar tugadh aird ar leith air in 2022 ba ea ionchuimsiú na Luathbhlianta in Erasmus+ faoi réimse na Scoileanna. Mar thoradh ar go leor oibre trasrannach cuireadh soghluaisteacht foirne agus gníomhaíochtaí FGL (Forbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach) chun cinn don chohórt foirne seo. Óstáladh imeacht tiomnaithe um Ghníomhaíocht um Chomhar Trasnáisiúnta (TCA) do chleachtóirí Luathbhlianta i mí an Mheithimh 2022.

In 2022 thugamar faoi deara go raibh líon níos airde eagraíochtaí ag déanamh iarratais ar chreidiúnuithe ar fud na n-earnálacha go léir i gclár Erasmus+ agus ar an Lipéad Cáilíochta i gclár an Chóir Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh. Ba ionann é seo agus iarratais ar mhaoiniú do líon i bhfad níos mó rannpháirtithe Soghluaisteachta – foghlaimeoirí, scoláirí, daoine óga, baill foirne agus oibrithe deonacha.

I measc na n-éachtaí eile ar fud na gclár tá méadú ar rannpháirtíocht agus ar theagmháil. Laistigh den Ardán Leictreonach don Fhoghlaim Aosach san Eoraip (EPALE), tháinig méadú 17% ar úsáideoirí rannpháirteacha as Éirinn in 2022 i gcomparáid le 2021. Chomh maith leis sin, chuir EPALE in Éirinn tionscnamh náisiúnta nua i bhfeidhm – ‘Méadú ar an Rochtain Dhigiteach’ – inar ghnóthaigh eagraíochtaí oideachais aosach trealamh luachmhar dá gcuid seirbhísí. Mar chuid dár nGníomhaíochtaí Oiliúna agus Comhair in 2022, d’óstáileamar 39 imeacht ar líne agus ó bpearsain, rud a d’éascaigh foghlaim do níos mó ná 2,000 rannpháirtí.

I mí na Samhna chuireamar fáilte roimh ár bpobal de pháirtithe leasmhara chuig ár gcéad chruinniú pearsanta #Leargasgathering ó 2019. Bhraith an fhoireann i Léargas go raibh sé tábhachtach pointe ama fuinniúil, spráúil a chruthú chun ár nasc, ár luachanna comhroinnte, agus 35 bliain ó bunaíodh Erasmus a cheiliúradh – lá beithe an-speisialta de chlár Mhalartuithe agus Chomhoibrithe Eorpacha faoi bhratach Erasmus.



Ón iliomad snáitheanna de chláir Eorpacha éagsúla a thosaigh le Erasmus 35 bliain ó shin, chonaiceamar cláir ag teacht chun cinn ar nós Leonardo, Comenius, Seirbhísí Deonacha Eorpacha (EVS), Óige don Eoraip, agus eile. Le himeacht ama, tá siad seo athraithe ina n-aon chlár amháin ach tá siad an-éagsúil mar sin féin. I Léargas, oibrímid chun raon feidhme iomlán na gclár fíorspeisialta seo a sheachadadh ar fud phobail éagsúla foghlama agus oideachais, agus leagaimid béim go minic ar an 'MÓIDE' in Erasmus+. In 2022, tá éagsúlacht na gclár fós ag leathnú. Ceapadh sinn mar an Ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta do Spórt Erasmus+, agus ó 2023 ar aghaidh táimid ar bís pobal nua Soghluaisteachta Spóirt Erasmus+ a thabhairt isteach sa réimse deiseanna foghlama, malartaithe agus comhair a dtacaímid leo anseo i Léargas.

Ceangal atá bunaithe le fada an lá is ea an ceangal idir spórt agus príomhthosaíochtaí cosúil le cuimsiú agus éagsúlacht, rannpháirtíocht, agus sláinte agus folláine. Táim cinnte go spreagfaidh an snáithe nua Erasmus+ Sport, atá dírithe ar spórt an phobail, ar cóitseálaithe agus ar oibrithe deonacha, eispéiris agus cleachtais nua faoi luachanna agus tosaíochtaí comhroinnte Erasmus+.

Tabharfaidh sé níos mó éagsúlachta do theaghlach Erasmus+ agus cruthóidh sé níos mó deiseanna do dhaoine malartú agus nascadh, eispéiris a roinnt, agus ar deireadh thiar faighimid amach go bhfuil níos mó i gcoiteann againn ná mar a cheapaimid uaireanta.

I mí na Nollag, chuireamar fáilte roimh na céadta daoine óga agus oibrithe óige chuig ár n-imeacht #YouthFmst san Ionad Comhdhála Náisiúnta. Tháinig daoine óga, oibrithe deonacha, oibrithe óige, agus go leor grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh linn ar phobal óige na hEorpa agus chun aitheantas a thabhairt agus ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar rannpháirtíocht daoine óga i dtionscadail i gcláir Erasmus+ don Óige agus don Chór Dlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach.

Deis a bhí ann ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an méid a chuireann daoine óga a ghlacann páirt ghníomhach i gcláir Mhalartaithe na hEorpa lena bpobail agus na buntáistí a bhaineann le malartú a roinnt chun cabhrú le daoine óga na croíscileanna agus inniúlachtaí atá i gcroílár na n-eispéireas sin a fhorbairt agus léirthuisctint a fháil orthu.





Le linn 2022, rinneamar iarracht le spásanna a chruthú do nasc agus áthnasc. I Léargas, feicimid imeachtaí – cosúil le ‘The Gathering’ agus ‘YouthFest’, ár gceardlanna, agus ár seimineáir idirnáisiúnta – mar dheiseanna chun ár rath comhroinnte a thaispeáint agus a cheiliúradh. Cuireann siad ar ár gcumas aitheantas a thabhairt don obair agus don iarracht a dhéantar chun deiseanna Eorpacha a chruthú agus ar chumas eagraíochtaí eolas a chur ar an bhfoghlaim bhunathraitheach a tharlaíonn agus labhairt fúithi.

Tá an t-ádh linn i Léargas do scéalta go léir a chloisteáil agus eolas a chur ar na dúshláin ar fad atá romhat. Tacaíonn an spás a cruthaíodh in 2022 lenár dtairbhíthe iad a roinnt níos mó fós trí ghníomhaíochtaí spreagúla, spraíúla, tarraingteacha agus trí cheardlanna faisnéise a chuirtear ar siúl le linn na bliana. Is uirlisí luachmhara iad seo chun daoine éagsúla a thabhairt le chéile faoi aon bhratach amháin. Ba mhaith linn aitheantas a thabhairt don ról atá ag ár dtionscadail, ár rannpháirtithe agus ár dtairbhíthe maidir le beocht a chur sna cláir seo a dhéanann athrú ón mbonn – a gcuid luachanna, deiseanna agus tosaíochtaí – trína gcuid oibre ó lá go lá.

Ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thapú chun aitheantas a thabhairt do thiomantas agus tacaíocht ár mBoird, atá tiomanta do na caighdeáin is airde dea-rialachais agus trédhearcachta a bhaint amach, mar is léir ó na míreanna faoi Rialachas agus Airgeadas sa Tuarascáil seo.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil lenár mball boird atá ag dul as oifig, an tUasal Hugh MacConville, a chríochnaigh téarma seirbhíse breisithe don Bhord i mí Aibreáin 2022.



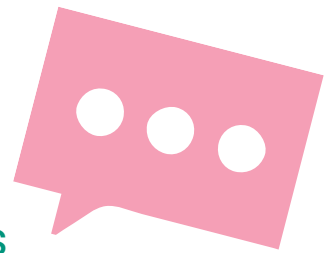
Zainab Boladale, Igor Khmil agus Lorraine Gilligan ag Cruinniú Léargas

Chríochnaigh sé a sheirbhís agus thug sé freagracht Chathaoirleach Gníomhach an Bhoird don Uasal Frank Crummey, a leanann ar aghaidh ag cinntiú go gcomhlíonann Léargas a chuid gealltanais agus a chuspóirí straitéiseacha.

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt freisin don tacaíocht agus don rannpháirtíocht leanúnach ónár gcomhghleacaithe sa Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta, sa Roinn Leanaí, Combionannais, Michumais, Lámphairtíochta agus Oige agus sa Roinn Oideachais.

Ní fhéadfaí aon cheann de na héachtaí seo a cheiliúradh gan aitheantas a thabhairt do shaineolas ár bhfoirne, a leanann ag fás i gcúrsaí ceannaireachta agus oibre i gcomhar chun ár bhfís chomhroinnte a bhaint amach maidir le:

“Éire uilechuimsitheach inar féidir linn go léir páirt a ghlacadh agus leas a bhaint as luach claochlaitheach a ghabhann le heispéiris foghlama ar feadh an tsaoil náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta agus tacaíocht a fháil chun barr a gcumais a bhaint amach.”



Roinneann ár bhfoireann an fhreagracht as ár gcláir a sheachadadh agus an réimse gníomhaíochtaí a chur in iúl, agus tá a fhios againn go bhfuil tionchar mór ag a gcuid oibre ar dhaoine aonair, ar eagraíochtaí agus ar phobail ar fud na hÉireann agus na hEorpa.

Lorraine Gilligan

Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin



# Erasmus+ Adult Education 2022 KA1 & KA2

***Erasmus+ Adult Education Mobility (Key Action 1) supports staff and learners to travel to another country to train, job shadow, or learn. Adult Education organisations can collaborate with other relevant organisations to achieve a shared goal or share good practices through Partnerships for Cooperation (Key Action 2). Teachers, trainers, and others involved in Adult Education can take part in short training courses called Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCAs), both in Ireland and in other countries***

2022 was a year of outreach and growth in Adult Education. A new opportunity for adult learners to take part in international learning experiences through Key Action 1 Mobility projects had been launched in 2021. Our team worked hard to spread the word about this and other opportunities throughout the year.

From a Virtual Breakfast with Léargas to Webinar Wednesdays and all kinds of information sessions and workshops, we were very busy in the online world. We also hit the road, speaking in Limerick about the impact of European programmes on lifelong learning, joining the Adult Education Officers' Association (AEOA) for their conference in Athlone, and taking part in The Wheel's Access Europe Showcase in Croke Park.

We were delighted to support seven new Key Action 1 projects that support Adult Education staff and learners to participate in international experiences to enhance their learning and teaching practices. We also welcomed nine new Key Action 2 projects. These are partnership projects where Irish organisations partner with other organisations from around Europe and work on joint projects.



Perhaps most exciting was the six new organisations to achieve Accreditation under Erasmus+ Adult Education in 2022. This brings the total number of Accredited organisations in Adult Education to eleven. These organisations are now guaranteed funding every year until 2027, which will enable them to develop their learning and teaching in a strategic, long-term way.

Many of our continuing projects are tackling the important issues facing communities today. [The Climate Champions project](#) led by Roscommon Leader Partnership empowers adults to become champions of sustainable development in their community and has developed a compendium of best practice examples of communities taking action.

Meanwhile in Co. Cavan, The Rural Hub are leading the [Family Footprints project](#) which will support families through the dual transition of digital transformation and sustainability. They've already developed some incredible comic strips and audio books and are working on even more resources.

## Adult Education Highlights

- ▶ The number of KA1 projects awarded funding in 2022 **jumped from 1 in 2021 to 7 2022.**
- ▶ The number of KA2 projects awarded funding in 2022 **jumped from 6 in 2021 to 9 2022.**



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# Erasmus+ School Education 2022 KA1 & KA2

***Erasmus+ School Education Mobility supports teachers, learners and School Education staff to travel to another country to train, job-shadow or learn. School Education organisations can collaborate with other relevant organisations to achieve a shared goal or share good practices through Cooperation Partnerships. Teachers, trainers and others involved in School Education can take part in short Training courses and Cooperation Activities, both in Ireland and in other countries.***

A mobility project (Key Action 1) is where Teachers, learners and School Education Staff can travel to another country to train, job-shadow or learn. School Education organisations can collaborate with other relevant organisations to achieve a shared goal or share good practices which are Cooperation Partnership projects (Key Action 2).

2022 demonstrated continued increase in the number of applications received for Mobility Opportunities in Key Action 1 which supports organisations in delivering professional and personal development opportunities for learners, teachers, trainers and other education staff. An additional thirty-two new accreditations were awarded. Accreditation allows organisations/schools simplified access to funding to undertake mobility opportunities.

The number of successful Short-Term Mobility applicants was strong with an increase of approximately 28% as compared to 2021. Again, from the successful applications 59% were newcomers. Recurring themes addressed were Wellbeing, Outdoor Education, Language Learning, Inclusion, Climate Change, and ICT/Digital.





A key priority for 2022 was to address the eligibility and development of Ireland's Early Learning and Care Settings sector under the Erasmus+ Programme (Key Action 1). To kick-start its development, Léargas, in collaboration with Early Childhood Ireland, hosted an international event titled 'Early Childhood Education and Care Exchange'.

The event brought together over 45 Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) professionals and peers to identify and share positive examples from countries participating in an Erasmus+ ECEC sector, as well as to exchange ideas, potential barriers, and key actions for Ireland to consider in its establishment. Following the event, Léargas engaged in several consultations with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to successfully achieve this priority.

For the second year, two schools were awarded the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA) established by the European Commission to showcase outstanding teaching practices implemented in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme and recognise the work of teachers and their schools who make an exceptional contribution to the profession.

### **The Impact of Mobility Projects on the Professional Development of Staff**

report was completed. This report explores the rich and diverse experiences of organisations within the field of School Education. It examines how Erasmus+ School Education mobility projects are used by schools and education organisations for the professional development of staff; identifies advice and guidance in the design, delivery, and implementation of mobility projects for staff professional development; considers how Erasmus+ mobility has supported the implementation of key school education policies, at national and European level.



Pupils from St Christopher's Primary School at the Launch of the Report on the Impact of Mobility Projects on the Professional Development of Staff

In June 2022, The Minister for Education, Norma Foley officially launched the Learning, Training and Teaching Programme for the Education Centre Tralee's KA2 Strategic Partnership Project titled 'International Teacher Artist Partnership - Professional Development'. The project focuses on enabling teachers and artists to jointly develop their understanding, expertise, and creativity in 'arts in education' work with children and young people in education, community and arts settings.



Helen O'Donoghue (IMMA), Minister for Education, Norma Foley, Mary Apied (IMMA Board Member), Katie Sweeney (representing the Education Centre Tralee), Deirdre O'Brien (Léargas) and Noel Keenan (Member of the Board of Management, the Education Centre Tralee).

## School Education Highlights

- ▶ **Increase of approximately 28%**, as compared to 2021, in successful Short-Term Mobility applicants.
- ▶ **59%** of Short-Term Mobility applications were **newcomers**.
- ▶ For the second year, **two schools were awarded** the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA)



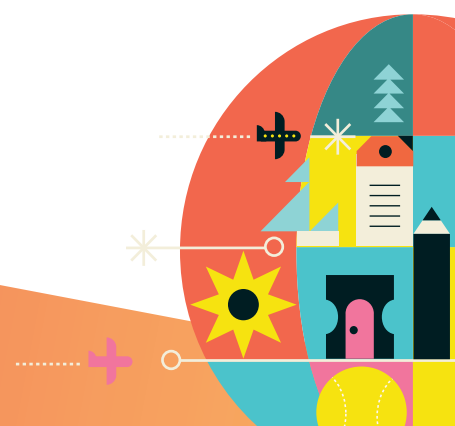
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# Erasmus+ Youth 2022 KA1 & KA2

***Erasmus+ Youth offers opportunities to youth workers and young people, who can travel to another country for training or exchange in Mobility projects. Youth organisations can collaborate with other relevant organisations to achieve a shared goal or share good practices through Cooperation Partnerships. Youth workers, youth managers and others involved in youth work can take part in short Training courses and Cooperation Activities, both in Ireland and in other countries.***

In 2022, we saw the introduction of a new action type under Key Action 1, 'DiscoverEU Inclusion' had its first funding deadline in October 2022. Successfully, we saw 4 projects awarded funding to carry out projects with young people. This was one of the highest uptakes of the new action across Europe. DiscoverEU Inclusion offers young people who are 18 years old a chance to have a short-term individual or group experience travelling across Europe by rail for a period of one month.

We continued to cultivate and grow relationships within the Youth sector. Several strategic relationships continued to prosper including our relationship with Youth Work Ireland to support the development of high-quality youth work services for young people, by encouraging engagement in European programmes such as Erasmus+.

The partnership works together to make the process by which to engage in these programmes as streamlined and accessible as possible for Youth Work Ireland Member Youth Services. In 2022 we saw 11 Youth Work Ireland organisations participate in Erasmus+, which was an increase from 5 the previous year.



Further collaborative approaches included working with NUI Maynooth and the Youth Work Education Forum in supporting the education and training of youth workers, Education Training Boards (ETB) in supporting youth organisations access Erasmus+, and other stakeholders such as National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and the Wheel in programme promotion. One such event is the European Youth Opportunities Breakfast Briefing with the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETb) and the City of Dublin Youth Services Board (CDYDB) to explore European funding opportunities for young people and youth organisations.

Outreach and engagement were an important priority in 2022. Targeted workshops took place across Ireland to promote opportunities in the field of youth, as well as supporting existing beneficiaries with their projects. Tailored workshops targeted organisations such as Clare Youth Service, Cork Local Creative Arts Partnership, and St. Andrews Resource Centre to name a few. One event to mention is European Youth Fest held in December in the Convention Centre Dublin. The overall aim of the European Youth Fest was to celebrate and recognise the learning of young people who took part in European Programme-funded activities in 2022. This event was a huge success, we had over 185 young people and youth workers attending.



MC Megan Atkinson at European Youthfest

In terms of memorable projects or participant stories, we have developed a [video to illustrate the impact of Erasmus+ on young people and youth workers.](#)

## Youth Mobility & Partnerships for Cooperation Highlights

- ▶ In 2022, we saw **11 Youth Work Ireland organisations** participate in Erasmus+, which was an increase from 5 the previous year.
- ▶ **23 organisations** attended the European Youth Opportunities Breakfast Briefing with CDET/CDYDB Services to explore European funding opportunities for young people and youth organisations.
- ▶ Under Key Action 1, we had a total of **44 applications**, which was an increase of 13% from the previous year.
- ▶ 9 organisations applied for a grant of nearly **€1 million** to carry out youth exchanges and youth worker Mobilities with their staff and young people. This is in comparison with 2 the previous year.
- ▶ In Key Action 2, 4 successful projects were funded under small-scale partnerships and **7 awarded funding** under Cooperation Partnership.



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# Erasmus+ VET 2022 MOBILITY KA1

***Erasmus+ VET Mobility supports teachers, trainers and VET staff to travel to other countries for job shadowing, teaching or training, or to undertake courses. VET learners and apprentices can travel for work placements and take part in skills competitions.***

KA1 VET mobility projects focus on the mobility of VET learners and VET staff. While virtual mobilities are possible, most projects focus on physical mobilities so that participants can experience in situ skills development, and “the whole package” of cultural immersion and understanding. While the impact and ramifications of COVID-19 proved challenging, the majority of projects were very successful in implementing projects. Léargas facilitated a number of extensions to projects who were unable to carry out physical mobilities or wished to change host partners during 2022.

Providing support to both new and experienced applicants continued to be a key focus in 2022. There were a number of peer-to-peer focused events such as information and application workshops, as well as Project Management Days. A round table session on “Impact - putting methods in place to see and share impact easily” was held for accredited organisations. We also teamed up with colleagues in Partnership for Cooperation projects (KA2) and in Adult Education to create a space for ETB FET staff to come together and have a peer-to-peer exchange of experiences in the context of European projects.



There was a substantial increase in the number of applications when compared with 2021, especially for short-term Mobility projects (KA122), which saw an increase from 12 to 32 applications, and accredited Mobility projects (KA121), which increased from 6 to 14 applications. For applicants in 2022, there was a positive success rate of 69% with continued high scoring. 2022 was also the fourth year in a row with a full geographic spread of applicants.

Applications reflected all potential activities, with good emphasis on longer term mobilities (ErasmusPro) and embraced the new activities such as skills competitions as well as international activities for learners. Learner mobilities focus on ensuring learner work experiences are tailored to personal needs and course of study. Staff mobilities focused on exchange of expertise and best practice on key areas.

It was very positive to see an increase in organisations applying for an accreditation, particularly from ETBs, showing a strong strategic approach to enhancing VET provision at local, regional, and national level. An accreditation facilitates longer-term strategic development of organisations through simplified applications for funding for the duration of the Erasmus+ programme. There are now 30 accredited VET organisations who have long-term plans to improve the VET provision within their organisation.



Teachers Lara Norris and Chloe Nagle (Cork Education and Training Board) in Music Performance and Management at Noorderpoort, Netherlands.



An example of a positive completed project is that of Cork Education and Training Board (CETB), project reference 2019-1-IE01-KA102-051294. This staff Mobility project involved 33 staff from a range of areas across the CETB, including VET teaching staff and senior management staff. Participants included the Director of FET, Training Centre Managers, Principals, and FET Support Service and teaching staff. Participants undertook an exchange of expertise and best practice with a college in the Netherlands. The project's starting point was with senior VET staff to understand the organisational structure within the partner organisation along with curricular content, quality control, and delivery methodologies. The senior management flow helped inform decisions related to the CETB Strategic Statement 2022–2026 and in particular aspects related to the creation of the 'FET College of the Future'.

## VET Mobility KA1 Highlights

- ▶ **Increase in the number of applications** when compared with 2021, especially for KA122 short-term projects (32 compared to 12) and KA121 accredited projects (14 compared with 6).
- ▶ For applicants in 2022, there was a positive success rates of **69% with continued high scoring**.
- ▶ 2022 was also the fourth year in a row with a **full geographic spread** of applicants.
- ▶ There are now **30 accredited VET organisations** who have long-term plans to improve the VET provision within their organisation.



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# Erasmus+ VET 2022 Cooperation Partnerships KA2

*VET organisations can collaborate with other relevant organisations to achieve a shared goal or share good practices through Cooperation Partnerships. These projects are wide-ranging, from initial vocational training to upskilling of those already in the workplace.*

KA2 Partnerships for Cooperation allow VET organisations to collaborate with other relevant organisations to achieve a shared goal or exchange good practices. Organisations can participate in Small-Scale Partnerships or Cooperation Partnerships depending on the aims and scope of their project. Vocational Training under Key Action 2 involves a wide range of organisations involved in initial vocational training or work-based training.

2022 was a busy year for applications under KA2 VET, with a total of 58 applications received across two deadlines and a total requested funding of just over €12 million. 2022 saw a move to lump-sum funding for all types of Partnerships for Cooperation projects, with the aim to provide increased flexibility to projects in terms of the types of activities they can include as well as in managing and reporting on their funding. We hosted additional workshops to help support applicants with this change.



2022 saw a return to in-person meetings and training activities for current projects with some even trying out a hybrid approach. Many projects were successfully completed and covered a range of sectors and topics, including coaching skills for managers, intergenerational training for the retail sector, and inclusive social farming. All projects worked to achieve their original objectives and produced a range of results, including digital learning platforms, training videos, and online toolkits. Projects also succeeded in contributing to a range of European priorities, including social inclusion, innovative digital practices, and promotion of work-based learning.

To support projects with their implementation, we hosted an event in November for all current KA2 projects, allowing them to network and exchange ideas and good practice. Over 40 projects attended the day-long event and discussed topics such as the project life cycle, communication with partners, and reporting.

An example of a successful project was [CRAFT 4.0](#) led by Technological University of Dublin which created training tools for craftspeople in the areas of digital modelling and digital manufacturing. In doing so, it provided possibilities for craftspeople to cultivate product design and development skills. The project developed extensive content in the form of video tutorials and presentations, with the aim of supporting individuals to develop new craft businesses or improve their current ones.

## VET KA2 Highlights

- A total of **15 VET KA2 projects** were awarded funding in 2022
- Total requested funding of just over **€12 million** for 2022



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# Erasmus+ Transnational Cooperation (TCA) & Networking Activities (NET)

*Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCA) and Networking Activities (NET) are events arranged by National Agencies to encourage collaboration and sharing of best practice within Erasmus+. They can be training and support events aimed at National Agency staff and project coordinators; contact seminars to find project partners; or thematic seminars addressing specific topics in education, training and youth work.*

In 2022, Léargas supported the implementation of 22 transnational and 17 national activities within the field of Education and Training, Youth, and European Solidarity Corps. These activities included online seminars, face-to-face training activities, contact-making seminars, research activities, and conferences, with over 2,000 participants. Our Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCAs) for youth focussed on a number of different priorities such as inclusion, sustainability, youth participation, rural youth work, and the formal education of youth work. These activities achieved several objectives, including engaging newcomers to the programme; enhancing the quality of project design and implementation; supporting organisations engaged in Erasmus+ programmes; and enhancing strategic cooperation with a number of youth organisations as well as supporting trainers' competences.

TCA Queerasmus+ was our first transnational face-to-face activity after two years. Twenty-seven participants attended this contact-making seminar, where we invited representatives from queer youth groups and LGBTQ+ friendly organisations to learn from and inspire each other. The seminar served as a place to find new reliable partners working with queer young people and to build a safe and solid foundation for future cooperation within the Erasmus+ programme.





Under the Strategic National Agencies Cooperation (SNAC) on Education and Training (EaT) of Youth Workers, we have carried out the national activity called 'National University of Ireland Certificate in European Youth Mobility Projects Management'. This saw 15 participants taking part in a 16-week course on European Youth Mobility Project Management. Under SNAC Digital Youth Work, together with the National Council of Youth, we have run series of events for young people in digitalisation and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) that focussed on digital poverty among young people.

Overall, the programme covered a wide geographical spread within the Republic of Ireland and involved 123 young people. [MOOC on the European Solidarity Corps](#) saw 533 participants taking part in series of webinars, workshops, and interactive sessions. This project led by Léargas was implemented in two phases over 12 months.



As the appetite for international travel returned, It was decided to host a face-to-face event. Key stakeholders from across Europe were invited to identify and share successful examples of Early Childhood (EC) managers and staff participating in professional development and peer exchange activities supported by Erasmus+ Schools field. There were 62 participants representing policy and practice across 14 EU countries in attendance at the seminar.

## Transnational Cooperation (TCA) & Networking Activities (NET) Highlights

- ▶ In 2022, Léargas supported the implementation of **22 transnational and 17 national activities** within the field of Education and Training, Youth and European Solidarity Corps.
- ▶ **15 students** graduated from 'National University of Ireland Certificate in European Youth Mobility Projects Management'.
- ▶ [MOOC \(Massive Open Online Course\)](#) on the European Solidarity Corps saw 533 participants taking part in series of webinars, workshops and interactive sessions



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# Erasmus+ Sport 2022

Léargas was appointed as the agency with responsibility for Erasmus+ Sport in 2022. The launch took place during 'The Gathering' event in Croke Park. Erasmus+ Mobility of staff in the field of sport will be a novelty of the Erasmus+ programme from 2023. For the first time ever, the programme will support Mobility opportunities for individual sport staff members. The general objective of this action is to allow staff of sport organisations, primarily in grassroots sports, to improve their competences and qualifications and to acquire new skills through learning Mobility, by spending a period abroad, thus contributing to the capacity-building and development of sport organisations.

This action supports the professional development of coaches and other staff (both paid staff and volunteers) in grassroots sport. Learning Mobility opportunities for staff in non-grassroots sport may also be supported where the participation of such staff can benefit grassroots sport. The geographical scope of participants covers the EU Member States and third countries associated with the programme.

We recruited two Support and Development Officers who started in November and December 2022. For the month of December, the focus was on engagement and reaching out to the sport sector to raise awareness of this new opportunity for coaches and staff.



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# European Solidarity Corps 2022

***The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) helps young people to help others. It funds and supports young people aged between 18 and 30 from EU Member States to volunteer or self-organise projects that benefit communities. Young people can volunteer at home or abroad through the Volunteering Projects and Solidarity Projects strands.***

The European Solidarity Corps provides volunteering opportunities for young people. The opportunities are within organisations working towards a safer, greener, and more inclusive and digitally aware society. The variety of opportunities opens the programme to a diverse range of organisations. In Ireland, this includes youth services, homeless services, organisations supporting families, sustainability projects, and social justice organisations.

The ESC programme continued to embed in the sectors in 2022. The number of organisations awarded a Quality Label (accreditation to participate in the programme) continued to increase and exceeded our projected targets. These new organisations represent community initiatives and larger national organisations. The geographical spread of the programme covers 88% of the country.

In 2022, organisations hosted over 100 volunteers in Ireland and sent over 50 young people across Europe. There is a strong inclusion focus on the delivery of the projects. We are excited to see the return of many of our youth services to the programme. These youth services have exploited the different actions to support young people to participate, including in-country volunteering, short-term volunteering, and Teams volunteering.



Young people in Ireland have also been busy volunteering in their own communities, addressing their concerns about their area. Solidarity projects give young people the opportunity to apply directly to the National Agency for a project that they would like to carry out. These projects focus on local need and are managed completely by the young people. Many of these projects were designed to create bridges to people in direct provision centres, members the Travelling community, and prisons. The young people used film, art, and music to reach into the communities and build connections, solidarity, and integration.



**Open Jam**  
Over 18s, All levels welcome.

A group was inspired to carry out a Solidarity Project following their experience of a youth exchange. The 'Anyone Can Make Choonz' project sought to open music and creativity to everyone to support positive mental health and wellbeing. The project was very successful, with lots of people benefitting from the Rhythm and Signs approach. One young person delivering the project has now become the Artist in Residence in Cork prison.



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## European Solidarity Corps Highlights

- ▶ The geographical spread of the programme covers **88% of the country**.
- ▶ In 2022 organisations hosted over **100 volunteers** in Ireland and sent over **50 young people** across Europe.

## DiscoverEU and DiscoverEU Inclusion 2022

*DiscoverEU, part of the Youth chapter of Erasmus+, provides young people a chance to explore Europe through learning experiences. Travelling primarily by rail, young people get the chance to explore Europe's diversity by making friends, developing life skills, and growing in confidence. The European Commission is directly responsible for this action and young people apply via the European Youth Portal independently. DiscoverEU Inclusion is a separate action aimed at organisations working with young people who have fewer opportunities. It is administered by National Agencies and organisations can apply for funding to send groups of up to five young people to engage in a mobility abroad and learn more*

2022 saw the first year of DiscoverEU being coordinated in Ireland, and it grew in popularity with the European Year of Youth (EYY). The programme was shared at five Eurodesk Ireland network events and at various other Youth Team information sessions. Three specific information sessions were organised to share information about DiscoverEU and DiscoverEU Inclusion. These sessions were held online and saw 37 people attending.

There were 12 pre-departure meetings carried out online across the summer months by 3 trainers. On 26 April 2022, a special information workshop was held with Belvedere Youth Service to promote DiscoverEU Inclusion and share opportunities available in the Erasmus+ programme. An event entitled 'Europe Connect' was organised as a round table to promote and discuss DiscoverEU with young people and youth workers.





One meetup was organized with Bradóg Youth Service and was labelled as best practice by the European Commission for the cultural heritage element of the event. Participants engaged and interacted with the local community, went on a treasure hunt around Dublin landmarks, participated in a BBQ, and paid a visit to the National Leprechaun Museum. This allowed young Irish people to develop a sense of community, enhance their teamwork and organisation skills, and learn more about the capital city.

2022 saw an increase in levels of participation with the programme. This is partly due to two successful 'All Aboard' events run over the summer with the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) in partnership with the EYY. Over 400 young people boarded a train sponsored by Irish Rail and participated in a wide variety of activities focussed on youth participation. We had nearly 1,800 applications for the October 2022 round, with 516 young people being successfully awarded a travel pass. Five organisations applied for DiscoverEU Inclusion projects, one of the largest numbers in Europe, with four organisations being accepted in total. It is hoped that these numbers will increase in 2023.

## DiscoverEU 2022 Highlights

- In the October 2022 Round, **1,475** Irish people applied, and **516 travel passes** were awarded to Irish young people.
- There is usually a quota of **396 passes** for Ireland.
- **12 pre-departure meetings** were held.
- **2 information sessions** were carried out.



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# European Year of Youth 2022

***The decision by the European Parliament and Council to officially designate 2022 as the European Year of Youth (EYY) was intended to strengthen efforts to celebrate, support, and engage with young people across the EU, in recognition of the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on young people's opportunities.***

In Ireland, the EYY was coordinated by Léargas in partnership with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). Léargas organised multiple initiatives in line with the EYY objectives and with a focus on fostering and celebrating young people's learning experiences, as well as highlighting the ongoing work of youth organisations across the country.

Some of those initiatives included:

- ▶ Convening a steering group made up of relevant organisations and representatives of key government departments to inform, guide, and support the actions of the National Coordinator throughout the year.
- ▶ Organising regional and national events promoting the priorities of the year and opportunities for young people at national and EU level. Hosting specific and targeted European Year of Youth events across Ireland to attract young people and those working with them to find out more about how they can participate and discover new opportunities for young people.



- Distribution of Microgrants scheme, with specific emphasis on grassroots and locally organised groups of young people.
- Promoting EYY and the Microgrants through a variety of sources, including through its steering committee' networks, other relevant networks, newsletters, and a targeted social media campaign.

The national events have been a key aspect of the EYY in Ireland. To ensure all different regions were effectively targeted, Léargas coordinated 6 regional information sessions and 4 collaborative events (with external youth organisations and bodies), as well as multiple online sessions. Léargas also organised 6 large scale national EYY events, which engaged approximately 850 attendees.

All those events not only promoted EYY and the EYY priorities but had a focus on raising awareness of the wider EU opportunities available, nationally, and internationally, for young people and those working with youths. Another key element of the year was the EYY Microgrant Scheme. This initiative offered grants worth up to €5,000, which (with respect to proportionality and as a gateway to begin accessing European funding) placed reduced administrative requirements on potential beneficiaries in comparison with larger funds. The scheme had an overwhelmingly positive response, with 263 applications. €296,629.00 was awarded to a staggering 106 high-quality projects across Ireland, through six application rounds.



Students of st. Mogues college, Bawnboy, Cavan. The school has been awarded through the Microgrants scheme to organise two inclusion and integration activities.

A wide geographical spread was noted, with beneficiaries in every county. Additionally, a good sectoral spread achieved, with funded projects from schools, third level institutions, youth clubs, youth's sports groups, and many other types of groups working with young people. The Microgrants Scheme proved very successful in attracting new organisations, with 81% of Microgrant beneficiary organisations not having taken part in Erasmus+ and ESC.

Alongside the Irish initiatives, Léargas promoted the wider, European-level EYY initiatives led by EACEA. This included encouraging and facilitating Irish participants to engage with the [EYY map](#) and [Voice Your Vision platforms](#).

## European Year of Youth 2022 Highlights

- ▶ Léargas organised **6 large-scale, national EYY events**, with approximately **850 attendees**.
- ▶ **EYY Microgrant Scheme** received **263** applications and awarded **106** projects over 6 rounds, from April to October.
- ▶ EYY Microgrants Scheme committed **€296,629** to projects across Ireland.
- ▶ **81%** of Microgrant-funded projects were newcomers to Erasmus+ and ESC.
- ▶ **52** Youth organisations, **29** Community sector organisations, **9** primary schools, **4** post-primary schools, **9** Higher Education/Further Education/VET organisations and **4** organisations from other specific interest clubs received funding and organised activities under the EYY priorities.
- ▶ **300+** young people learned about European opportunities during the 2 'All Aboard' train events between Dublin to Cork (May), and Dublin to Ballinasloe (September).
- ▶ **152** Irish activities were uploaded on the [EYY map](#) through the European Youth Portal.



## EPALE 2022

*EPALE stands for the 'Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe'. It is a multilingual, open membership community and a hub for news, reports, events, and discussion on Adult Learning Education across Europe. EPALE is free to join and is funded by the European Union through Erasmus+. It is operated by the European Commission and supported by the governments of Member States. Léargas is the National Agency and National Support Service for EPALE in Ireland.*

The successes of EPALE Ireland lie in its community-based membership. Testimonials from members show that EPALE Ireland is connecting the dots between an online platform and the community education that supports the Adult Learning Education sector. EPALE Ireland also utilised its Ambassador network in 2022 to achieve overarching goals. The EPALE Ireland Ambassadors' network involves colleagues from across Ireland in different fields within the Adult Education sector. They used 2022 to solidify their working relationship and contribute to the ethos of EPALE.

EPALE Ireland ran all events in 2022 online and did not see a drop in participants despite the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and despite other sectoral events transitioning back to in-person events. The EPALE Ireland National Day, 'Lighting Fires: The Role of Adult Learning Education in Creating a Better Ireland', sparked vibrant discussion under each of the EPALE 2022 thematic focuses. There were three workshops that covered at least one focus: **Young Adults, Reativity and Culture for Social Cohesion, Learning Communities, Innovative Approaches to Skills Revolution.**





The National Day did an impressive job of summing up the 2022 year for EPALE Ireland, demonstrating how EPALE fosters connection, collaboration, and innovation.



## EPALÉ 2022 Highlights

- EPALÉ Ireland **reached 2,027 members** by the end of 2022.
- EPALÉ Ireland is 22 out of 37** for population size of all countries involved, and is ranked 26 out of 37 for member engagement and top 10 for EPALE Ireland staff engagement; relative to population size, the figures are positive.
- EPALÉ Ireland ran **9 national events in 2022, with 316 participants** joining in online.



## eTwinning 2022

*eTwinning is a free online platform connecting more than a million 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).*

*eTwinning is funded by the European Union and administered in participating countries by a National Support Organisation, or NSO. Léargas is the NSO for eTwinning in Ireland.*

This was an exciting year that has seen a huge transformation of the eTwinning platform. In 2022, the European School Education Platform was launched. This new site brings under the same roof the services and content from eTwinning and School Education Gateway platforms.

The eTwinning annual theme of the year was 'Imagining education in the future: beautiful, sustainable, together'. In March, the NSO in Ireland held a national conference on this theme. Participants were encouraged to rethink the way teachers and students teach and learn together at school, through a selection of keynotes and workshops.

In July, we delivered a DoE-approved blended summer course. This training aimed to help teachers in using the eTwinning platform and to create and manage their projects. The course consisted of two in-person days, moderated by Ambassador Gráinne Nugent, and three days of online content, moderated by fellow Ambassador Brenda Walsh. The course was accessible to both primary and post-primary educators. The feedback from the summer course was very positive overall. One participant commented: 'Absolutely fantastic course. It was a nice pace, and the tutors were the nicest I've come across.'



- ▶ **Ambassadors:** Two new Ambassadors joined the eTwinning programme in 2022. The NSO hosted three meetings and organised the participation of ambassadors in international online and on-site professional development conferences.
- ▶ **eTwinning in Context:** In August, we launched the 'eTwinning in Context' video series. These videos demonstrate how eTwinning works in practice, and the effect it has on students' enjoyment of learning and development of communication skills, language skills, confidence, and creativity.
- ▶ **National Quality Label:** The Gathering – Celebrating the winning projects of National Quality Label Winner. There were 13 winners of the National Quality Label Award in 2022 and 7 winners of the European Quality Label Award.
- ▶ **TCA event on Digital Classrooms** This event gave participants the opportunity to learn about how they can integrate digital tools like eTwinning into their classrooms.
- ▶ **Thematic Prize:** In 2022, eTwinning collaborated with Léargas Languages programme to organise a competition based around two themes. Teachers selected between the themes of 'Together for climate action' and 'Languages for diversity and inclusion' to complete language-related projects. Four winning schools received three Chromebooks each.

### eTwinning 2022 Highlights

- ▶ **13 winners** of the National Quality Label Award in 2022
- ▶ **7 winners** of the European Quality Label Award in 2022

## Languages 2022

*Through the Languages programme we promote plurilingualism and support organisations to raise awareness about the diversity of languages spoken in our homes, classrooms, and communities. We work with colleagues across all sectors on organising events that promote language awareness and language learning. We also promote involvement in initiatives that we manage on behalf of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, including the European Language Label, European Centre for Modern Languages, and affiliated events such as the European Day of Languages.*

To encourage the use and knowledge of Irish as a community language, in 2022 we have included a national thematic priority for **European Language Label (ELL)** applications: supporting the teaching and learning of Irish. Seven organisations were awarded the ELL in 2022. Winning projects and the people behind them were acknowledged and celebrated during 'The Gathering', a cross-sectoral event that took place in Croke Park on 10 November. The **ELL-winning projects in 2022** were:

- ▶ 'ABAIR – An Scéalaí' (Trinity College Dublin)
- ▶ 'Ag Treabhadh an Ghoirt ar son na Gaeilge (Milford GAA)
- ▶ 'Ár dTuras Inbhunaithe' and 'Eágóir Shóisialta ar Fud an Domhain' (Meánscoil San Nioclás)
- ▶ 'Gaeilge Bheo' (Professional Development Service for Teachers)
- ▶ 'Languages Pathways' (Technological University Dublin)
- ▶ 'Let's Reflect and C' (Junior Cycle for Teachers)
- ▶ 'Scoil Scairte' (The Trailblazery).



Throughout the year, we supported the involvement of Irish-based participants in the activities of the **European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)**, including the Think Tank “Transversal competences in foreign languages education”, the ECML Summer Academy and the workshop “CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) in languages other than English”.

In 2022 we launched a new initiative, the European Day of Languages Challenge. More than 100 school teams signed up to participate in the Challenge and 10 of the most enthusiastic and creative teams received special prizes. Registered teams had 50 hours to complete 50 challenges in three or more languages.

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES CHALLENGE

Sign up by  
**22 Sept**

Challenges  
start on  
**26 Sept**



Why 50 challenges in three or more languages? The 50 challenges raised awareness of 50 years of Ireland’s Membership of the European Union. The three languages were in response to the vision for the European Education Area where all young people acquire by the end of compulsory education two other languages in addition to their language of schooling.



One of our flagship collaborative events is the annual **European Day of Languages Competition** that we're organising in conjunction with eTwinning Ireland. This Competition rewards schools that organise virtual language exchanges and use digital tools, including eTwinning, on their language learning journey. The Competition's winning projects in 2022 were:

- 'Germany and Ireland Connect!' (Malahide Community School)
- 'Our Sustainability Journey'/'Ár dturás Inbhunaithe' (Meánscoil San Nioclás)
- 'Go Europe! Allez l'Europe!' (St Macartan's College)
- 'Raumschiff Europa 21' (The King's Hospital School).

The year saw a return to in-person Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCAs), and from 16 to 18 November we hosted the TCA 'Supporting home languages and the languages of schooling with Erasmus+' in Dublin. This TCA was tailored to the needs of both primary and post-primary teachers, and we were delighted to welcome 41 participants from nine countries.

## Languages 2022 Highlights

- In 2022, we saw an average of **40% increase in applications** from Irish language projects for the European Language Label (ELL), as compared with figures from the period 2019–2021.
- In comparison with the same time frame, the **ELL has doubled entries** from organisations in Adult Education and Higher Education.



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## PEACE IV - CASE 2022

*CASE is a programme that recognises the importance of collaboration and cooperation in a society damaged by a cycle of sectarianism and intolerance. It seeks to create and cultivate positive relations among primary and post-primary pupils in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties. CASE has a specific focus on schools that have limited or no previous experience of providing shared education opportunities to their children and young people. The Education Authority in Northern Ireland and Léargas work in partnership to implement the programme.*

The final evaluation of Shared Education funded under PEACE IV was published in November 2022. Participating schools reflected on the positive impact Shared Education had on their schools in terms of support, effective leadership and learning opportunities for staff and pupils. Here's what they had to say:

**School Principal Impact:** "The network of relevant and real support that was created and built upon during the pandemic ensured that we not only worked through that challenging time but allowed us to build permanent and lasting relationships and friendships that cemented the Shared Education work into our day to day running of school life.

**Effective Leadership:** "As a relatively new principal the assistance of the development officers, and my peers in the partner schools has been invaluable in helping me develop my understanding of Shared Education and the impact it can have on the development of the school planning, communication and administration process."



Total # of South/South Partnerships	Total # of North/South Partnerships	Total # of Southern Schools involved	Total # of Pupils involved in the BRI in 2021/22 school year
29	8	77	4,342

In total **24,759 pupils** North and South participated in CASE in 2022.

### Pupil Voice:

Three of the senior pupils from Welchtown NS in Donegal summed up their shared education journey which commenced in 2018. Here's what they told us:

"Our Peace Shared Education journey with Lifford NS started in 2018. It was the first time we got to meet with a different school. We were excited to meet them for the first time, although a little bit nervous but once we got to Arena 7 in Letterkenny our minds were set at ease. I have had such an amazing time with Lifford. We started the year with a Sports Day. We made comics on an app called Comic life. First, we brainstormed our ideas for our comic, then we made them and printed them out. We made lots of word searches and crosswords. It was such fun!! During year 3 we did Share the Walk."



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Case Peace Support  
Officer  
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## VET Team 2022

*VET Team is an EU Commission initiative that started in 2021. VET Teams brings together the learning from several past European Commission programmes, including the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training, which Léargas coordinated nationally until 2020. The primary purpose of this new national team of experts in VET is to promote and enhance progress toward the application of EU VET tools and principles in Ireland, as well as to support the development and internationalisation of the VET sector through engagement with VET management, practitioners, Erasmus+ coordinators, and beneficiaries.*

Since its creation in 2021, Léargas has continued to expand its Vocational Education and Training (VET) Teams programme during 2022. The national team of experts continued to promote and enhance progress toward the application of EU VET tools and principles in Ireland. The VET Team also continued supporting the development and internationalisation of the VET sector through engagement with VET management, practitioners, Erasmus+ coordinators, and beneficiaries.

A national meeting of the VET Team took place in August 2022, where strong feedback was provided on the importance and impact of international Mobility on the development of transversal skills that are seen as essential traits necessary to adapt to an increasingly diverse multigenerational workplace, characterised by the skills gap and technological and digital challenges.



From these findings, Léargas began conducting a medium-scale study to explore the existing landscape in relation to the development of transversal skills in the VET sector in Ireland. This study also aims to examine the transversal skills competency framework, which can provide insight into how participation in Erasmus+ Mobility can facilitate:

- development of learning environments conducive to development of transversal skills
- implementation of processes and methods that support the development of transversal skills
- evaluation and assessment of the transversal skill development in the VET sector, and the impact of the same on the learners' vocational competency.



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## EURODESK 2022

*Eurodesk is a free service designed to help young people make the most of opportunities in Europe. It is an information network, operating in 37 European countries, aimed at young people and youth organisations. National and regional coordinators share information to help young people learn about opportunities in Europe including studying, working and volunteering abroad, and having their say in European youth policies and matters.*

In 2022, Eurodesk Ireland intensified its efforts – through information, cooperation and networking - to encourage young people to travel again in Europe and benefit from European programmes!

[The Eurodesk Ireland website](#) was revamped and extensively developed. It has information for young people (13-30) on opportunities to work, study and volunteer in Europe and signposts to services which will support young people to fulfil their aspirations; it shares young people's experiences and provides links to useful resources and events.

The website provides useful information on studying, working, and volunteering in Ireland, the Irish culture, transport, health and well-being, things to do and support services.

The '[Europe is Open to You](#)' online guide was produced in cooperation with Euroguidance Ireland and the National Centre for Guidance in Education, with contributions from EU agencies based in Ireland. The guide acts as a unique one-stop-shop publication providing information on opportunities for young people in Europe, EU jobs, Europass, and support services.

To inform organisations working with young people about Eurodesk and European youth initiatives and events, a new bi-monthly Eurodesk online newsletter 'Connect2Europe' for multipliers was launched in October.

During the [Time to Move campaign](#), Eurodesk Ireland network members organised information sessions for young people and teachers, Quiz nights, workshops on EU programmes and a Youth info chat dedicated to European opportunities.

The national Youth Wiki and Eurodesk event 'Connect with Europe' took place on 21 March in Dublin as part of Léargas' European Year of Youth celebrations and was attended by Roderic O'Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Maria Walsh, MEP, young people and youth workers. At the event Eurodesk multipliers run information stands and answered queries from young people; Eurodesk ambassadors were part of the guest speakers' panel and run a workshop on EU opportunities.

In cooperation with Europass Ireland/Quality and Qualifications Ireland, Eurodesk organised a national information and networking event 'Exploring European Opportunities' on 7 December in Dublin with workshops on Europass, European Solidarity Corps, Skills Summary, Erasmus+, EU jobs and European Employment Services (EURES).



Eurodesk Ambassadors Awards distributed at European Youthfest

Eurodesk Ireland supported the organisation of the Eurodesk European training on Support and Inclusion in Dublin in June with guest speakers from the Irish youth sector and Léargas.

Eurodesk Coordinator supported the Eurodesk initiative “[Be Europe](#)” and the production of the Irish podcast episode with two [Erasmus+ students from Ireland](#). Irish Eurodesk Ambassador Harry McCann co-moderated nine podcasts.

During the [Learning by Leaving Conference](#) in Spain, organised by European Employment Services (EURES), Euroguidance, Europass and Eurodesk, Eurodesk Ireland Coordinator facilitated the workshop ‘[Face to face or digital? How do we communicate with young people today?](#)’

At Léargas’ European Youthfest in December in Dublin, Eurodesk Coordinator and a Eurodesk Ambassador supported a [workshop on EU opportunities for young people](#), and Eurodesk Ambassadors received special awards for their involvement.

We look forward to continuing spreading the word on European opportunities for young people through our information activities, our national network, cooperation partners and young ambassadors in 2023!

## Eurodesk 2022 Highlights

- ▶ Eurodesk Ireland has **30 local partners/Multipliers across the country** who can be contacted by young people looking for information on European opportunities [Contact – Eurodesk Ireland](#). They also provide one-to-one support and help young people access EU-funded programmes.
- ▶ In 2022, **9 Eurodesk Ambassadors** provided peer-to-peer information to young people, contributed to, and attended 30 European and national events.



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## Youth Wiki 2022

*Youth Wiki is an online platform presenting information on European countries' youth policies. The main objective of Youth Wiki is to support evidence-based European cooperation in the field of Youth. It does so by providing up-to-date information on national policies related to young people, in a user-friendly way. The overall purpose is to help the European Commission and Member States in their decision making, by providing information on the 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.*

Throughout 2022, Léargas continued to contribute to the ongoing researched carried out across Europe by the network of National Correspondents for Youth Wiki and European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). We provided Irish information for its ongoing research related to youth policies and initiatives. For example, Léargas provided information on volunteering within Ireland which has contributed to the updating of [Youth Wiki's interactive maps](#) illustrating policies and programmes on volunteering.

We also updated information on Ireland's 10 Chapters on the Youth Wiki site, with information about new legislation, policies, frameworks, initiatives, and relevant debates. Invaluable input was added to the chapters through feedback from a Panel of Subject Matter Experts, each selected for their detailed knowledge specific to a given chapter's topic.



[Visit the Youth Wiki site to see chapters on:](#)

1. Youth Policy Governance
2. Voluntary Activities
3. Employment and Entrepreneurship
4. Social Inclusion
5. Participation
6. Education and Training
7. Health and Well-Being
8. Creativity and Culture
9. Youth and the World
10. Youth Work.



In late 2022, the Youth Wiki network published the report [‘The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people – Policy responses in European countries’](#). The report examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth mental health and the policy measures that have been put in place by Member States to mitigate the impact of lockdowns.

Alongside this research, Léargas also continued with promoting the Youth Wiki platform to policy makers and those working within the youth sector. One such key promotion was the ‘Connect with Europe’ event in March 2022, which Youth Wiki collaborated with Eurodesk to co-host.



There was a great interest in the event from policymakers and those working in youth organisations alike. We were delighted that both Maria Walsh MEP and Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman TD, were able to present at the event. The day included a mixture of workshops, panel discussion, and a World Café Session.

## Youth Wiki 2022 Highlights

- Information is now available for **33 countries on Youth Wiki** (compared with 29 in 2020).
- Ireland’s **10 Chapters on the Youth Wiki site** were updated during 2022.
- **6 interactive maps**, illustrating policies and programmes for young people across Europe, are now available on the Youth Wiki platform.



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## 2022 Reports

### Léargas Financial Statement

[The Léargas Financial Statement can be found on the Léargas website.](#)

### Léargas Protected Disclosures Report

[The Report for Protected Disclosures can be found on the Léargas website.](#)

Board Membership and Attendance 2022									
Dates of Meeting and Attendance									
Committee Member	25 Jan	1 Mar	26 Apr	1 Jun	05 Jul	06 Sep	18 Oct	29 Nov	8
Hugh MacConville	X	X	X					X	4
Frank Crummey	A	X	X	A	X	X	A	X	5
Margaret Waters	X	X	X	A	X	A	X	X	6
Jean Marie Cullen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Dipti Pandya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Nuala Keher	A	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	6

X	Attended
A	Apologies
	Not Applicable

Finance and Audit Committee Attendance 2022									
Dates of Meeting and Attendance									
Committee Member	19 Jan	1 Mar	26 Apr	31 May	29 Jun	30 Aug	11 Oct	22 Nov	8
Nuala Keher	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	7
Hugh MacConville	X	X	X						3
Margaret Guinan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Frank Crummey	A	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	6

### Programme Selection Committees 2022

Round 1			
Sectors	Type	Date	Committee Members
Erasmus+ Schools, VET, Adult Education	KA121, KA122	21/4/2022	John Taite (Staff); Monika Wojtkowiak (Staff); Frank Crummey (Board); Nuala Keher (Board)
Erasmus+ YOUTH and European Solidarity Corps	ESC30, ESC50, ESC51, KA151, KA152, KA153, KA154,	20/4/2022	Charis Hughes (Staff); Laura Austen-Gray (Staff); Hugh MacConville (Board); Darren O'Connor (Sectoral Specific External)
Erasmus+ Schools, VET, Adult Education, Youth	KA210, KA220	21/6/2022	Margie Waters (Board); Ciara Gibbons (Staff); Laura Austen-Gray (Staff)

Round 2			
Sectors	Type	Date	Committee Members
Erasmus+ YOUTH and European Solidarity Corps	E+ Actions KA152, KA153, KA154, and ESC30	29/6/2022	Laura Austen-Gray (Staff); Aidan Farrelly (Sectoral Specific External); Sue Menton (Sectoral Specific External)
Erasmus+ Schools, VET, Adult Education	KA121, KA122	28/11/2022	Dipti Pandya (Board); Nuala Keher (Board); Laura Austen-Gray (Staff); Ciara Gibbons (Staff)
Erasmus+ Schools, VET, Adult Education, Youth	KA210, KA220	7/12/2022	Margie Waters (Board); Ciara Gibbons (Staff); Frank Crummey (Board)

Round 3 (Youth Only)			
Sectors	Type	Date	Committee Members
Erasmus+ YOUTH and European Solidarity Corps	E+ Actions KA152, KA153, KA154, KA155 and ESC30, ESC50, ESC51	23/11/2022	Frank Crummey (Board); Vasiliki Parra (Staff); Sinead McMahon (Sectoral Specific External); Gerry McCarthy (Sectoral Specific External)

## Programme Eligibility Committees 2022

23 February 2022 Deadline			
Sectors	Type	Date	Committee Members
Technical Eligibility Committee Meeting for Erasmus+ Schools, VET, Adult Education and Youth, ESC Programme including Solidarity and Volunteering Projects	KA1 (SCH, ADU, VET, YOU), ESC30 and ESC51	30/3/2022	Charis Hughes (Staff);Aine Beamish (Staff);Manika-Nia Dixon (Staff)

23 March 2022 Deadline			
Technical Eligibility Committee Meeting for Erasmus+ Schools, Adult Education, VET and Youth	KA210, KA220	26/5/2022	Laura Austen-Gray (Staff);Rose McGoldrick (Staff);Manika-Nia Dixon (Staff)

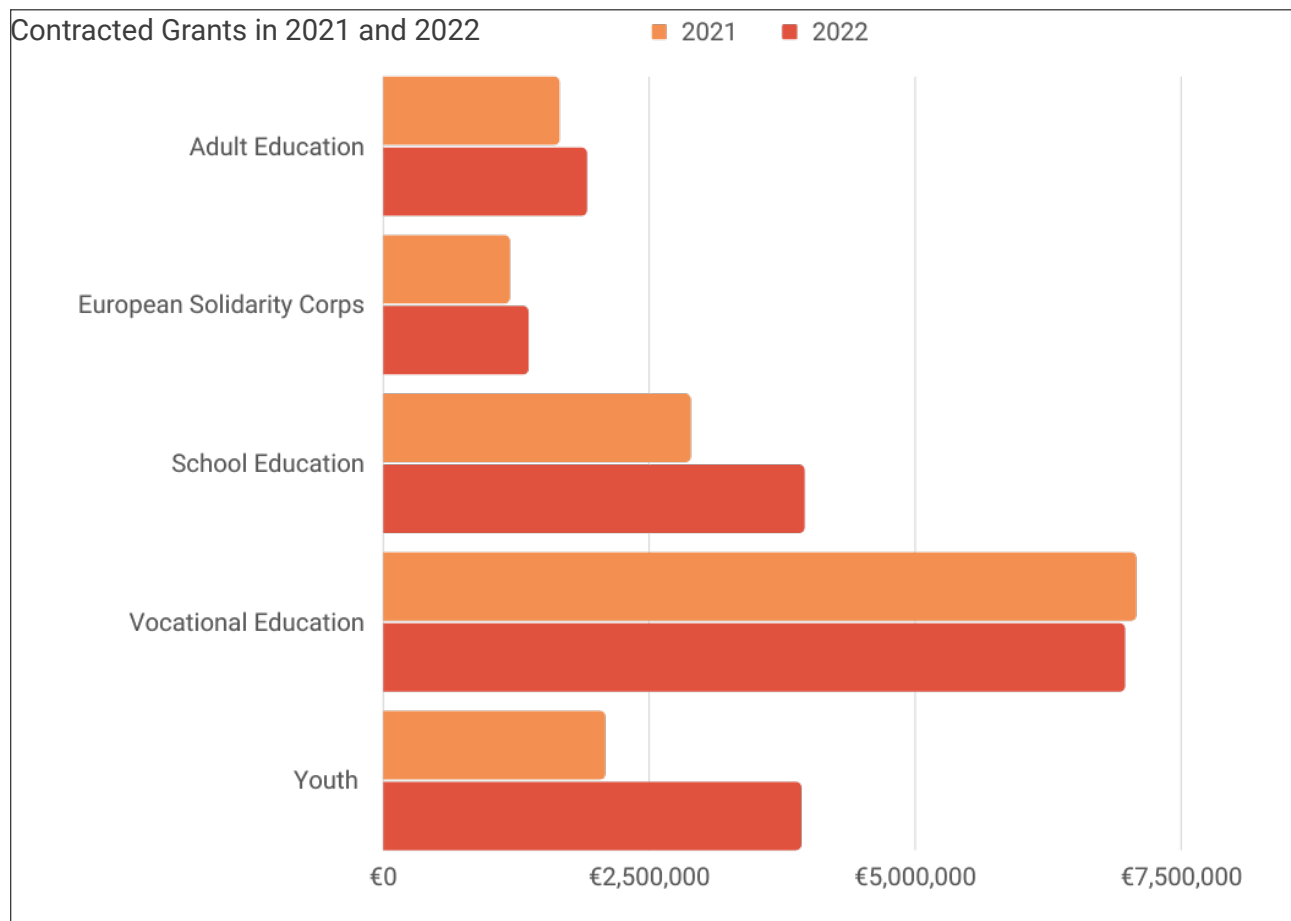


4 May 2022 Deadline			
Technical Eligibility Committee Meeting for Erasmus+ Youth and ESC Solidarity Projects	E+ Actions KA152, KA153, KA154, and ESC30	2/6/2022	Brian Desmond (Staff); Laura Austen-Gray (Staff); John Taite (Staff)

4 October 2022 Deadline			
Technical Eligibility Committee Meeting for Erasmus+ Schools, VET, Adult Education and Youth, ESC Programme including Solidarity and Volunteering Projects	KA1 (SCH, ADU, VET, YOU), ESC30 and ESC51 KA210 and KA220	1/11/2022	Brian Desmond (Staff); Laura Austen Gray (Staff); Jane Carter (Staff)

4 October 2022 Deadline			
Technical Eligibility Committee Meeting for Erasmus+ Accreditations	KA120 (ADU, SCH and VET) and KA150 (YOU)	11/11/2022	Vasiliki Psarra (Staff); Jane Carter (Staff); Philippe Carr (Staff)

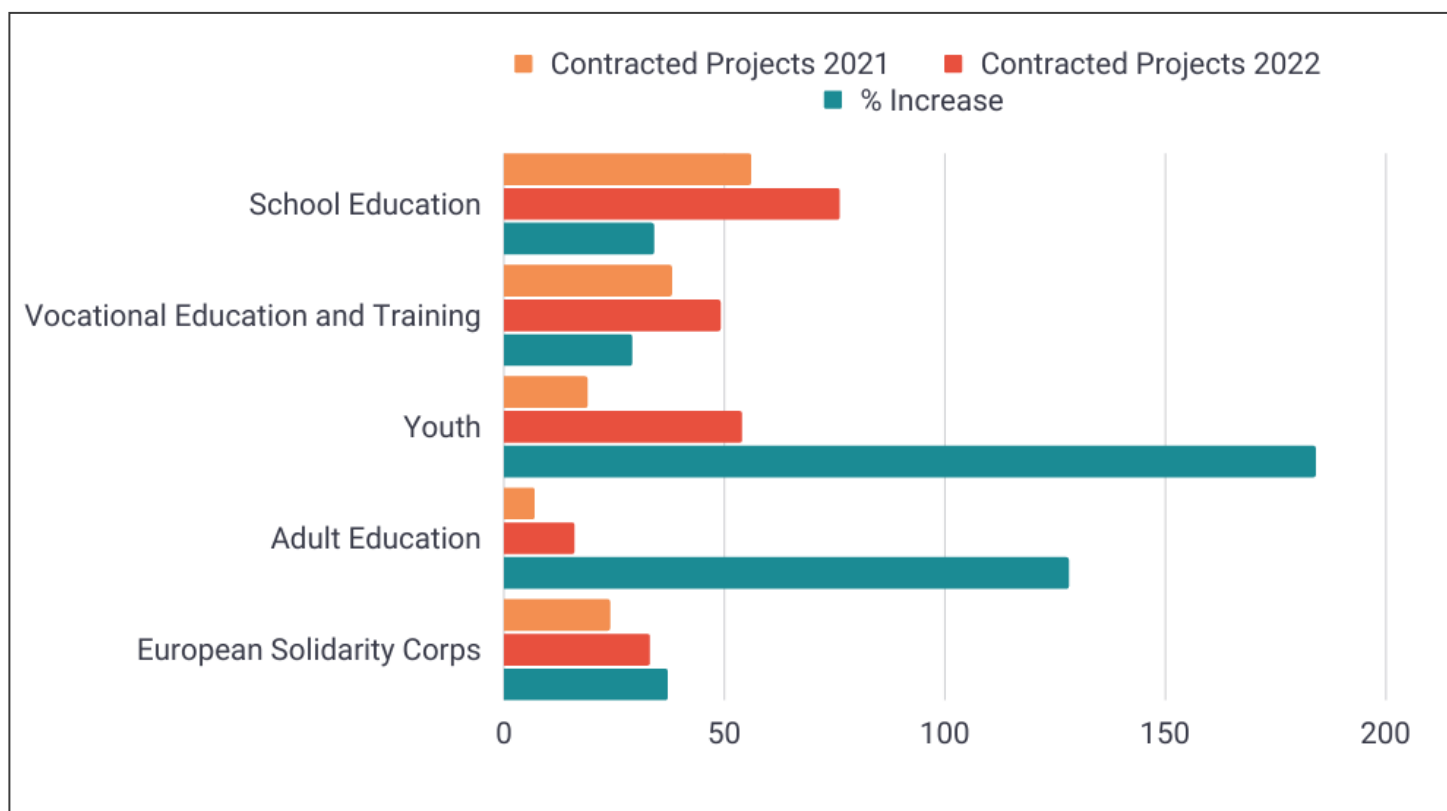
## 2022 in Numbers



**21.7% increase in the overall allocated grants between 2021 and 2022**



## Comparisons between 2021 and 2022: Contracted Projects



Field Name	2022 Participants (Contracted Projects)	2021 Participants (Contracted Projects)
School Education	1443	647
Vocational Education and Training	1154	477
Youth	2570	985
Adult Education	116	20
European Solidarity Corps	205	130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5488</b>	<b>2259</b>

## Comparisons between 2021 and 2022: Grants Awarded

Action Type - Name	2022		2021	
	Awarded Projects (not inc Accreditations)	Awarded Grants (€)	Awarded Projects (not inc Accreditations)	Awarded Grants (€)
ESC30	10	€87,092.00	9	€73,190.00
ESC51	23	€1,272,136.20	15	€1,111,662.00
KA121	34	€3,887,208.00	12	€1,509,482.00
Ka122	72	€2,403,105.00	50	€1,323,384.00
KA151	9	€956,253.00	2	€230,195.00
KA152	18	€725,863.00	6	€287,891.00
KA153	8	€274,733.00	1	€37,107.00
KA154	4	€129,107.00	2	€52,392.00
KA155	4	€65,178.00	0	n/a
KA210	15	€750,000.00	11	€600,000.00
KA220	31	€7,550,000.00	36	€9,644,355.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>€18,100,675.20</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>14,869,658.00</b>

## Top Themes for Projects in 2022

**Environment**

**Mental Health**

**Teaching Methods**

**Youth Work**

**Cultural heritage**

**Employability**

**Digital skills**

**Creativity**

**European Identity**

**Early Childhood Education and Care**

**Languages**

**Inclusion**

**Marginalised Young People**

**Bridging intercultural and social divides**

**Key Competences**

**Community  
Development**

**Democracy**

**Disabilities**

**Gender Equality**

**Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**



## 2022 Totals Breakdown by Field and Action

Action Type - Name	Contracted Projects
KA122-SCH - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	48
ESC51-VTJ - Volunteering projects	23
KA122-VET - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	20
KA152-YOU - Mobility of young people	18
KA121-SCH - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	17
KA121-VET - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	14
KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training	13
ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	10
KA151-YOU - Accredited projects for youth mobility	9
KA153-YOU - Mobility of youth workers	8
KA220-YOU - Cooperation partnerships in youth	7
KA210-SCH - Small-scale partnerships in school education	6
KA220-ADU - Cooperation partnerships in adult education	6
KA220-SCH - Cooperation partnerships in school education	5
KA122-ADU - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	4

KA154-YOU - Youth participation activities	4
KA155-YOU - DiscoverEU inclusion action	4
KA210-YOU - Small-scale partnerships in youth	4
KA121-ADU - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	3
KA210-ADU - Small-scale partnerships in adult education	3
KA210-VET - Small-scale partnerships in vocational education and training	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>228</b>

## 2022 Totals Across Fields

Key Action Code - Name	Contracted Projects (not inc Accreditations)
KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals	149
KA2 - Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices	46
SPV - Volunteering	23
SPR - Solidarity Projects	10

## 2022 Totals Breakdown by Grant Amount

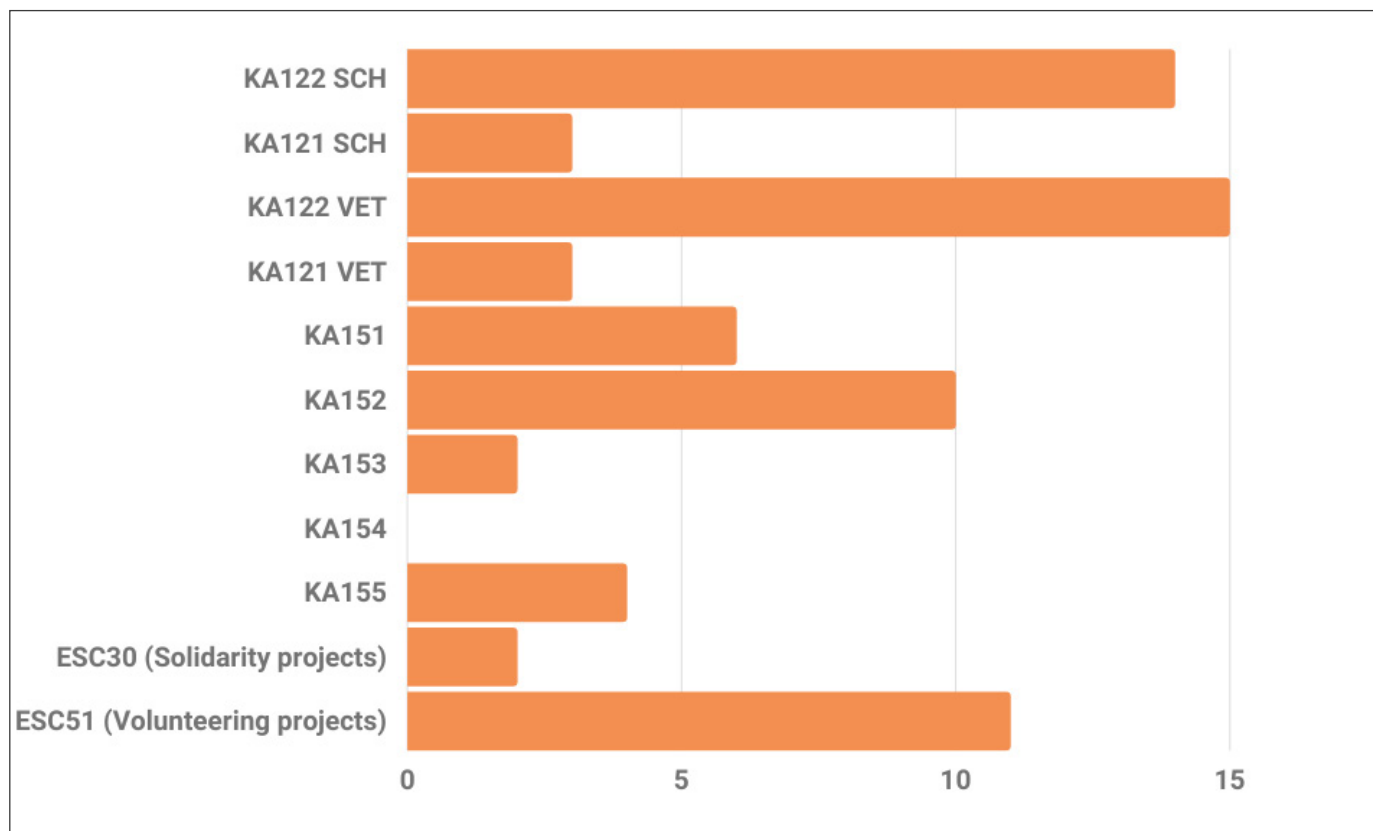
Action Type - Name	Contracted Grant (€)
KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training	€3,160,000.00
KA121-VET - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	€2,636,633.00
KA220-YOU - Cooperation partnerships in youth	€1,620,000.00
KA220-ADU - Cooperation partnerships in adult education	€1,500,000.00
ESC51-VTJ - Volunteering projects	€1,272,132.95
KA220-SCH - Cooperation partnerships in school education	€1,270,000.00
KA122-SCH - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	€1,193,590.00
KA121-SCH - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	€1,158,113.00
KA122-VET - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	€1,044,338.00
KA152-YOU - Mobility of young people	€725,863.00
KA210-SCH - Small-scale partnerships in school education	€330,000.00
KA153-YOU - Mobility of youth workers	€274,733.00
KA122-ADU - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	€165,177.00
KA210-ADU - Small-scale partnerships in adult education	€150,000.00
KA210-YOU - Small-scale partnerships in youth	€150,000.00

KA154-YOU - Youth participation activities	€129,107.00
KA210-VET - Small-scale partnerships in vocational education and training	€120,000.00
ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	€92,462.00
KA155-YOU - DiscoverEU inclusion action	€87,092.00
KA210-ADU - Small-scale partnerships in adult education	€65,178.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€18,100,671.95</b>

## Newcomers in 2022

Field Name	Key Action Code	Contracted: No of participating newcomer organisations and institutions
Adult Education	KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals	4
	KA2 - Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices	3
School Education	KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals	35
	KA2 - Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices	6
	KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals	12
Vocational Education and Training	KA2 - Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices	4
	KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals	36
Youth	KA2 - Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>108</b>

## Inclusion Supports - number of projects awarded inclusion support or exceptional costs for participants with fewer opportunities



**In 2022, 70 participants with fewer opportunities were given inclusion support**





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