

Léargas Annual Report

2024



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Message from the Executive Director

2024 was an exceptional year for Léargas. It marked the conclusion of our 2021–2024 Strategic Plan and



the beginning of a new chapter for the organisation. As ever, we remain committed to our mission of enabling transformative learning experiences that connect communities in Ireland with Europe.

Across our programmes, participation continued to grow. We saw increases across every sector, with particularly strong growth in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 mobilities between 2021 and 2024. School mobility projects rose by 186%, while Vocational Education mobilities increased by 247%. Erasmus+ Youth mobility saw a particularly striking rise, growing from 11 projects in 2021 to 66 in 2024. In Adult Education, the number of Key Action 1 (KA1) projects expanded from 1 in 2021 to 28 in 2024, with many new and diverse organisations taking part in European learning opportunities for the first time.

A key milestone in 2024 was Léargas joining as a core partner in ASPIRE (Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education), an ambitious new shared education initiative supported by the EU PEACEPLUS Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. Led by the Education Authority in partnership with Léargas, Early Years NI, Fermanagh Trust, and the National Childhood Network, ASPIRE will officially launch in 2025 with a budget of €34 million.

Building on the legacy of the CASE PEACE IV Project, which Léargas previously managed, ASPIRE aims to create meaningful and sustained engagement among children and young people from a wide range of cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds across Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland, and beyond. This collaboration reaffirms Léargas' enduring commitment to reconciliation and cross-border cooperation and exchange, and to supporting educators and learners in developing the skills, relationships, and shared experiences that contribute to a more inclusive and peaceful society.

Support Projects like the **Microgrant Schemes** and the **European Youth Week Roadshow** amplified our commitment to accessible and inclusive engagement. These initiatives helped welcome newcomers to European programmes and gave young people a platform to explore democratic participation and EU values in their own communities.

However, the year was not without its challenges. Ensuring adequate funding and resources across an expanding programme landscape—especially amid economic uncertainty—remains a significant and prevalent challenge. 2024 was an excellent year for increased engagement from participants with fewer opportunities, but we must acknowledge the continued complexity of **sustaining engagement from under-represented communities**, which requires both strategic outreach and sustained support. In the area of **sustainability**, aligning our practices with national and European guidelines proved more intricate than anticipated, reminding us of the effort required to embed change across an organisation and its programmes.

These challenges offered valuable lessons. We learned the importance of **community–sectoral approaches**—designing supports that meet the specific needs of local and thematic communities, from Youthreach groups to small primary schools. We also reaffirmed that **continuous learning and adaptability** are essential—not only for programme participants, but for Léargas itself. By listening, responding, and co–designing with the people and organisations we serve, we are better able to deliver programmes that have relevance and impact.

Internally, we continued to invest in our people. Léargas ended the year with **54 staff**, including **9 new hires in 2024**, and staff engaged in **17 professional development opportunities** ranging from project management and resilience to leadership and coaching. Mandatory training in IT security and data protection ensured we remained vigilant and prepared in a changing operational landscape.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch our new Strategic Plan in 2025. Shaped by national priorities, European objectives, and the lived experience of programme participants, this plan sets a clear course for the next 5 years—one focused on **deepening our impact, fostering innovation, and ensuring that European opportunities are open to all.**

To the staff of Léargas, our Board of Directors, our funders, and the many youth workers, educators, volunteers, and organisations we work alongside—I extend my heartfelt thanks. Your continued dedication ensures that international learning is not just possible, but powerful.

Lorraine Gilligan

Teachtaireacht ón Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin



Bliain eisceachtúil ab ea 2024 do Léargas. Cuireadh deireadh le Plean Straitéiseach 2021–2024 agus cuireadh tús le caibidil nua don eagraíocht. Mar is gnáth, táimid tiomanta dár misean, is é sin, eispéiris foghlama

bhunathraitheacha a chumasú a nascann pobail in Éirinn leis an Eoraip.

Bhí an rannpháirtíocht ag fás i gcónaí ar fud ár gcuid clár. Chonaiceamar méaduithe i ngach earnáil.

Tháinig fás láidir go háirithe ar shoghluaisteachtaí Príomhghníomhaíochta 1 d'Erasmus+ idir 2021 agus 2024. Tháinig méadú 186% ar thionscadail shoghluaisteachta scoile agus 247% ar shoghluaisteachtaí Oideachais Ghairmiúil. Maidir le soghluaisteacht Óige Erasmus+, tháinig fás ar leith uirthi ó 11 tionscadal in 2021 go 66 chinn in 2024. Maidir leis an Oideachas Aosach, tháinig méadú ar líon na dtionscadal KA1 ó 1 in 2021 go 28 gcinn in 2024. Ghlac go leor eagraíochtaí nua, éagsúla páirt i ndeiseanna foghlama Eorpacha den chéad uair.

Ba mhórchéim í i 2024 nuair a chuaigh Léargas isteach mar phríomhchomhpháirtí in ASPIRE (Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education/ Comhpháirtíochtaí Comhroinnte a Chur Chun Cinn trí Chaidrimh Chuimsitheacha san Oideachas) ar tionscnamh nua uailmhianach oideachais chomhroinnte é atá ag fáil tacaíochta ó Chlár PEACEPLUS de chuid an Aontais agus atá á bhainistiú ag Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE. Agus é faoi stiúir an Údaráis Oideachais i gcomhpháirtíocht le Léargas, Early Years NI, Iontaobhas Fhear Manach, agus an Líonra Náisiúnta Óige, seolfar ASPIRE go hoifigiúil in 2025. Beidh buiséad €34 milliún aige.

Tá ASPIRE bunaithe ar oidhreacht an Tionscadail CASE PEACE IV a bhainistigh Léargas roimhe seo, agus tá sé mar aidhm aige rannpháirtíocht bhríoch, mharthanach a chruthú i measc leanaí agus daoine óga ó réimse leathan cúlraí cultúrtha, reiligiúnacha agus sóch-eacnamaíoch a ar fud Thuaisceart Éireann, contaetha teorann na hÉireann, agus níos faide i gcéin. Déanann an comhoibriú seo athdhearbhú ar thiomantas leanúnach Léargas do athmhuintearas, do chomhoibriú trasteorann agus do mhalartú, agus do thacú le hoideachasóirí agus foghlaimeoirí chun na scileanna, na caidrimh, agus na heispéiris chomhroinnte a fhorbairt a chuireann le sochaí níos cuimsithí, síochánta.

Chuir Tionscadail Tacaíochta cosúil leis na **Scéimeanna Micridheontais** agus an **Seó Bóthair Sheachtain Óige na hEorpa** lenár dtiomantas do rannpháirtíocht inrochtana, chuimsitheach. Chuidigh na tionscnaimh seo le fáilte a chur roimh dhaoine nua chuig clár Eorpacha agus thug siad ardán do dhaoine óga chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar rannpháirtíocht dhaonlathach agus ar luachanna AE ina bpobail féin.

Mar sin féin, bhí a cuid dúshlán ag an mbliain freisin. Tá sé ina dhúshlán suntasach, forleathan i gcónaí maoiniú agus acmhainní leordhóthanacha a chinntiú ar fud na réimse clár atá ag leathnú—go háirithe i bhfianaise éiginnteachta eacnamaíoch. Ba bhliain iontach i 2024 maidir le níos mó teagmhála le rannpháirtithe ag a bhfuil níos lú deiseanna, ach caithfimid glacadh leis gur obair chasta í i gcónaí **rannpháirtíocht a choinneáil ó phobail atá faoi ghannionadaíocht**, rud a éilíonn idirghabháil straitéiseach agus tacaíocht leanúnach. I réimse na **hinbhuanaitheachta** bhí sé níos casta ná mar a bhíothas ag súil leis ár gcleachtais a chur ar aon dul le treoirlínte náisiúnta agus Eorpacha, rud a mheabhraigh dúinn an iarracht is gá a dhéanamh chun athrú a chur i bhfeidhm ar fud eagraíochta agus a cuid clár.

Thug na dúshláin seo ceachtanna luachmhara dúinn. D'fhoghlaimíomar a thábhacht agus atá **cur chuige pobail-earnála**—ag dearadh tacaíochtaí a fhreastalaíonn ar riachtanais ar leith pobal áitiúil agus téamach, idir ghrúpaí Youthreach agus bhunscoileanna beaga. Dheimhníomar freisin go bhfuil **foghlaim leanúnach agus inoiriúnaitheacht** fíor-riachtanach—ní hamháin do rannpháirtithe na gclár, ach do Léargas féin freisin. Trí éisteacht, freagairt agus comh-dhearadh a dhéanamh leis na daoine agus leis na heagraíochtaí a bhfreastalaímid orthu, is fearr is féidir linn cláir a sheachadadh a bhfuil ábharthacht agus tionchar acu.

Go himheánach, leanamar orainn ag infheistiú inár ndaoine. Ag deireadh na bliana bhí **54 ball foirne** ag Léargas. Orthu sin, áirítear **9 mball foirne nua a fostaíodh in 2024**. Lena chois sin bhí baill foirne rannpháirteach i **17 ndeis forbartha gairmiúla** lenár áiríodh bainistíocht tionscadail agus athléimneacht chomh maith le ceannaireacht agus cóitseáil. Trí oiliúint éigeantach i slándáil TF agus cosaint sonraí cinntíodh go rabhamar aireach agus ullmhaithe i dtimpeallacht oibríochta atá ag athrú.

Ag féachaint chun cinn, táimid ar bís ár bPlean Straitéiseach nua a sheoladh in 2025. Agus é múnlaíthe ag tosaíochtaí náisiúnta, cuspóirí Eorpacha, agus tairbhí phearsanta na rannpháirtithe clár, leagtar amach sa phlean seo cúrsa soiléir don chéad 5 bliana eile—cúrsa atá dírithe ar **ár dtionchar a threisiú, nuálaíocht a chothú, agus a chinntiú go bhfuil deiseanna Eorpacha ar fáil do chách**.

Glacaim buíochas ó chroí le foireann Léargas, lenár mBord Stiúrthóirí, lenár maoinitheoirí, agus leis na hoibríthe óige, na hoideachasóirí, na hoibríthe deonacha agus leis an líon mór eagraíochtaí a n-oibrímid leo. Cinntíonn bhur dtiomantas leanúnach nach amháin gur féidir foghlaim idirnáisiúnta a dhéanamh, ach gur foghlaim chumhachtach atá inti.

Lorraine Gilligan

Message from Chair of Léargas' Board



It is a privilege to reflect on Léargas' impact and achievements over the past year. 2024

was a year of steady growth, strong partnerships, and meaningful engagement with the people and communities we serve. As Chair of the Board, I am proud to see how Léargas continues to deliver on its mission to connect Ireland to Europe through quality programmes and collaboration.

This year also marked the closeout of our 2021–2024 Strategic Plan—a period defined by expansion, innovation, and increased access to European opportunities. In 2024 alone, Léargas supported **375 projects**, awarded over **€29.7 million in funding**, and reached more than **12,800 forecasted participants**. These achievements reflect not just the momentum of the year, but the broader growth trajectory across the entire strategic period. These headline figures reflect the culmination of a strategic cycle marked by sustained growth: the number of contracted projects across Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps rose by **160% since 2021**, funding awarded more than doubled, and **participation increased by over 460%**. Most notably, the number of participants with fewer opportunities

grew by over **700%**, a testament to the organisation's focus on inclusion and access.

This year's work also demonstrated the breadth and depth of Léargas' impact—from supporting **transversal skills development** in education, training, and youth work to **fostering democratic participation** during the European Elections. Initiatives like the European Youth Week Roadshow and the Microgrant Schemes provided accessible pathways for organisations and individuals new to European programmes. **The Vocational Education and Training Transversal Skills Toolkit and the NUI Certificate Programme showed how Léargas is contributing directly to national priorities around skills and lifelong learning.**

The Board's role in governance is to support, guide, and oversee the organisation's work. Throughout 2024, we continued to ensure that Léargas operates with transparency, accountability, and a strong focus on impact. We monitored progress on strategic goals, oversaw organisational development, and supported the Executive Director and team in preparing for the next strategic cycle.

Importantly, the work of Léargas remains aligned with both national and European priorities. The organisation's role in promoting inclusion, skills, digital transformation, and civic engagement reflects key national strategies as well as the objectives of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. **Léargas' active contribution to policy development and stakeholder engagement strengthens Ireland's connection to Europe and to shared European values.**

As Léargas prepares to launch its new Strategic Statement in 2025, the Board fully supports the organisation's vision and objectives for the years ahead. Developed through a collaborative process involving staff engagement and strategic reflection, this new plan builds on the strong foundations of the past 4 years and sets a clear direction for the future.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Executive Director, the dedication of the staff, and the ongoing support of our funders, collaborators, and programme participants. Together, we continue to create opportunities that transform lives, build connections, and contribute to a more inclusive and vibrant European community.

John Gilmore

Teachtaireacht ón gCathaoirleach Bhord Léargas



Is pribhléid é súil siar a chaitheamh ar thionchar agus ar éachtaí Léargas le bliain anuas.

Ba bhliain í 2024 ina raibh fás seasta, comhpháirtíochtaí láidre, agus teagmhail bhríoch againn leis na daoine agus leis na pobail a bhfreastalaímid orthu. Mar Chathaoirleach an Bhoird, táim bródúil as a thabhairt faoi deara mar a leanann Léargas ag comhlíonadh a mhísin chun Éire a nascadh leis an Eoraip trí chlár ar ardchaighdeán agus trí chomhoibriú.

Chomh maith leis sin, tháinig deireadh lenár bPlean Straitéiseach 2021–2024—tréimhse a raibh leathnú, nuálaíocht, agus rochtain níos mó ar dheiseanna Eorpacha mar shaintréithe aici. In 2024 amháin, thacaigh Léargas le **375 tionscadal**, bhronn sé **maoiniú de bhreis is €29.7 milliún**, agus shroich sé níos mó ná **12,800 rannpháirtí réamhthuarta**. Ní hamhain go léiríonn na héachtaí seo móiminteam na bliana, ach taispeanann siad an treo fáis níos leithne ar fud na tréimhse straitéisigh ar fad. Léiríonn na figiúirí ceannlíne seo buaicphointe timthrialla straitéisigh a bhfuil fás leanúnach mar thréith aige: tháinig méadú **160%** ar líon na dtionscadal conartha ar fud Erasmus+ agus an Chóir Dhlúthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh ó 2021. Bonnadh níos mó ná dhá oiread an mhaoinithe agus

tháinig méadú de bhreis is **460% ar rannpháirtíocht**. Go háirithe, mhéadaigh líon na rannpháirtithe ag a bhfuil níos lú deiseanna faoi bhreis is **700%**. Is fianaise é seo go bhfuil an eagraíocht ag díriú ar chuimsiú agus rochtain.

Léirigh obair na bliana seo freisin leithead agus doimhneacht an tionchair atá ag Léargas—idir thacú **le forbairt tras-scileanna** san oideachas, san oiliúint, agus san obair óige agus **chothú rannpháirtíochta daonlathaí** le linn na dToghchán Eorpach. Chuir tionscnaimh cosúil le Seó Bóthair Sheachtain Óige na hEorpa agus na Scéimeanna Micridheontais bealaí inrochtana ar fáil d'eagraíochtaí agus do dhaoine aonair a ghlacann páirt i gclár Eorpacha den chéad uair. **Thaispeáin an Bosca Uirlisí Tras-scileanna VET agus an Clár Teastais ONÉ conas atá Léargas ag cur go díreach le tosaíochtaí náisiúnta maidir le scileanna agus foghlaim ar feadh an tsaoil.**

Is é ról an Bhoird i rialachas tacú le hobair na heagraíochta, í a threorú agus maoirseacht a dhéanamh uirthi. Mar sin, i rith 2024, leanamar orainn ag cinntiú go n-oibríonn Léargas le trédhearcacht, le cuntasacht agus le fócas láidir ar thionchar. Rinneamar monatóireacht ar dhul chun cinn ar spriocanna straitéiseacha, rinneamar maoirseacht ar fhorbairt eagraíochtúil, agus thugamar tacaíocht don Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin agus don bhfoireann agus iad ag ullmhú don chéad timthriall straitéiseach eile.

Is tábhachtach an rud é go bhfanann obair Léargas ar aon dul le tosaíochtaí náisiúnta agus Eorpacha araon. Léiríonn ról na

heagraíochta maidir le cuimsiú, scileanna, claochlú digiteach agus rannpháirtíocht shibhialta a chur chun cinn straitéisí náisiúnta tábhachtacha chomh maith leis na cuspóirí atá ag Erasmus+ agus ag an gChór Dhlúthpháirtíochta Eorpach.

Neartaíonn an rannchuidiú gníomhach a chuireann Léargas le forbairt beartais agus le rannpháirtíocht páirtithe leasmhara nasc na hÉireann leis an Eoraip agus leis na luachanna Eorpacha comhroinnte.

De réir mar a ullmhaíonn Léargas chun a Ráiteas Straitéiseach nua a sheoladh in 2025, tacaíonn an Bord go hiomlán le fíis agus le cuspóirí na heagraíochta do na blianta amach romhainn. Forbraíodh an plean nua seo trí phróiseas comhoibrioch a raibh rannpháirtíocht foirne agus machnamh straitéiseach i gceist leis. Tá sé ag tógáil ar bhonn láidir na 4 bliana atá thart agus leagann sé síos treo soiléir don am atá romhainn.

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt do cheannaireacht an Stiúrthóra Fheidhmiúcháin, do thiomantas na foirne, agus do thacaíocht leanúnach ár maoinitheoirí, ár gcomhoibritheoirí, agus do rannpháirtithe an chlár. Le chéile, leanaimid orainn ag cruthú deiseanna a athraíonn saol daoine, a thógann naisc, agus a chuireann le pobal Eorpach níos cuimsithí, níos beoga.

John Gilmore

Our Organisation



Our Work

Léargas was established in 1986 to support international exchange and collaboration in the youth sector, primarily through European Commission funded education and training programmes. We now manage a wide range of international and national exchange programmes in education, youth, and community work. These exchanges connect people in different countries and bring an international dimension to the work of organisations across Ireland.

We are the National Agency for the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ in Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, Youth, and Sport. Other European programmes and initiatives administered by Léargas include ASPIRE PEACEPLUS, eTwinning, EPAL, Eurodesk, Youth Wiki, and Vocational Education and Training Team.

In addition to programmes and initiatives, Léargas supports and contributes to annual EU wide campaigns such as DiscoverEU, Erasmus+ Days and the annual 'European Year of' campaign. We also undertake research and contribute to the implementation of policy and practice both nationally and internationally across education, volunteering, and youth work fields.

All our work serves to make international cooperation and learning accessible to a wide range of people and organisations.

Our Governance

Léargas is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. It was first established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association, and it has a board appointed by the Minister of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS). As Léargas receives funding from the Exchequer, it is an organisation of public interest and not a public body.

Léargas also works in close partnership with the Department of Education and Youth (former Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) as well as the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

Registered Charity Number	20020330
CHY (Revenue) Number	8317
Company Number	208725

Our governance and transparency commitments can be found on the [‘Governance’ section](#) of the Léargas website. Some examples include our:

[Code of Conduct \(2023\)](#)

[Code of Best Practice \(2023\)](#)

[Child Safeguarding Statement \(2023\)](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Sustainability Statement \(2023\)](#)

[Quality Customer Charter \(2023–2027\)](#)

All policies are subject to regular review and updates by our Senior Management Team and Board. Our Code of Conduct policy, which includes guidance on conflicts of interest, is reviewed every 3 years.

Our Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability is a core focus at Léargas, both organisationally and within our programmes. Echoing the European Commission’s view of climate and environmental challenges as ‘this generation’s defining task’ we align our efforts with the European Green Deal and Ireland’s commitments to the UN Sustainable Development goals. Léargas strives to act in an environmentally responsible way in our operations and practices.

In addition to our Sustainability Statement we have developed a [Climate Action Road Map \(2023\)](#), which outlines our commitment to sustainable practices. These include annual energy audits, raising staff awareness, and ensuring compliance with national environmental guidelines.

As part of this commitment, we have formed a ‘Green Team’ of staff representatives and appointed a dedicated Green Contact Point to facilitate international collaboration and networking on sustainability issues with other National Agencies.

In 2024, these members helped coordinate an all–staff training delivered by the Climate Fresk NGO. During the workshop, facilitators guided staff through the root causes of climate change and supported them in identifying practical steps to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Across all our programmes, Léargas supports international projects with environmental and sustainability themes. Building on our work in 2023, we continue to promote Green Travel to programme beneficiaries through our information and application sessions, ensuring they are aware of sustainable travel options and encouraged to use them.

Strengthening Operational Excellence

Léargas operates a robust internal and external audit programme, with findings presented to management and the Board to inform improvements. Several audits are conducted annually to strengthen our operations both within the organisation and across our programmes, reflecting our ongoing commitment to good governance and continuous improvement.

Following an accessibility audit of our website in 2022, we prioritised and addressed high-impact issues throughout 2023. In the process, we also identified further areas for improvement. This year, we began scoping a new website for development in 2025, with the goal of enhancing accessibility and creating a more user-friendly, navigable platform—reflecting our ongoing commitment to inclusive digital spaces.



Our Board of Directors

Léargas operates under the remit of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Our Executive Director reports to a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The Board governs Léargas and may have up to 9 members, one of whom is nominated by the National Youth Council of Ireland. All Board members are appointed by the Minister for a term of 3 years. One-third of the Board membership is rotated off at the Annual General Meeting (AGM); however, those members may be reappointed by the Minister or re-elected by the membership, at the Minister's discretion.

As of the end of December 2024, the Board comprised 7 members. The Board meets a minimum of 5 times per year. On 14 June 2024, Nuria Terrats Serrano resigned as Company Secretary, and Damien Healy was appointed to the role on 23 September.

Board Sub-Groups

Léargas has 5 standing sub-groups to support the governance and delivery of its programmes:

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC)

Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Evaluation Committee – Youth, Sport, and European Solidarity Corps

ASPIRE Steering Group (initiated in December 2024)

Key Action 220 Cooperation Partnerships – Youth and Key Action 210 Small-Scale Partnerships – School, Adult Education, VET, and Youth

Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Evaluation Committee – Schools, VET, and Adult Education

The FARC Committee meets at least 5 times annually. The Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Evaluation Committees typically meet 2 to 3 times per year, while the ASPIRE Steering Group meets quarterly.

The frequency of meetings for each selection committee may vary depending on the number of grant calls each year. The Léargas Board is represented on each of these committees. Records of attendance are published on the Léargas website.

Meet our Board of Directors



Dr John Gilmore,
Chairperson

Dr John Gilmore is a Fulbright scholar and Assistant Professor in Nursing and Health Systems at UCD, where his work focuses on the intersections of social justice and health. Having previously served as a Board member of Léargas from 2012 to 2017, John rejoined the Board in 2024 as Chair. With many years of experience in leadership and governance roles in the youth and community sectors, nationally and internationally, John is generous in sharing his knowledge and expertise in support of Léargas strategic objectives and commitment to good governance.



Dr Thereasa Reidy,
Ordinary Member

Dr Theresa Reidy is a professor in the Department of Government and Politics in UCC, where she teaches Irish politics and political economy. Her research is focused on elections and referendums as well as democratic reform and election integrity.



Dipti Pandya,
Ordinary Member

Dipti Pandya is Senior Manager for Research Programmes with UCD Research and Innovation Centre. Dipti has expertise and insights in supporting research and specialist support in securing external funding.

Meet our Board of Directors



Margie Waters,
Ordinary Member

Margie Waters is former Deputy Head of Unit with the European Commission, leading many high-level groups and establishing policy objectives for EU programmes including Erasmus+.



Jean-Marie Cullen,
Ordinary Member

Jean-Marie Cullen is the International Affairs Manager in the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and represents NYCI on the National Working Group on the EU Youth Dialogue process. She holds valuable experience of EU programmes and policy for youth, leading the Young Voices programme to ensure youth participation and actively supporting the participation of young people and youth organisations in decision-making.



Nuala Keher,
Ordinary Member

Nuala Keher is Academic and Research Director and co-founder of Equal Ireland, a social enterprise dedicated to providing access programmes to education for adults who missed out on earlier opportunities. With particular interest in providing support for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for the purpose of advanced entry into degree and higher education programmes, Nuala has significant past experience on boards.



Frank Crummey,
Ordinary Member

Frank Crummey is a Risk and Compliance Officer with Payzone. In addition to his professional background in IT and governance, he has a long history of voluntary participation and leadership in youth work and community development. Frank is the Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the Board, and is generous with this knowledge and experience in support of Léargas strategic objectives and commitment to good governance.



Our Mission

Léargas' mission is to enable international collaboration and exchange. We promote and fund intercultural, collaborative projects between Ireland and other countries. All our work serves to advance national and European policy.

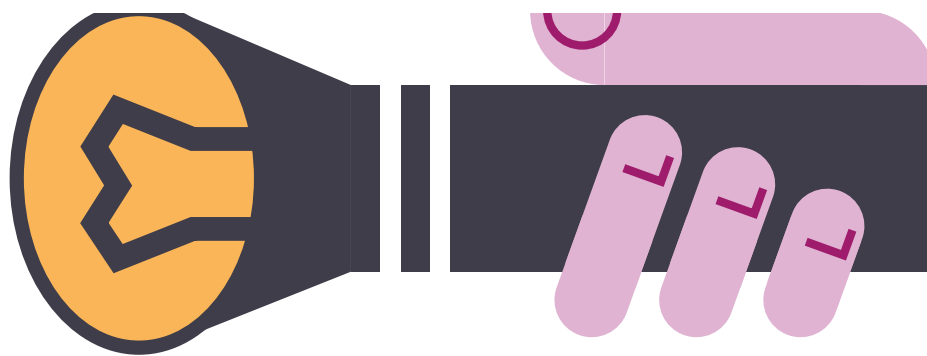
- We facilitate good working relationships that spark awareness and appreciation of inclusion, diversity, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability across social, cultural, and educational domains.
- We promote the value of international collaboration and exchange in education, training, and youth work.
- We make international cooperation and learning accessible to a wide range of people and organisations.
- We contribute to the implementation of policy and practice in education, training, adult education, volunteering, and youth work.
- We provide opportunities for the development of new skills for active participation in society and education.

Our Values

Léargas' values are European values, those of all EU countries in a society in which inclusion, tolerance, justice, rule of law, solidarity, and diversity prevail. These values are integral to the vision for a peaceful and harmonious European way of life that is inclusive of all, and particularly of those with fewer opportunities. We bring the following values to life in our way of working together as a team:

- **Inclusion and Respect:** honouring diversity is central to all that we do. We respect and celebrate the diversity of people and organisations that we engage with. We strive to enhance their experience of inclusion, equity, equality, and solidarity through the programmes that we manage.
- **Empowerment and Support:** we believe in encouraging and supporting the people and organisations that we engage with. This spirit of encouragement, underpinned by practical support and competency development, vitalises people's sense of personal agency and empowerment by their learning from international collaboration.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** the programmes that we manage can be transformative at individual, organisational and community levels. We believe in working in partnership based on trust and reciprocity, to inspire and empower personal growth and development through lifelong learning.

Our People



At Léargas, we take pride in our work and are committed to cultivating an environment that emphasises quality, collaboration, and inclusivity.

We hire individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership and organisational skills, and who are analytical and conceptual thinkers capable of networking and influencing others. Additionally, we seek outstanding digital, interpersonal, and communication skills, essential for effectively contributing to a team dedicated to advancing the vision and mission of Léargas.

These values and strengths are exhibited in our diverse staff, who are highly qualified in varied disciplines such as languages, education, communication, finance, and project management. Our voluntary Board members also hold senior positions in organisations and disciplines such as nursing, education, and finance.

In 2024, Léargas had a total of 54 employees, with 9 new hires joining the team. Staff engaged in 17 professional development opportunities, ranging from GDPR and compliance to project management, Excel, team coaching, and resilience training. We also delivered 2 mandatory all-staff trainings and ongoing IT security training through our KnowBe4 platform. These efforts reflect our continued investment in a skilled, adaptable, and supported workforce—one that is essential to delivering our mission effectively.

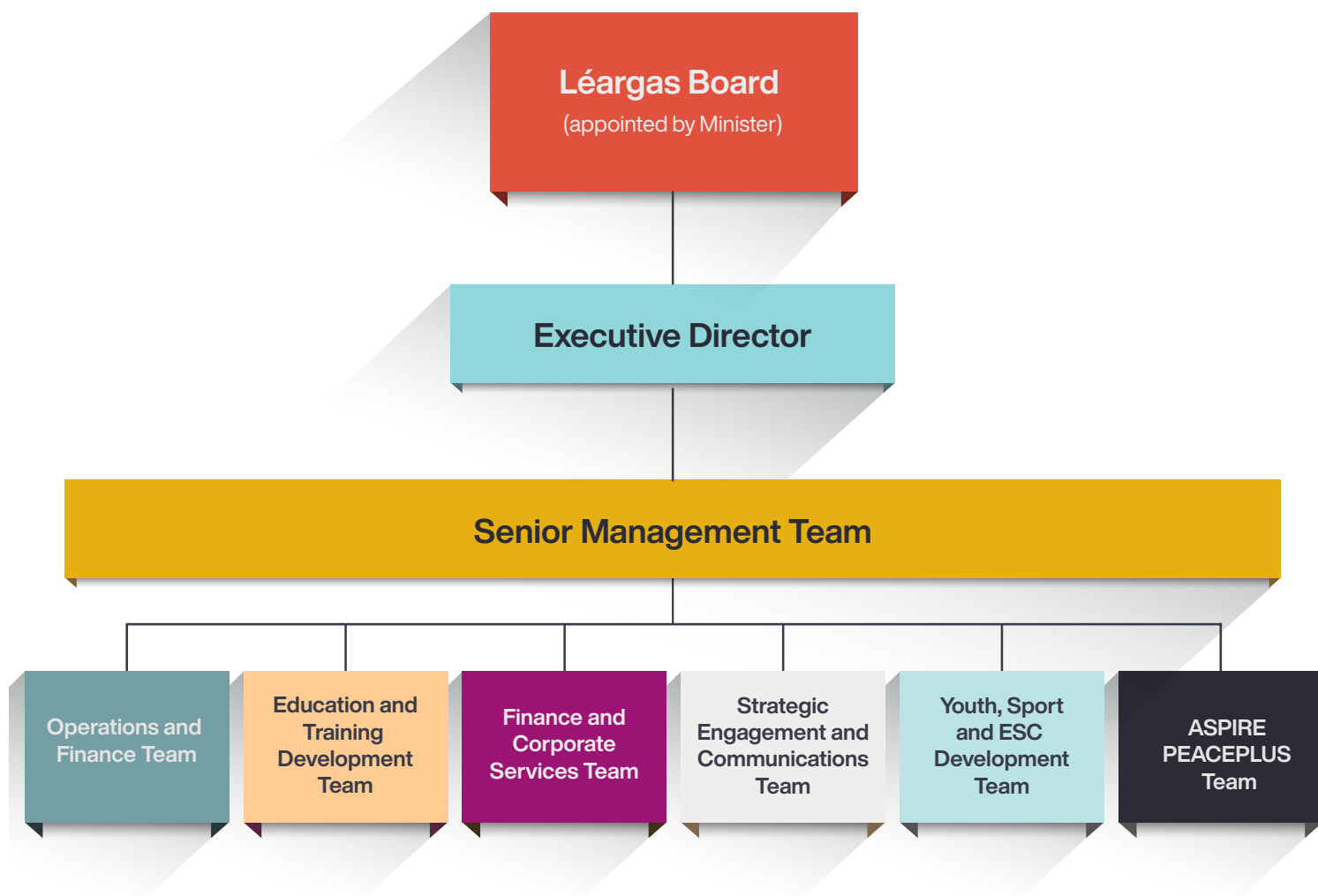
In terms of recruitment, Léargas is committed to an inclusive hiring process, ensuring standardised job descriptions, structured interviews, and promotion of roles through channels such as the Léargas website, social media, and external recruitment sites to reach a variety of individuals.

As part of assessing performance, Léargas operates a Performance Management and Development System (PMDS). This is the formal mechanism by which Léargas monitors and nurtures employee performance and development. Upon joining Léargas, all employees will participate in the PMDS. The PMDS operates on an annual cycle and includes 3 key components:

- **Goal Setting:** commencing in January, the employee and their manager will together set performance goals and agree a training plan to support the achievement of those goals.
- **Progress Check:** approximately 6 months after the employee's initial goal-setting meeting, they meet with their manager to check progress towards the achievement of goals and performance targets and to identify any areas where further support may be required.
- **Annual Appraisal:** at the end of the PMDS cycle, the employee and manager will have a complete review of the employee's performance for the past year, considering performance goals, targets, and an agreed training plan.

Our Structure

Léargas has 6 departments with distinct functions. Teams and individual roles can be found on the [Our Team](#) page on our website.



Operations and Finance Team

Manages all programme-related financial matters, including issuing payments, preparing and managing beneficiary contracts, and monitoring the financial management of funded projects. The team ensures compliance with national and EU grant regulations, supports accurate budgeting and reporting, and maintains robust systems for audit readiness.

Education and Training Development Team

Supports potential and actual beneficiaries of Erasmus+. Promotes and manages Schools, Vocational Education, and Adult Education sectors of Erasmus+ as well as sectorial-relevant initiatives of eTwinning, EPAL and VET Team.

Youth, Sport and ESC Development Team

Supports potential and actual beneficiaries of Erasmus+. Promotes and manages Youth Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, Discover EU and Erasmus+ Sport. All Training and Cooperation Activities are coordinated under this team, as well as sectoral relevant initiative of Eurodesk.

Strategic Engagement and Communications Team

Drives awareness of Léargas – its vision, branding, and EU programme offerings. Achieved through management of strategic activities, including Languages initiatives, Youth Wiki, the Léargas annual flagship event, and European campaigns. Responsible for implementing Inclusion and Diversity practices across teams and programmes, and for the planning and execution of external communications.



Finance and Corporate Services Team

Ensures efficient financial management and control necessary to support all business activities. Offers support internally regarding matters of Governance, Human Resources, Internal communications, IT, and Health & Safety, as well as general office management oversight.

ASPIRE PEACEPLUS Team

Supports the delivery of the ASPIRE strand of the PEACEPLUS Programme, promoting cross-border collaboration in peacebuilding, inclusion, and skills development. The team works with organisations in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland to develop and support high-quality projects that foster positive community relations.

Senior Management Team

The Heads of Teams form the Senior Management Team, which plays a strategic and operational role in guiding and delivering Léargas' objectives. In addition to overseeing the work and members of the specific teams, the senior management team oversees managing risks; hiring, and reviewing the performance of employees; ensuring excellent communication and collaboration within and across teams; managing complex challenges; meeting targets; and setting clear goals.

Senior Management Team Members

With 5 departments in Léargas, there are 6 members of the Senior Management Team. In 2024, the Head of Finance and Corporate Services role was held by 2 individuals. Nuria Terrats Serrano departed in June 2024, and Damien Healy was appointed to the role in September 2024.



Lorraine Gilligan

Lorraine Gilligan is Executive Director of Léargas, with experience spanning almost 30 years of European learning and mobility programmes and the impact of these opportunities on young people, learners, educators, organisations, and communities. She is deeply committed to making European values and experiences accessible, especially to those who benefit most from additional support. She leads the organisation with a strong belief that participation in European programmes enhances lifelong learning for all people, builds greater solidarity and understanding, and strengthens our communities.



Weronika Gasior

Weronika Gasior is Acting Head of Programme Finance and Operations at Léargas, leading the financial and contractual delivery of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps in Ireland. Since joining Léargas in 2008, she has progressed through roles in finance and operations, supporting audits, developing systems, and representing Ireland in EU working groups. Weronika previously worked as a European Funds Specialist in Krakow, helping universities secure European Social Fund grants.

Weronika holds qualifications in journalism, European integration, and project management, and is certified by the Institute of Project Management of Ireland. She is committed to enabling impactful projects through strong financial structures.



Emma Grainger

Emma Grainger leads the ASPIRE PEACEPLUS team at Léargas, overseeing projects that support inclusion, skills development, and peacebuilding. From 2022 to 2024, she was the Head of Strategic Engagement and Communications. Emma first joined Léargas in 2007, driven by a passion for helping others access European learning and mobility opportunities. Her background is in drama facilitation and training, using drama as a tool for learning and social inclusion. She later worked as Ethos Development Officer with Educate Together. Returning to Léargas, she became Project Lead in Adult Education before joining the Senior Leadership Team.

Emma holds qualifications in education and training (DCU), child, family and community studies (TU Dublin), and employment law (King's Inns).



Celine Martin

Celine Martin is Head of Youth, Sport, and the European Solidarity Corps at Léargas, leading a team that delivers European programmes supporting youth work, volunteering, sport, and transnational cooperation. She also oversees Eurodesk and DiscoverEU, helping young people access European opportunities and information. Celine began her career in Dublin's North East Inner City, developing residential programmes for young people, and later became Director of Community Addiction Services, where she helped establish one of the first onsite childcare services. At St. Vincent de Paul, she supported 11,000 volunteers and strengthened volunteer management standards. Before joining Léargas, she led City of Dublin Youth Services, contributing to national youth funding reform and creating a youth resilience fund.

Celine holds degrees in policy (TCD) and social care, with qualifications in management and clinical supervision.





Damien Healy

Damien Healy is Head of Finance and Corporate Services at Léargas, overseeing financial management, HR, IT, procurement, governance, and compliance. He joined Léargas in October 2024, bringing extensive experience from the non-profit, international development, and private sectors.

He has held senior finance roles with GOAL and Self-Help Africa, and previously worked with global companies such as B. Braun Medical and Johnson & Johnson, where he gained expertise in financial management, commercial analysis, and change management.

Damien is a CIMA-qualified accountant and is committed to strong financial stewardship that supports effective operations across Léargas. He ensures resources are well managed so that European programmes can deliver meaningful impact for communities and organisations across Ireland.



Deirdre Finlay

Deirdre Finlay is Head of Programmes for Education and Training at Léargas, where she leads the strategic delivery of Erasmus+ across schools, early years, vocational education and training (VET), and adult education. She also oversees EPALÉ, eTwinning, and the National VET Team, supporting European collaboration and professional development in education and training. She spent over a decade with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), managing education and HIV/AIDS programmes in Southern Africa and working with donors such as Irish Aid, UNICEF, and the EU. Before joining Léargas, she worked with The Wheel, helping charities access EU funding and co-designing the Access Europe support programme.

Deirdre holds a BA in Political Science (TCD), a Master's in International Relations (DCU), and qualifications in project management and evaluation.

Our Programmes

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth, and sport in Europe. To achieve this, the programme focuses on key horizontal priorities. These are Inclusion and Diversity, Digital Transformation, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, and Participation in Democratic Life.

Léargas administers the Erasmus+ programme in Ireland. We manage the following actions and opportunities:



Key Action 1 (KA1) Learning Mobility:

Learning mobilities allow individuals and groups to travel to other countries to learn, work, or train. They also provide a chance to attend a training course, to job-shadow, or to work on projects with partners located in other countries. There are many types of mobilities across sectors including exchanges for young people. Léargas supports:

- Adult Education Mobility
- School Education Mobility
- VET (Vocational Education and Training) Mobility
- Youth Worker Mobility
- Youth Exchanges
- Youth Participation
- Sport Mobility
- DiscoverEU Inclusion

Key Action 2 (KA2) Partnerships for Cooperation:

This action is about cooperation. It supports the development of organisations through the exchange of good practices and the creation of networks. It includes 2 types:

- 1. Cooperation Partnerships:** For experienced organisations or large-scale projects. Funding is available as lump sums of €400,000, €250,000, or €120,000.
- 2. Small-Scale Partnerships:** For smaller, shorter projects. Lump sums of €60,000 or €30,000 are available.

European Solidarity Corps Programme

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) funds and supports volunteering and project opportunities for young people aged 18–30. Its goal is to help young people take part in solidarity activities that create positive change in their communities and beyond. The programme also supports personal development and encourages young people to stay active as engaged citizens.

ESC projects aim to build a safer, greener, more inclusive, and digitally aware society.

Young people can apply for 2 types of ESC projects:

- 1. Volunteering Projects:** These include both individual and team opportunities.
- 2. Solidarity Projects:** In these, groups of young people create their own projects to address a community challenge.

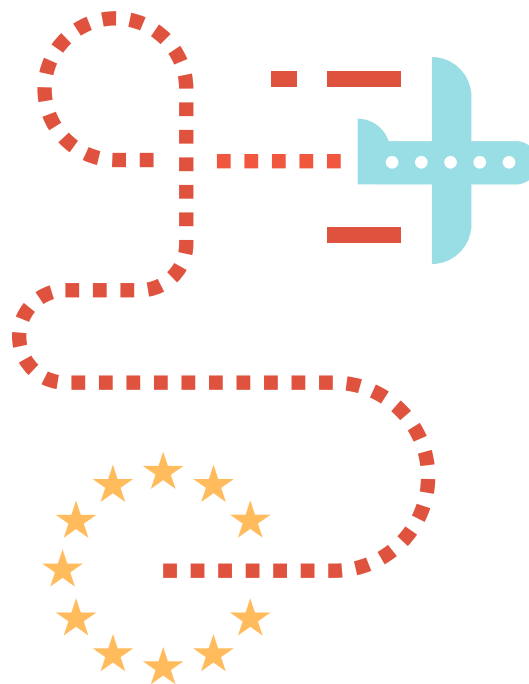
The ESC programme is open to a wide variety of organisations. In Ireland, these include youth services, homeless services, organisations supporting families, sustainability projects, and social justice organisations.

eTwinning

eTwinning is a free online platform connecting more than 1 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. eTwinning is funded by the European Union and administered in participating countries by a National Support Organisation (NSO). Léargas is the NSO for eTwinning in Ireland.

eTwinning now resides on the European School Education Platform (ESEP), a meeting point for all stakeholders in the school education sector.



ASPIRE (Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education)

The ASPIRE Project is funded through PEACEPLUS via the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Léargas is part of the partnership of organisations who will implement and administer the ASPIRE Project. The lead partner in the ASPIRE Project is the Education Authority NI.

The goals of ASPIRE are to promote peacebuilding, reconciliation, and inclusion through sustained cross-community and cross-border educational partnerships.

The core objective is to bring together children, educators, and communities from diverse socio-economic, cultural, and political backgrounds to build a more cohesive, respectful, and inclusive society.

ASPIRE seeks to address the enduring challenges of division and inequality in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland by fostering sustained and meaningful collaboration across educational and community settings.

The main aspects of the ASPIRE project are Pupil Engagement, Capacity Building for Educators, Leadership Training, Parental and Community Engagement, System-Wide Networking, and Change.

Languages

Through the Languages initiatives, we promote plurilingualism and help organisations raise awareness of the diverse languages spoken in homes, classrooms, and communities.

Léargas collaborates with colleagues across all sectors to organise events that highlight the importance of language awareness and learning.

We also encourage participation in initiatives managed on behalf of the European Commission and the Council of Europe. These include:

- The European Language Label
- The European Centre for Modern Languages
- Events such as the European Day of Languages

VET Team

The VET Team aims to promote and enhance progress towards the application of EU VET Tools and principles in projects funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

The National VET Team in Ireland supports the development and internationalisation of the VET sector, collaborates with other National VET Teams to share best international practices in VET, and provides advice and support to EU-funded projects under the Erasmus+ programme.

Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCA) and Networking Activities (NET)

TCA and NET activities are organised by National Agencies to promote collaboration and the sharing of best practices within Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

These events can include:

- Training and support sessions for National Agency staff and project coordinators
- Contact seminars to help beneficiaries find project partners
- Thematic seminars focused on specific topics in education, training, and youth work

Youth Wiki

Youth Wiki is Europe's online encyclopaedia for national youth policies.

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

EPALE

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 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 Support Service for EPALE in Ireland, receiving support via co-finance from SOLAS.

Eurodesk

Eurodesk Ireland, part of a European network with 38 national offices and over 3,000 multipliers and ambassadors, provides free information on European opportunities for young people aged 13–30.

It is a key resource for those interested in travelling, volunteering, studying, or working abroad. Eurodesk Ireland is supported by Erasmus+ and managed by Léargas.

A large graphic on the left side of the page features a stylized eye with a white sclera, a black pupil, and a light blue iris. The eye is set against a dark teal background. A thick orange arc curves around the top and right sides of the eye. Below the eye, there are light blue and grey geometric shapes. The overall design is modern and abstract.

Our Strategic Priorities

2024 marks the final year of our Strategic Statement 2021–2024. Over the past 4 years, Léargas has worked to strengthen inclusion, solidarity, and transformation through international learning and cooperation. Our strategic statement has helped to shape our priorities, guide our work, and align us with national and European aims.

This year also served as a bridge to our future direction. While awaiting the outcomes of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps mid-term evaluations, we reflected on our progress and responded to the changing context in which we operate. We listened to participants, organisations, and stakeholders, and celebrated a period of growth and adaptability.

Our work continues to show the impact of international experiences on people and communities. We have supported a growing number of individuals and organisations to connect across Europe and beyond, championed inclusion and diversity, and shared the value of lifelong learning.

In the sections that follow, we revisit our strategic pillars—People Matter, Programmes Transform, and Partnerships Work—to share just some of the stories that reflect the values, commitment, and achievements of this final year of our current strategic phase.



Strategic Priority: People Matter

Léargas continues to raise awareness of the opportunities that international programmes offer to enhance inclusion and solidarity. This strategic priority aims to increase participation by promoting Léargas and conveying the power, for individuals and organisations, of national and international learning experiences and their wider societal impact. It involves reaching out in targeted ways to engage people, especially those who are less advantaged, and organisations that work with them, and celebrating and sharing the positivity of Erasmus+ and all our programmes.

European Youth Week 2024: Empowering Young Voices Across Ireland

European Youth Week (EYW) is an initiative of the European Commission, held every 2 years to celebrate and promote youth participation in Europe. It creates space across the continent for young people to engage in discussions, explore European opportunities, and connect with EU values such as democracy, inclusion, and solidarity. In 2024, the European Commission placed particular emphasis on youth engagement with the European Elections, encouraging young people to understand their role in shaping Europe's future.

Throughout the year, National Agencies, youth organisations, and communities across Europe organised events aligned with this theme. Léargas, as Ireland's National Agency, designed a National European Youth Week 2024 roadshow to empower young people, amplify their voices, and connect them directly with European opportunities like Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and DiscoverEU.

Running from January to June, the roadshow travelled to Athlone, Edenderry, Mullingar, Dublin, Cork, the Midlands, and Donegal, engaging over 250 participants from youth organisations including Creativity and Change, RICCYs Youth Centre, Donegal Youth Service, and Youth Work Ireland Midlands. Events were carefully designed using the European Youth Week toolkit,



with workshops, debates, arts activities, and digital literacy sessions focusing on democratic participation, climate action, and digital inclusion.

At the heart of the roadshow was a focus on empowering young people to engage with the European Elections, understand the impact of EU programmes, and recognise the value of their voice in shaping their communities and Europe's future. Many participants registered to vote, explored European mobility opportunities, and shared their own experiences and hopes for future engagement.



This creative and collaborative initiative not only strengthened connections to Europe but also built confidence, knowledge, and a strong sense of belonging among young people. The European Commission's leadership in creating this platform ensured that young people across Ireland and Europe had a space to reflect, connect, and see their place in Europe's democratic story.

A highlight of European Youth Week 2024 was the selection of an Irish Erasmus+ project, 'Participation for Social Rights', by Youth Work Ireland Dundalk, for the European Commission's Voice Your Vision showcase in Brussels. Recognised as a best practice example, the project involved 250 young people in a national consultation on mental health, wellbeing, and disability, engaging directly with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the National Youth Council of Ireland, and the Seanad.

Youth participants from Mullingar said

"I can't wait till I'm 18 for Solidarity Academy – great to know there's a pathway for us."

"This was fun – we got a chance to have our say in a non-judgemental setting."

Youth participants from Edenderry said

"We'd love to see our schools doing more like this – it was great fun learning about stuff we find boring in school."

"It's good to see that my voice is important."

A youth worker from Athlone said

"We were delighted to see the young people engage so strongly with an external facilitator who had them engaged from the minute the session started."

Léargas accompanied the representatives from Ireland, alongside Ballyfermot Youth Service, European Solidarity Corps participant organisation Voluntary Service International, and a Eurodesk Ambassador, as part of the delegation attending the event. The showcase gathered 880 participants from across Europe, offering space to share ideas, celebrate youth-led projects, and highlight the power of young people's voices in shaping Europe's future.

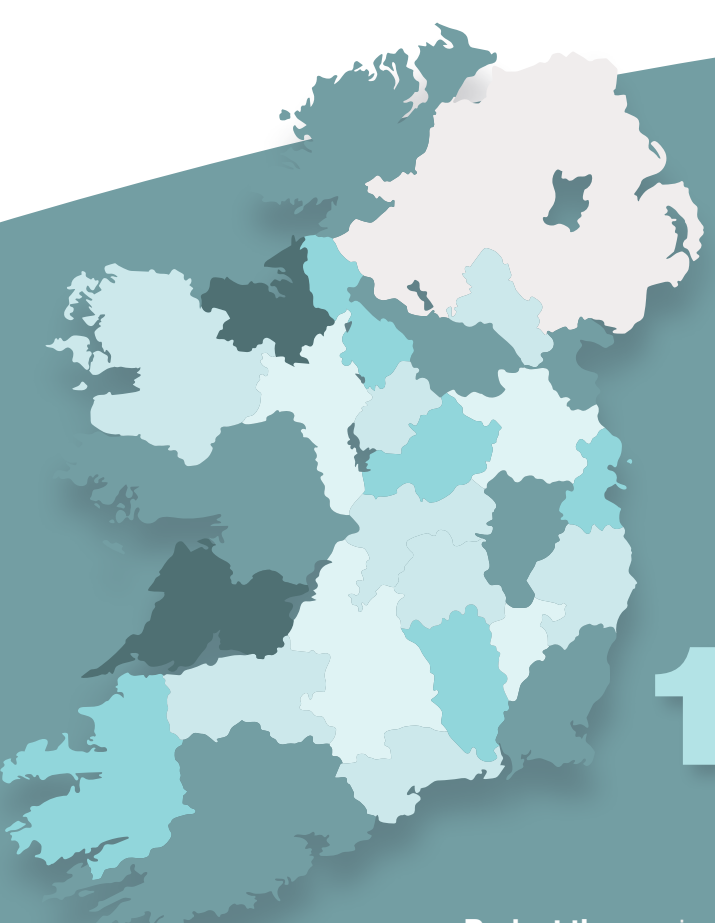
Supporting New Voices and Local Impact through Microgrants

Building on the momentum of European Youth Week 2024, Léargas launched the Léargas Microgrant Scheme, an initiative designed to make European opportunities more accessible to youth and community organisations, particularly those new to Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

The scheme provided once-off grants of up to €5,000 to support youth-led projects running from June to September 2024. Projects explored themes such as democratic participation, wellbeing, climate action, education, and inclusion, reflecting both European Youth Week priorities and the values of European programmes.

By lowering barriers to participation, the Microgrant Scheme enabled grassroots organisations to gain experience with European funding and deliver creative, locally relevant projects. The scheme prioritised organisations working directly with young people with fewer opportunities, ensuring that support reached communities often under-represented in European initiatives.

Microgrant schemes are designed to offer small, flexible funding that enables individuals and organisations to test ideas, deliver local projects, and build experience with European programmes. By reducing barriers to participation, microgrants create accessible pathways for newcomers to engage with European values, priorities, and opportunities—often becoming a first step towards larger-scale projects. In 2024, Léargas introduced 2 microgrant schemes focused on inclusion, digitalisation, and grassroots impact.



68 applications received across 22 counties

8 counties represented: Carlow, Cavan, Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Monaghan, Sligo, Wicklow

14 organisations funded, including 12 newcomers

€55,187 allocated with grants ranging from €1,500 to €5,000

Project themes included youth engagement, disability awareness, and fostering inclusion within schools

45 first-time applicants new to Léargas funding

Planting Seeds for Future Participation

Through this initiative, Léargas strengthened its commitment to inclusion and participation by supporting new organisations and communities to take their first steps into European programmes and access EU opportunities.

For example, 2 young people involved in the Microgrants 2024 activity 'ART Festival Camp' by the Cavan Autism Centre went on to develop and submit successful ESC Solidarity projects in the October 2024 round.

Another example is Féach, a volunteer-led organisation that connects, informs, and empowers vision-impaired and blind young people and their families. Committed to advancing inclusion and self-advocacy in education and employment, Féach was awarded €5,000 through the Microgrants Scheme to create resources for higher education institutions.

With the funding, Féach developed 2 practical guides—[Our Vision Our Voice – Vision Impairment Guide for lecturers](#) and [The Guide to Disability Teams](#)—to support lecturers and disability services in creating more accessible learning environments. These resources offer clear advice to ensure students with visual impairments receive the support they need to succeed academically.

Léargas attended the launch of these guides at Féach's annual **Life Through Our Eyes** conference on 28 September at Griffith College. The event brought together representatives from higher education and disability support services, providing a platform for vision-impaired young people and their families to share experiences, raise awareness, and advocate for a more inclusive education system.



Connecting Classrooms and Communities through eTwinning Microgrants

While the Léargas Microgrant Scheme supported youth and community groups, the eTwinning Microgrant Scheme focused on supporting schools to explore digital collaboration and intercultural learning.

In August 2024, Léargas launched the eTwinning Microgrant Scheme, offering grants of €500 to €5,000 to small primary schools for projects focused on digitalisation and engagement with the eTwinning platform. Supported by Department of Education funds, the scheme aimed to help schools new to European funding build experience and connect with international partners through creative digital learning activities.

The scheme funded 5 rural schools, with a total of €20,026 awarded, and 4 of the schools were part of the DEIS programme. Projects ran from October to December 2024 and explored themes such as arts, culture, and environmental awareness. Activities included drama and music workshops, ocean education, cultural visits, and local concerts, all designed to foster inclusion and community engagement, particularly for new migrant pupils.

Schools used eTwinning and digital tools to collaborate with European peers, create digital stories, and share their work. The projects supported the Digital Strategy for Schools while also enhancing pupils' confidence, creativity, and cultural awareness.

All 5 schools reported a positive experience and expressed interest in applying for further European funding in future.

Strategic Priority: Partnerships Work

This priority focuses on nurturing and strengthening relationships at European, national, and local levels to increase participation in international exchange and collaboration. We work in meaningful partnership with a diverse range of people and organisations in Ireland and across Europe to achieve shared policy and programme goals. This includes cooperating closely with the government, the European Commission, colleagues in educational and youth sectors, while encouraging individuals and communities to embrace international opportunities.

YouthLAB 2024: Holding the Present, Embracing the Future of European Youth Programmes

In September 2024, Léargas proudly hosted YouthLAB 2024, a flagship European gathering designed to connect, inspire, and refocus those working on Erasmus+ Youth, European Solidarity Corps, and Training and Cooperation Activities (TCAs). Organised every 2 years, YouthLAB provides National Agency staff from across Europe a space to share practice, reflect on achievements, and explore the future of the programmes.

The 2024 edition, Hold the Present – Embrace the Future, came at a pivotal moment, aligning with the mid-term evaluation of the EU Youth Strategy and the current programme generation. It offered a timely opportunity to look back on what has been achieved and look ahead to the evolving landscape of European youth programmes.

The setting in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan allowed 84 participants from 30 countries to step away from their day-to-day and engage in a reflective and collaborative environment.

The programme blended workshops, discussions, field visits, and cultural activities, designed to reignite motivation and strengthen network connections. It focused on peer support, diversity, and the power of non-formal learning, creating space for honest dialogue and forward thinking.

Participants explored:

- Futures of Youth Work, including insights from research and reflection on the sector's future-readiness.
- The Futures of the Programmes, featuring presentations from Heads of National Agencies and advocacy work shaping the next programme generation.
- Celebrating Impact, using RAY (Research-Based Analysis and Monitoring of Erasmus+ Youth) results to reflect on the difference programmes make.
- Knowledge Management and Staff Training (KMST) Competence Framework and AI-based self-assessment tools for National Agency staff skills development.
- Parallel workshops on 'Life in a National Agency' and the bigger picture of youth policy, societal issues, and inclusion challenges.

A major highlight was the field visits to Irish youth work organisations, offering first-hand insight into how European programmes shape local communities. Feedback confirmed that these visits were among the most valuable of the event, bringing policy discussions to life through practice.

Throughout the LAB, young people were actively involved, adding authenticity and reminding participants of the importance of youth voices in shaping the future. Cultural evenings, including Irish music and storytelling, further strengthened connections and created space for informal exchange.

Participants reflected on what's needed to prepare for the future, from strengthening values of democracy and inclusion to ensuring National Agencies are equipped to meet new challenges. A collective energy emerged around shaping the next generation of programmes to be even more impactful, inclusive, and grounded in the needs of young people.

As YouthLAB moves to Iceland in 2027, Ireland's successful hosting leaves a reminder of the importance of making space for reflection, connection, and shared vision. Events like YouthLAB embody the essence of Partnerships Work, reinforcing the collaborative spirit at the heart of European youth programmes.

Strengthening European Youth Work: The NUI Certificate Programme in European Youth Mobility Project Management


A highlight of 2024 was the delivery of the NUI Certificate in **European Youth Mobility Project Management**, a professional development programme co-created by Léargas and Maynooth University. Now in its fifth iteration, this QQI Level 8 Special Purpose Award (20 ECTS credits) has become a cornerstone of our efforts to build capacity in the youth sector. It is the first accredited course of its kind in Europe.



Developed through our Erasmus+ TCAs, the programme offers a unique model of partnership that brings together academic rigour, practitioner insight, and European programme expertise. Closely aligned with the European Youth Work Agenda (Bonn Process), it is designed to support youth workers and organisations in embedding a European dimension in their practice.

The course follows a blended format, combining weekly online sessions, 3 residential seminars at Maynooth University, and an international study visit. This structure ensures broad accessibility, especially for practitioners in rural or remote areas. In 2024, participants travelled to Slovenia for the European Academy of Youth Work—an experience that deepened their understanding of European youth work and emerged as a programme highlight.

We received a total of **22 applications** for the programme, with 16 accepted and 12 successful completion. Participants came from a diverse mix of community projects, youth services, and non-formal education settings across both urban and rural Ireland. All were actively working with young people and supported by their organisations, ensuring that the learning could be applied directly in practice.



When asked if students would recommend this programme to others going forward. They responded...

The curriculum covered European policy and funding frameworks, project design, reflective practice, and inclusion strategies. Contributions from Léargas staff, European researchers, case study practitioners, and university academics created a rich learning environment. Continuous assessment through essays, journals, presentations, and project proposals challenged students to apply their learning in real-world contexts.

Participants consistently identified the ability to develop high-quality funding applications as a key outcome. By the programme's end, students had prepared Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps proposals across actions including Youth Exchanges, Youth Worker Mobility, Participation Projects, DiscoverEU Inclusion, Accreditation, and Quality Label awards. Early estimates suggest these applications could involve over 600 young people and 244 youth workers from Ireland and partner countries.

Equally significant was the increased confidence and clarity around European opportunities. One participant reflected:

"I no longer see Erasmus+ projects as numbers on a screen or budgets I have to work on, but as life-changing opportunities for young people—and an important part of our organisation's work."

The programme also reinforced the value of reflective practice, with participants noting how the course helped align their work more deeply with European values. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with graduates calling the course **"accessible, achievable, and highly applicable"**. Many are already encouraging their peers to take part.



"Yes, I already am recommending it. The quality of the programme will result in quality applications and quality European Youth Mobility projects. Personal connection with Léargas representatives, building network with Irish and European colleagues and developing competence were highlights for me."

"I feel all youth workers, administrators and managers should have access to and avail of this course. It is comprehensive experiential learning, with a strong peer education element and like EU youth work with young people, it immerses us in a learning environment and is a significant opportunity."

"Definitely, I have learned about the importance of European Youth work, gained great knowledge of project management and gained new digital skills. I no longer see Erasmus projects as numbers on the screen and budgets I have to work on, but as a life-changing opportunity for young people and important part of the programme of our organisation."



Connecting Practice and Policy through VET Team

The work of Léargas' national VET Team in 2024 highlights the strength of cross-sector collaboration and a shared commitment to innovation in vocational education and training. Through research, resource development, peer exchange, and sectoral support, the team continues to build understanding of transversal skills and reinforce Ireland's role in the European VET landscape.

As part of a European Commission initiative, Ireland's VET Team brings together national experts to promote the strategic value of Erasmus+ in VET. The group includes experienced practitioners, researchers, and Erasmus+ project coordinators, alongside policymakers and programme managers from bodies such as SOLAS, ETBI, and QQI. Coordinated by Léargas, the team worked throughout the year to share expertise, offer guidance, and connect national practice with European VET tools and policy developments.

A key focus in 2024 was strengthening recognition of transversal skills developed through Erasmus+ mobility. Léargas presented findings from the national report [Erasmus+ VET Mobility as a Route to the Acquisition of Transversal Skills](#) at the FET Colleges Ireland Conference, where the importance of these skills for education and employment was centre stage.



The team also contributed to the 5th Validation of Prior Learning Biennale in Kilkenny, presenting the evolving Transversal Skills Competency Framework and the research behind it. This framework supports learners in identifying and articulating skills gained through international mobility.

International collaboration remained a strong feature of the year. At the Joint Inspiration for Future Success meeting in Riga, Latvia, the VET Team connected with peers from 5 countries to share insights and explore future cooperation. Léargas also welcomed a delegation from Estonia for a study visit that included Finglas Training Centre and Blackrock Institute of Further Education. A return visit to Tallinn later in the year offered valuable opportunities to discuss VET systems, Erasmus+ participation, and shared challenges.

A major achievement in 2024 was the development of the [Transversal Skills Toolkit](#), a practical resource created during a collaborative seminar in Athlone. Designed by practitioners, researchers, and experts, the toolkit includes activities, reflective exercises, and assessment tools to help educators integrate transversal skills recognition into Erasmus+ mobility. Launched in December, it stands as a lasting outcome of Léargas' VET Team's work to enhance skill development and deepen the impact of mobility projects.





Strategic Priority: Programmes Transform

Our programmes have the power to transform lives, organisations and communities. In 2024, we continued to see how Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps support real change, opening doors to new experiences, developing skills, and strengthening communities.

Through storytelling, volunteering, and creative expression, participants shared how their involvement in European programmes helped them grow personally and make an impact locally.



Seen and Heard: the Power of Volunteering and Storytelling

In December 2024, Léargas hosted Seen and Heard for the second year, marking International Volunteer Day with a celebration of young people whose voices and actions are shaping communities through the ESC. Building on the success of the inaugural event in 2023, this year’s gathering highlighted how the programme—and the volunteers it supports—continue to evolve, inspire, and create meaningful impact.

Held once again at the Stella Cinema in Rathmines, Dublin, the event welcomed 70 participants, including volunteers, project organisations, youth services, and community partners. Seen and Heard is more than a celebration; it is a dedicated space to honour the contributions of young people involved in ESC projects, and to showcase the transformative power of volunteering.

This year’s theme focused on storytelling as a vehicle for connection and change. A [specially commissioned video](#) premiered at the event and brought the voices of ESC volunteers to the big screen—capturing honest reflections about confidence gained, connections made, and the sense of purpose that volunteering helped to spark. In their own words, young people described how participating in ESC helped them grow, gave them space to belong, and allowed them to make a difference in the lives of others.

Feedback from ESC volunteers



“It helped me believe in myself again.”

“You’re not just helping someone else. You’re growing too.”

“You see people smile and you know you’ve made a difference, even in a small way.”

“I found a space where I felt accepted, where I felt I belonged.”

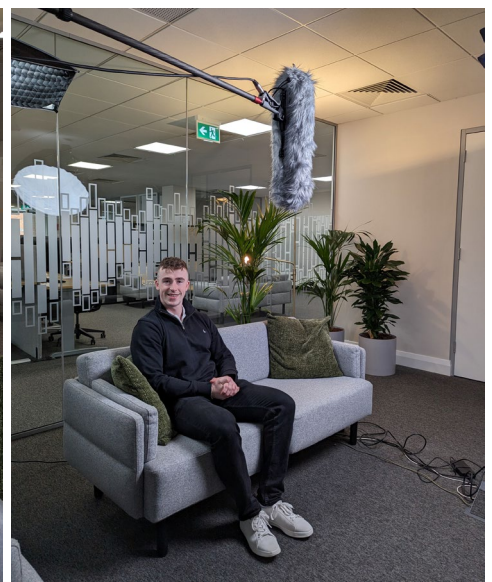
“Volunteering gave me direction—something to wake up for, something to believe in.”



Performers, speakers, and volunteers continued this thread on the event day, sharing lived experiences that reminded the audience of a simple truth: when young people are given the space to be truly seen and heard, they don't just find their voice—they use it to lead, support, and inspire.

The event reinforced the vital role of the European Solidarity Corps in making this possible. ESC doesn't just offer volunteering opportunities; it nurtures empathy, inclusion, and a sense of shared European identity. It allows young people to explore new cultures, gain valuable skills, and contribute to projects that build stronger, more connected communities. Storytelling is central to that journey—helping participants articulate their growth, reflect on their impact, and spark curiosity and action in others.

Seen and Heard 2024 showed that volunteering is more than a contribution—it is a powerful story in motion. By creating space for these stories to be shared and celebrated, the event continues to demonstrate how the European Solidarity Corps transforms individuals, organisations, and communities alike.



The Gathering: Sharing Knowledge and Creating Space for Learning

The Gathering is Léargas' annual cross-sectoral event, bringing together participants, project coordinators, and organisations from across the programmes we manage. In 2024, the event was held online, creating an open and accessible platform for attendees to explore Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and other European initiatives.

The event opened with speeches and a panel discussion reflecting on the impact of European programmes and the value of international collaboration. A special moment was the musical performance by young people from Comhaltas Music Generation Galway City project, who shared their talents and experiences as part of an Erasmus+ funded partnership. Their performance added a personal and creative element to the day, grounding the event in the voices of programme participants.

The Gathering was designed to provide something for everyone, whether they were taking first steps in European programmes or looking to build on existing experience. Three breakout sessions offered tailored spaces for learning: [First Steps in Programmes](#) focused on guidance for newcomers; [Next Steps in Programmes](#) supported those planning their future engagement; and [Digital Storytelling and Sharing Project Results](#) explored ways to creatively share impact with wider audiences.

Léargas staff were on hand throughout to answer questions, share insights, and provide practical advice based on their experience supporting projects. Recordings of each session were made available afterwards, ensuring that learning could continue beyond the event itself.



Expanding Reach and Collaboration in Adult Education

In 2024, Erasmus+ Adult Education continued to grow across Ireland, with more organisations getting involved and more people taking part. Many of these new organisations came from non-formal and informal education settings, including domestic violence services, citizens' information centres, theatre groups, language schools, homeless services, and family resource centres. Their involvement shows how Erasmus+ is increasingly relevant for organisations working to meet diverse learning needs in communities.



Supporting this growth, Léargas focused on making it easier for organisations to get started and connect with others across Europe. We continued to contribute at European level through active participation in the European Commission's Working Group on Adult Learner Mobility, helping to shape strategic thinking and share good practice across countries. One of our key supports was our series of Erasmus+ "Speed Dating" events, designed to help organisations find European partners. In March, we hosted an event focused on language learning for migrants and refugees, bringing together 48 participants from 16 countries. Organisations in Ireland also took part in a similar event hosted in Sweden, focused on formal adult education. The success of this model has sparked interest from other National Agencies, with Léargas invited to share our approach at European level.

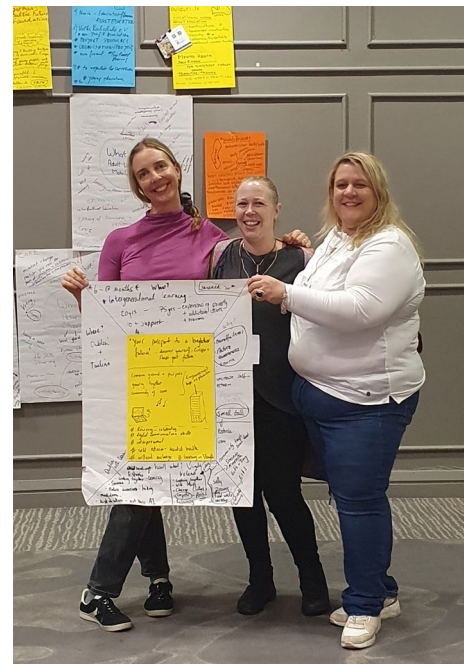


National collaboration played a key role in reaching new sectors. In May, we took a cross-programme approach to outreach by joining Erasmus+ Adult Education with Youth, Sport and the European Solidarity Corps at The Wheel Summit. This joint presence allowed us to show how European opportunities can support a wide range of organisations—whether they're working with adult learners, young people, volunteers, or communities. For the Adult Education sector in particular, it was a chance to highlight the flexibility of Erasmus+ and how it can align with the goals of organisations across the broader community and voluntary sector.

In September 2024, we built on this approach by co-hosting Your Path to Europe with EPAL Ireland and The Wheel. Aimed at first-time applicants, the event encouraged peer learning, sparked ideas, and gave participants practical tools to explore Erasmus+ for the first time. The event demonstrated how collaboration across programmes and platforms can support wider engagement, especially among organisations that may not see themselves as part of the traditional adult education landscape.

Our outreach also extended to the National Volunteer Management Conference hosted by Volunteer Ireland. Here, we provided practical information on Erasmus+ project funding and co-delivered a workshop with Youth and Sport colleagues. This was another opportunity to show how different strands of the programme can work together to support organisations in achieving their goals—whether through mobility, partnership, or community-based initiatives.

We're already seeing the impact of this outreach in the growing number of applications from organisations that first connected with us at these events. It's a powerful reminder of the importance of being present where potential applicants gather. By offering a friendly face and practical support, we can open doors for new organisations to transform their work through Erasmus+. Through these connections, more organisations are seeing how Erasmus+ can support and strengthen their work with adult learners.



Key Highlights and Developments

Growth and engagement across programmes, participants, and stakeholders.

2024 was a year of growth and new connections across our Education and Training programmes. More organisations got involved, more people participated, and more projects brought international experiences to learners across Ireland.

In School Education, interest in Erasmus+ remained strong, accounting for 138 of the 375 projects contracted in 2024—over a third of the total. Newcomer engagement was also highest in School Education, with 57 newcomer organisations contracting projects in 2024. High demand resulted in full allocation of the sector's available funding, with no need for a second round.



Several themes emerged across school project applications in 2024, with applicants viewing Erasmus+ as a meaningful way to support schools in responding to these areas.

- **Inclusion and Diversity:** educators are seeking opportunities to support and enhance multiculturalism in the classroom. We see projects focusing on integrating migrant learners and promoting multicultural understanding.
- **Wellbeing:** schools are developing projects to better equip teachers, staff, and pupils to address mental health challenges and both student and teacher wellbeing.
- **Modern Foreign Languages:** many projects focus on enhancing language teaching and learning through exchanges. At primary level, this reflects the introduction of Modern Foreign Languages to the curriculum.
- **Digital education:** many projects seek to address the rise of AI, digital teaching practices, and challenges such as cyberbullying and social media use.

A standout moment for the school sector in 2024 was the **Walk the Talk**, Long-Term Pupil Mobility, a nature event that brought together primary school and early years groups in an outdoor learning setting. This hands-on experience helped strengthen links between schools, early years, and Erasmus+ opportunities. It also helped connect Léargas with county childcare committees, creating new pathways for engagement and collaboration.



The Adult Education sector saw impressive growth in 2024. The number of Erasmus+ Learning Mobility (Key Action 1) projects increased from just 1 in 2021 to 28 this year, with just over **660 participants** expected to take part. Nine new organisations became accredited, including the Age Friendly University within Dublin City University and a new consortium representing 15 community education providers.

As mentioned in our Strategic Priorities section, much of this growth is thanks to collaboration across sectors and programmes. One of the strongest examples of this is our EPALE Ireland network. EPALE wrapped up its 2022–2024 project cycle with a standout year, achieving a 14.5% increase in membership—placing Ireland among the top 6 countries in the network for growth. There was also a 22% rise in the number of organisations registering on the platform, which helped connect more adult learning providers to European opportunities.

By taking a cross-programme approach between Erasmus+ Adult Education and EPALE, and working with organisations like The Wheel and AONTAS, Léargas reached adult learning groups that hadn't previously engaged with Erasmus+. Events such as the AONTAS STAR Awards introduced many local and national organisations to European opportunities for the first time. This work has already contributed to an increase in Adult Education applications, and plans are now in place to continue this collaborative approach in 2025.

We also saw continued growth within the VET sector. Funding for Erasmus+ mobility projects **increased by over 125% since 2021, with nearly €8.3 million allocated in 2024**. Projects came from every corner of the country, with new groups like apprenticeship centres, Youthreach Centres, and Community Training Centres applying for funding. Three-quarters of ETBs are now accredited in VET, highlighting a real shift towards long-term planning for international opportunities at both a local and national level. **Small-Scale Partnership projects also grew, with funding increasing between 2021 and 2023 by 550%. Funding for partnership projects was awarded across Ireland, with strong representation from organisations within forestry, construction, and pharmaceuticals.**



eTwinning, the European Commission's online platform for schools, also had another busy year, supported in Ireland by Léargas. Registrations from eTwinning Ireland rose by 18%, with 178 new users and 89 new projects. Our annual eTwinning conference focused on wellbeing in schools, with inspiring speakers sharing their stories. Alongside the microgrant scheme mentioned in our Strategic Priorities section, new resources were launched, including a handbook and support videos. A special implementation guide for Early Years educators was also published, supporting younger learners to connect through eTwinning. In 2024, 22 projects were awarded the [National Quality Label](#), with 7 of these receiving the European Quality Label.

Our Youth sector also experienced strong growth in 2024, with new projects, partnerships, and wider recognition of the role of international youth work in Ireland. Erasmus+ Youth saw the highest number of applications received in any grant year so far, with steady growth in Small-Scale Partnerships and youth-led projects. Focused outreach resulted in more Youthreach Centres applying for and successfully securing funding for Youth Participation Projects and DiscoverEU Inclusion. Collaboration with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth resulted in International Youth Work being recognised for the first time in the new [“Opportunities for Youth National Strategy for Youth Work 2024–2028”](#).

Ten projects were funded through Erasmus+ Sport this year. Our collaboration with Sport Ireland and Local Sports Partnerships helped increase awareness and

participation, especially at grassroots level. To support learning and exchange, Léargas hosted a study visit in Dublin focused on using sport to engage young people with fewer opportunities. Participants from across Europe took part, with Local Sports Partnerships in Clare, Waterford, Limerick, and Laois leading the way, showcasing their work through hands-on job shadowing.

The European Solidarity Corps continued to strengthen its links with the community and voluntary sector. A key development was our work with Localise on the National Youth Volunteering Programme, which now integrates the ESC Youthpass into Ireland's National Youth Volunteering Portfolio. This platform provides a space for young people to document their volunteering, reflect on their skills, and gain recognition, with some education providers accepting it in applications.

Eurodesk Ireland had a busy year, reaching over 1,800 young people through European Youth Week and Time to Move campaigns. Activities focused on promoting European elections, green travel, and EU mobility opportunities. Events were held across the country, while mini-grants and resources helped local groups run workshops, competitions, and creative projects.

Across both youth and education and training sectors, our Training and Cooperation Activities (TCAs) and



Network Events (NET) continued to play a key role in building capacity and fostering connection. Many of the events, trainings, and co-creative projects—such as the NUI Certificate in European Youth Mobility Project Management mentioned in our Strategic Priorities section—were delivered and funded through these activities. These supports give organisations the space to network, share ideas, develop skills, discuss best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration, both nationally and internationally.

In addition to delivering strategic sectoral events and learning activities, our communication activities extended this impact further, raising awareness, promoting programme opportunities, and ensuring EU values reached a wide audience across Ireland.

Léargas led over 10 major campaigns in 2024 on behalf of the organisation and the European Commission, promoting programme opportunities and EU values across sectors. These included programme and funding campaigns such as the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Call Campaigns](#), and youth engagement campaigns like [European Youth Week](#) and its accompanying [Microgrant Scheme](#).

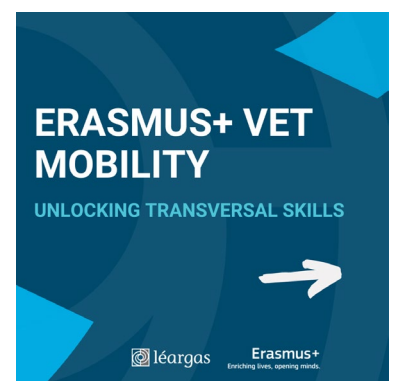


Several campaigns promoted wider European priorities and values. The [European Elections Campaign](#) encouraged voter participation among young people and educators, while the [Green Travel Campaign](#) highlighted sustainable practices within Erasmus+ projects and encouraged beneficiaries to opt for greener transport options.

Other campaigns supported major events and outreach efforts. At the [National Ploughing Championships](#), Léargas collaborated with the EU Commission Representation in Ireland and EURES to showcase opportunities in Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, Eurodesk, and eTwinning. We also interviewed Barbara Nolan, former Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland to highlight the importance of European programmes in community engagement.

Léargas' annual flagship event, The Gathering, brought together new and returning beneficiaries from across sectors to explore, celebrate, and share their Erasmus+ and ESC experiences. Held online on 9 May, the event included panel discussions, information sessions, and a live Q&A with programme experts.

Across all campaigns and communications activity, Léargas maintained a strong digital presence in 2024. We published over 1,670 social media posts across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X, generating more than 315,000 impressions, 6,586 interactions, and 7,431 link clicks. We issued 23 sectoral newsletters and 15 biweekly mailshots to a growing mailing list of over 11,400 subscribers, with average open rates exceeding 35%.



Widening Access and Deepening Inclusion

Inclusion is embedded across all our work at Léargas. In 2024, we strengthened our approach to making Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and all our programmes more inclusive and accessible to a wider range of people and organisations.

We focused on engaging groups that are often under-represented in international programmes, including rural youth organisations, migrant and ethnic minority communities, DEIS schools, and UBU-funded youth services. Our approach combined targeted outreach with practical supports—such as tailored information sessions, one-to-one guidance, and feedback on project ideas—to help newcomers navigate and benefit from the opportunities available.

As part of this work, we continued to lead Ireland's involvement in SALTO's Strategic Partnerships for Inclusion (SPI) for Rural Youth. This initiative supported greater geographical diversity and built strong working relationships with other National Agencies. In 2024, we hosted 2 national and one international activity under SPI.

One of the highlights was the international TCA Connecting Rural Youth Work, held in Waterford. The event received a 4.52/5 satisfaction rating, with 84% of participants reporting that their expectations were met and 40% expressing interest in starting an Erasmus+ project. We also contributed to SPI activities in Sardinia and Estonia, where 3 Irish participants took part in study and training visits focused on rural development and inclusion. These opportunities led to real results—one Irish participant went on to form a cross-country partnership and submit a joint project proposal.

We also supported newcomers to engage in international learning through targeted participation in TCAs. For example, representatives from the Longford African Network and Leitrim Education and Training Board attended the Inclusion and Diversity Forum in Belgium. Pre-departure and follow-up support helped participants apply their learning to future project development.

Throughout the year, we continued to offer dedicated guidance to organisations through our Inclusion and Diversity Officer's supportive approach. This included feedback on unsuccessful applications, advice on aligning projects with programme goals, and support in shaping projects that reflect each organisation's unique context and priorities. This approach helps ensure that applicants from underrepresented groups are empowered to submit proposals that genuinely reflect their needs and aspirations.

Internally, we also maintained the work of our Inclusion Cluster Group, established in 2023.

The group brings staff together from across Léargas to reflect on our inclusion practices and ensure we are continually improving how we embed Inclusion and Diversity in everything we do.





Policy Engagement and Strategic Alignment

In 2024, Léargas remained actively engaged in supporting national strategies and aligning EU programmes with Irish policy goals. Our contribution this year focused on collaboration, consultation, and implementation within key national frameworks related to education, youth, and international mobility.



We contributed to the development and implementation of the following national strategies:

- **Global Citizens 2030:** Ireland's International Talent and Innovation Strategy, published by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The strategy recognises the role of Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes in creating international, green, and digital experiences. Léargas is named as a member of the Implementation Forum, tasked with embedding best practice, coordinating activities, and consulting on shared goals across the sector.
- **Opportunities for Youth:** National Strategy for Youth Work and Related Services 2024–2028, published by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Léargas is identified as a partner under:

 - **Action 1**, to support the development of multi-annual national youth policy priorities.
 - **Action 17**, to increase the participation of young people—particularly those with fewer opportunities—in EU youth programmes.

These strategic connections reflect the evolving role of Léargas in supporting policy delivery and ensuring that EU-funded opportunities contribute meaningfully to Ireland's social and educational objectives.

Our Year in Photos





Our Year in Photos



Our Year in Figures

2024

Snapshot of our Year
in Numbers

Overview

375

Projects
Contracted

€29,692,530

Funding
Awarded

12,806

Forecasted
Participants

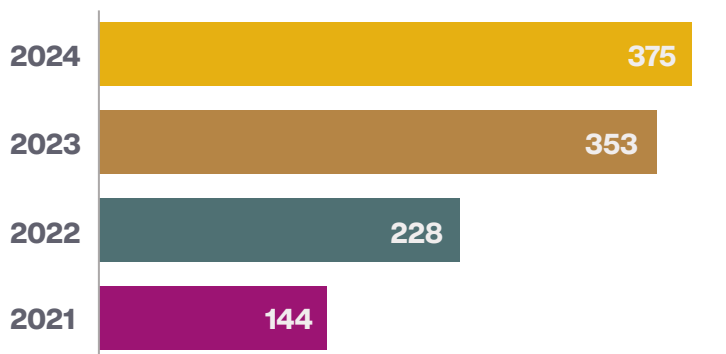
4,719

Forecasted
Participants with
Fewer Opportunities

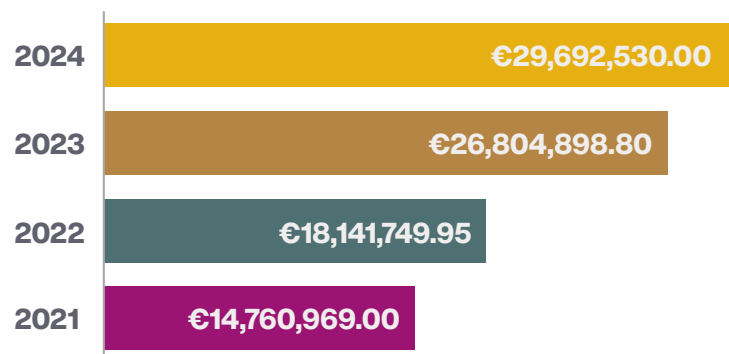
Visual 1 offers a snapshot of our activity in 2024, capturing a year of strong engagement and delivery. A total of 375 projects were contracted, supported by nearly €29.7 million in funding. These projects are expected to involve 12,806 participants, including 4,719 individuals with fewer opportunities—highlighting our ongoing commitment to inclusion and widening access.

2021–2024 at a Glance

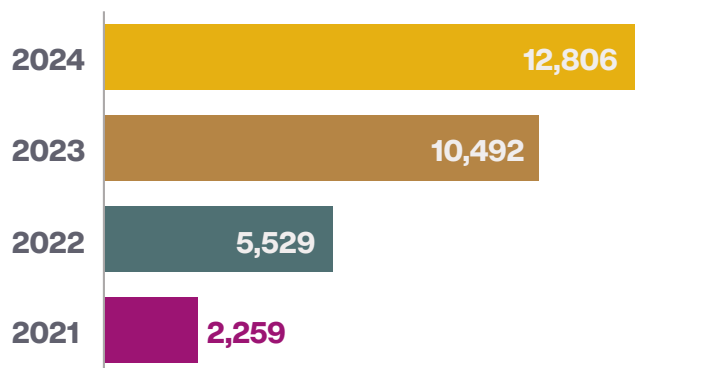
Projects Contracted



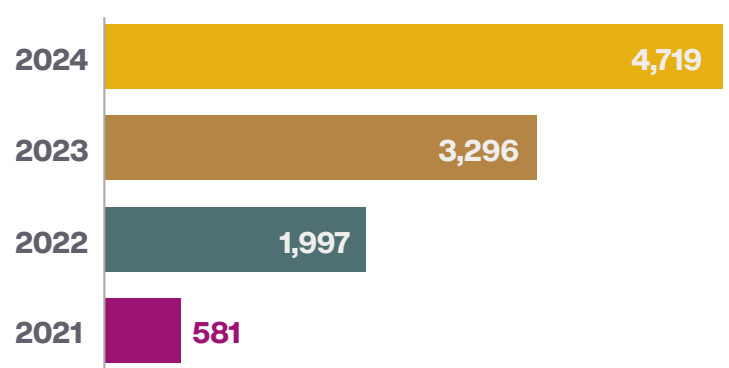
Funding Awarded



Forecasted Participants



Forecasted Participants with Fewer Opportunities

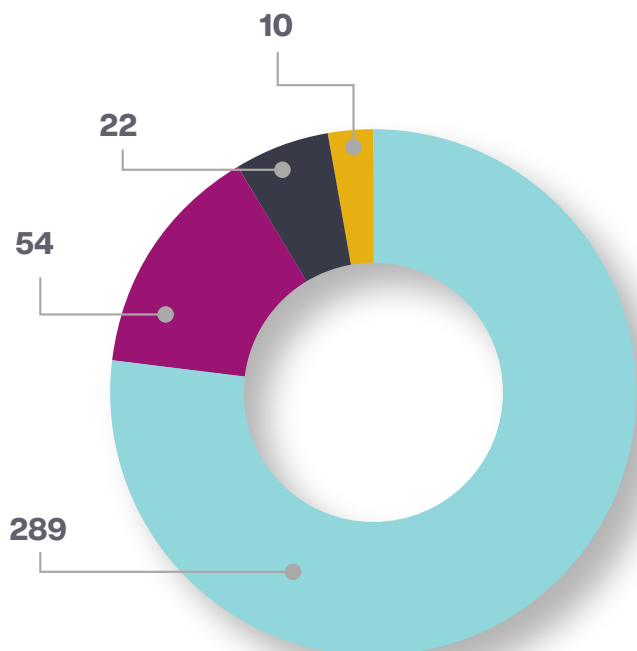


This above shows strong growth across all key indicators over the four years of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programme delivery:

- Projects Contracted grew steadily from 144 in 2021 to 375 in 2024, marking a 160% increase.
- Funding Awarded almost doubled, rising from €14.76 million in 2021 to €29.69 million in 2024.
- Forecasted Participants increased more than fivefold, from 2,259 in 2021 to 12,806 in 2024.
- Participants with Fewer Opportunities also saw a strong rise, from 581 to 4,719, indicating a deepening commitment to inclusion.

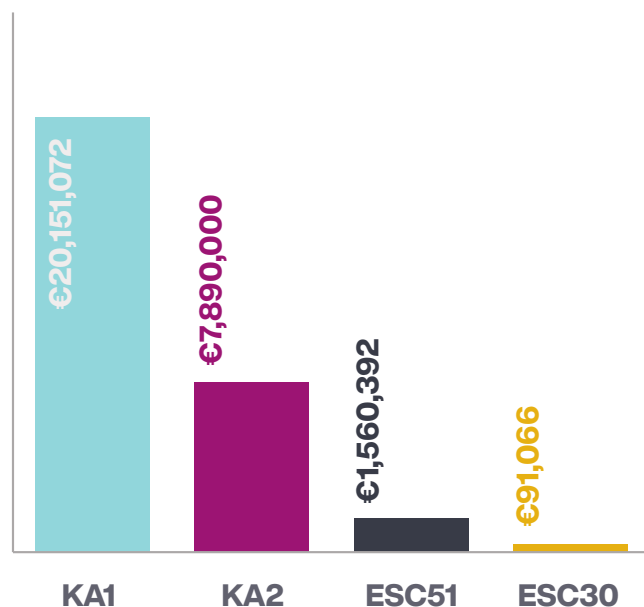
2024 Breakdown by Action Type

Projects Contracted



Total number of projects: **375**

Funding Contracted



Total funding contracted in 2024: **€29,692,530.00**

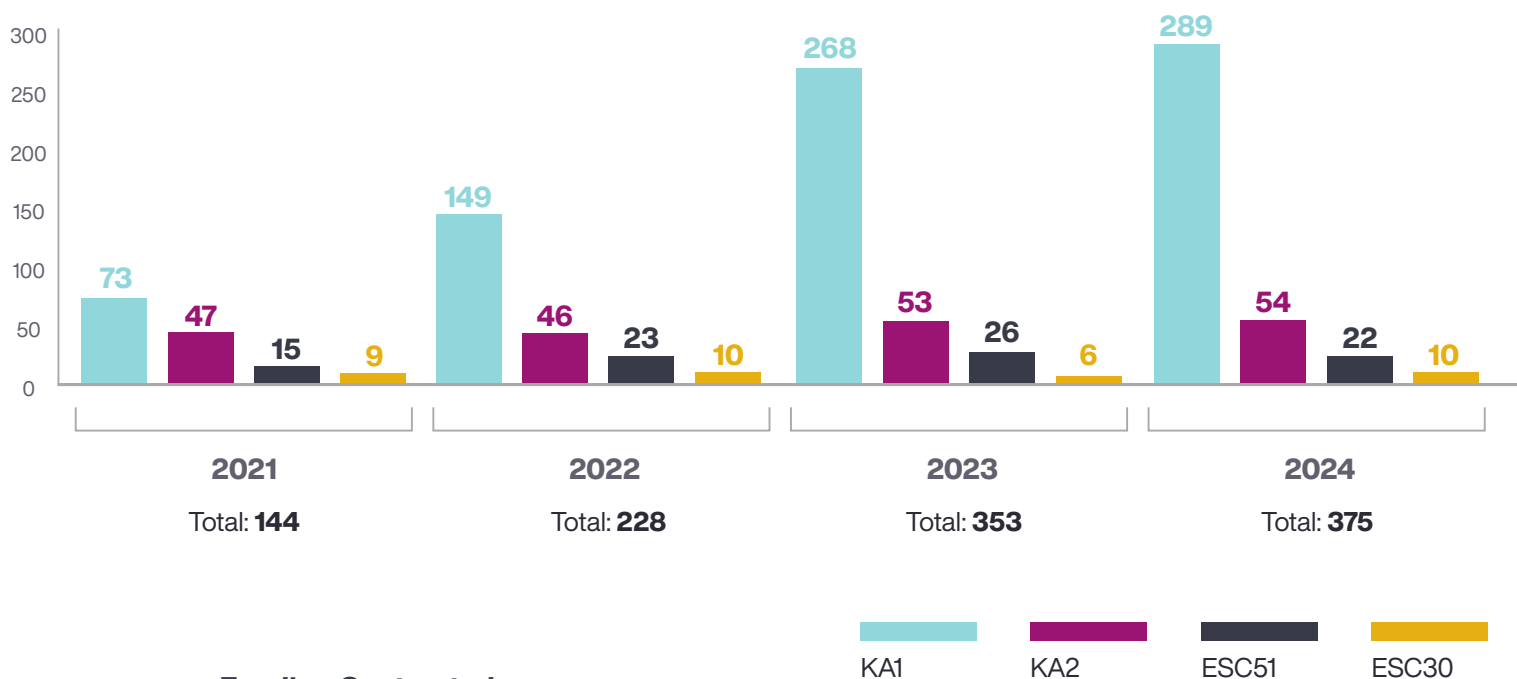


This visual shows the number of contracted projects and funding by action type in 2024:

- KA1 (Mobility) continues to dominate with 289 projects and over €20.15 million in funding—highlighting a strong focus on mobility activities.
- KA2 (Partnerships) saw 54 projects with €7.89 million in funding. While there has been a general steady trend, the drop from 2023 reflects a one-off funding transfer and the year-to-year variation based on national allocation.
- Overall, there is a continuing shift from partnership projects towards mobility, reflecting priorities at the European level.

2021 - 2024 Breakdown per Action Type

Projects Contracted



Funding Contracted

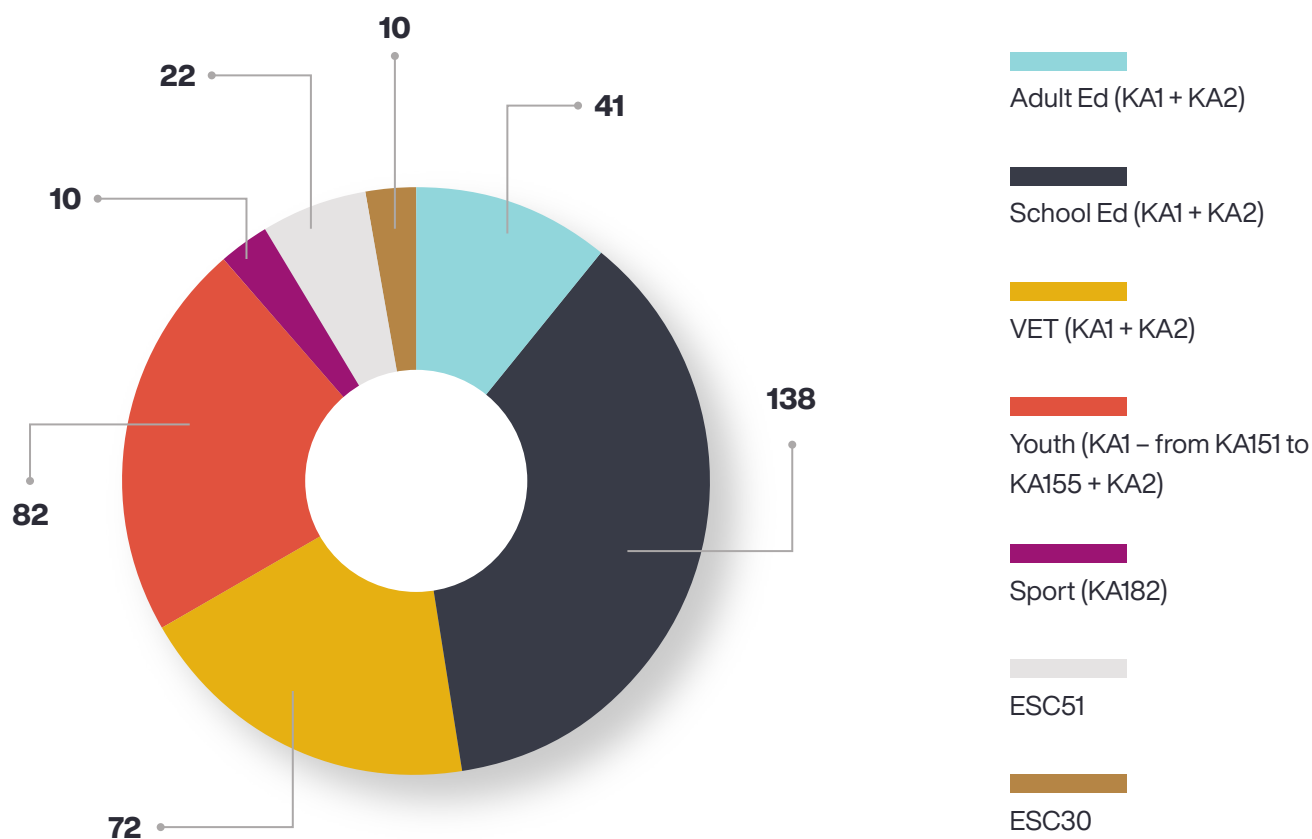
	in 2021	in 2022	in 2023	in 2024
KA1	€3,474,267.00	€8,482,525.00	€15,874,031.80	€20,151,072.00
KA2	€10,101,850.00	€8,300,000.00	€9,260,000.00	€7,890,000.00
ESC51	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,560,392.00
ESC30	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00
Totals	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,692,530.00

Between 2021 and 2024, both the number of contracted projects and funding awarded increased significantly, rising from 144 projects and €14.76 million in 2021 to 375 projects and €29.69 million in 2024.

- KA1 (Mobility) shows the most substantial growth:
 - Projects grew from 73 to 289, and funding increased nearly sixfold from €3.47 million to €20.15 million.
 - This reflects a clear and ongoing shift towards mobility-based opportunities, in line with EU-level priorities.
- KA2 (Partnerships) remained relatively stable in project numbers but saw a gradual funding decline, from €10.1 million in 2021 to €7.89 million in 2024, highlighting changing allocations and possibly shifting strategic emphasis.
- ESC51 remained steady in both project numbers and funding, while ESC30, though smaller in scale, maintained consistent support levels.

2024 Breakdown by Sector

Number of Contracted Projects

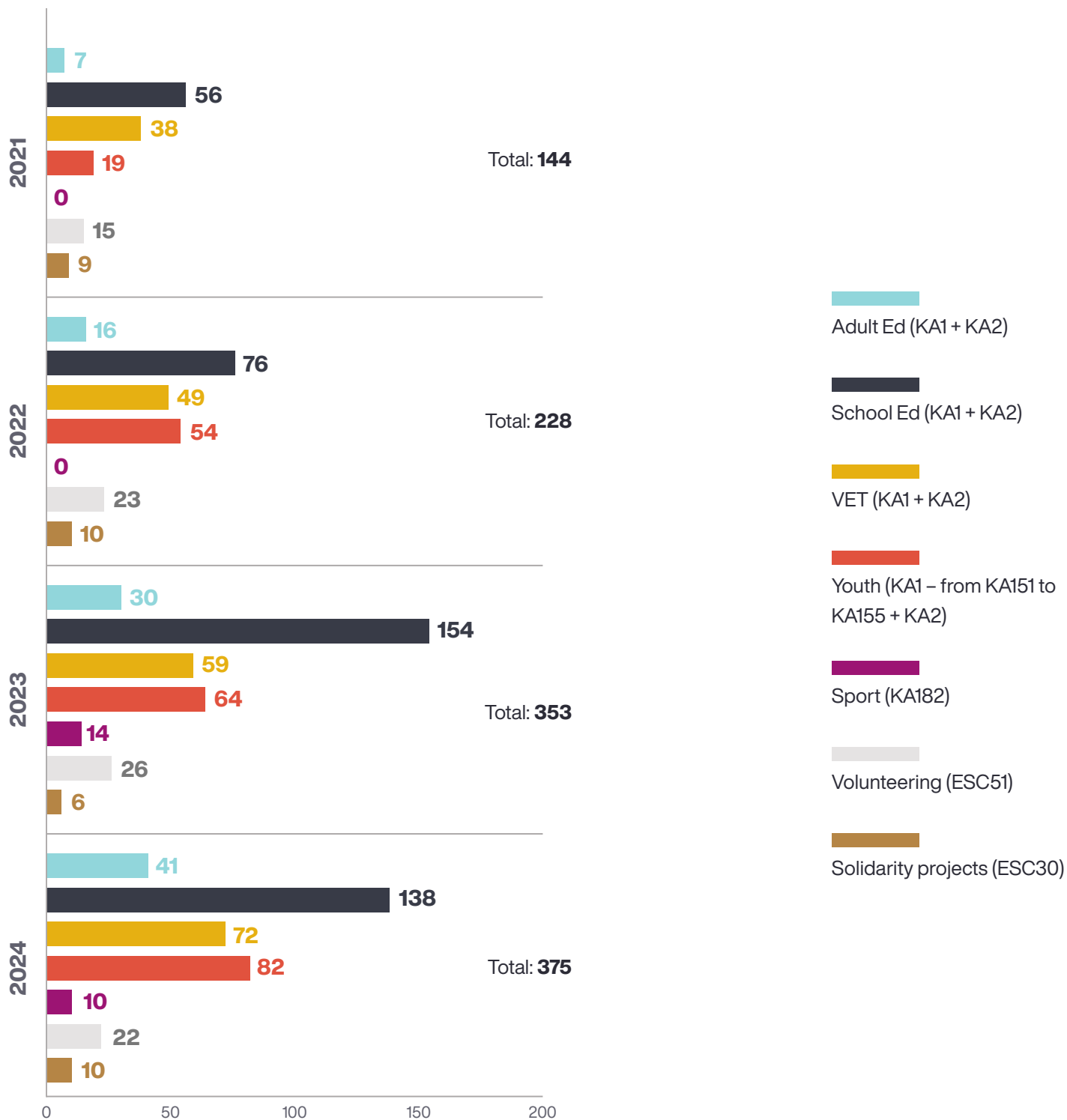


Visual 4 shows a strong concentration of activity in School Education, which accounts for 138 of the 375 projects contracted in 2024—over a third of the total. Youth (82 projects) and VET (72 projects) also represent significant areas of engagement, reflecting strong interest in learning mobility and cooperation across sectors. Adult Education, while smaller at 41 projects, continues to grow steadily. The ESC actions (51 and 30) together account for 32 projects, showing continued support for solidarity and volunteering. Sport remains a niche but active area with 10 projects under KA182.

This distribution highlights the broad reach of EU programmes across formal and non-formal learning sectors, with particularly high uptake in school-based initiatives.

2021- 2024 Breakdown per Sector

Number of Contracted Projects

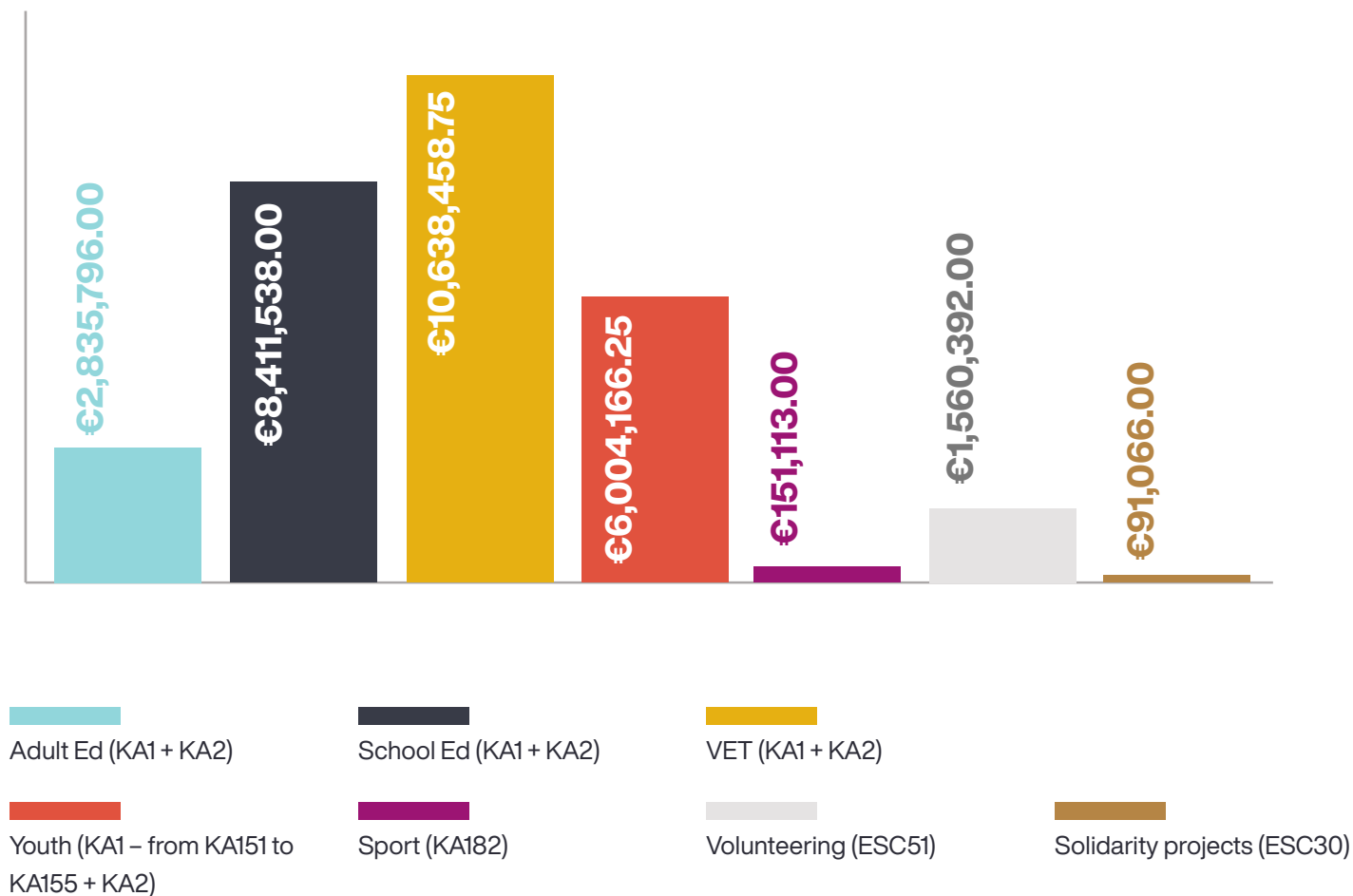


From 2021 to 2024, all sectors saw growth in the number of contracted projects, with particularly strong increases in Youth, VET, and Adult Education.

- Adult Education grew from just 7 projects in 2021 to 41 in 2024.
- Youth rose more than fourfold, from 19 to 82 projects.
- VET nearly doubled, and School Education, while peaking in 2023, remains the largest sector overall.
- Volunteering and Solidarity projects (ESC) stayed relatively stable.
- Sport emerged in 2023 and held a modest presence in 2024.
- Overall, the trend reflects expanding access and participation across both formal and non-formal learning sectors.

2024 Breakdown by Sector

Funding Contracted



Visual 6 outlines the contracted funding by sector for 2024, showing how the total budget of nearly €29.7 million is distributed across different areas. It reflects the planned financial investment in each sector, offering a clear picture of where resources are allocated for the year. VET received the highest share of funding, followed by School Education and Youth, indicating strong engagement in these sectors. Adult Education also saw significant investment, while Volunteering, Solidarity Projects, and Sport, though smaller in scale, maintained consistent levels of support. The distribution highlights broad sectoral engagement across both formal and non-formal education.

2021-2024 Breakdown per Sector

Contracted Funding

	in 2021	in 2022	in 2023	in 2024
Adult Ed (KA1 + KA2)	€1,596,463.00	€1,907,639.00	€2,377,510.00	€2,835,796.00
School Ed (KA1 + KA2)	€2,918,602.00	€3,976,197.00	€7,814,090.80	€8,411,538.00
VET (KA1 + KA2)	€6,978,353.00	€6,960,971.00	€8,987,744.00	€10,638,458.75
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	€2,082,699.00	€3,937,718.00	€5,751,299.00	€6,004,166.25
Sport (KA182)	€0.00	€0.00	€203,388.00	€151,113.00
Volunteering (ESC51)	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,560,392.00
Solidarity projects (ESC30)	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00
Totals	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,692,530.00

Total contracted funding nearly doubled over the four-year period, rising from €14.76 million in 2021 to €29.69 million in 2024. This consistent year-on-year growth reflects expanding programme delivery, increased funding allocation at national level, and strong demand across sectors.

The sectoral allocation patterns from 2021 to 2024 show steady and significant growth in key areas. VET consistently received the highest share of funding, increasing each year and reaching over €10.6 million in 2024, underscoring its importance within the programme. School Education also experienced a marked rise, with funding nearly tripling over the four years, reflecting strong demand and ongoing investment. Youth sector funding grew steadily as well, indicating continued interest in non-formal learning and mobility opportunities. Adult Education, while starting from a smaller base, saw almost a doubling in funding, pointing to a growing focus on adult learning. Sport emerged as a funded sector in 2023 and remained modest in scale. Volunteering (ESC51) remained relatively stable, while Solidarity Projects (ESC30) maintained small but consistent funding levels throughout the period. Overall, the allocation trends highlight broad engagement across sectors, with particular growth in mobility-focused and formal education areas.

2024 Breakdown per Key Action and Sector

	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2024	Number of awarded projects in 2024	Number of contracted projects in 2024
KA1 YOU	107	67	66
KA1 ADU	39	28	28
KA1 VET	60	59	59
KA1 SCH	153	127	126
KA1 SPO	19	10	10
KA2 ADU	50	13	13
KA2 SCH	66	12	12
KA2 VET	45	13	13
KA2 YOU	68	16	16
ESC51	23	23	22
ESC30	18	11	10
Totals	648	379	375

In 2024, 648 eligible applications were received, with 375 contracted following the selection process — an overall success rate of roughly 58%. KA1 actions performed strongly, with high conversion from application to contract, particularly in VET, Adult Education, and School Education. In contrast, KA2 actions were far more competitive, with low award rates across all sectors reflecting limited available funding or higher selection thresholds for cooperation projects. ESC projects, especially volunteering, maintained high success rates. The data suggests mobility remains widely accessible, while partnerships are more selective and funding-limited.

2024 Breakdown per Key Action and Sector

	Funding requested	Funding awarded	Funding contracted
KA1 YOU	€4,348,273.25	€3,883,765.25	€3,824,166.25
KA1 ADU	€977,889.00	€1,395,796.00	€1,395,796.00
KA1 VET	€1,429,718.75	€8,298,818.75	€8,298,458.75
KA1 SCH	€2,471,965.00	€6,512,122.00	€6,481,538.00
KA1 SPO	€344,312.00	€151,113.00	€151,113.00
KA2 ADU	€7,280,000.00	€1,440,000.00	€1,440,000.00
KA2 SCH	€9,120,000.00	€1,930,000.00	€1,930,000.00
KA2 VET	€9,510,000.00	€2,340,000.00	€2,340,000.00
KA2 YOU	€11,220,000.00	€2,180,000.00	€2,180,000.00
ESC51	€33,049.00	€1,610,728.00	€1,560,392.00
ESC30	€173,466.00	€94,366.00	€91,066.00
Totals	€46,908,673.00	€29,836,709.00	€29,692,530.00

While in 2024, the overall funding success rate for contracted projects was approximately 63%, with nearly €29.7 million contracted out of €46.9 million requested, this equals to 94% commitment rate of our ESC and Erasmus+ overall allocation.

Success rates varied significantly by action type. KA1 actions, particularly in VET and School Education, performed strongly—often contracting more than initially requested, likely due to internal reallocations or adjusted budgets. In contrast, KA2 actions saw much lower success rates, with large gaps between funding requested and funding contracted, indicating intense competition and limited availability.

ESC actions had relatively high success rates, with most of the awarded funding moving smoothly to the contracting stage. Overall, the data reflects effective use of available funds but also highlights the highly competitive nature of KA2 project funding.

2024 Breakdown per Sub-action

Number of Projects

	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2024	Number of awarded projects in 2024	Number of contracted projects in 2024
KA121-ADU	14	14	14
KA122-ADU	25	14	14
KA121-SCH	77	75	75
KA122-SCH	76	52	51
KA182-SPO	19	10	10
KA121-VET	36	36	36
KA122-VET	24	23	23
KA151-YOU	13	13	13
KA152-YOU	41	20	19
KA153-YOU	19	7	7
KA154-YOU	28	23	23
KA155-YOU	6	4	4
KA210-ADU	30	10	10
KA220-ADU	20	3	3
KA210-SCH	43	8	8
KA220-SCH	23	4	4
KA210-VET	17	7	7
KA220-VET	28	6	6
KA210-YOU	29	11	11
KA220-YOU	39	5	5
ESC30-SOL	18	11	10
ESC51-VTJ	23	23	22
Totals	648	379	375

Visual 10 provides a detailed breakdown of 2024 applications by sub-action, showing submission, award, and contract figures.

Success rates were strong for most KA121 mobility actions across Adult, School, and VET sectors, where nearly all submitted projects were awarded and contracted. In contrast, KA2 cooperation actions, particularly KA220, had lower success rates across all sectors, reflecting limited available funding and higher competition. Youth sub-actions varied, with KA151 and KA154 showing higher conversion rates, while KA152 and KA153 were more selective. ESC actions also maintained high success, especially ESC51, which saw nearly full conversion from application to contract.

Overall, the data confirms that mobility sub-actions had high success rates, while partnership sub-actions were much more competitive.

2024 Breakdown per Sub-action

Funding

	Funding requested	Funding awarded	Funding contracted
KA121-ADU	€12,140.00	€830,222.00	€830,222.00
KA122-ADU	€965,749.00	€565,574.00	€565,574.00
KA121-SCH	€42,336.00	€5,172,336.00	€5,172,336.00
KA122-SCH	€2,429,629.00	€1,339,786.00	€1,309,202.00
KA182-SPO	€344,312.00	€151,113.00	€151,113.00
KA121-VET	€142,290.00	€7,110,410.00	€7,110,050.00
KA122-VET	€1,287,428.75	€1,188,408.75	€1,188,408.75
KA151-YOU	€35,830.00	€1,681,098.00	€1,681,098.00
KA152-YOU	€2,076,044.00	€913,612.00	€854,016.00
KA153-YOU	€913,415.00	€351,421.00	€351,418.00
KA154-YOU	€1,130,260.00	€817,028.00	€817,028.00
KA155-YOU	€192,724.25	€120,606.25	€120,606.25
KA210-ADU	€1,680,000.00	€540,000.00	€540,000.00
KA220-ADU	€5,600,000.00	€900,000.00	€900,000.00
KA210-SCH	€2,580,000.00	€480,000.00	€480,000.00
KA220-SCH	€6,540,000.00	€1,450,000.00	€1,450,000.00
KA210-VET	€990,000.00	€390,000.00	€390,000.00
KA220-VET	€8,520,000.00	€1,950,000.00	€1,950,000.00
KA210-YOU	€1,650,000.00	€630,000.00	€630,000.00
KA220-YOU	€9,570,000.00	€1,550,000.00	€1,550,000.00
ESC30-SOL	€173,466.00	€94,366.00	€91,066.00
ESC51-VTJ	€33,049.00	€1,610,728.00	€1,560,392.00
Totals	€46,908,673.00	€29,836,709.00	€29,692,530.00

Visual 11 provides a detailed view of funding by sub-action in 2024, showing the amounts requested, awarded, and ultimately contracted. In total, €46.9 million was requested, with €29.7 million contracted, representing 94% of Ireland's total EU allocation from the European Commission for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps in 2024 (€31.6 million). This indicates a very high absorption rate, with nearly all awarded funding progressing to contract stage.

Funding success was especially strong in KA121 (mobility) sub-actions across all sectors, where most or all awarded funding was fully contracted. In contrast, KA2 (cooperation) sub-actions had significantly more funding requested than awarded, underscoring the high demand and competitive nature of strategic partnerships.

Overall, the data confirms strong national performance in managing and contracting EU funds, ensuring that the vast majority of available resources were effectively allocated to projects across sectors.

A. 2024 Breakdown of submitted and awarded accreditations and Quality Label per sector

	ADU (KA120- ADU)	SCH (KA120- SCH)	VET (KA120- VET)	YOU (KA150- YOU)	ESC50	Totals
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label	13	65	12	8	4	102
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label	9	42	8	6	4	69

In 2024, a total of 102 accreditation and Quality Label applications were submitted across all sectors, with 69 awarded, resulting in an overall success rate of approximately 68%.

Success rates varied by sector. ESC50 had a 100% success rate, while Adult Education (KA120-ADU) and Youth (KA150-YOU) had strong approval rates at 69% and 75%, respectively. School Education (KA120-SCH) and VET (KA120-VET) were more competitive, with success rates of 65% and 67%.

Overall, the data reflects a solid outcome, with most sectors achieving strong success in securing accreditation or Quality Label status, supporting long-term engagement in the programmes.

B. Breakdown of submitted and awarded accreditations and Quality Label per sector - Comparison 2021-2024

	ADU (KA120- ADU)	SCH (KA120- SCH)	VET (KA120- VET)	YOU (KA150- YOU)	ESC50	Totals
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label in 2021	7	22	12	0	24	65
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2021	5	19	9	0	24	57
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label in 2022	11	41	11	7	11	81
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2022	6	32	6	3	7	54
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label in 2023	9	39	11	4	11	74
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2023	4	31	8	1	8	52
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label in 2024	13	65	12	8	4	102
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2024	9	42	8	6	4	69

Between 2021 and 2024, there was a clear upward trend in the number of accreditation and Quality Label applications, rising from 65 in 2021 to 102 in 2024—a 57% increase over four years. This growth reflects growing awareness and interest in long-term programme engagement across sectors.

The School Education sector saw the most significant increase in submissions, nearly tripling from 22 in 2021 to 65 in 2024, with awards increasing accordingly. Adult Education and Youth also showed notable growth in both applications and awards, indicating expanding capacity and ambition within these sectors.

While the ESC50 stream started strong in 2021 with 24 submissions, its numbers decreased in subsequent years, suggesting a stabilisation after the initial surge in interest.

Overall, the data highlights a steady rise in demand for accredited status and Quality Labels, supporting sustained participation in Erasmus+ and ESC programmes across a broadening base of organisations.

C. 2024 Breakdown per action type and sector - Number of Forecasted participants

Action Type - Name	No. of participants
ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	65
ESC51-VTJ - Volunteering projects	118
KA121-ADU - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	447
KA121-SCH - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	2,909
KA121-VET - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	2,135
KA122-ADU - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	216
KA122-SCH - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	745
KA122-VET - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	429
KA151-YOU - Accredited projects for youth mobility	1,475
KA152-YOU - Mobility of young people	830
KA153-YOU - Mobility of youth workers	276
KA154-YOU - Youth participation activities	3,037
KA155-YOU - DiscoverEU inclusion action	42
KA182 - Mobility of sport coaches and Staff	82
Totals	12,806

The 2024 breakdown of forecasted participants across action types and sectors reflects a strong emphasis on mobility and inclusion, with a total of 12,806 planned participants.

The highest numbers are seen in School Education (2,909 participants) and Youth Participation activities (3,037), showing strong engagement in both formal and non-formal learning. VET and Youth Mobility actions also account for substantial participation, underlining the continued focus on skills development and access for young people.

Adult Education and ESC actions, while smaller in scale, maintain a meaningful presence, ensuring a broad spread of opportunities. Overall, the figures demonstrate wide-ranging planned engagement, with mobility at the core of most activities and a clear commitment to reaching diverse learner groups across sectors.

D. Breakdown per action type and sector - Number of Forecasted participants - Comparison 2021-2024

	2021	2022	2023	2024
ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	48	60	34	65
ESC51-VTJ - Volunteering projects	82	145	140	118
KA121-ADU - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	0	50	221	447
KA121-SCH - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	119	636	1,449	2909
KA121-VET - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	311	767	1,869	2135
KA122-ADU - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	20	66	161	216
KA122-SCH - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	528	797	1,611	745
KA122-VET - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	166	387	326	429
KA151-YOU - Accredited projects for youth mobility	225	866	1,445	1475
KA152-YOU - Mobility of young people	393	865	746	830
KA153-YOU - Mobility of youth workers	27	251	348	276
KA154-YOU - Youth participation activities	340	603	1,995	3037
KA155-YOU - DiscoverEU inclusion action	0	36	34	42
KA182 - Mobility of sport coaches and Staff	0	0	113	82
Totals	2,259	5,529	10,492	12,806

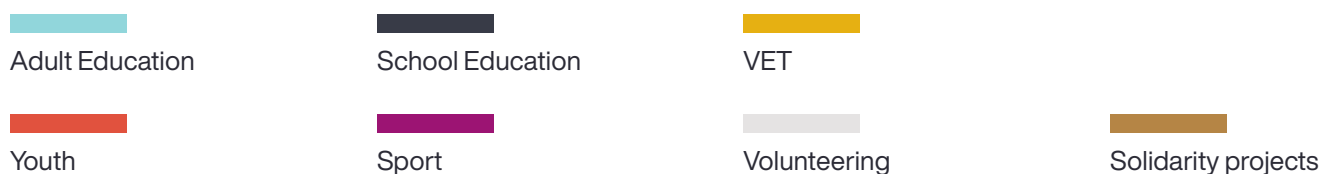
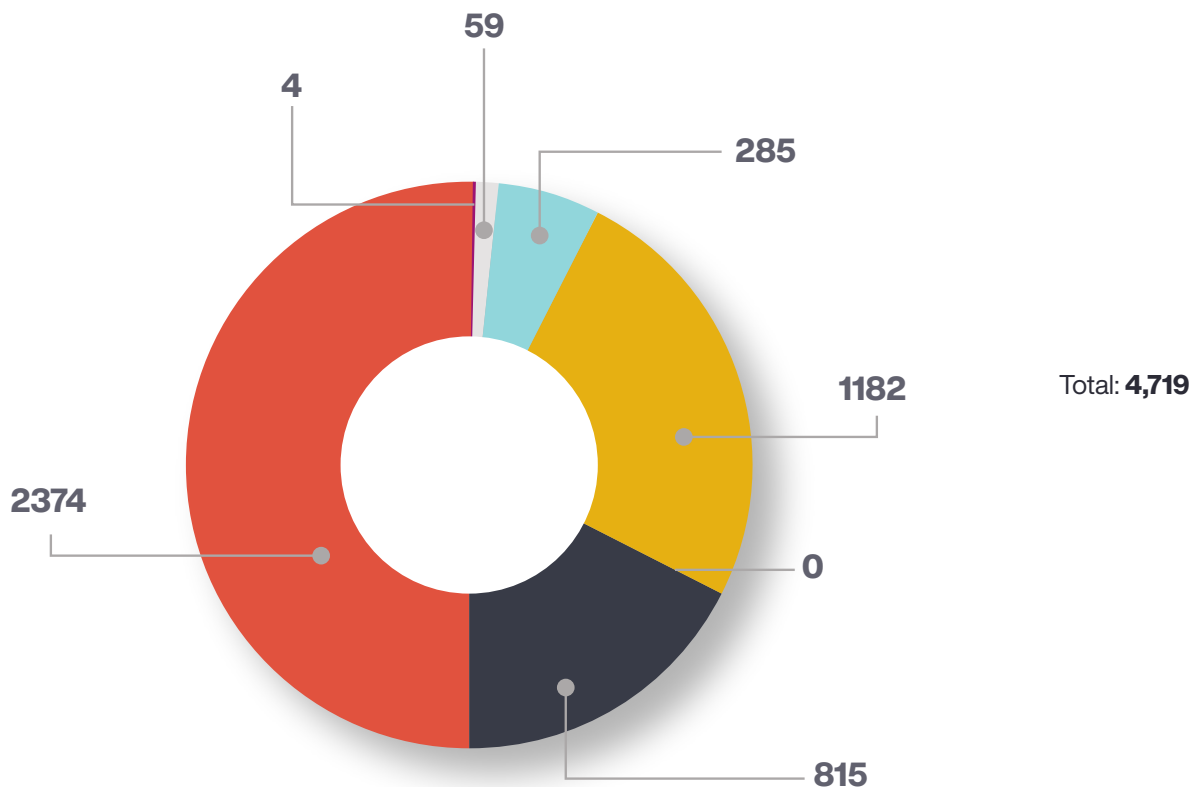
From 2021 to 2024, the number of forecasted individual participants in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects increased substantially—from 2,259 in 2021 to 12,806 in 2024, marking a more than fivefold rise.

This consistent growth reflects a combination of expanding programme delivery, increased funding, and stronger organisational capacity across sectors. Participation has surged particularly in KA121 actions (accredited mobility), especially in School Education, VET, and Adult Education, indicating a shift towards longer-term, strategic mobility planning.

Youth participation also grew steadily, with notable increases in KA154 (Youth Participation Activities), which tripled between 2023 and 2024 alone. The rise in DiscoverEU inclusion and ESC solidarity projects—though smaller in volume—also points to a continued focus on accessibility and outreach.

Overall, the data signals a maturing programme ecosystem with growing reach, particularly in structured mobility and inclusive youth engagement.

E. 2024 Breakdown per sector - Number of forecasted participants with fewer opportunities



In 2024, a total of 4,719 participants with fewer opportunities are forecasted across all sectors, highlighting the programme's strong commitment to inclusion.

The Youth sector accounts for the largest share with 2,374 participants, followed by VET (1,182) and School Education (815), showing targeted efforts to widen access in both formal and non-formal learning. Adult Education also contributes meaningfully with 285 participants, while smaller numbers are seen in Sport and Volunteering. No participants with fewer opportunities are forecasted under Solidarity projects in 2024.

Overall, the data underscores an intentional focus on reaching underrepresented groups across a broad range of educational and community contexts.

F. Breakdown per sector - Number of forecasted participants with fewer opportunities - Comparison 2021-2024

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Adult education	0	15	121	285
VET	180	457	700	1182
School education	51	332	492	815
Youth	310	1,089	1,888	2374
Sport	0	0	13	4
Volunteering	40	104	82	59
Solidarity	0	0	0	0
Totals	581	1,997	3,296	4,719

Between 2021 and 2024, the number of forecasted participants with fewer opportunities increased more than eightfold, rising from 581 to 4,719. This consistent growth reflects a deepening commitment to inclusion across all sectors.

The Youth sector led this increase, growing from 310 in 2021 to 2,374 in 2024, followed by steady rises in VET, School Education, and Adult Education, all of which show expanding efforts to reach underrepresented groups. Notably, Adult Education, which had no forecasted participants with fewer opportunities in 2021, reached 285 by 2024.

G. 2024 Breakdown of WP indicators per sector based on contracted projects

	Adult ed.	School ed.	VET	Youth	Sport	Volunteering
% of projects/activities addressing climate objectives under Key Action 2 and Volunteering strand	23.08%	25.00%	50.00%	18.75%	n/a	50.00%
% of participants with fewer opportunities taking part in activities under Key Action 1 and Volunteering strand	42.99%	22.30%	46.10%	41.94%	4.88%	50.00%
Number of distinct newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Actions 1 and 2	45	57	8	36	0.00%	n/a

The 2024 Work Programme (WP) indicators reflect strong progress in inclusion, environmental focus, and newcomer engagement across sectors:

- Inclusion is well-embedded, with high percentages of participants with fewer opportunities in VET (46.1%), Adult Education (43%), and Youth (41.9%). While School Education shows lower inclusion at 22.3%, it still demonstrates consistent efforts. Sport has the lowest rate at 4.88%, reflecting its more limited scale and reach.
- Climate objectives are increasingly addressed, particularly in VET and Volunteering, where 50% of KA2 and volunteering projects integrate environmental goals. Adult and School Education also show strong engagement, at 23.08% and 25% respectively, while Youth is slightly lower at 18.75%.
- Newcomer engagement is highest in School Education (57 organisations) and Adult Education (45), indicating ongoing success in broadening programme access. Youth also shows solid participation from newcomers (36), while VET and Sport lag behind, with 8 and 0 newcomer organisations respectively.
- Overall, the indicators suggest good alignment with Erasmus+ and ESC priorities, particularly around inclusion and sustainability, with room for continued growth in newcomer participation and sector-specific climate engagement.

2024 - Breakdown per key action and sector - Funding Contracted

	No. of received (submitted) projects in 2021	No. of received (submitted) projects in 2022	No. of received (submitted) projects in 2023	No. of received (submitted) projects in 2024	No. of awarded projects in 2021	No. of awarded projects in 2022
Adult Ed (KA1 + KA2)	40	54	77	89	7	17
School Ed (KA1 + KA2)	93	118	240	219	59	79
VET (KA1 + KA2)	71	104	104	105	38	49
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	54	125	171	175	19	54
Sport (KA182)	0	0	20	19	0	0
ESC51	15	26	28	23	15	25
ESC30	10	13	8	18	9	10
	283	440	648	648	147	234

	No. of awarded projects in 2023	No. of awarded projects in 2024	No. of contracted projects in 2021	No. of contracted projects in 2022	No. of contracted projects in 2023	No. of contracted projects in 2024
Adult Ed (KA1 + KA2)	31	41	7	16	30	41
School Ed (KA1 + KA2)	154	139	56	76	154	138
VET (KA1 + KA2)	59	72	38	49	59	72
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	64	83	19	54	64	82
Sport (KA182)	14	10	0	0	14	10
ESC51	27	23	15	23	26	22
ESC30	6	11	9	10	6	10
	355	379	144	228	353	375

Number of requested, awarded and contracted grants 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per sector:

	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2021	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2022	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2023	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2024	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2021	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2022
Adult Ed (KA1 + KA2)	€6,691,573.00	€7,912,177.00	€9,600,965.00	€8,257,889.00	€1,650,463.00	€1,907,639.00
School Ed (KA1 + KA2)	€9,297,005.40	€9,408,404.40	€16,378,019.80	€11,591,965.00	€2,930,516.00	€3,980,073.00
VET (KA1 + KA2)	€13,734,023.00	€13,664,759.00	€12,495,427.00	€10,939,718.00	€7,066,858.00	€6,960,971.00
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	€6,232,131.00	€10,410,300.60	€13,882,711.88	€15,568,273.25	€2,082,699.00	€3,921,134.00
Sport (KA182)	€0.00	€0.00	€390,536.00	€344,312.00	€0.00	€0.00
ESC51	€62,099.00	€60,535.20	€33,917.00	€33,049.00	€1,111,662.00	€1,382,827.95
ESC30	€82,082.00	€103,804.00	€73,608.00	€173,466.00	€73,190.00	€87,092.00
	€36,098,913.40	€41,559,980.20	€52,855,184.68	€46,908,672.25	€14,915,388.00	€18,239,736.95

	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2023	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2024	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2021	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2022	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2023	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2024
Adult Ed (KA1 + KA2)	€2,379,045.00	€2,835,796.00	€1,596,463.00	€1,907,639.00	€2,377,510.00	€2,835,796.00
School Ed (KA1 + KA2)	€7,781,940.80	€8,442,122.00	€2,918,602.00	€3,976,197.00	€7,814,090.80	€8,411,538.00
VET (KA1 + KA2)	€8,942,470.00	€10,638,818.75	€6,978,353.00	€6,960,971.00	€8,987,744.00	10,638,458.75
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	€5,692,957.00	€6,063,765.25	€2,082,699.00	€3,937,718.00	€5,751,299.00	€6,004,166.25
Sport (KA182)	€203,388.00	€151,113.00	€0.00	€0.00	€203,388.00	€151,113.00
ESC51	€1,729,765.00	€1,610,728.00	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,560,392.00
ESC30	€50,694.00	€94,366.00	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00
	€26,780,259.80	€29,836,709.00	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,692,530.00

Number of received, awarded and contracted projects in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per key action and per sector:

	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2021	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2022	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2023	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2024	Number of awarded projects in 2021	Number of awarded projects in 2022
KA1 Youth	21	84	105	107	11	43
KA1 ADU	6	10	28	39	1	7
KA1 VET	18	46	49	60	17	34
KA1 SCH	49	78	149	153	47	68
KA1 Sport	0	0	20	19	0	0
KA2 ADU	34	44	49	50	6	10
KA2 SCH	44	40	91	66	12	11
KA2 VET	53	58	55	45	21	15
KA2 YOU	33	41	66	68	8	11
ESC51	15	26	28	23	15	25
ESC30	10	13	8	18	9	10
	283	440	648	648	147	234

	Number of awarded projects in 2023	Number of awarded projects in 2024	Number of contracted projects in 2021	Number of contracted projects in 2022	Number of contracted projects in 2023	Number of contracted projects in 2024
KA1 Youth	50	67	11	43	50	66
KA1 ADU	23	28	1	7	22	28
KA1 VET	47	59	17	34	47	59
KA1 SCH	135	127	44	65	135	126
KA1 Sport	14	10	0	0	14	10
KA2 ADU	8	13	6	9	8	13
KA2 SCH	19	12	12	11	19	12
KA2 VET	12	13	21	15	12	13
KA2 YOU	14	16	8	11	14	16
ESC51	27	23	15	23	26	22
ESC30	6	11	9	10	6	10
	355	379	144	228	353	375

Number of received, awarded and contracted projects in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per sub-action:

	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2021	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2022	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2023	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2024	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2021	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2022
KA1 Youth	€979,444.00	€2,890,300.60	€3,562,711.88	€4,348,273.25	€607,585.00	€2,151,134.00
KA1 ADU	€176,903.00	€322,177.00	€500,965.00	€977,889.00	€55,315.00	€257,639.00
KA1 VET	€448,032.00	€1,704,759.00	€1,305,427.00	€1,429,718.75	€1,621,822.00	€3,680,971.00
KA1 SCH	€1,218,555.20	€1,868,404.40	€3,618,019.80	€2,471,965.00	€1,201,459.00	€2,380,073.00
KA1 Sport	€0.00	0	€390,536.00	€344,312.00	€0.00	0
KA2 ADU	€6,514,670.00	€7,590,000.00	€9,100,000.00	€7,280,000.00	€1,595,148.00	€1,650,000.00
KA2 SCH	€8,078,450.20	€7,540,000.00	€12,760,000.00	€9,120,000.00	€1,729,057.00	€1,600,000.00
KA2 VET	€13,285,991.00	€11,960,000.00	€11,190,000.00	€9,510,000.00	€5,445,036.00	€3,280,000.00
KA2 YOU	€5,252,687.00	€7,520,000.00	€10,320,000.00	€11,220,000.00	€1,475,114.00	€1,770,000.00
ESC51	€62,099.00	€60,535.20	€33,917.00	€33,049.00	€1,111,662.00	€1,382,827.95
ESC30	€82,082.00	€103,804.00	€73,608.00	€173,466.00	€73,190.00	€87,092.00
	€36,098,913.40	€41,559,980.20	€52,855,184.68	€46,908,673.00	€14,915,388.00	€18,239,736.95

	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2023	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2024	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2021	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2022	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2023	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2024
KA1 Youth	€3,122,957.00	€3,883,765.25	€607,585.00	€2,167,718.00	€3,181,299.00	€3,824,166.25
KA1 ADU	€719,045.00	€1,395,796.00	€55,315.00	€257,639.00	€717,510.00	€1,395,796.00
KA1 VET	€6,552,470.00	€8,298,818.75	€1,621,822.00	€3,680,971.00	€6,597,744.00	€8,298,458.75
KA1 SCH	€5,141,940.80	€6,512,122.00	€1,189,545.00	€2,376,197.00	€5,174,090.80	€6,481,538.00
KA1 Sport	€203,388.00	€151,113.00	€0.00	0	€203,388.00	€151,113.00
KA2 ADU	€1,660,000.00	€1,440,000.00	€1,541,148.00	€1,650,000.00	€1,660,000.00	€1,440,000.00
KA2 SCH	€2,640,000.00	€1,930,000.00	€1,729,057.00	€1,600,000.00	€2,640,000.00	€1,930,000.00
KA2 VET	€2,390,000.00	€2,340,000.00	€5,356,531.00	€3,280,000.00	€2,390,000.00	€2,340,000.00
KA2 YOU	€2,570,000.00	€2,180,000.00	€1,475,114.00	€1,770,000.00	€2,570,000.00	€2,180,000.00
ESC51	€1,729,765.00	€1,610,728.00	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,560,392.00
ESC30	€50,694.00	€94,366.00	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00
	€26,780,259.80	€29,836,709.00	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,692,530.00

Number of received, awarded and contracted projects in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per sub-action:

	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2021	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2022	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2023	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2024	Number of awarded projects in 2021	Number of awarded projects in 2022
KA121-ADU	0	3	10	14	0	3
KA122-ADU	6	7	18	25	1	4
KA121-SCH	6	18	42	77	6	17
KA122-SCH	43	60	107	76	41	51
KA182-SPO	0	0	20	19	0	0
KA121-VET	6	14	30	36	6	14
KA122-VET	12	32	19	24	11	20
KA151-YOU	2	9	13	13	2	9
KA152-YOU	10	45	42	41	6	18
KA153-YOU	5	18	29	19	1	8
KA154-YOU	4	7	16	28	2	4
KA155-YOU	0	5	5	6	0	4
KA210-ADU	10	20	24	30	1	3
KA220-ADU	24	24	25	20	5	7
KA210-SCH	13	15	57	43	7	6
KA220-SCH	31	25	34	23	5	5
KA210-VET	6	13	20	17	1	2
KA220-VET	47	45	35	28	20	13
KA210-YOU	13	12	33	29	2	4
KA220-YOU	20	29	33	39	6	7
ESC30-SOL	10	13	8	18	9	10
ESC51-VTJ	15	26	28	23	15	25
	283	440	648	648	147	234

Number of received, awarded and contracted projects in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per sub-action (continued):

	Number of awarded projects in 2023	Number of awarded projects in 2024	Number of contracted projects in 2021	Number of contracted projects in 2022	Number of contracted projects in 2023	Number of contracted projects in 2024
KA121-ADU	10	14	0	3	10	14
KA122-ADU	13	14	1	4	12	14
KA121-SCH	42	75	6	17	42	75
KA122-SCH	93	52	38	48	93	51
KA182-SPO	14	10	0	0	14	10
KA121-VET	30	36	6	14	30	36
KA122-VET	17	23	11	20	17	23
KA151-YOU	13	13	2	9	13	13
KA152-YOU	14	20	6	18	14	19
KA153-YOU	8	7	1	8	8	7
KA154-YOU	11	23	2	4	11	23
KA155-YOU	4	4	0	4	4	4
KA210-ADU	4	10	1	3	4	10
KA220-ADU	4	3	5	6	4	3
KA210-SCH	12	8	7	6	12	8
KA220-SCH	7	4	5	5	7	4
KA210-VET	4	7	1	2	4	7
KA220-VET	8	6	20	13	8	6
KA210-YOU	6	11	2	4	6	11
KA220-YOU	8	5	6	7	8	5
ESC30-SOL	6	11	9	10	6	10
ESC51-VTJ	27	23	15	23	26	22
	355	379	144	228	353	375

Number of requested, awarded and contracted grants in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per sub-action:

	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2021	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2022	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2023	Funding requested (submitted stage) in 2024	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2021	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2022
KA121-ADU	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€12,140.00	€0.00	€92,462.00
KA122-ADU	€176,903.00	€322,177.00	€493,365.00	€965,749.00	€55,315.00	€165,177.00
KA121-SCH	€4,710.00	€0.00	€0.00	€42,336.00	€267,564.00	€1,158,113.00
KA122-SCH	€1,213,845.20	€1,814,291.00	€3,608,719.80	€2,429,629.00	€933,895.00	€1,221,960.00
KA182-SPO	€0.00	€0.00	€390,536.00	€344,312.00	€0.00	€0.00
KA121-VET	€6,360.00	€0.00	€0.00	€142,290.00	€1,241,918.00	€2,636,633.00
KA122-VET	€441,672.00	€1,692,773.00	€1,180,473.00	€1,287,428.75	€379,904.00	€1,044,338.00
KA151-YOU	€22,650.00	€0.00	€0.00	€35,830.00	€230,195.00	€956,253.00
KA152-YOU	€641,220.00	€1,902,893.60	€1,624,022.88	€2,076,044.00	€287,891.00	€725,863.00
KA153-YOU	€198,762.00	€625,197.00	€1,150,699.00	€913,415.00	€37,107.00	€274,733.00
KA154-YOU	€116,812.00	€234,887.00	€637,883.00	€1,130,260.00	€52,392.00	€129,107.00
KA155-YOU	€0.00	€98,653.00	€81,521.00	€192,724.25	€0.00	€65,178.00
KA210-ADU	€540,000.00	€1,140,000.00	€1,350,000.00	€1,680,000.00	€60,000.00	€150,000.00
KA220-ADU	€5,974,670.00	€6,450,000.00	€7,750,000.00	€5,600,000.00	€1,535,148.00	€1,650,000.00
KA210-SCH	€720,000.00	€870,000.00	€3,300,000.00	€2,580,000.00	€360,000.00	€330,000.00
KA220-SCH	€7,358,450.20	€6,670,000.00	€9,460,000.00	€6,540,000.00	€1,369,057.00	€1,270,000.00
KA210-VET	€240,000.00	€720,000.00	€1,200,000.00	€990,000.00	€60,000.00	€120,000.00
KA220-VET	€13,045,991.00	€11,240,000.00	€9,990,000.00	€8,520,000.00	€5,385,036.00	€3,160,000.00
KA210-YOU	€660,000.00	€600,000.00	€1,860,000.00	€1,650,000.00	€120,000.00	€150,000.00
KA220-YOU	€4,592,687.00	€6,920,000.00	€8,460,000.00	€9,570,000.00	€1,355,114.00	€1,620,000.00
ESC30-SOL	€82,082.00	€103,804.00	€73,608.00	€173,466.00	€73,190.00	€87,092.00
ESC51-VTJ	€62,099.00	€60,535.20	€0.00	€33,049.00	€1,111,662.00	€1,382,827.95
	€36,098,913.40	€41,465,210.80	€52,610,827.68	€46,908,673.00	€14,915,388.00	€18,389,736.95

Number of requested, awarded and contracted grants in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 per sub-action (continued):

	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2023	Funding approved (approved stage) in 2024	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2021	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2022	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2023	Funding contracted (contracted stage) in 2024
KA121-ADU	€391,047.00	€830,222.00	€0.00	€92,462.00	€391,647.00	€830,222.00
KA122-ADU	€327,998.00	€565,574.00	€55,315.00	€165,177.00	€325,863.00	€565,574.00
KA121-SCH	€2,374,408.00	€5,172,336.00	€301,380.00	€1,182,607.00	€2,406,558.00	€5,172,336.00
KA122-SCH	€2,767,532.80	€1,339,786.00	€888,165.00	€1,193,590.00	€2,767,532.80	€1,309,202.00
KA182-SPO	€203,388.00	€151,113.00	€0.00	€0.00	€203,388.00	€151,113.00
KA121-VET	€5,637,240.00	€7,110,410.00	€1,241,918.00	€2,636,633.00	€5,682,514.00	€7,110,050.00
KA122-VET	€915,230.00	€1,188,408.75	€379,904.00	€1,044,338.00	€915,230.00	€1,188,408.75
KA151-YOU	€1,642,972.00	€1,681,098.00	€230,195.00	€972,837.00	€1,701,326.00	€1,681,098.00
KA152-YOU	€612,887.00	€913,612.00	€287,891.00	€725,863.00	€612,875.00	€854,016.00
KA153-YOU	€385,211.00	€351,421.00	€37,107.00	€274,733.00	€385,211.00	€351,418.00
KA154-YOU	€413,124.00	€817,028.00	€52,392.00	€129,107.00	€413,124.00	€817,028.00
KA155-YOU	€68,763.00	€120,606.25	€0.00	€65,178.00	€68,763.00	€120,606.25
KA210-ADU	€210,000.00	€540,000.00	€60,000.00	€150,000.00	€210,000.00	€540,000.00
KA220-ADU	€1,450,000.00	€900,000.00	€1,481,148.00	€1,500,000.00	€1,450,000.00	€900,000.00
KA210-SCH	€720,000.00	€480,000.00	€360,000.00	€330,000.00	€720,000.00	€480,000.00
KA220-SCH	€1,920,000.00	€1,450,000.00	€1,369,057.00	€1,270,000.00	€1,920,000.00	€1,450,000.00
KA210-VET	€240,000.00	€390,000.00	€60,000.00	€120,000.00	€240,000.00	€390,000.00
KA220-VET	€2,150,000.00	€1,950,000.00	€5,296,531.00	€3,160,000.00	€2,150,000.00	€1,950,000.00
KA210-YOU	€270,000.00	€630,000.00	€120,000.00	€150,000.00	€270,000.00	€630,000.00
KA220-YOU	€2,300,000.00	€1,550,000.00	€1,355,114.00	€1,620,000.00	€2,300,000.00	€1,550,000.00
ESC30-SOL	€50,694.00	€94,366.00	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00
ESC51-VTJ	€1,729,765.00	€1,610,728.00	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,560,392.00
	€26,780,259.80	€29,836,709.00	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,692,530.00

Accreditation

	ADU (KA120-ADU)	SCH (KA120-SCH)	VET (KA120-VET)	YOU (KA150-YOU)	ESC50
Number of submitted accreditations/Quality label in 2021	7	22	12	0	24
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2021	5	19	9	0	24
Number of submitted accreditations/Quality label in 2022	11	41	11	7	11
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2022	6	32	6	3	7
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label in 2023	9	39	11	4	11
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2023	4	31	8	1	8
Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label in 2024	13	65	12	8	4
Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label in 2024	9	42	8	6	4

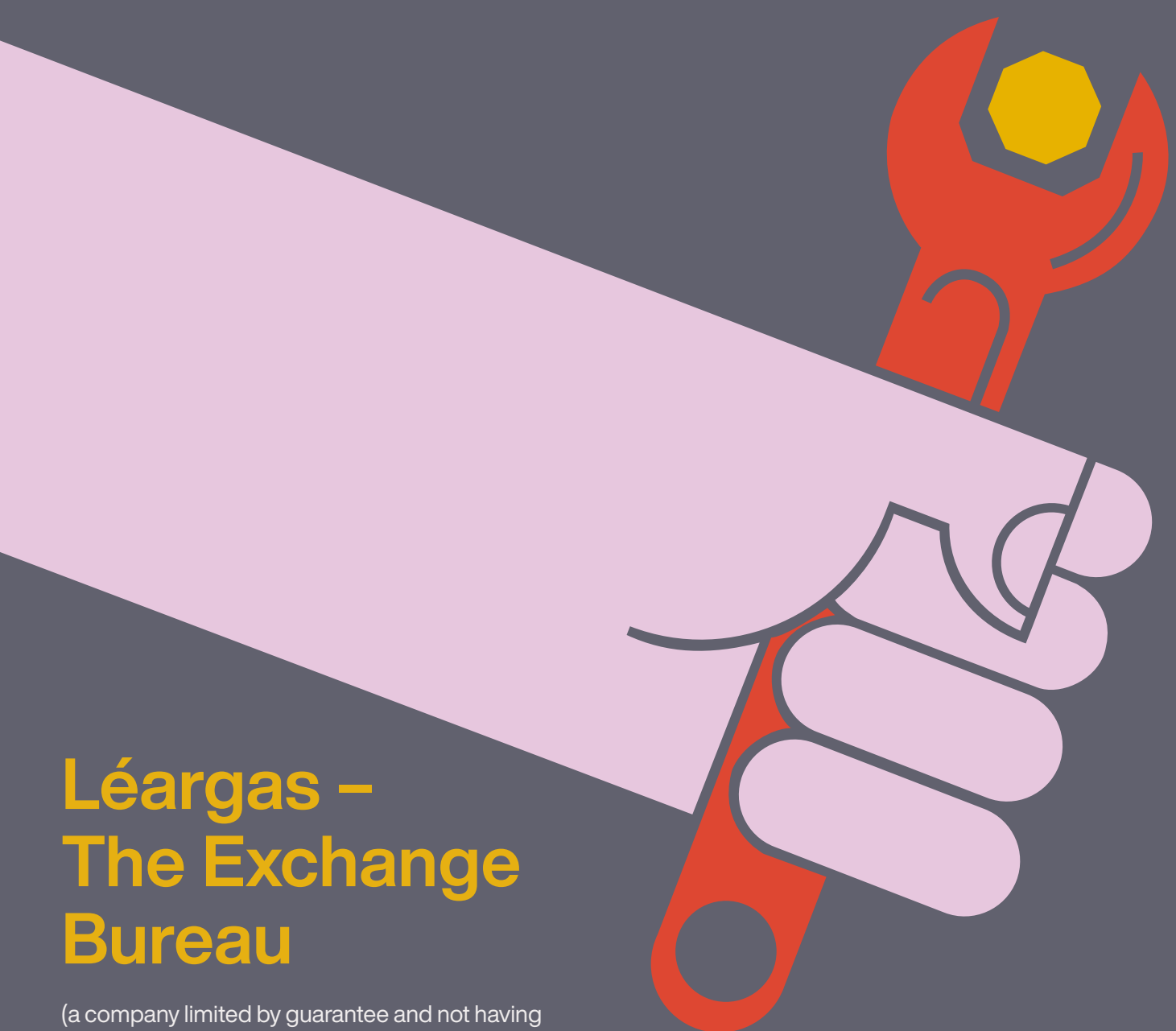
Governance and Finance

Léargas – The Exchange Bureau

(a company limited by guarantee and not having
a share capital)

**Directors' Report and Financial
Statements for the financial year
ended 31 December 2024**

Registration Number: 208725



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Company Information

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Directors	John Gilmore Frank Crummey Jean-Marie Cullen Nuala Keher Dipti Pandya Margaret Waters Theresa Reidy
Secretary	Damien Healy (Appointed 11 October 2024)
Company number	208725
Charity RCN	20020330
Registered office	King's Inns House Parnell Street Dublin 1 D01 A3Y8
Business address	Avoca House and King's Inns House Parnell Street, Dublin 1 D01 A3Y8
Auditors	PKF Brenson Lawlor Brenson Lawlor House Argyle Square Morehampton Road Donnybrook Dublin 4
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Baggot Street, Dublin 2
Solicitors	Harry Mooney & Co. Solicitors 7 Orchardstown Park Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

Chairman's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Internal Financial Controls

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

The Board of Léargas has responsibility for the organisation's system of financial controls.

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

Key Control Procedures

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

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

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

The effectiveness of the control environment set out in the operations manual has been reviewed through a number of audits carried out in the past 12 months

by our external auditors; additionally, internal audits have been undertaken by our own internal auditors, Grant Thornton. Audits have also been carried out on behalf of the European Commission and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science by ASM (B) Limited.

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

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

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

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

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

The Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal controls on an annual basis through the work of the FAR Committee and the reports provided

Chairman's Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

by Grant Thornton (Internal Auditors) and ASM (8) Limited (auditors for Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science).

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

All recommendations by Grant Thornton and ASM (8) Limited have been or are in the process of being acted on.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending code. I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with DPER Circular 13/2014.

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with its Protected Disclosures Policy and received and granted zero protected disclosures in the reporting period up to 31 December 2024.

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

I can confirm that Government travel policy requirements are being complied with in all respects. I can confirm that Léargas has no Capital Expenditure Proposals.

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

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

I can confirm that Léargas has adopted the Charities Governance Code and is in compliance.

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

I can confirm that Léargas has no subsidiaries, and it continues to remain in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the consent under which it was established. Léargas is not involved in joint ventures or share acquisitions but hosted the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), which ceased activities on August 31st of 2022 following a decision by the Department of Education to revise its model for the delivery of Guidance in Education. During 2024, there remained some administrative and reconciliation actions related to the NCGE to be completed.

Chairman's Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

For your information, a statement of expenses paid to members of the Board in 2024 including our Executive Director and also a statement of remuneration paid to key staff is set out below. We also include schedules of travel and hospitality expenses. Members of the Léargas Board do not receive fees or any remuneration.

Léargas Board Expenses	
John Gilmore	€92
Frank Crummey	€0
Jean-Marie Cullen	€0
Nuala Keher	€1,030
Theresa Reidy	€250
Dipti Pandya	€106
Margaret Waters	€0
Executive Director	Lorraine Gilligan
Salary	€124,984
Expenses	€2,546

Staff pay bands 2024	Number
€60,001 to €70,000	7
€70,001 to €80,000	0
€80,001 to €90,000	0
€90,001 to €100,000	3
€100,001 to €110,000	2
€110,001 to €120,000	0
€120,001 to €130,000	1
€200,001 to €210,000	1

Consultancy costs	
Legal	€50,860
Health and Safety	€0,00
Human Resources	€0,00

Travel and subsistence and hospitality expenses (Including Board and Executive Director travel as set out in the attached schedules)	
Foreign travel and subsistence	€83,507
Home travel and subsistence	€27,215

Signed

John Gilmore

Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson

Directors' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Directors

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

- John Gilmore (Chair)
- Frank Crummey
- Jean-Marie Cullen
- Nuala Keher
- Dipti Pandya
- Margaret Waters
- Theresa Reidy

Structure, Governance and Management of Léargas

Léargas is constituted as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital as set out under parts 1-15 of the Companies Act 2014. Its purpose and objects are set out in the Memorandum of Association and how it conducts its business is set out in the Articles of Association. These documents are available from the Companies Registration Office website (www.cro.ie) and the Charities Regulator website, (www.charitiesregulator.ie). The Board of Léargas has implemented the Charities Governance Code and also the principles of the 2016 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. As of the Annual General Meeting and the approval of this report, the organisation is in compliance with its governance requirements and in its objective of implementing best practice.

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

One third of the membership of the board is rotated off the board at the AGM. However, such members may be re-elected to the board by the membership or be replaced by new appointees by the Minister, at the Minister's discretion.

As at the end of December 2024, there were seven Board members on the Board of Léargas.

The board meets a minimum of five times annually. On 11/10/2024, Nuria Terrats Serrano resigned as Company Secretary, and Damien Healy was appointed to the role on the same day.

Board Sub-groups

Léargas has five standing sub-groups, 1) the FAR Committee, 2) the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 – Schools, Vocational Education and Training (VET), Adult Education Evaluation Committee – 2025 3) Erasmus+ Key Action 1 – YOUTH, SPORT AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS Evaluation Committee 4) Key Action 220 Cooperation Partnerships–Youth and Key Action 210 Small Scale Partnerships–School, Adult Education, VET and Youth and 5) the ASPIRE Steering Group.

The FAR Committee meets a minimum of five times annually, the Erasmus + and European solidarity Corps Evaluation Committees meeting two /three times annually and the ASPIRE Steering Group meets quarterly.

Directors' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The number of meetings for each selection committee may increase or decrease depending on the number of grant calls in each year. Records of attendance at each of the committees above can be found on the Léargas website. The board of Léargas is represented on each committee.

Policies and procedures for the induction of new board members

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

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

Matters reserved for the board of Léargas

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

- Significant acquisitions, disposals and retirement of assets of the State body or its subsidiaries. Major investment and capital projects.
- Delegated authority levels, treasury policy and risk management policies. Approval of terms of major contracts.
- Annual review of risk and internal control.

- Litigation.
- Compliance with statutory and administrative requirements in relation to the approval of the number, grading and condition of appointment of all staff.
- Approval of annual budgets and corporate plans.
- Productions of annual reports and accounts.
- Appointment/removal of Auditors.
- Appointment, remunerations and assessment of the performance of, and succession planning for the Executive Director.
- Appointment of Programme/Unit Managers; and
- Significant amendments to the pension benefits of the Executive Director and staff (which may require Ministerial approval).

Staff

Léargas has a staff team based in Dublin and headed by an Executive Director who reports directly to the Board through the Chairperson. A management team of *six people report to the Executive Director and all other members of the staff report to members of the management team. *ASPIRE was added to the Management team in December 2024.

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

Directors' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Reserves policy

The reserves policy was approved by the Board in 2020 and is subject to an annual review. The policy outlines the requirement to build up a cash flow designated reserve to provide a working capital equivalent of a minimum of 3 months and up to 6 months of ongoing operational expenditure. The policy is in accordance with good practice as outlined in the charities code.

Internal Controls

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grant Thornton (Internal Auditors) and ASM (8) Limited (auditors for DFHERIS) review the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control on an annual basis. No material losses have been incurred arising from weaknesses in internal financial control and therefore there has been no requirement for disclosure in the financial statements or the auditor's report on the financial statements. No fraud has been detected.

All recommendations by Grant Thornton or ASM (8) Limited have been acted on.

Directors' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

During 2024, Léargas requested an internal audit of Internal Financial controls and Procurement remediation. Corrective measures have been put in place in 2024 and continue into 2025.

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

Health and Safety of Employees

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

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

Principal activities and business review

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

The principal activity of the company during the year was building capacity across sectors and the administration and distribution of grants on behalf of the European Commission and the National Authorities i.e. the Department of Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The grants managed are funded by the Erasmus + programme, the European Solidarity Corp Programme,

as well as bilateral programmes such as CASE, PEACE IV, ASPIRE PEACEPLUS This means that Léargas acts as a conduit between these agencies and the final grant recipients and holds grant monies in trust for the funders and distributes it to the final recipients according to the rules and regulations of the funder concerned.

Principal risks and uncertainties

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

Léargas mitigates these risks as follows:

- The company continually monitors the level of activity, prepares and monitors its budgets, targets and projections; and
- The company submits regular workplans and resourcing requests to funders to outline requirements to deliver effectively its obligations
- The company closely monitors emerging changes to the rules and regulations of the funders concerned on an ongoing basis.

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

Léargas has no currency risk and no credit risk. It has no interest rate risk due to the fact that it has no borrowings.

Directors' Report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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

Likely future developments

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future. The organisation continues to implement the funding cycle and expecting increases in funding and required staffing to ensure distribution of this.

Dividends

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

Post balance sheet events

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

Accounting records

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

Auditor

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

Relevant audit information

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

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

On behalf of the board:

John Gilmore

Dr John Gilmore

Chairperson

27th May 2025

Frank Crummey

Frank Crummey

Director

27th May 2025

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the board:

John Gilmore

Dr John Gilmore

Chairperson

27th May 2025

Frank Crummey

Frank Crummey

Director

27th May 2025

Programme Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Current Programmes

Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth, and sport in Europe. To achieve this, the programme focuses on key horizontal priorities. These are Inclusion and Diversity, Digital Transformation, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, and Participation in Democratic life.

Léargas administers the Erasmus+ programme in Ireland for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. We manage the following actions and opportunities:

Key Action 1 (KA1): Learning Mobility: Learning mobilities allow individuals and groups to travel to other countries to learn, work, or train. They also provide a chance to attend a training course, to job-shadow or work on projects with partners located in other countries. There are many types of mobilities across sectors including exchanges for young people. Léargas supports:

- Adult Education Mobility
- School Education Mobility
- VET (Vocational Education and Training) Mobility
- Youth Worker Mobility
- Youth Exchanges
- Youth Participation
- Sport Mobility
- DiscoverEU Inclusion

Key Action 2 (KA2) Partnerships for Cooperation:

This action is about cooperation. It supports the development of organisations through the exchange of good practices and the creation of networks. It includes two types:

1. **Cooperation Partnerships:** For experienced organisations or large-scale projects. Funding is available as lump sums of €400,000, €250,000, or €120,000.
2. **Small-Scale Partnerships:** For smaller, shorter projects. Lump sums of €60,000 or €30,000 are available.

European Solidarity Corps Programme

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) funds and supports volunteering and project opportunities for young people aged 18–30. Its goal is to help young people take part in solidarity activities that create positive change in their communities and beyond. The programme also supports personal development and encourages young people to stay active as engaged citizens.

ESC projects aim to build a safer, greener, more inclusive, and digitally aware society.

Young people can apply for two types of ESC projects:

1. **Volunteering Projects:** These include both individual and team opportunities.
2. **Solidarity Projects:** In these, groups of young people create their own projects to address a community challenge.

The ESC programme is open to a wide variety of organisations. In Ireland, these include youth services, homeless services, organisations supporting families, sustainability projects, and social justice organisations.

Programme Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

ASPIRE (Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education)

The ASPIRE Project is funded through PEACEPLUS via the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Léargas is part of the partnership of organisations North and South who will implement and administer the ASPIRE Project. The lead partner in the ASPIRE Project is the Education Authority NI.

The goals of ASPIRE are to promote peacebuilding, reconciliation, and inclusion through sustained cross community and cross-border educational partnerships.

The core objective is to bring together children, educators, and communities from diverse socio-economic, cultural, and political backgrounds to build a more cohesive, respectful, and inclusive society.

ASPIRE seeks to address the enduring challenges of division and inequality in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland by fostering sustained and meaningful collaboration across educational and community settings.

The main aspects of the ASPIRE project are Pupil Engagement, Capacity Building for Educators, Leadership Training, Parental and Community Engagement, System-Wide Networking and Change.

Languages

Through the Languages initiatives, we promote plurilingualism and help organisations raise awareness of the diverse languages spoken in homes, classrooms, and communities.

Léargas collaborates with colleagues across all sectors to organise events that highlight the importance of language awareness and learning.

We also encourage participation in initiatives managed on behalf of the European Commission and the Council of Europe. These include:

- The European Language Label
- The European Centre for Modern Languages
- Events such as the European Day of Languages

eTwinning

eTwinning is a free online platform connecting more than 1 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. 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.

eTwinning now resides on the European School Education Platform (ESEP), a meeting point for all stakeholders in the school education sector.

EPALE

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 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 Support Service for EPALE in Ireland.

Programme Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Eurodesk

Eurodesk Ireland, part of a European network with 38 national offices and over 3000 multipliers and ambassadors, provides free information on European opportunities for young people aged 13–30. It is a key resource for those interested in travelling, volunteering, studying, or working abroad. Eurodesk Ireland is supported by Erasmus+ and managed by Léargas.

Youth Wiki

Youth Wiki is Europe's online encyclopaedia for national youth policies. Its overall purpose is to help the European Commission and Member States in their decision making, by providing information on state of play on reforms and initiatives. The collection of qualitative information also allows the exchange of information and innovative approaches and can substantiate peer learning activities. Youth Wiki offers a comprehensive database of national structures, policies and actions supporting young people. The information can be explored using interactive maps, researching one of the 29 countries represented, or by reading 'Chapters' about specific aspects of youth policy.

VET Team

VET Team aims to promote and enhance progress toward the application of EU VET Tools and principles in projects funded by the Erasmus+ programme. The National VET Team in Ireland supports the development and internationalisation of the VET sector, collaborates with other National VET Teams to share best international practices in VET, and provides advice and support to EU-funded projects under the Erasmus+ programme.

Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCA) and Networking Activities (NET)

TCA and NET activities are organised by National Agencies to promote collaboration and the sharing of best practices within Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

These events can include:

- Training and support sessions for National Agency staff and project coordinators
- Contact seminars to help beneficiaries find project partners
- Thematic seminars focused on specific topics in education, training, and youth work

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Léargas - The Exchange Bureau

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Léargas – The Exchange Bureau (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Other information

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

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Léargas - The Exchange Bureau

statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

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

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

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Léargas - The Exchange Bureau

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

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

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



Thomas McDonald

for and on behalf of PKF Brenson Lawlor

Statutory Audit Firm

27th May 2025

Argyle Square, Morehampton Road
Donnybrook, Dublin 4

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Income	6	5,407,762	5,945,595
Administrative expenses		(5,363,156)	(5,910,840)
Surplus before taxation		44,606	34,755
Tax on surplus		–	–
Surplus for the financial year		44,606	34,755
Transfer to designated reserves – operational		(44,606)	(34,755)
Net surplus or the financial year		–	–

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

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

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Surplus for the financial year	44,606	34,755
Income and expenditure reserve at the start of the financial year	34,755	68,456
True up Adjustment for Prior Years		(10)
Designated reserve at the start of the financial year	1,268,965	1,200,519
	1,348,326	1,303,720
Income and expenditure reserve at the end of the financial year	44,606	34,755
Designated reserve at the end of the financial year	1,303,720	1,268,965
	1,348,326	1,303,720

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	95,623	101,113
Net bursaries			
Bursary grant bank accounts		27,879,503	33,306,998
Bursary funding	9	(27,879,503)	(33,306,998)
		–	–
Current assets			
Debtors	10	110,157	316,287
Cash at bank and in hand		2,765,034	2,667,142
		2,875,191	2,983,429
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	11	(1,153,652)	(990,651)
Operational grants in advance		(287,289)	(327,155)
Creditors and grants in advance		(1,440,941)	(1,317,806)
		1,434,250	1,665,623
Net current assets			
		1,529,873	1,766,736
Total assets fewer current liabilities			
		(181,547)	(463,016)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Net assets			
		1,348,326	1,303,720
Reserves			
Income and expenditure reserves	14	44,606	34,755
Designated reserves – operational	14	1,303,720	1,268,965
		1,348,326	1,303,720
Total reserves			

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 27 May 2025 and signed on behalf of the board by

John Gilmore

Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson

27th May 2025

Frank Crummey

Frank Crummey
Director

27th May 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year		
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	73,914	55,283
Accrued (income)/ expenses	(276,730)	(97,924)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease (increase) in trade and other debtors	206,130	(221,554)
(Decrease) increase in trade and other creditors	163,001	420,807
Cash flows (absorbed by) operations	166,315	156,612
Net cash used in investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(68,423)	(150,019)
Net cash used in financing activities		
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	97,892	6,593
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	2,667,142	2,660,549
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2,765,034	2,667,142

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Company information

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

2. Statement of compliance

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

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

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

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

Going concern

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

Income and expenditure

Income and expenses are included in the financial statements as they become receivable or due. Expenses include VAT where applicable as the company cannot reclaim it.

Tangible fixed assets

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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

Depreciation

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

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	3% straight line
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If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

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

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

Cash at bank and in hand

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

Financial instruments

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

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

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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

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

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

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

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

Taxation

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

Employee benefits

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

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

4. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

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

Useful lives of tangible assets

Long-lived tangible fixed assets comprising primarily of fixtures, fittings and office equipment are stated at cost less depreciation in note 8 to the financial statements. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated life of each type of asset. The directors regularly review these useful lives and change them, if necessary, to reflect current conditions. In determining these useful lives, the directors consider technological change, patterns of consumption, physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation charge for the financial year. The net book value of tangible fixed assets subject to depreciation at the financial year end date was €95,623.

Going Concern

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

5. Limited by guarantee

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

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Income

Income arises from:

	2024 €	2023 €
Grants	5,407,762	5,945,595

Grant income received from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science during the year was as follows:

Grant income received	1,295,000	1,295,000
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The total income of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the Republic of Ireland.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Staff costs

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

	2024 number	2023 number
Management	7	6
Finance	15	15
Operations	30	28
Administration	2	2
	54	51

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2024 €	2023 €
Wages and salaries	2,782,067	2,676,616
Social insurance costs	337,572	288,277
Other retirement benefit costs	117,624	86,933
	3,237,263	3,051,826

Staff pay bands

	2024	2023
€60,001 to €70,000	7	5
€70,001 to €80,000	0	1
€80,001 to €90,000	0	2
€90,001 to €100,000	3	2
€100,001 to €110,000	2	0
€110,001 to €120,000	0	1
€120,001 to €130,000	1	0
€200,001 to €210,000	1	0
	14	11

Termination payments

	2024 €	2023 €
Termination payments made in the year	26,925	25,000

The payments relate to the wind-down of NCGE activities in 2022.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

8. Tangible assets

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	
€	
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	398,505
Additions	68,424
At 31 December 2024	466,929
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	297,392
Depreciation charged in the year	73,914
At 31 December 2024	371,306
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2024	95,623
At 31 December 2023	101,113

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

9. Bursary accounts

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

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024 €	Grant income to Dec 2024 €	Other in the year €	Grants paid in the year €	Balance at 31 Dec 2024 €
European Solidarity	1,763,780	2,028,125	(3)	(1,875,278)	1,916,624
Erasmus+	31,543,218	28,348,877	(226)	(33,928,990)	25,962,879
	33,306,998	30,377,002	(229)	(35,804,268)	27,879,503

10. Debtors

	2024 €	2023 €
Trade debtors	110,157	316,287

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 €	2023 €
Trade creditors and accruals	1,020,349	859,651
PAYE	83,303	81,000
Staff termination provision	50,000	50,000
	1,153,652	990,651

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

	2024 €	2023 €
Total staff termination provision	231,547	513,016
Included within creditors falling due within one year	(50,000)	(50,000)
	181,547	463,016

13. Financial instruments

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

	2024 €	2023 €
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Trade debtors	110,157	316,287
Cash at bank and in hand	2,765,034	2,667,142
	2,875,191	2,983,429

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

13. Financial instruments (continued)

	2024 €	2023 €
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors and accruals	1,390,941	1,267,806
Staff termination provision	231,547	513,016
	1,622,488	1,780,822

14. Reserves

The reserves policy was approved by the Board in 2020 and is subject to an annual review. The policy outlines the requirement to build up a cash flow designated reserve to provide a working capital equivalent of a minimum of 3 months and up to 6 months of on-going operational expenditure. The policy is in accordance with good practice as outlined in the charities code.

15. Post balance sheet events

There are no post balance sheet events which require disclosure under FRS 102.

16. Controlling party

The company's ultimate controlling party is the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

17. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 27 May 2025.



Léargas – The Exchange Bureau

(a company limited by guarantee and not having
a share capital)

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

Detailed Income Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Appendix 1

	2024 €	2023 €
Income		
European Commission	3,200,572	2,810,313
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	1,295,000	1,295,000
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	712,289	691,543
Department of Education	29,641	-
Other Education Programme Funding	40,000	1,148,739
Other Income	130,260	-
Total income	5,407,762	5,945,595

Detailed Expenditure Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Appendix 2

	2024 €	2023 €
Expenditure		
Staffing and other Headcount Costs	3,279,756	3,323,684
Staff training	46,971	65,383
Office supplies	52,674	63,193
IT maintenance and supplies	249,631	232,591
Meetings / workshops	296,105	228,336
Grant Allocations	220,026	480,707
Travelling and subsistence	110,723	108,989
Service providers	440,148	759,915
Other costs	87,830	83,318
Building costs	465,741	443,629
Publications	91,879	99,952
Communications	21,672	21,143
Total expenditure	5,363,156	5,910,840

Detailed Expenditure Report – Departmental allocation

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Appendix 3

	2024 €	2023 €
Expenditure		
Operations and Finance	935,056	974,641
Finance and Corporate Services	1,532,527	1,629,799
ASPIRE PEACEPLUS	19,245	-
Education and Training	1,267,221	1,601,337
Youth, Sport, and ESC Development	984,250	895,263
Strategic Engagement and Communications	430,866	613,571
Executive Director	193,991	196,229
Total expenditure	5,363,156	5,910,840