



Annual Report 2025



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Section 1: Opening Statements

Message from the Executive Director



Stepping into the role of Executive Director this year has been an honour. Over my time at Léargas, I have held several roles, including at senior leadership level—Head of Strategic Initiatives, Head of Strategic Engagement and Communications, and most recently Head of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE. During this time, I had the privilege of working closely with Lorraine Gilligan, who retired at the end of 2025 after nearly three decades at Léargas, including five years as Executive Director. Lorraine’s vision, commitment, and belief in the transformative power of international learning have profoundly shaped our organisation. As I take on the role of Executive Director, I do so with a deep appreciation for her leadership and our almost twenty years of collaboration.

I am proud to reflect on a year that brought significant programme achievements and a refreshed strategic vision that lays a strong foundation for the years ahead. One of our most important milestones of 2025 was the launch of our new Strategic Statement 2025–2030, a plan built around four pillars: Ignite, Inclusion, Impact, and Innovation. Developed through extensive engagement with staff and partners, this strategy translates our mission into clear priorities for programme delivery, partnership development, and organisational growth. It also positions Léargas to confidently navigate the remainder of the 2021–2027 programme period and contribute meaningfully to decisions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

In 2025, Léargas made impressive progress in programme delivery, engagement, and impact. Growth continued across Erasmus+ VET, Adult Education, School Education, Youth, Sport, and the European Solidarity Corps—demonstrating sustained national interest in European mobility and cooperation. The number of contracted projects across Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps rose by 21%; funding awarded increased by 22%; and forecasted participants increased by nearly 18%.

A particularly significant achievement was the official launch of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, a cross-border shared education programme that builds on the foundations of the CASE PEACE IV Project. In its first year, the programme reached more than 482 school and pre-school settings, engaging children and young people from diverse cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds across Northern Ireland and the border counties. This work reflects Léargas’ long-standing commitment to reconciliation, peacebuilding, and supporting schools to create inclusive, connected learning environments.

These positive results were achieved in a year marked by its own challenges. Growth across programmes placed demands on resources and required structural adjustments, influencing how we responded to emerging needs. Despite this, the dedication of our staff and partners ensured outstanding programme outcomes.

To the staff of Léargas, our Board of Directors, our funders, and the many youth workers, educators, volunteers, and organisations we work alongside: thank you for your continued dedication, partnership, and belief in the work we do.

It is a privilege to lead Léargas at this moment of opportunity, and I look forward to working with our staff, partners, and beneficiaries to build the next chapter of connection, collaboration, and shared international learning.

Emma Grainger

Emma Grainger
Executive Director

Teachtaireacht ón Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin



Is mór an onóir dom glacadh leis an ról mar Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin i mbliana. Le linn mo thréimhse i Léargas, bhí roinnt ról agam, ról ag leibhéal na hardcheannaireachta san áireamh: Ceann Tionscnamh Straitéiseach, Ceann Rannpháirtíochta agus Cumarsáide Straitéisí, agus le déanaí, Ceann PEACEPLUS ASPIRE. Le linn na tréimhse seo, bhí sé de phribhléid agam obair go dlúth le Lorraine Gilligan, a d'éirigh as a post ag deireadh 2025 tar éis tríocha bliain, nach mór, a chaitheamh ag Léargas, lena n-áirítear cúig bliana mar Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin. Tá fíis, tiomantas, agus creideamh Lorraine i gcumhacht bhunathraitheach na foghlama idirnáisiúnta tar éis tionchar domhain a imirt ar ár n-eagraíocht. Agus mé ag glacadh leis an ról mar Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin, is le meas mór ar a ceannaireacht agus ar an gcomhoibriú a bhí againn le beagnach fiche bliain anuas a dhéanaim amhlaidh.

Táim bródúil agus mé ag caitheamh súil siar ar bhliain inar baineadh amach éachtaí suntasacha sa chlár agus inar leagadh amach fíis straitéiseach athnuaithe a chuireann bonn láidir faoi na blianta atá romhainn. Bhí seoladh ár Ráitis Straitéisigh nua don tréimhse 2025–2030 ar cheann de na garspriocanna is tábhachtaí a bhí againn in 2025. Plean is ea é atá bunaithe ar cheithre cholún: Spreagadh, Cuimsiú, Tionchar, agus Nuálaíocht. Forbraíodh an straitéis trí rannpháirtíocht leathan ó fhoireann agus ó chomhpháirtithe agus aistríonn sí ár misean ina tosaíochtaí soiléire maidir le seachadadh cláir, forbairt comhpháirtíochtaí, agus fás eagraíochtúil. Lena chois sin cuireann sé Léargas i riocht chun a bhealach a dhéanamh tríd an chuid eile de thréimhse an chlár 2021–2027 go muiníneach agus cur go fiúntach le cinní faoin gcéad Chreat Airgeadais Ilbhliantúil eile.

In 2025, rinne Léargas dul chun cinn suntasach ar sheachadadh cláir, rannpháirtíocht, agus tionchar. Leanadh den bhfás ar fud Ghairmoiliúint agus gairmoideachas Erasmus+, Oideachais Aosach, Oideachas Scoile, Óige, Spóirt, agus an Chóir Dhlúthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh—rud a léiríonn spéis náisiúnta mharthanach i soghluaisteacht agus i gcomhar Eorpach. Tháinig méadú 21% ar líon na dtionscadal faoi chonradh ar fud Erasmus+ agus an Chóir Dhlúthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh; tháinig méadú 22% ar an maoiniú a bronnadh; agus tháinig méadú 18% nach mór, ar líon réamh-mheasta na rannpháirtithe.

Éacht a bhí thar a bheith suntasach ab ea seoladh oifigiúil PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, clár oideachais comhroinnte trasteorann atá ag tógáil ar bhunchloch an Tionscadail CASE PEACE IV. Sa chéad bhliain, shroich an clár níos mó ná 482 suíomh scoile agus réamhscoile, ag mealladh leanaí agus daoine óga ó chúlraí éagsúla cultúrtha, reiligiúnacha agus socheacnamaíocha ar fud Thuaisceart Éireann agus chontaetha na teorann. Léiríonn an obair seo tiomantas fadtéarmach Léargas don athmhuintearas, do thógáil na síochána, agus do thacaíocht a thabhairt do scoileanna chun timpeallachtaí foghlama cuimsitheacha, nasctha a chruthú.

Baineadh na torthaí dearfacha seo amach i mbliain a raibh a cuid dúshlán féin aici. Chuir fás ar fud na gclár éilimh ar acmhainní agus bhí gá le coigeartuithe struchtúrtha, rud a chuaigh i bhfeidhm ar an gcaoi ar fhreagraíomar do riachtanais a bhí ag teacht chun cinn. In ainneoin sin, chinntigh díograis ár bhfoirne agus ár gcomhpháirtithe go raibh torthaí den scoth ar an gclár.

D'fhoireann Léargas, dár mBord Stiúrthóirí, dár maoinitheoirí, agus don iliomad oibrithe óige, oideachasóirí, oibrithe deonacha, agus eagraíochtaí a n-oibrímid i gcomhar leo: go raibh maith agaibh as bhur ndíograis leanúnach, bhur gcomhpháirtíocht, agus bhur gcreideamh san obair a dhéanaimid.

Is pribhléid é Léargas a stiúradh ag an tráth seo, tráth a bhfuil deis againn, agus táim ag tnúth le bheith ag obair lenár bhfoireann, lenár gcomhpháirtithe, agus lenár dtairbhíthe chun an chéad chaibidil eile ina mbeidh nascacht, comhar, agus foghlaim idirnáisiúnta chomhroinnte chun tosaigh a thógáil.

Emma Grainger

Emma Grainger
Executive Director



Message from the Board Chairperson

In 2025, Léargas continued to strengthen Ireland's connection to Europe through high-quality programmes, strategic partnerships, and a commitment to inclusion, innovation, and meaningful engagement.

What stands out most in 2025 is not only the breadth of activity across sectors, but the depth of our impact—felt in classrooms, youth services, communities, and organisations across the country. In 2025 alone, Léargas supported 454 projects, awarded over €35.8 million in funding, and reached more than 15,000 forecasted participants across Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. Nearly half of the forecasted participants are those with fewer opportunities, a testament to the organisation's focus on broadening access.

We launched our Strategic Statement 2025–2030, which sets the direction for the organisation's next chapter. The strategy reflects the evolving needs of beneficiaries and learners, our European partners, and Ireland's own ambitions for lifelong learning. The Board has already seen strong progress in working to meet the new goals of this Strategy—from increased awareness of European opportunities to strengthen policy alignment to a more agile organisational structure.

Throughout 2025, the Board remained focused on ensuring strong governance, transparency, and accountability. We oversaw delivery against the new strategic priorities, monitored risk and resourcing in the context of growing programme demand, and supported organisational development as internal systems, digital capabilities, and structures evolved. Our work reflects not only our responsibility to safeguard public funds, but also our commitment to the long-term sustainability, quality, and impact of Léargas' programmes.

This year also reaffirmed the organisation's alignment with Ireland's national priorities and EU-wide objectives, including inclusion, skills development, shared democratic values, and active citizenship. Léargas amplified major European initiatives such as the Union of Skills, while policy engagement connected programme evidence to national strategy discussions across education, youth, sport, and community sectors.

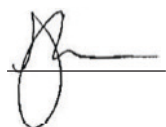
2025 also marked a significant moment of leadership transition. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Lorraine Gilligan, whose exceptional leadership and nearly three decades of dedicated service have left an enduring and transformative legacy at Léargas. Her commitment, vision, and unwavering support have shaped the organisation in profound ways, and her impact will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Emma brings a wealth of experience, insight, and energy, alongside a clear dedication to Léargas and our mission and vision, which will support the organisation in delivering on its strategic ambitions in the years ahead. The Board looks forward to working closely with Emma and the Senior Management Team as they lead Léargas through this next phase of growth and development.

As Léargas approaches its 40th anniversary in 2026, and as Ireland prepares to assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the achievements of 2025 have laid a strong foundation. The Board remains firmly committed to supporting Léargas as it advances its strategic ambitions, strengthens partnerships, and continues to unlock potential for individuals and organisations throughout the country.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the staff of Léargas, whose commitment underpins every achievement described in this report, and whose passion for their work is evident in all that they do. I am continually impressed by their dedication and focus on moving the organisation forward. I also thank our funders, including the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; the Department of Education and Youth; and the Special EU Programmes Body, along with our European partners, national stakeholders, community organisations, and, most importantly, the many participants who bring European programmes to life.

Together, we look forward with great excitement to shaping the next chapter of connection, collaboration, and inclusive European learning, expanding participation and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage, contribute, and benefit.



Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson



Teachtaireacht ó Chathaoirleach an Bhoird

In 2025, lean Léargas de nasc na hÉireann leis an Eoraip a neartú trí chlár ardchaighdeán, trí chomhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha, agus trí thiomantas don chuimsiú, don nuálaíocht, agus don idirghníomhú fiúntach.

Ar na nithe is suntasaí in 2025 áirítear ní hamháin fairsinge na ngníomhaíochtaí ar fud earnálacha éagsúla ach braitear doimhneacht ár dtionchair sna seomraí ranga, i seirbhísí óige, i bpobail, agus in eagraíochtaí ar fud na tíre. In 2025, gan trácht ar bhlianta eile, thacaigh Léargas le 454 tionscadal, bhronn siad maoiniú de bhreis is €35.8 milliún agus shroich siad níos mó ná 15,000 rannpháirtí réamh-mheasta ar fud Erasmus+ agus an Chóir Dhlúthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh. Is ionann beagnach leath de na rannpháirtithe réamh-mheasta agus daoine a bhfuil níos lú deiseanna acu, rud a léiríonn go bhfuil an eagraíocht ag díriú go láidir ar rochtain a leathnú.

Sheolamar ár Ráiteas Straitéiseach 2025–2030, ina leagtar amach treo na heagraíochta dá céad chaibidil eile. Léiríonn an straitéis riachtanais atá ag teacht chun cinn i measc na dtairbhíthe agus na bhfoghlaimeoirí, ár gcomhpháirtithe Eorpacha, agus maidir le hardspriocanna na hÉireann féin i dtaobh na foghlama ar feadh an tsaoil. Tá dul chun cinn láidir feicthe ag an mBord cheana féin maidir le hoibriú chun spriocanna nua na Straitéise seo a bhaint amach—ó fheasacht níos mó ar dheiseanna Eorpacha go dtí cur le hailíniú beartais agus go dtí struchtúr eagraíochtúil níos freagrúla.

I rith na bliana 2025 ar fad, lean an Bord air ag díriú ar rialachas láidir, trédhearcacht agus cuntasacht a chinntiú. Rinneamar maoirseacht ar an seachadadh i gcomparáid leis na tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha nua, rinneamar monatóireacht ar riosca agus ar sholáthar acmhainní i gcomhthéacs méadú éilimh ar chlár, agus thugamar tacaíocht d'fhorbairt eagraíochtúil de réir mar a tháinig forbairt ar chórais inmheánacha, ar chumais dhigiteacha, agus ar struchtúir. Ní hamháin go léiríonn ár gcuid oibre ár bhfreagracht maidir le cistí poiblí a chosaint, ach ár dtiomantas d'inhuanaitheacht, d'ardchaighdeán agus do thionchar fadtéarmach na gclár a reáchtálann Léargas.

Sa bhliain seo athdhearbhaíodh go bhfuil an eagraíocht ar aon dul le tosaíochtaí náisiúnta na hÉireann agus le cuspóirí an Aontais Eorpaigh, lena n-áirítear cuimsiú, forbairt scileanna, comhluachanna daonlathacha, agus saoránacht ghníomhach. Chuir Léargas le mórthionscnaimh Eorpacha ar nós Aontas na Scileanna, agus, ag an am céanna, nasc an rannpháirtíocht i mbeartas fianaise ó chlár le pléite faoin straitéis náisiúnta ar fud earnálacha an oideachais, na hóige, an spóirt agus pobail.

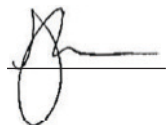
Chomh maith leis sin, ba thréimhse shuntasach d'aistriú ceannaireachta é 2025. Thar ceann an Bhoird, ba mhaith liom ár mbuíochas ó chroí a chur in iúl do Lorraine Gilligan. D'fhág a ceannaireacht den chéad scoth agus a seirbhís dhílis ar feadh triochoa bliain nach mór, oidhreacht bhuan, bhunathraitheach ag Léargas. Mhúnligh a tiomantas, a fíis, agus a tacaíocht gan staonadh an eagraíocht go domhain ar fad, agus mothóimid a tionchar go ceann blianta fada amach anseo.

Tugann Emma saibhreas taithí, léargais agus fuinnimh léi, mar aon le tiomantas soiléir do Léargas agus dár misean agus dár bhfís, rud a thacóidh leis an eagraíocht a cuid ardspricanna straitéiseacha a bhaint amach sna blianta atá romhainn. Tá an Bord ag súil go mór le comhoibriú go dlúth le Emma agus leis an bhFoireann Bainistíochta Shinsearach agus iad ag treorú Léargas tríd an chéad chéim eile seo den bhfás agus den bhforbairt.

De réir mar atá Léargas chun 40 bliain ar an bhfód a cheiliúradh in 2026, agus Éire ag ullmhú chun Uachtaránacht Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh a ghlacadh, tá bonn láidir leagtha ag éachtaí na bliana 2025. Tá an Bord tiomanta go láidir i gcónaí do thacaíocht a thabhairt do Léargas agus é ag cur chun cinn a cuid ardspricanna straitéiseacha, ag neartú comhpháirtíochtaí, agus ag leanúint de bheith ag scaoileadh acmhainneachta do dhaoine aonair agus d'eagraíochtaí ar fud na tíre.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas ó chroí a chur in iúl d'fhoireann Léargas, a bhfuil a dtiomantas mar bhonn taca faoi gach éacht a luaitear sa tuarascáil seo, agus a bhfuil a ndíogais i leith a gcuid oibre le feiceáil go soiléir i ngach rud a dhéanann siad. Téann a ndúthracht agus a ndíriú aigne ar an eagraíocht a chur chun cinn i bhfeidhm orm go síoraí seasta. Gabhaim buíochas freisin lenár maoinitheoirí, lena n-áirítear an Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta; an Roinn Oideachais agus Óige; agus Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE, mar aon lenár gcomhpháirtithe Eorpacha, luchtanna leasa náisiúnta, eagraíochtaí pobail, agus, thar aon ní eile, an iliomad rannpháirtithe a thugann beocht do chlár Eorpacha.

I dteannta a chéile, táimid ag tnúth go mór le caibidil nua a mhúnlú ina mbeidh nascacht, comhar, agus foghlaim Eorpach ionchuimsitheach chun tosaigh, le rannpháirtíocht a leathnú agus lena chinntiú go mbeidh deis ag gach duine dul i mbun gnímh, cur leis, agus tairbhe a bhaint as.



Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson

Section 2: Our Organisation

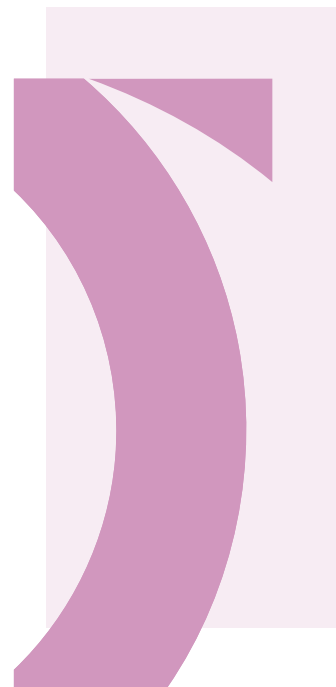


Our History

Since our establishment in 1986, Léargas has been at the heart of Ireland's international education, training, and youth work landscape.

With our roots in the youth sector, the organisation has grown to manage a diverse range of European and national programmes, continually adapting to the evolving needs of learners and communities.

Over four decades, Léargas has connected thousands of learners, educators, youth workers, volunteers, and organisations with European opportunities, helping to bring an international dimension to Irish education, community development, and youth work.



Our Work

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

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 Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Vision

We envision a future where intercultural learning and meaningful connections across Ireland and Europe unlock potential and inspire positive change for individuals and communities.

Our Mission

We are on a mission to strengthen connections and promote inclusion by enhancing access to European programmes and opportunities.

Our Values

We strive to inspire individuals, organisations, and communities. In turn, we are inspired by their stories, actions, and ideas. This shared inspiration drives our values and our commitment to unlock potential, empower connection, share stories, recognise impact, and advance learning, all to drive positive change, maximising the opportunities within European programmes.

Our Programmes and Initiatives

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 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
- ▶ Vocational Education and Training Mobility
- ▶ Youth Worker Mobility
- ▶ Youth Exchanges
- ▶ Youth Participation
- ▶ Sport Mobility
- ▶ DiscoverEU Inclusion

Key Action 2 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

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 one 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.



PEACEPLUS ASPIRE

PEACEPLUS ASPIRE (Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education) is a shared education initiative, supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Léargas is part of the partnership of organisations who will implement and administer the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Project. The lead partner in the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Project is the Education Authority NI.

The goals of PEACEPLUS 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.

PEACEPLUS 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 PEACEPLUS ASPIRE project are Pupil Engagement, Capacity Building for Educators, Leadership Training, Parental and Community Engagement, System-Wide Networking, and Change.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 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 in 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, our [Climate Action Road Map](#) 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. The team organised a 'swap party', where staff swapped clothes, books, and homeware to encourage reuse and the circular economy.

Across all our programmes, Léargas supports international projects with environmental and sustainability themes. 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.

In 2025, we also began work on the redevelopment of our website, which aims to improve accessibility, strengthen user experience, and modernise our digital presence—reflecting our commitment to building inclusive and user-friendly digital spaces.



Our Board of Directors

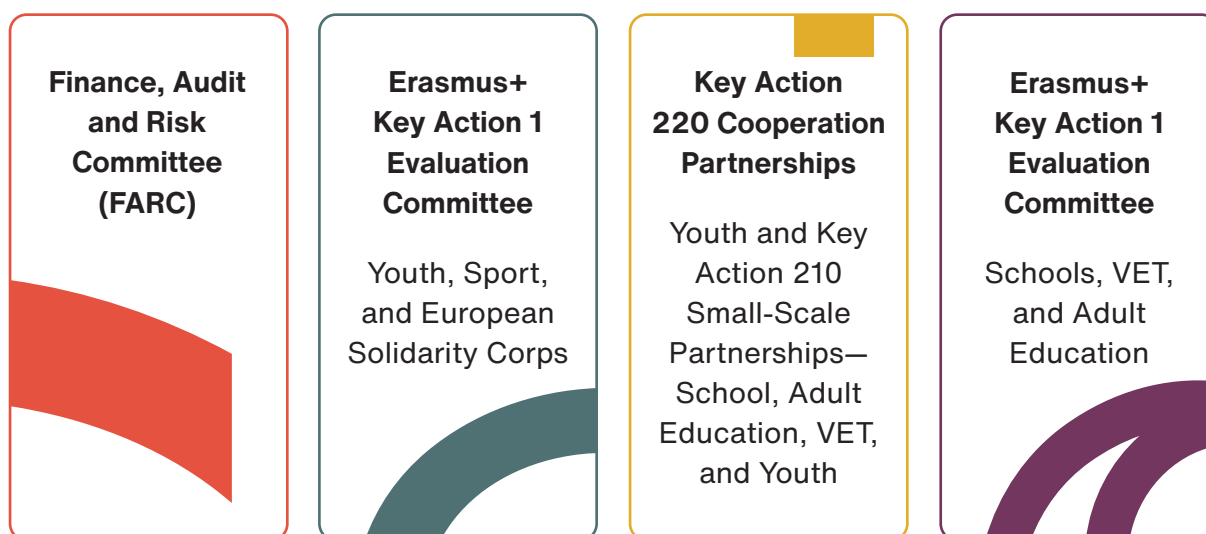
Léargas operates under the remit of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

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. The Board meets a minimum of 5 times per year.



Board Subgroups

Léargas has a number of standing subgroups to support the governance and delivery of its programmes:



A member of the Léargas Board of Directors sits on the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Steering Committee, which meets quarterly. 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. 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 Theresa 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 the Director of Research at University College Dublin, currently leading strategic initiatives to enhance the researcher experience across the full research lifecycle. As Head of Pre Award Research Services, she spearheaded the development of the UCD EU Research Office and the ERC Talent Development Team, driving UCD's success as one of Europe's Top 20 universities for EU research funding. Since 2023, she has served as Chair of EARMA, championing recognition of the research management profession, and in 2025 became Co-Chair of INORMS, representing over 27 global member organisations. Before joining UCD, she was Director of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Her career spans the full research funding landscape, including roles as funded early career researcher, expert evaluator, EU national delegate, senior research manager, and funder.



**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 his knowledge and experience in support of Léargas strategic objectives and commitment to good governance.

Both Frank Crummey and Nuala Keher retired from the Board of Directors of Léargas in 2025. We thank them for their time, dedication, and support of our work.

Our Structure

Léargas has six departments, each with their own functions.

In 2025, we refined our internal structures to ensure the organisation remains adaptable and future-ready. As part of this process, eTwinning, EPALÉ, and Eurodesk transitioned into the Strategic Engagement and Communications Team in October. This realignment strengthened organisational coherence, improved collaboration across teams, and ensured these initiatives are more effectively embedded into our strategic engagement work.



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 Training, and Adult Education sectors of Erasmus+ as well as the VET Team.

Youth, Sport and ESC Development Team

Supports potential and actual beneficiaries of Erasmus+. Promotes and manages Youth Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, DiscoverEU, and Erasmus+ Sport. All Training and Cooperation Activities are coordinated under this team.

Strategic Engagement and Communications Team

Drives awareness of Léargas vision and EU programme opportunities through strategic communication, campaigns, and events. The team also manages the European initiatives EPALE, Youth Wiki, eTwinning, Eurodesk, and Languages that promote international collaboration, digital engagement, and reliable information across the education, youth, and community sectors.

PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Team

Supports the delivery of the PEACEPLUS 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.

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 and safety, as well as general office management oversight.

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.

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 2025, Léargas had a total of 62 employees, with 18 new hires joining the team. Staff engaged in multiple professional development opportunities from training around legislative pieces such as Children First and GDPR to IT security training. We also delivered various mandatory all-staff trainings around Programme and Strategic developments. 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 MINDS!
TEAM & COLLABORATION
2026
BIG YEAR!
GATHER PERSPECTIVES
& IDENTIFY GAPS :)
POLICY FROM
2018-2025
IT'S TIME
TO RENEW!
MENTAL HEALTH
WELL-BEING
IDEAS
PROTECTOR
FACT

NEART: SUPPORT IN YOUR SCHOOL

NEART COMPLIMENTS
EXISTING SERVICES...*



LIKE CHIPS!



KEEP BUILDING
ON EXISTING SUPPORTS



UPLIFT!

1900+ 2000
STAFF PARENT

Section 3: Our Key Activities in 2025

Introduction to our Strategic Statement 2025–2030

In 2025, Léargas marked the beginning of a new strategic chapter as we prepared to celebrate 40 years of connecting Ireland with Europe through international partnership, learning, exchange, and cultural curiosity. Our new Strategic Statement 2025–2030 builds on this legacy.

The Statement spans the remainder of the 2021–2027 EU programme period and aligns with the wider Multiannual Financial Framework, reflecting our ambition to deliver more than €230 million in EU programme funding during this cycle.

Shaped by national priorities, European objectives, and the lived experience of our beneficiaries, the Strategic Statement sets out an ambitious and forward-looking agenda—one that strengthens our commitment to inclusion, deepens our focus on impact, and encourages innovation across all areas of our work.





Strategic Pillar IGNITE

The **IGNITE** pillar represents the operational backbone of Léargas. It sets out how we deliver our programmes to the highest standards, continue to raise awareness of opportunities through outreach and communications, and help shape impactful and meaningful policies through strategic partnerships, laying the groundwork for transformative impact.

We continued to drive excellence in the delivery of our programmes by working to exceed the high standards set by the European Commission and national regulatory frameworks, and maintain transparency, accountability, efficiency, and quality of work.

In 2025, across Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, we contracted 454 projects and awarded a total of €35.8 million in funding. This continued growth in contracting of high-quality projects is the result of this excellence in programme delivery, and broader awareness of opportunities was central to these programme results. Throughout the year, we led proactive outreach that increased participation.

Engagement in **Erasmus+ Adult Education** continued to grow across the sector in 2025. Approximately €1.6 million was awarded to 47 mobility projects, representing a 67.9% increase in mobility projects from 2024. A further €2.59 million supported 11 partnership projects, bringing the total number of beneficiary organisations to more than 100 across formal, non formal, and informal learning settings.



The **Erasmus+ School Education** sector also saw strong growth. In 2025, 200 projects were contracted, representing a 44.9% increase from 2024. Of the organisations awarded Erasmus+ School Education funding, 36% were in the DEIS programme, marking important growth in the number of participants with fewer opportunities accessing European opportunities.

A particular focus in 2025 was on tailoring activity for Early Years Settings. We worked with Education Support Centres to deliver information sessions and ideas labs, ensuring that Early Years practitioners had accessible and relevant entry points into the programme. Engagement with the network of Centre Directors further amplified this reach, helping to build awareness and capacity at scale. As a result of this targeted approach, five Early Years organisations were awarded Erasmus+ accreditations—an important milestone that positions them for sustained participation. This also opens up long-term professional development pathways within a sector that often has limited access to such opportunities.

Alongside strong progress across the Erasmus+ School Education sector, our cross-border school education initiative, **PEACEPLUS ASPIRE**, also achieved significant reach in 2025. During the project's first year, more than 22,000 young people participated in shared education sessions. Across the border counties of Ireland, this included 6,383 participants across 104 schools.

As the project entered its second year in September, participation remained steady, with additional schools joining

the programme and pupil engagement continuing to grow. This sustained momentum highlights the increasing recognition of the project's value and its expanding influence in fostering shared learning experiences.

A notable achievement of the first year was the level of participation among DEIS schools: 59 of the 104 schools in the southern border counties were DEIS schools. More than 75% of participating schools also included pupils from diverse backgrounds, including those with English as an Additional Language and those with Additional Educational Needs. This reflects the project's strong emphasis on inclusion and its effectiveness in reaching a broad and varied student population.

The **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** sector recorded its highest level of Erasmus+ funding awarded to date. Almost €9 million supported 60 mobility projects, while €3.8 million was awarded to 14 partnership projects. Six VET organisations received Erasmus+ accreditation, further building long-term strategic capacity in the sector.

Targeted outreach to smaller organisations, particularly Community Training Centres and Youthreach Centres, ensured that learners with fewer opportunities were able to benefit from Erasmus+ VET projects and international learning experiences.





The **Erasmus+ Sports** sector demonstrated strong performance in 2025, with funding supporting 14 mobility projects. Strategic outreach remained a central focus throughout the year, particularly efforts to build the capacity of Local Sports Partnerships to engage more fully with Erasmus+. This included close collaboration with Sport Ireland's European Social Fund+ Sport4Empowerment programme, as well as contributions to the National Sports Diplomacy Conference and the development of Ireland's new Sports Diplomacy Strategy.

This work is contributing to a more inclusive Erasmus+ Sports sector in Ireland. In 2025, participants with fewer opportunities made up 35% of participants, compared to 4.9% in 2024, demonstrating that targeted initiatives are successfully reaching the communities and individuals they are designed to support.

In 2025, we continued to support high-quality **Erasmus+ Youth** projects, awarding €6.53 million. Important progress was also made in widening access for young people with fewer opportunities, increasing their participation in Youth projects by 65% in 2025. Through targeted guidance, promotion of inclusion supports, and



close cooperation with organisations working with rural youth, young people with disabilities, young Travellers, and those experiencing social or economic disadvantage, more participants were supported to engage meaningfully in Erasmus+ Youth activities.

Interest in the **European Solidarity Corps (ESC)** remained steady in 2025, with 21 volunteering applications. Ten Solidarity Projects were approved in 2025, reflecting the diversity of young people involved and supporting youth-led initiatives that address key community issues. Project applications spanned a wide range of priorities, including youth work, social justice, homelessness, sustainability, minority integration, and education—demonstrating how the ESC is empowering young people to actively respond to a broad range of societal challenges.



2025 was the biggest year to date for Irish applications to the **DiscoverEU** programme. The results of the DiscoverEU general calls were 2,456 applications for the first round in April 2025, and 9,634 applications for the second round in October 2025. DiscoverEU Inclusion also saw remarkable progress in widening access to European opportunities. In February 2025, the DiscoverEU Inclusion Action received 10 applications, 9 of which were funded. Demand was so strong that Léargas requested permission from the European Commission to transfer funds from other mobility project actions—a first-time request by a National Agency—which was approved. With the funding cap reached in the February deadline for the first time, the October application round did not proceed, reflecting the significant demand for inclusion supports.

Across Erasmus+ and ESC sectors in 2025, teams held 53 information sessions, 16 application clinics, 11 drop-in sessions, 9 project management days, and 5 Project Labs, engaging with over 2,000 people. We combined online information sessions with in-person workshops, partnership events, and Project Management Days to help prospective applicants move from interest to application.

In 2025, Léargas engaged 1,619 participants across Ireland, Europe, and programme countries through Training and Cooperation Activities (TCAs) and Networking (NET) initiatives. We also sent 132 participants from youth work, education, sport, and community sectors to TCAs and NET activities abroad. These activities strengthen



professional competences, cross-sectoral collaboration, and inclusive practice, fully aligned with EU and national strategies.

This supportive approach to outreach was matched by targeted communication campaigns designed to show the impact of international education and collaboration. In 2025, we delivered 26 campaigns on behalf of Léargas and the European Commission. These included promotion of Erasmus+ and the ESC calls, the EU's public consultation on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the Union of Skills initiative, the We Talk campaign aligned with the European Youth Report 2024, the 'Where will Erasmus+ take you?' video series, and the promotion of the 2024 Erasmus+ Annual Report.



Together, these activities broadened awareness, attracted new audiences, and reinforced EU values with communities across Ireland. Strategic initiatives amplified this momentum.

eTwinning, the European Commission's online platform for schools, continued to strengthen its national and European community. Social media engagement rose significantly in 2025, with LinkedIn followership up 46% and Instagram up 20%. Participation on the platform increased as registrations grew by 47%, from 178 educators in 2024 to 263 in 2025.

Eurodesk Ireland marked its 30th year by continuing to connect young people with European opportunities through trusted local multipliers. In 2025, multipliers met with the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland, received training on Erasmus+, the ESC, DiscoverEU, and Europass, and reached 850 young people during the Time To Move campaign. Eurodesk Ireland selected, supported, and accompanied 5 young delegates to the European Youth Event

in Strasbourg, and brought information on European opportunities to high-profile national events, including Europe Day in Dublin, the National Ploughing Championships, Pulse Z in Cork, and the Access Europe National Showcase.

In 2025, the **Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE)** celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of transforming adult education through innovation and cross-border collaboration. This milestone year was celebrated in Ireland through a series of events, including the EPALE National Day on the theme of 'Navigating Change' that united more than 40 adult learning professionals to explore the future of the sector and celebrate the community's dedication.

These strategic efforts did more than increase visibility; they laid the groundwork for transformative impact.

Léargas works to shape impactful policy by collaborating with government departments and relevant stakeholders and to strengthen partnerships that align programme benefits with national priorities and local communities.



In 2025, we further developed strategic relationships with the Department of Education and Youth and their National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), SOLAS, and other policy stakeholders to connect evidence from programmes with policy development and implementation.

A key point in our collaboration with government in 2025 was Léargas' presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. In December, Léargas attended a Committee meeting to discuss the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Commission proposal for the 2028–2034 programme cycle. The meeting took place in collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority.

The discussion focused on how the Erasmus+ programme will continue to support Irish learners, young people, and staff through international mobility opportunities and European collaboration from 2028 onwards. Committee members engaged positively on the future development of the programme, including proposals to integrate the European Solidarity Corps into Erasmus+, strengthen support for green transition initiatives such as sustainable travel, and expand inclusive opportunities for participants from diverse backgrounds.

Léargas highlighted the importance of ensuring continued access for sectors including schools, vocational education and training, adult education, youth, and sport. Since its launch in 1987, the Erasmus+ Programme has supported more than 16 million Europeans, and its impact in Ireland continues to expand through increased participation and collaboration.

Our participation at the fourth European Youth Work Convention in Malta in May 2025 further underscored this policy contribution. The Convention was hosted by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, the Erasmus+ Agency of Malta, and the EU–Council of Europe Youth Partnership, under the Maltese Chairpersonship of the Council of Europe.





The Convention convened stakeholders from across Europe to set a strategic vision for youth work over the next five years, ahead of a new EU Youth Strategy, a new Council of Europe Youth Strategy, and the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework. The Irish delegation comprised Léargas staff and representatives from the youth work sector, including Youth Work Ireland, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Foróige, Bradóg Youth Service, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board, and officials from the Department of Education and Youth. Discussions highlighted youth work as a vital tool for inclusion, empowerment, and active participation, and progressed a European roadmap to strengthen youth work through aligned national and European policies, increased visibility, and sustained resourcing.

In a panel on the Convention's findings, our Head of Youth, Sport and European Solidarity Corps Development, Celine Martin, stressed the need for permanent national implementation structures to accelerate recognition, resourcing, and the valuing of youth work. Léargas looks forward to seeing the incorporation of the important insights and contributions from this Convention into youth policy, in Ireland and across Europe.

We further deepened our strategic partnerships in the Youth sector through international partnerships such as Europe Goes Local.

The Europe Goes Local National Conference in November was organised by Léargas and the Europe Goes Local Ireland Steering Group (National Youth Council of Ireland, Education and Training Boards Ireland, Youth Work Ireland, and Foróige). The conference brought together a vibrant cross-section of Ireland's youth work community—87 participants, including youth workers, service managers, Education and Training Board (ETB) youth officers, and policymakers—to explore how European collaboration can strengthen local youth work practice. The programme showcased both the breadth of activity within the sector and the ambition driving it, combining keynote inputs, hands-on workshops, peer networking, and a cultural performance that reflected the holistic nature of youth work.

The event balanced strategic and practical perspectives. An opening video address from Minister of State for European Affairs Thomas Byrne TD affirmed national support for European engagement in youth work. Miriam Teuma, CEO of Malta's National Youth Agency, provided an international lens, demonstrating how national youth strategies can be successfully translated into local contexts. Contributions from Judit Balogh, project coordinator for Europe Goes Local, and facilitation by the National Youth Council of Ireland, helped participants link European initiatives, particularly the European Youth Work Agenda, with tangible opportunities for Irish organisations.



Looking ahead, it is expected that new project proposals, stronger inter-organisational networks, and more widespread use of Europe Goes Local tools will be included within youth services. In this way, the conference served not only as an information hub but as a catalyst—helping practitioners and leaders move from awareness to meaningful implementation.

Partnerships were strengthened in the Educational and Training sector as well. Together with SOLAS, we hosted the Further Education and Training Breakfast Briefing ‘Visualising Change and Transformation through International Collaboration and Exchange’. This event convened Further Education and Training (FET) leaders and practitioners to align emerging national and European strategies with practical opportunities in Erasmus+. Through facilitated discussion, first-hand testimonies, and structured networking, participants connected policy priorities, such as the Union of Skills initiative, to programme possibilities. They explored how Erasmus+ can address upskilling and reskilling, and talent retention, and they identified pathways for innovation and collaboration across institutions. Feedback highlighted the value of the session for policy dialogue, strategic reflection, and peer exchange, and participants reported renewed engagement with Erasmus+

as a tool for transformation within the forthcoming national FET Strategy 2025–2029.

Finally, we strengthened Ireland’s contribution to evidence-based policy through Youth Wiki. In 2025, we appointed a new National Correspondent, participated in the Youth Wiki Annual Network Meeting in Ankara organised by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency, and marked the platform’s 10th anniversary of providing accessible youth policy information across 34 countries. Youth Wiki Ireland contributed to the development of the revised Mobility Scoreboard, which will now include youth-specific indicators, and provided data for interactive maps on Social Inclusion and Participation to support quick, cross-country comparisons.

Taken together, these activities show IGNITE in action. Excellence in programme delivery produced measurable results across sectors. Targeted outreach and communications broadened participation and deepened public understanding of European opportunities. Strategic partnerships ensured that what we learn from programmes informs the policies that shape them. This is how Léargas lays the groundwork for transformative impact: by connecting people to opportunities, connecting evidence to decision-making, and connecting Ireland’s communities to Europe.



INGITE Spotlight: National Roundtable on Wellbeing and Mental Health in Post-Primary Schools in Ireland

Léargas works to shape impactful policies in two important ways. The first is through collaboration with government departments and stakeholders to contribute to and support the implementation of policy developments. The second is by building and strengthening partnerships to align the opportunities of our programmes with national and local priorities.

In 2025, one significant way that we connected both these methods of shaping impactful policy was through the National Roundtable on Wellbeing and Mental Health in Post-Primary Schools. Organised by Léargas in partnership with NEPS, the Department of Education and Youth, and Jigsaw, the event created a space where national policy, research, and school-level practice could come together.

Bringing together school leaders, guidance counsellors, and key stakeholders, the event combined a policy and research overview from Léargas, Jigsaw, NEPS, and the Economic Social Research Institute with facilitated group work to surface practice-led insights. This collaborative structure enabled a rich exchange of ideas, connecting national strategies with the real-world challenges and opportunities faced by schools every day.



It's really great that we have opportunities like the event today to sit down and listen to people who are on the ground and know what's happening, and can give us the feedback that we need to actually apply better policies, better outcomes for students on the ground.

*Hugh O'Reilly, Department of
Education and Youth*



I'm finding today very moving because it's brought school leaders and the support services into an intimate space where we're sharing our experiences, we're sharing our successes, we're sharing our challenges and it's exciting.

Donal O'Reilly, Deputy Principal of Killorglin Community College

Participants identified strengths and gaps, proposed actions to support whole-school wellbeing and mental health, and explored how Erasmus+ can enable capacity building and the exchange of good practice with peers across Europe.

The event also highlighted the important role that Erasmus+ plays in supporting wellbeing and mental health initiatives in Irish schools. It provided a valuable opportunity for interagency collaboration and allowed participants to hear directly from beneficiaries who have experienced the impact of Erasmus+ projects in real educational settings.

Dedicated note-takers gathered insights and reflections throughout the day, and Léargas is developing a policy recommendation document to reflect the discussion and channel the energy and expertise shared into practical next steps. The aim of this work is to ensure that the voices of key stakeholders are clearly reflected and that the energy, passion, and ideas generated during the event continue to inform future planning.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen our collaboration and partnerships with the Department of Education and Youth, NEPS, and Jigsaw, ensuring that policy reflects the realities, priorities, and needs emerging directly from school communities.

We hope that the contributions shared during this event will help shape meaningful progress for young people, enhance mental health support in schools, and strengthen the system's capacity to develop more proactive, student-centred approaches.

This work is firmly aligned with the Léargas vision: to unlock potential and inspire positive change for individuals and communities. Through continued partnership, shared learning, and a commitment to evidence-informed policy, we are confident that the momentum generated in 2025 will contribute to lasting, meaningful improvements in how schools understand and support wellbeing.



Strategic Pillar

INCLUSION

INCLUSION lies at the heart of our mission in Léargas: to ensuring that everyone can access, engage with, and benefit from European programmes. By breaking down barriers, fostering diversity, and creating equitable pathways, this pillar outlines how we support individuals, organisations, and communities to unlock their potential, embrace shared learning, and build more connected and inclusive societies.

In 2025, we advanced our commitment to embedding inclusion across all programmes and increasing participation among groups that are under-represented. Our work was guided by the principle that inclusion cannot be a standalone activity but must be woven through every stage of programme design, promotion, guidance, and delivery.

Throughout the year, we worked to identify under-represented groups and specific barriers limiting their participation. This informed targeted outreach to these groups, and the sharing of research-based resources to support staff in engaging with these groups. Participants from less represented regions and communities were supported through tailored

sessions: one-to-one guidance for newcomer and less experienced organisation, constructive feedback for unsuccessful applicants, and information focused on inclusion supports.

Our work to promote awareness of inclusion funding, supports, and quality delivery practices is building confidence, capacity, and sustained engagement across diverse communities.

A key part of increasing participation in European programmes among under-represented groups is providing the right support and building capacity within organisations. In 2025, the National European Youth Project was established to do exactly this.

Funded by the Department of Education and Youth, the project helps youth work organisations engage confidently with Erasmus+ and the ESC. It offers hands-on guidance, tailored advice, and targeted outreach—ensuring that more youth organisations, especially those new to European programmes, have the knowledge, skills, and support they need to get involved.

Our international cooperation work further deepened the impact of the Inclusion pillar. In 2025, Léargas continued to coordinate the Rural Strand of SALTO's Strategic Partnerships for Inclusion initiative. This working group, comprising 6 National Agencies from across Europe, focuses on expanding participation in rural and geographically isolated areas. In June 2025, Léargas hosted the Strategic Partnerships for Inclusion Annual Meeting in Dublin, bringing together 21 Inclusion Officers and SALTO Inclusion and Diversity staff. The group reviewed the year's achievements, identified synergies, and set priorities for 2026–2028.

As part of this work, we collaborated with the Finnish and Estonian National Agencies on a study visit to Lapland in April 2025. Youth workers from Ireland, Finland, Norway, and Sweden travelled through communities in northern Finland and Norway to explore best practices for engaging young people in rural areas and to examine how Erasmus+ can be used to strengthen participation at local and national levels. For most of the Irish participants, this was their first Erasmus+ experience and a powerful opportunity to build skills, networks, and new ideas.



Another example of progress under the Inclusion pillar was participation by Léargas in the 'Queer Youth Work in Europe' training for youth workers. Delivered in partnership with Youth Work Ireland and the Belgian and Austrian National Agencies, with input from SALTO Inclusion and Diversity, the training brought together 18 youth workers from across Europe to explore best practice in supporting LGBTQI+ young people. Hosted during Dublin Pride, the training combined workshops, field visits, and participation in Pride events, providing an immersive and affirming learning environment. By the end of the programme, 100% of the participants reported increased confidence in queer youth work practice.

EPALE also focused on inclusion in their transnational work. In September 2025, the EPALE National Support Service in Ireland hosted a study visit in Cork that centred on this theme. Delegates from 9 European nations explored how Irish FET and VET structures provide equitable pathways for diverse learners.

As part of the visit, participants met with the Cork Education and Training Board and the National Learning Network in Hollyhill. These visits showed how community-based lifelong learning and assistive technologies, such as the National Learning Network's 'Tech Wheel', can remove barriers and help learners succeed. Visitors left with practical ideas about how to make education more inclusive in their own countries. By sharing what they learned with colleagues across Europe, the Irish EPALE team has helped build a strong foundation for continued international cooperation on inclusion.



Across all of this work, the Inclusion pillar provided a cohesive framework that connected individual actions to broader strategic goals. By embedding inclusion across our programmes, strengthening partnerships with specialist organisations, and celebrating the stories of those who participate, we are creating a more equitable landscape for our programmes.



INCLUSION Spotlight: Launch of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE

Inclusion lies at the heart of Léargas' mission, ensuring that individuals and communities can access, engage with, and benefit from our programmes. PEACEPLUS ASPIRE embodies this vision.

The PEACEPLUS ASPIRE project, supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the SEUPB, connects schools and pre-school settings across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Building on previous peacebuilding initiatives, the vision of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE is to create an interconnected education system that engages meaningfully with children and young people, inspiring future generations through shared learning, inclusion, and mutual respect. Léargas is part of the partnership of organisations responsible for implementing and administering PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, led by the Education Authority and including Early Years NI, Fermanagh Trust, and the National Childhood Network.



The project was officially launched in April 2025 at the Monaghan Peace Campus. At the time of launch, the project involved more than 455 school and pre-school settings, engaging over 22,000 children and young people. Pupils and teachers from Monaghan partnerships participated alongside education stakeholders and representatives from the Department of Education and Youth, reflecting the scale of collaboration underpinning the project.



PEACEPLUS ASPIRE is more than a programme. It is a vision for a better society. It brings together children, educators, and communities across borders and backgrounds in the shared pursuit of peace, inclusion and mutual respect. When institutions North and South work hand in hand, we achieve much more together, and PEACEPLUS ASPIRE is the true embodiment of that motto. Crucially, this project will ensure that inclusion is more than just a word.

Minister Helen McEntee TD, reflecting on the contribution of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE to peacebuilding and inclusive participation across communities.



Speakers at the event emphasised the educational and societal impact of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, highlighting its role in promoting inclusion, respect, and mutual understanding from an early age. The project actively reduces barriers to participation through engagement with DEIS schools, rural communities, and learners with additional educational needs, widening access to shared education experiences and supporting participation among under-represented groups.

PEACEPLUS ASPIRE reflects Léargas' role in delivering high-quality programmes that broaden awareness of opportunities while supporting inclusive participation and community cohesion across Ireland. Through effective programme delivery, collaborative engagement, and sustained outreach, PEACEPLUS ASPIRE supports shared learning environments where understanding grows and more inclusive, connected communities can develop.

PEACEPLUS ASPIRE's first year marked a significant step forward in building meaningful, cross-community connections. Through active

Inclusion is not an add-on—it lies at the very heart of education. PEACEPLUS ASPIRE creates the conditions where empathy grows, friendships form, and understanding takes root across communities, sectors and borders.



Lorraine Gilligan, Executive Director of Léargas, speaking at the launch.

collaboration at every level—from schools and educators to local communities and partner organisations—the programme fostered a spirit of shared purpose and collective growth.

Responses from educators and pupils in year one indicated a strong and lasting impact on participants’ sense of identity and belonging. Their reflections highlighted the value of shared education in fostering confidence, connection, and inclusivity.

Together, these efforts not only laid the foundations for lasting relationships rooted in inclusion, mutual understanding, and a genuine commitment to peace, but they began the important work of driving system change—shifting mindsets, embedding new ways of working, and creating the conditions for a more equitable and connected future.



As a DEIS school, some of our pupils would never get to experience some of the activities provided for them. This project gave them a chance to be on a level with their peers.

Educator participating in PEACEPLUS ASPIRE



Challenges

In 2025, Léargas reviewed roles, organisational risks, resource constraints, and workload in line with increased funding and project demand. In July, the organisation made the difficult decision to redeploy the Inclusion and Diversity Officer role to the schools sector within the Education and Training Development Team.

Despite this change, Léargas remains committed to mainstreaming Inclusion across programme teams. Inclusion remains embedded across the organisation as a core pillar in our Strategic Statement and via the work of our cross-team Inclusion cluster. To ensure these responsibilities were maintained at organisational and programme level, we engaged a consultant to map inclusion priorities across Léargas, align them with our work, and consult with our Inclusion Working Group.

Another ongoing challenge in increasing participation among under-represented groups is the under-reporting of participants with fewer opportunities. This is particularly evident in the VET sector, where many learners meet the criteria for participants with fewer opportunities but are not recorded as such. Stigma and uncertainty around the definition often discourage organisations from identifying participants accordingly. Léargas will continue working closely with beneficiaries to clarify the definition, build understanding, and reduce barriers to accurate reporting, ensuring that the support needs of all participants are properly recognised.





Strategic Pillar

IMPACT

The **IMPACT** pillar underlines Léargas' commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes by measuring and showcasing the transformative effects of its programmes. By capturing robust evidence, elevating the voices of beneficiaries, amplifying success stories, and strengthening strategic partnerships, this pillar drives awareness about the value that Léargas initiatives deliver for individuals, organisations, and communities.

A central strand of this work in 2025 was our contribution to the Long-Term Activity on Impact, a collaborative initiative involving 12 National Agencies, led by the Dutch National Agency (Nuffic). The purpose of this collaboration reaches beyond counting outputs to promoting systemic change in how Erasmus+ projects are designed, implemented, and communicated to enhance meaningful and lasting results.

By building a shared understanding of what impact means in Erasmus+, and by equipping stakeholders with practical tools, the activity aims to help projects shift from isolated activities to programmes that demonstrably improve people's lives and strengthen organisations and communities.

Activity partners completed a transnational study that analyses the need for context-specific support mechanisms, produced an Impact Handbook for Beneficiaries, delivered a series of beneficiary webinars, and created an Impact Toolkit. Together, these resources lay the groundwork for

a comprehensive impact measurement framework with clear short-, medium- and long-term indicators, and they reinforce our commitment to publish and promote evidence based accounts of programme effectiveness. Looking ahead, the partnership will progress a study in 2026 that will inform a guide to 'Communicating for Impact', ensuring that evidence does not sit on shelves but instead reaches the audiences who can act on it.

Capturing evidence is only one part of the Impact pillar; the other is amplifying the voices and experiences behind the data. Our annual flagship event, the Gathering, is where this commitment comes to life.



In 2025, we brought together beneficiaries and stakeholders from across all sectors to celebrate the transformative effects of participation in European programmes. Twelve past and present beneficiaries joined us to share what participation meant for their personal development, their organisations, and their communities.

We opened the event with words of hope and resilience from Tammy Donaghy, a former participant in the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Youth, who traced her journey from the Finglas Youth Resource Centre to becoming a youth worker and mental health advocate.

The Chair of the Board of Léargas, John P. Gilmore, and our Executive Director, Lorraine Gilligan, reflected on achievements over the year and looked to the future. This was a particularly poignant moment, as it was Executive Director Lorraine Gilligan's last time addressing the Gathering as leader of the organisation, ahead of her retirement at the end of 2025.

The Gathering is designed to provide something for everyone, whether they are taking first steps in European programmes or looking to build on existing experience. For our 2025 event, three breakout rooms offered tailored spaces for learning: newcomers to EU programmes and funding within the Education and Training sector, newcomers to EU programmes and funding in the youth, sport, and volunteering sector, and existing beneficiaries. Each space combined practical question-and-answer sessions with beneficiary interviews, enabling attendees to connect policy priorities with lived experience. Recordings of all sessions were made available after the event, extending access and learning beyond the day itself.

The 2025 Gathering had a particular focus on the Union of Skills, emphasising how participation in European programmes doesn't just build professional competences; it helps shape people who can thrive in changing times and contribute to stronger, more connected communities.

The closing panel highlighted how Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps can help organisations move from short-term mobility to long-term transformation, particularly through tools such as Erasmus+ Accreditation and partnership projects. We were pleased to collaborate with our fellow Erasmus+ National Agency, the Higher Education Authority, on that discussion, which featured contributions from Sheena Duffy, Head of International, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Communication at the Higher Education Authority, and Brendan Tighe, Director of International Partnerships and Mobility at Maynooth University.





Beyond our own flagship event, we worked with partners to ensure beneficiary stories reach wider audiences and inform national conversations.

We collaborated with the Higher Education Authority on the Pitch My Erasmus Competition as part of the Erasmus Days 2025 campaign. The event brought together people from across education and training sectors to share mobility experiences and the personal impact of taking part in Erasmus+. Ten shortlisted presenters shared their stories with the jury of embassy representatives

and National Agency staff. The event highlighted the diversity of experiences made possible through Erasmus+ and provided a platform for participants to share their stories while celebrating their achievements.

We also celebrate and amplify beneficiary success stories through initiatives like the European Innovation Teaching Award (EITA), which recognises the work of teachers, educators, and schools and highlights the impact their projects make in their communities.



The 2025 EITA theme, ‘Citizenship education—participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement’, focused on empowering participants to become active citizens, promoting social inclusion, and ensuring that diverse voices contribute to shaping a more inclusive and democratic Europe.

Léargas was proud to present the 2025 EITA to three organisations whose innovative approaches expanded opportunities for participants with fewer opportunities, strengthened European identity, and introduced new methodologies for citizenship education. The Irish EITA laureates were: Deansrath Community College, Kinsale Community School, and the Social and Health Education Project (SHEP).

Similarly, the eTwinning Quality Labels recognise and celebrate excellence in eTwinning projects. In 2025, 17 eTwinning projects across Ireland were awarded National Quality Labels. Almost 100 teachers took part in these 17 projects, collaborating with peers across the European eTwinning community. Of the projects recognised nationally, 14 went on to receive the European Quality Label, further highlighting the exceptional quality of Irish practice in online collaboration and innovative teaching.

Finally, we continued to align our engagement across forums and networks

so that our partnerships reinforce our impact strategy. Léargas actively participated in Strategic National Agencies Cooperations across volunteering, impact, adult education, research, sport, youth, the European Youth Work Agenda, Europe Goes Local, and strategic cooperation on the education and training of youth workers. This coordinated involvement strengthens evidence-based practice, supports consistent impact measurement approaches, and helps beneficiaries navigate EU opportunities more effectively. We also continued to play an active role in national coordination structures, including as a member of the Steering Committee of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science’s EU Reference Group for Agencies. By connecting what we learn in these networks with our own monitoring and evaluation, we ensure that insights travel quickly from practice to policy and back again.



IMPACT Spotlight: 30 Years of Eurodesk in Ireland

The Impact pillar of our strategic statement underlines Léargas' commitment to delivering and showcasing the meaningful and transformative outcomes of European programmes. Eurodesk—and its celebration of 30 years in Ireland—epitomises this pillar.

To celebrate this milestone, Eurodesk Ireland undertook a year-long initiative to capture the impact of European opportunities for young people in the voices of beneficiaries. Network members reached out to previous beneficiaries from across the past three decades, inviting them to share reflections on how European opportunities had shaped them. The result was a collection of 30 short, powerful videos that embodied the core intentions of the Impact pillar: authentic storytelling, evidence of change, and the celebration of diverse participant journeys. These narratives document the long-term value of participation and how mobilities can influence identity, confidence, and life pathways.

This anniversary culminated in a national celebration event in October at Europe House in Dublin. Attendees included youth workers, Eurodesk multipliers, young people, and representatives from key institutions.

Speakers at the event included Karl Duff of the Department of Education and Youth, Mathieu Orphanides from the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture, Audrey Frith of Eurodesk Brussels, Patrick Burke of Youth Work Ireland,



Julie Kelleher of Crosscare, and the Head of Youth, Sport and European Solidarity Corps at Léargas, Celine Martin.

Two young beneficiaries, Adam Lambe and Raphael Olympio, brought the event to life with personal accounts of the confidence, curiosity, and cross-cultural understanding that European programmes had sparked in them. The speeches focused on the significant role and unique value of Eurodesk Ireland and Irish youth information services in promoting European opportunities and supporting young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, to access European programmes.

The event also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable contribution of Malgorzata Fiedot-Davies, Eurodesk Ireland Coordinator at Léargas since 2003. Her 22 years of work exemplify the commitment that underpins sustained impact and trusted youth engagement.



The ethos of the Impact pillar was visible throughout the event, from showcasing beneficiaries' voices to the launch of the new Europe is Open to You guide for young people, designed to make European opportunities more accessible.

Eurodesk multipliers across Ireland reinforced this momentum by organising local birthday events that introduced young people to mobility opportunities in a youth-friendly, inclusive way. These grassroots celebrations ensured that impact was actively shared with communities.

Over the course of the year, Eurodesk Ireland also used its digital platforms to spotlight the people who make this work possible. Monthly Instagram interviews celebrated Eurodesk multipliers and their dedication to guiding young people towards European opportunities. This ongoing storytelling initiative aligned directly with the Impact pillar by strengthening visibility, building a richer public narrative around mobility, and bringing beneficiary and multiplier experiences into the heart of our communications.



Being part of Eurodesk embraces a spirit of local, national and international interagency cooperation. This helps us to make it possible to develop and share resources that promote relevant EU Opportunities for Young People, especially those with fewer opportunities. Being part of Eurodesk helps bring us together to share ideas and good practice in our daily work as Youth Information providers with an interest in promoting European Opportunities.

Susan Scott, Eurodesk multiplier, Crosscare Clondalkin

The year concluded with the first-ever Eurodesk National Awards ceremony, held at Europe House in May. The awards recognised multipliers who had shown exceptional commitment to youth information work, offering another moment to amplify the voices of those driving impact at local level.

Eurodesk’s 30th anniversary year not only celebrated three decades of achievements; it embodied the ambitions of our Impact pillar. Through storytelling, strategic visibility, strengthened partnerships, and the authentic voices of young people, Eurodesk Ireland demonstrated the profound and lasting difference that European programmes make in the lives of individuals and the communities they shape.

I think Eurodesk is more than ever needed especially in the technological era we are in that more young people need trusted faces and human faces to access information and to have access to support and this is something really Eurodesk can do and has a lot of expertise.

Audrey Frith, Eurodesk Brussels Link



Challenges

Achieving the aims of the Impact pillar requires consistent, high-quality evidence and strong beneficiary engagement—both of which can be challenging across diverse sectors and organisations. Similarly, involvement in national and European networks can be complex and requires time and alignment to ensure that insights are effectively shared.





Strategic Pillar

INNOVATION

The **INNOVATION** pillar reflects the commitment of Léargas to remaining forward-thinking, agile, and responsive. By embracing new technologies, fostering collaboration, and embedding sustainability into our operations, this pillar ensures we remain agile, impactful, and aligned with the evolving needs of individuals, organisations, and communities.

A key part of our innovation work in 2025 involved refining structures and systems to ensure we remain adaptable and future-ready.

To better support collaboration and increase the impact of our strategic initiatives, eTwinning, EPALÉ, and Eurodesk transitioned into the Strategic Engagement and Communications Team in October. This realignment strengthened our organisational coherence and enhanced the integration of European initiatives across our strategic engagement work.

We continued to improve internal processes to increase efficiency while maintaining a supportive approach for beneficiaries. Our internal clusters—Inclusion, Green, AI, and Strategic Statement implementation—provide cross-functional spaces for shared learning and innovation.

Léargas maintained a robust programme of internal and external audits, with findings reviewed by management and the Board. These audits support strong governance, ensure responsible financial management, and drive continuous improvement across all programme areas.

In 2025, we also began work on the redevelopment of our website, which aims to improve accessibility, strengthen user experience, and modernise our digital presence—reflecting our commitment to building inclusive and user-friendly digital spaces.

In 2025, we invested significantly in developing our teams and strengthening internal communication and collaboration.

We continued to improve ways of working across teams, reinforcing alignment and cohesion and ensuring staff can collaborate effectively in a hybrid environment.

Building on our staff wellbeing statement, we prioritised resilience, engagement, and healthy work-life balance throughout the year.



These investments reflect our commitment to maintaining a skilled, adaptable workforce capable of meeting the demands of a rapidly evolving programme environment.

We continued to operate a fair, inclusive recruitment process with standardised job descriptions and structured interviews. The PMDS remained central to employee growth, supporting annual cycles of goal-setting, progress checks, and end-of-year appraisal.

In 2025, we continued to integrate environmental responsibility into our operations and programme delivery. Guided by the European Green Deal and Ireland's commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we delivered on our Climate Action Road Map through annual energy audits, staff awareness-building, and compliance with environmental standards.

Our Green Cluster and dedicated Green Contact Point drove cross-organisational action on sustainability and engaged with international National Agency partners to advance green practices. We ran an in-office clothes swap, encouraging reuse and sustainable

habits among staff. Across our programmes, we continued to support projects with environmental themes and to promote Green Travel through our information sessions, helping beneficiaries make more sustainable choices when planning mobility.

Through these initiatives, 2025 demonstrated that we are cultivating a mindset of continuous improvement, collaboration, and responsible stewardship. By refining how we work, investing in our people, and embedding sustainability across our operations, we strengthened our ability to adapt, respond, and lead in a changing European programme landscape.



INNOVATION Spotlight: National VET Team Digital Transformation event

In 2025, the work of the National VET Team strongly reflected the goals of the Innovation pillar—leveraging digital technologies to support collaboration, programme delivery, and engagement with beneficiaries, and developing networks to share best practices, encourage experimentation, and co-design sustainable solutions for impactful results.

The National VET Team, made up of educators, practitioners, Erasmus+ coordinators, mobility specialists, quality experts, and representatives of national authorities, is a European Commission initiative that plays a key role in promoting the use of EU VET tools and principles across Erasmus+ projects. Through their expertise, they support the development, internationalisation, and continuous improvement of the VET sector in Ireland.

Following collaboration established during a study visit in Bordeaux in 2024, the VET Teams of Ireland, Finland, France, Croatia, Estonia, and North Macedonia came together in 2025 to co-design an innovative and sustainable approach to partnership-building. Recognising that forming strong transnational partnerships remains a challenge for many VET organisations, the teams organised a virtual contact-making seminar using the b2match digital networking platform.

Running over 2 weeks in November 2025, the seminar offered this alternative to traditional in-person events. The b2match platform enabled participants to browse potential partner organisations, schedule meetings, and join virtual rooms for bilateral or group discussions—all within a secure, user-friendly online environment. This

This platform is going well. I have had 3 meetings and have 2 more planned this week. I have agreed with one college (in Brittany) to start with a staff mobility with the hope of doing a student group mobility next year. It's a great platform, easy to use and to arrange meetings. I like that it is timed for the 30 mins and then they cut the meeting off, as it gets us to focus and get straight down to business. I like that you can also have the meetings later in the evenings when I am free, so I can arrange to have the meetings at home.



Irish participant

approach reflected key Innovation commitments: leveraging digital technologies, optimising systems, and creating flexible, accessible pathways for engagement.

Across the 2-week period, 23 Irish beneficiaries, alongside 177 participants from 5 other countries, joined the platform and identified new partners, shared their experience, and initiated new Erasmus+ mobility project ideas in a supportive, international setting.

This collaborative event has provided a strong foundation for continued international partnership. Based on the high level of engagement, the partner countries aim to continue and expand the model in future years, potentially involving additional countries and extending the approach to Cooperation Partnerships (KA2). By doing so, they will further strengthen the VET sector's capacity to adapt, innovate, and build high-quality European mobility projects.

Challenges:

A key challenge in delivering on the Innovation pillar is ensuring that our internal capacity evolves at the same pace as the organisation's ambitions. Innovation depends on a skilled and adaptable workforce, resilient systems, and strong stakeholder relationships—yet each of these areas faces ongoing pressure as programme demands grow. Our digital infrastructure must continue to advance to support virtual collaboration, programme delivery, and broader outreach, but maintaining and upgrading these systems requires significant time and investment. Likewise, effective innovation relies on deep cooperation, and sustaining these partnerships at scale places increasing demands on staff time and organisational resources. Ensuring that our internal capabilities, systems, and collaborative networks can keep up with the expectations of the Innovation pillar remains an ongoing challenge.

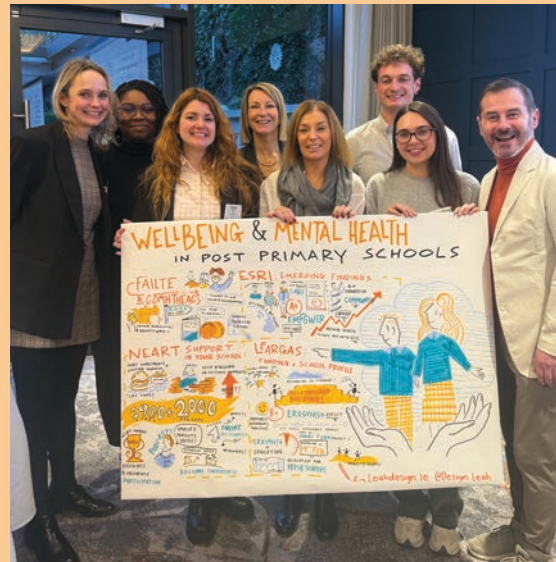


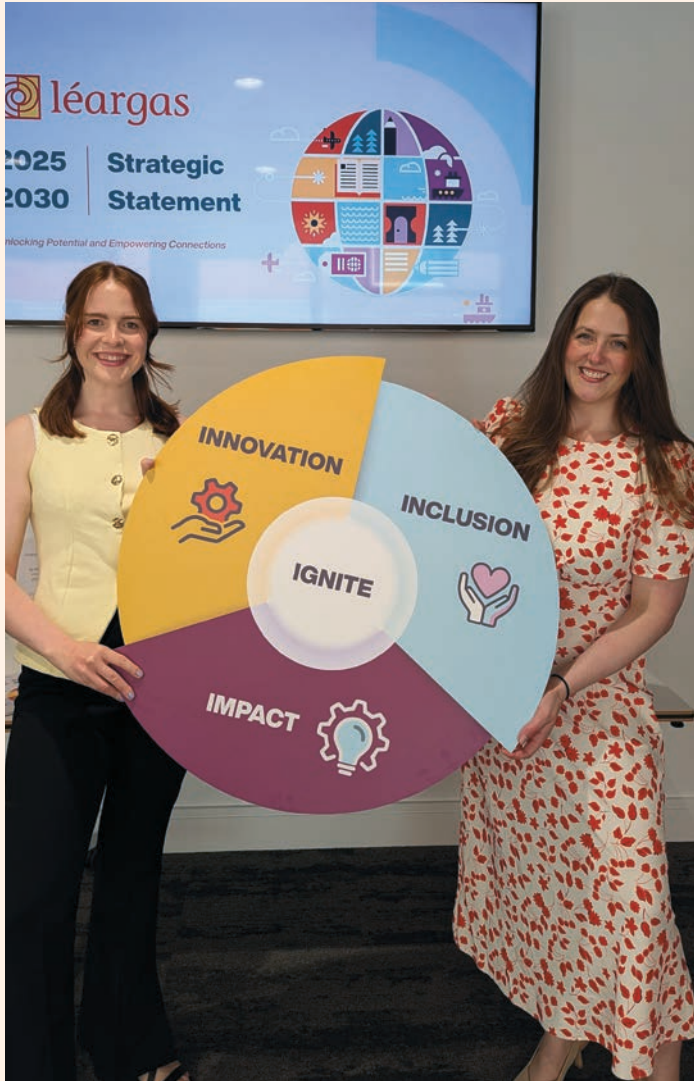


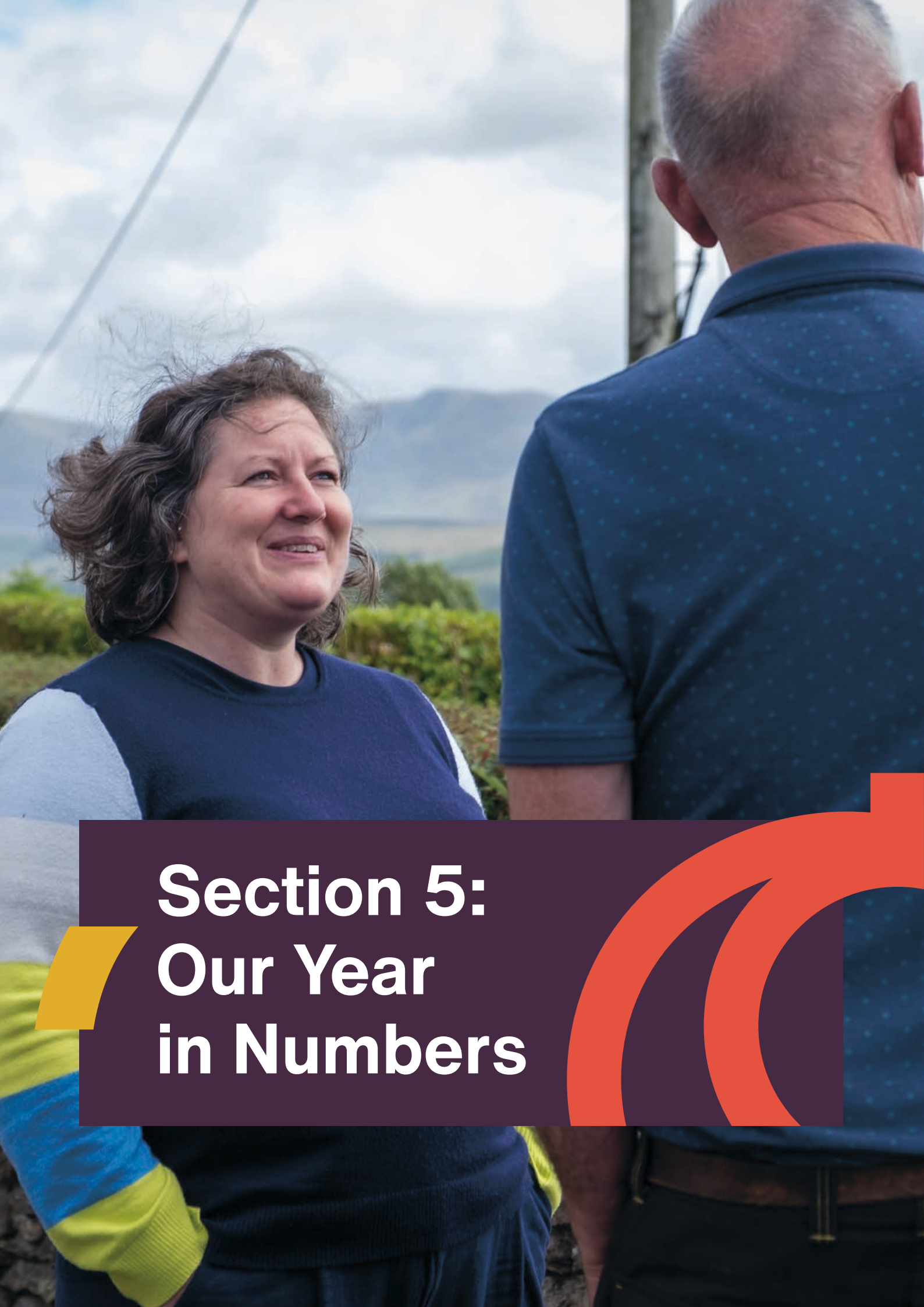
Section 4: Our Year in Photos

Our Year in Photos









**Section 5:
Our Year
in Numbers**



2025 Overview of Erasmus+ and ESC

Projects Contracted

454

Funding Contracted

€35,833,719

Forecasted Participants

15,102

Forecasted Participants
with Fewer Opportunities

7,178

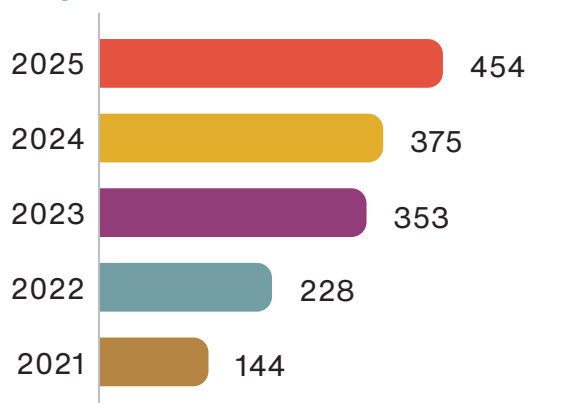
2025 marked a strong year of delivery, with 454 projects contracted and €35.8 million in funding awarded, representing an increase on previous years. This reflects continued growth in programme uptake and effective use of available funding.

Participation also reached a new high, with 15,102 forecasted participants across all actions. Notably, 7,178 participants were identified as having fewer opportunities, underlining the programme's sustained commitment to inclusion and its expanding reach across sectors.

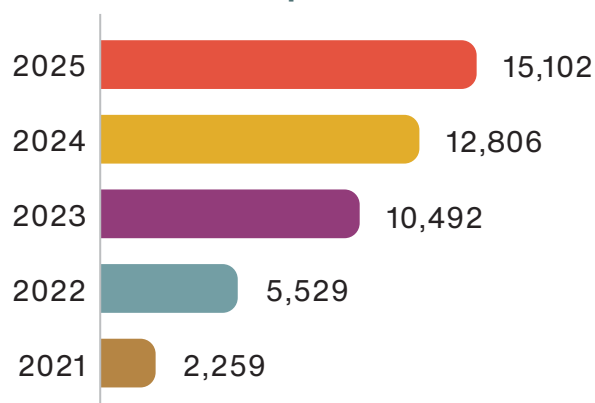
Overall, the 2025 figures demonstrate a successful year, characterised by increased investment, higher participation, and strengthened impact across Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps activities.

Overview of 2021-2025

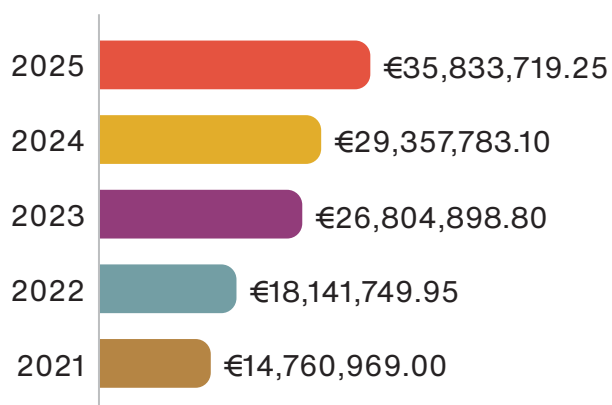
Projects Contracted



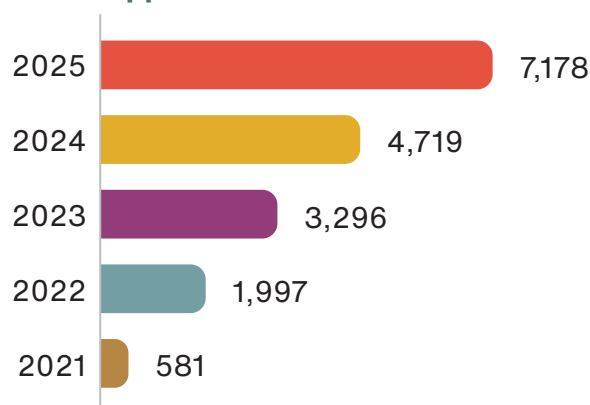
Forecasted Participants



Funding Contracted



Forecasted Participants with fewer opportunities



Between 2021 and 2025, programme delivery expanded significantly across all key indicators. The number of contracted projects more than tripled, increasing from 144 in 2021 to 454 in 2025, reflecting sustained growth in demand and capacity across sectors.

Funding awarded also showed strong upward progression, rising from €14.8 million in 2021 to €35.8 million in 2025. This steady increase highlights both the expansion of available EU funding and effective budget commitment year-on-year.

Participation grew at an even greater scale, with forecasted participant numbers increasing from 2,259 in 2021 to 15,102 in 2025. This demonstrates the widening reach and accessibility of programme opportunities.

Notably, the number of participants with fewer opportunities rose from 581 to 7,178 over the same period, underlining a deepening and sustained commitment to inclusion across all sectors.

Overall, the data reflects a period of strong growth and impact, with 2025 representing the highest levels of funding, participation, and inclusion achieved to date.

Contracted Projects and Funding in 2025 - Breakdown by Action Type

	Number of Contracted Projects in 2025	Funding Contracted in 2025
KA1	374	€24,435,680.25
KA2	49	€9,890,000.00
ESC51	21	€1,396,453.00
ESC30	10	€111,586.00
Total	454	€35,833,719.25

In 2025, the majority of activity was concentrated under KA1, with 374 projects contracted and €24.4 million in funding allocated. This highlights the continued strength of mobility actions as the primary driver of programme delivery and participation.

KA2 accounted for 49 projects, with €9.89 million in funding, reflecting its role in supporting cooperation and innovation, albeit at a smaller scale compared to KA1.

Under the European Solidarity Corps, 21 volunteering projects (ESC51) were contracted with €1.4 million in funding, alongside 10 solidarity projects (ESC30) with €0.1 million.

Overall, the distribution of projects and funding demonstrates a strong emphasis on mobility actions, supported by targeted investment in cooperation and solidarity initiatives.

Contracted Projects and Funding 2021 to 2025 – Breakdown by Action Type

Number of Contracted Projects 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown by Action Type

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
KA1	73	149	268	289	374
KA2	47	46	53	54	49
ESC51	15	23	26	22	21
ESC30	9	10	6	10	10
Totals	144	228	353	375	454

Funding Contracted 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown by Action Type

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
KA1	€3,474,267.00	€8,482,525.00	€15,874,031.80	€19,815,477.60	€24,435,680.25
KA2	€10,101,850.00	€8,300,000.00	€9,260,000.00	€7,890,000.00	€9,890,000.00
ESC51	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,561,239.50	€1,396,453.00
ESC30	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00	€111,586.00
Totals	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,357,783.10	€35,833,719.25

Between 2021 and 2025, programme delivery expanded significantly, with the total number of contracted projects increasing from 144 to 454 and funding rising from €14.8 million to €35.8 million.

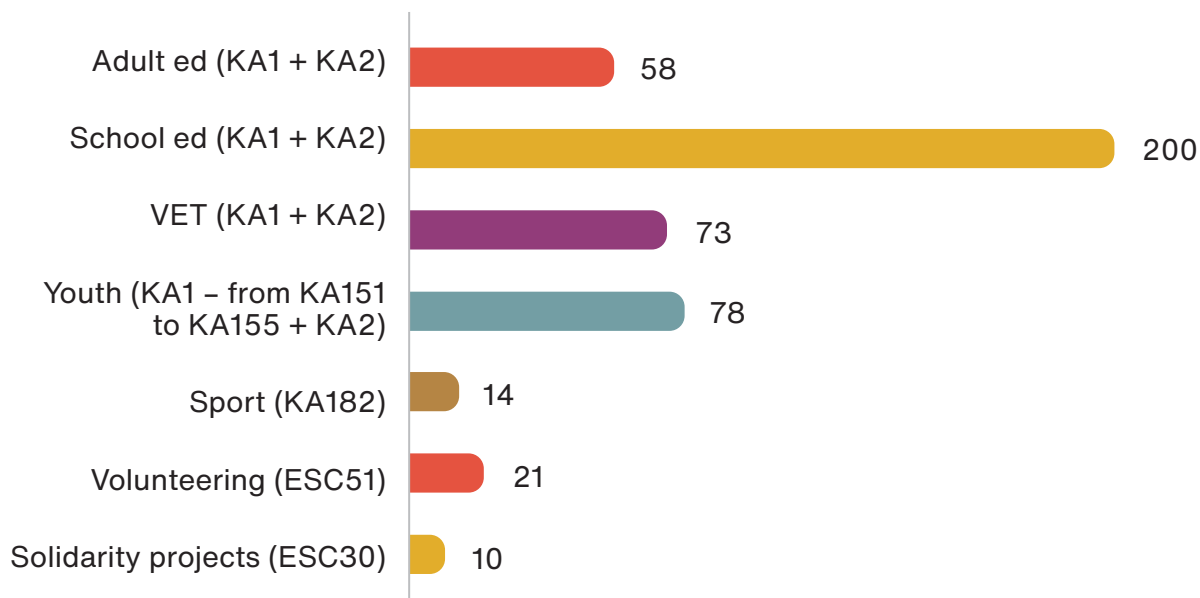
This growth was driven primarily by KA1, where project numbers increased more than fivefold (from 73 to 374), alongside a substantial rise in funding from €3.5 million to €24.4 million. This highlights the central role of mobility actions in scaling participation and programme impact.

In contrast, KA2 project numbers remained relatively stable over the period, fluctuating slightly between 46 and 54 projects annually. However, funding levels varied, with a dip in 2024 followed by a recovery to €9.89 million in 2025, reflecting the more fixed and limited budget available under this action.

European Solidarity Corps actions (ESC51 and ESC30) showed steady but smaller-scale activity, with relatively consistent project numbers and modest fluctuations in funding over time.

Overall, the data illustrates a clear trend of growth driven by KA1, alongside stable delivery in KA2 and ESC actions, resulting in 2025 representing the highest level of programme investment and activity to date.

Contracted projects in 2025 - Breakdown by Sector



In 2025, School Education accounted for the largest share of contracted projects, with 200 projects across KA1 and KA2, highlighting its strong engagement and capacity within the programme.

Youth followed with 78 projects, reflecting continued demand across a diverse range of actions, while VET recorded 73 projects, demonstrating steady participation in both mobility and cooperation activities. Adult Education contributed 58 projects, indicating consistent engagement in the sector.

Smaller-scale activity was observed in Sport (14 projects) and the European Solidarity Corps, with 21 volunteering projects (ESC51) and 10 solidarity projects (ESC30).

Overall, the distribution of projects across sectors demonstrates a broad uptake of programme opportunities, with particularly strong participation in School Education and Youth.

Contracted projects 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown by Sector

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult ed (KA1 + KA2)	7	16	30	41	58
School ed (KA1 + KA2)	56	76	154	138	200
VET (KA1 + KA2)	38	49	59	72	73
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	19	54	64	82	78
Sport (KA182)	0	0	14	10	14
Volunteering (ESC51)	15	23	26	22	21
Solidarity projects (ESC30)	9	10	6	10	10
Totals	144	228	353	375	454

Between 2021 and 2025, the number of contracted projects increased significantly across most sectors, rising from 144 to 454 overall.

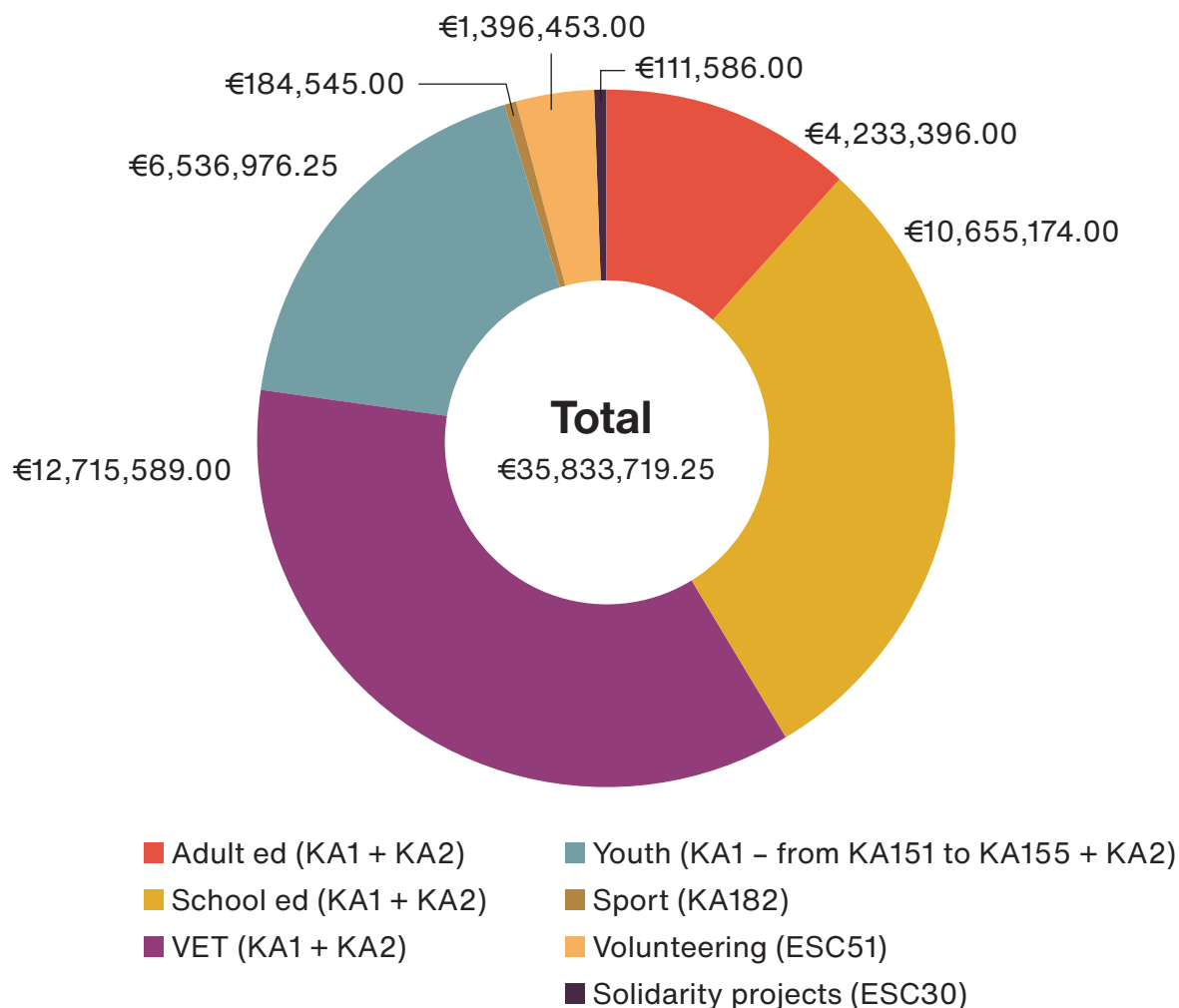
School Education showed the strongest growth, increasing from 56 projects in 2021 to 200 in 2025, despite a slight dip in 2024, indicating sustained expansion and high demand. Adult Education also demonstrated steady year-on-year growth, rising from 7 to 58 projects, reflecting increasing engagement in the sector.

VET projects grew more gradually, from 38 to 73, suggesting stable and consistent participation. Youth activity expanded significantly between 2021 and 2024, before stabilising slightly in 2025 at 78 projects.

Sport activity emerged from 2023 onwards and remained at a modest but steady level, while European Solidarity Corps actions (Volunteering and Solidarity projects) remained relatively stable across the period.

Overall, the data highlights strong programme growth driven by School Education and Adult Education, alongside steady participation in VET, Youth, and ESC actions.

Contracted Funding in 2025 - Breakdown by Sector



In 2025, VET received the highest level of contracted funding at €12.7 million, reflecting strong investment in vocational education and training mobility and cooperation activities. School Education followed with €10.7 million, highlighting its continued prominence in programme delivery.

Youth actions accounted for €6.5 million in funding, demonstrating sustained support for youth mobility, participation, and engagement activities, while Adult Education received €4.2 million, indicating steady investment in the sector.

Funding for Sport (€0.18 million) and European Solidarity Corps actions—Volunteering (€1.4 million) and Solidarity projects (€0.1 million)—remained more modest in scale, reflecting the size and scope of these actions.

Overall, the distribution of funding across sectors demonstrates a strong emphasis on VET and School Education, alongside continued investment in Youth and Adult Education.

Contracted Funding 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown by Sector

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult ed (KA1 + KA2)	€1,596,463.00	€1,907,639.00	€2,377,510.00	€2,830,796.00	€4,233,396.00
School ed (KA1 + KA2)	€2,918,602.00	€3,976,197.00	€7,814,090.80	€8,159,757.00	€10,655,174.00
VET (KA1 + KA2)	€6,978,353.00	€6,960,971.00	€8,987,744.00	€10,558,485.35	€12,715,589.00
Youth (KA1 – from KA151 to KA155 + KA2)	€2,082,699.00	€3,937,718.00	€5,751,299.00	€6,005,326.25	€6,536,976.25
Sport (KA182)	€0.00	€0.00	€203,388.00	€151,113.00	€184,545.00
Volunteering (ESC51)	€1,111,662.00	€1,272,132.95	€1,620,173.00	€1,561,239.50	€1,396,453.00
Solidarity projects (ESC30)	€73,190.00	€87,092.00	€50,694.00	€91,066.00	€111,586.00
Totals	€14,760,969.00	€18,141,749.95	€26,804,898.80	€29,357,783.10	€35,833,719.25

Between 2021 and 2025, contracted funding increased substantially across all sectors, rising from €14.8 million to €35.8 million.

VET consistently received the highest level of funding, growing steadily from €7.0 million in 2021 to €12.7 million in 2025, reflecting its strong and sustained position within the programme. School Education also saw significant growth, more than tripling its funding over the period to €10.7 million, highlighting expanding participation and capacity.

Adult Education funding increased consistently year-on-year, reaching €4.2 million in 2025, while Youth funding also showed steady growth, rising to €6.5 million, reflecting continued investment in youth engagement and participation.

Sport funding emerged from 2023 onwards and remained modest but stable, while European Solidarity Corps actions (Volunteering and Solidarity projects) maintained relatively consistent funding levels with minor fluctuations.

Overall, the data reflects strong and sustained investment across all sectors, with the most significant growth observed in VET and School Education, contributing to the record funding levels achieved in 2025.

Comparison of received, awarded and contracted projects in 2025 – Breakdown by Key Action and Sector

	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2025	Number of awarded projects in 2025	Number of contracted projects in 2025
KA1 YOU	108	61	61
KA1 ADU	59	47	47
KA1 VET	60	60	60
KA1 SCH	209	192	192
KA1 SPO	15	14	14
KA2 ADU	38	11	11
KA2 SCH	39	9	8
KA2 VET	32	14	13
KA2 YOU	45	17	17
ESC51	21	21	21
ESC30	13	10	10
Totals	639	456	454

In 2025, a total of 639 applications were received across all actions, resulting in 456 awarded projects and 454 contracted.

KA1 actions demonstrated particularly strong performance, with high success rates across most sectors. VET achieved full success, with all 60 submitted projects awarded and contracted, while School Education also showed a very high conversion rate (192 out of 209). Adult Education and Youth similarly recorded strong outcomes, reflecting high-quality applications and effective demand management.

In contrast, KA2 actions were more competitive, with lower success rates across all sectors. This was particularly evident in School Education and Adult Education, where a smaller proportion of submitted projects were funded, reflecting more limited funding availability under this action.

European Solidarity Corps projects (ESC51 and ESC30) maintained strong performance, with all or most submitted projects successfully awarded and contracted.

Overall, the data highlights high demand across the programme, strong success rates in KA1, and more competitive dynamics within KA2, while maintaining a high level of project delivery in 2025.

Comparison of received, awarded and contracted projects in 2025 – Breakdown by Sub-action

	Number of received (submitted) projects in 2025	Number of awarded projects in 2025	Number of contracted projects in 2025
KA121-ADU	16	16	16
KA122-ADU	43	31	31
KA121-SCH	106	106	106
KA122-SCH	103	86	86
KA182-SPO	15	14	14
KA121-VET	44	44	44
KA122-VET	16	16	16
KA151-YOU	20	20	20
KA152-YOU	39	14	14
KA153-YOU	21	6	6
KA154-YOU	18	12	12
KA155-YOU	10	9	9
KA210-ADU	15	4	4
KA220-ADU	23	7	7
KA210-SCH	14	5	4
KA220-SCH	25	4	4
KA210-VET	6	3	2
KA220-VET	26	11	11
KA210-YOU	23	12	12
KA220-YOU	22	5	5
ESC30-SOL	13	10	10
ESC51-VTJ	21	21	21
Totals	639	456	454

In 2025, a total of 639 applications were received across sub-actions, resulting in 456 awarded and 454 contracted projects, indicating a high level of delivery overall.

Accredited KA1 actions (KA121) demonstrated very strong performance, with all submitted projects in Adult Education, School Education, and VET successfully awarded and contracted. Short-term mobility projects (KA122) also showed high success rates, particularly in VET, while remaining more competitive in School and Adult Education.

Within Youth, accredited projects (KA151-YOU) and DiscoverEU Inclusion (KA155-YOU) achieved high success rates, while other actions such as youth mobility (KA152-YOU) and youth worker mobility (KA153-YOU) were more competitive, reflecting varying levels of demand and available funding.

KA2 sub-actions were consistently oversubscribed, with significantly lower success rates across all sectors, particularly in School Education and Adult Education, highlighting the competitive nature of cooperation partnerships.

European Solidarity Corps actions continued to perform strongly, with all volunteering projects (ESC51) and the majority of solidarity projects (ESC30) successfully contracted.

Overall, the data reflects strong delivery in KA1, particularly accredited actions, alongside high competition in KA2 and varied demand across Youth sub-actions.

Comparison of Funding Requested, Awarded and Contracted in 2025 - Breakdown by Key Action and Sector

	Funding requested	Funding awarded	Funding contracted
KA1 YOU	€3,543,611.75	€4,692,976.25	€4,696,976.25
KA1 ADU	€1,099,336.00	€1,643,396.00	€1,643,396.00
KA1 VET	€939,691.50	€8,945,589.00	€8,945,589.00
KA1 SCH	€3,222,316.60	€8,965,174.00	€8,965,174.00
KA1 SPO	€285,742.00	€184,545.00	€184,545.00
KA2 ADU	€7,860,000.00	€2,590,000.00	€2,590,000.00
KA2 SCH	€8,460,000.00	€1,750,000.00	€1,690,000.00
KA2 VET	€8,210,000.00	€3,830,000.00	€3,770,000.00
KA2 YOU	€6,480,000.00	€1,840,000.00	€1,840,000.00
ESC51	€10,250.00	€1,396,453.00	€1,396,453.00
ESC30	€151,929.00	€111,586.00	€111,586.00
Totals	€40,262,876.85	€35,949,719.25	€35,833,719.25

In 2025, total funding requested reached €40.3 million, with €35.9 million awarded and €35.8 million contracted, indicating strong budget absorption across all actions.

KA1 actions accounted for the majority of funding, particularly in School Education and VET, where contracted funding reached €9.0 million and €8.9 million respectively. Notably, funding awarded in several KA1 sectors exceeded initial requested amounts, reflecting the structure of accredited funding and multi-annual allocations.

In contrast, KA2 actions were significantly oversubscribed, with high levels of demand far exceeding available funding. This was particularly evident in School Education, VET, and Adult Education, where only a portion of requested funding could be awarded, highlighting the competitive nature of this action.

European Solidarity Corps actions showed strong alignment between awarded and contracted funding, with stable delivery across both volunteering and solidarity projects.

Overall, the data reflects high demand across the programme, strong utilisation of available budgets, and a clear distinction between the scaling capacity of KA1 and the more limited, competitive funding available under KA2.

Comparison of Funding Requested, Awarded and Contracted in 2025 - Breakdown by Sub-action

	Funding requested	Funding awarded	Funding contracted
KA121-ADU	€19,509.00	€888,515.00	€888,515.00
KA122-ADU	€1,079,827.00	€754,881.00	€754,881.00
KA121-SCH	€48,864.60	€6,592,515.00	€6,592,515.00
KA122-SCH	€3,173,452.00	€2,372,659.00	€2,372,659.00
KA182-SPO	€285,742.00	€184,545.00	€184,545.00
KA121-VET	€90,094.50	€8,098,992.00	€8,098,992.00
KA122-VET	€849,597.00	€846,597.00	€846,597.00
KA151-YOU	€87,560.00	€3,188,601.00	€3,192,601.00
KA152-YOU	€1,764,450.00	€685,047.00	€685,047.00
KA153-YOU	€739,109.00	€180,423.00	€180,423.00
KA154-YOU	€664,061.00	€385,660.00	€385,660.00
KA155-YOU	€288,431.75	€253,245.25	€253,245.25
KA210-ADU	€870,000.00	€240,000.00	€240,000.00
KA220-ADU	€6,990,000.00	€2,350,000.00	€2,350,000.00
KA210-SCH	€840,000.00	€300,000.00	€240,000.00
KA220-SCH	€7,620,000.00	€1,450,000.00	€1,450,000.00
KA210-VET	€360,000.00	€180,000.00	€120,000.00
KA220-VET	€7,850,000.00	€3,650,000.00	€3,650,000.00
KA210-YOU	€1,350,000.00	€720,000.00	€720,000.00
KA220-YOU	€5,130,000.00	€1,120,000.00	€1,120,000.00
ESC30-SOL	€151,929.00	€111,586.00	€111,586.00
ESC51-VTJ	€10,250.00	€1,396,453.00	€1,396,453.00
Totals	€40,262,876.85	€35,949,719.25	€35,833,719.25

In 2025, total funding requested across sub-actions reached €40.3 million, with €35.8 million contracted, reflecting strong overall budget absorption.

KA121 accredited actions accounted for the largest share of funding, particularly in VET (€8.1 million) and School Education (€6.6 million), highlighting their central role in delivering mobility at scale. Short-term mobility projects (KA122) also contributed significantly, with high levels of contracted funding across sectors, particularly in School Education and VET.

In Youth, funding was concentrated in accredited projects (KA151-YOU), while other actions such as youth mobility (KA152-YOU), youth worker mobility (KA153-YOU), and youth participation (KA154-YOU) received comparatively lower allocations, reflecting varying demand and funding availability.

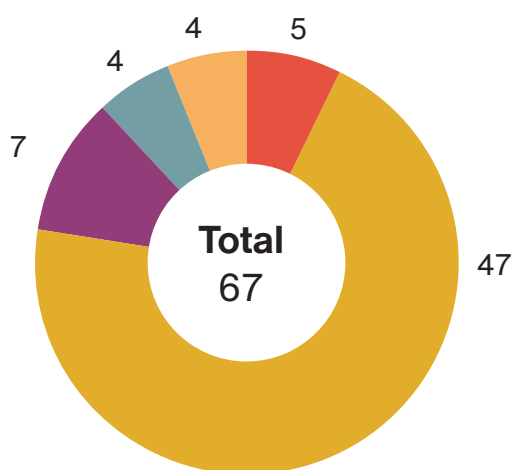
KA2 sub-actions were notably oversubscribed, with requested funding far exceeding awarded amounts across all sectors, particularly in large-scale partnerships (KA220). This highlights the competitive nature and limited budget of cooperation actions.

European Solidarity Corps actions showed close alignment between awarded and contracted funding, with stable investment in both volunteering and solidarity projects.

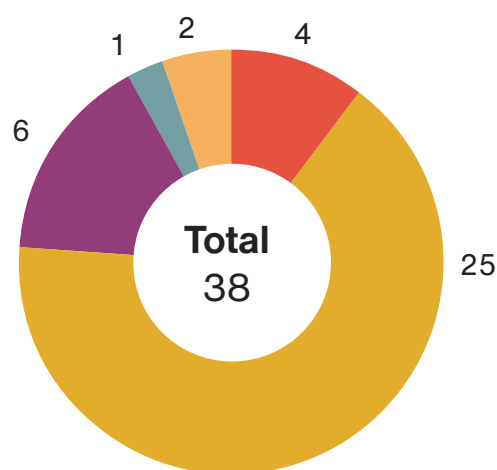
Overall, the data underscores the dominance of accredited KA1 actions in funding distribution, alongside strong demand and competition within KA2 sub-actions.

Comparison of Submitted and Awarded Accreditations and Quality Labels in 2025 - Breakdown per Sector

Number of submitted accreditations/ Quality label



Number of awarded accreditations/ Quality label



- ADU (KA120-ADU)
- SCH (KA120-SCH)
- VET (KA120-VET)
- YOU (KA150-YOU)
- ESC50

In 2025, a total of 67 Accreditation and Quality Label applications were submitted across sectors, with 38 awarded. School Education accounted for the highest number of submissions (47) and awards (25), reflecting strong demand and engagement with the accreditation model.

High success rates were observed in Adult Education and VET, with the majority of applications awarded, indicating strong application quality and sector readiness. In contrast, Youth and ESC50 recorded lower numbers of awarded accreditations relative to submissions.

Overall, the data highlights continued interest in accreditation pathways, particularly in School Education, alongside strong performance in Adult Education and VET.

Comparison of Submitted and Awarded Accreditations and Quality Labels 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown per Sector

	Submitted in 2021	Awarded in 2021	Submitted in 2022	Awarded in 2022	Submitted in 2023	Awarded in 2023
ADU (KA120-ADU)	7	5	11	6	9	4
SCH (KA120-SCH)	22	19	41	32	39	31
VET (KA120-VET)	12	9	11	6	11	8
YOU (KA150-YOU)	0	0	7	3	4	1
ESC50	24	24	11	7	8	4
Totals	65	57	81	54	74	52

	Submitted in 2024	Awarded in 2024	Submitted in 2025	Awarded in 2025
ADU (KA120-ADU)	13	9	5	4
SCH (KA120-SCH)	65	42	47	25
VET (KA120-VET)	12	8	7	6
YOU (KA150-YOU)	8	6	4	1
ESC50	4	4	4	2
Totals	102	69	67	38

Between 2021 and 2025, demand for Accreditations and Quality Labels fluctuated across sectors, peaking in 2024 with 102 submissions before declining to 67 in 2025. A similar trend is reflected in awarded accreditations, which reached a high of 69 in 2024 before decreasing to 38 in 2025.

School Education consistently accounted for the largest share of both submissions and awards throughout the period, indicating sustained engagement with the accreditation model. Adult Education and VET showed relatively stable participation, with generally strong success rates year-on-year.

Youth accreditations remained lower in volume, with some fluctuation in both submissions and awards, while ESC50 reaching peak in 2022 and 2023 and stabilising in recent years.

Overall, the data points to a maturing accreditation landscape, with peak demand in 2024 followed by a stabilisation in 2025, while maintaining steady engagement across key sectors.

Number of Forecasted Participants in 2025 by Action

Action	No of participants
ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	67
ESC51-VTJ - Volunteering projects	100
KA121-ADU - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	503
KA121-SCH - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	4,137
KA121-VET - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	2,718
KA122-ADU - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	350
KA122-SCH - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	1,236
KA122-VET - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	308
KA151-YOU - Accredited projects for youth mobility	2,369
KA152-YOU - Mobility of young people	598
KA153-YOU - Mobility of youth workers	174
KA154-YOU - Youth participation activities	2,344
KA155-YOU - DiscoverEU inclusion action	98
KA182 - Mobility of sport coaches and Staff	100
Totals	15,102

In 2025, a total of 15,102 participants were forecast. School Education accounted for the largest share of participants, driven primarily by accredited projects (KA121-SCH), which reached 4,137 participants, alongside a further 1,236 through short-term projects (KA122-SCH). This highlights the strong uptake of both long-term accredited approaches and more accessible short-term mobility opportunities within the sector.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) also demonstrated significant participation, with 2,718 participants in accredited projects (KA121-VET) and 308 in short-term projects (KA122-VET), reinforcing the sector's sustained engagement with mobility actions.

In Youth, participation was distributed across a range of actions, reflecting the diversity of opportunities available. Accredited youth mobility projects (KA151-YOU) accounted for 2,369 participants, while Youth Participation Activities (KA154-YOU) reached 2,344 participants, underlining the strong emphasis on engagement and active citizenship. Additional contributions came from mobility of young people (KA152-YOU), youth workers (KA153-YOU), and the DiscoverEU Inclusion Action (KA155-YOU).

Adult Education participation was split between accredited (KA121-ADU) and short-term projects (KA122-ADU), with 503 and 350 participants respectively, indicating a balanced use of both funding streams to support mobility.

Participation under the European Solidarity Corps included 100 participants in volunteering projects (ESC51-VTJ) and 67 in solidarity projects (ESC30-SOL), while Sport mobility (KA182) accounted for 100 participants, reflecting more targeted but growing engagement in these areas.

Overall, the distribution of participants across action types demonstrates the strength of accredited projects in delivering mobility at scale, while short-term and smaller actions continue to play an important role in widening access and supporting diverse forms of participation across sectors.

Number of Forecasted Participants 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown per Action Type and Sector

Between 2021 and 2025, the total number of forecasted participants across action types increased significantly, rising from 2,259 to 15,102. This growth was largely driven by the expansion of accredited projects (KA121), particularly in School Education and VET, which scaled substantially over the period.

Youth actions also showed strong growth, especially in accredited mobility (KA151-YOU) and Youth Participation Activities (KA154-YOU), reflecting increased engagement and emphasis on active citizenship.

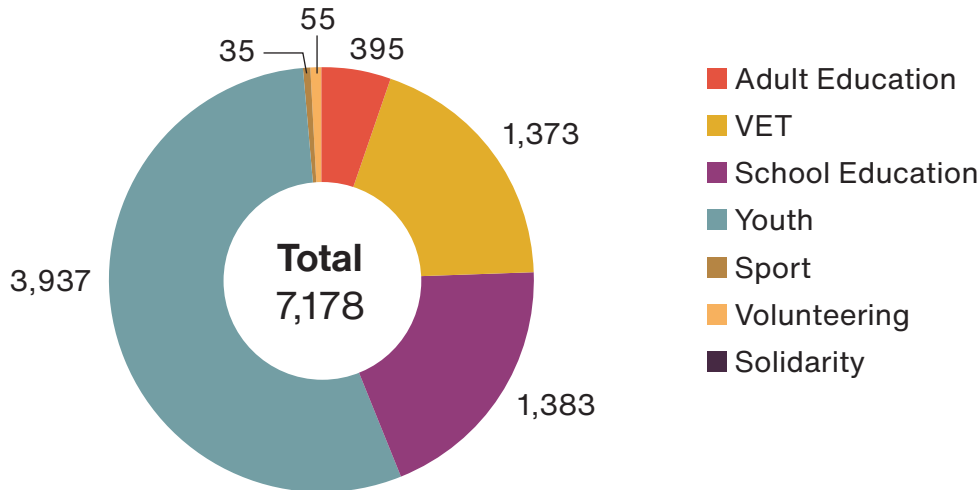
Short-term mobility projects (KA122) demonstrated more varied trends, with strong growth overall despite some year-to-year fluctuations, particularly in School Education and VET.

European Solidarity Corps actions remained relatively stable, with slight fluctuations in volunteering and solidarity projects, while newer or smaller-scale actions such as DiscoverEU Inclusion (KA155-YOU) and Sport mobility (KA182) showed gradual growth.

Overall, the data highlights a clear upward trend in participation, driven by the scaling of accredited actions and sustained interest across multiple programme strands.

Action	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ESC30-SOL - Solidarity projects	48	60	34	65	67
ESC51-VTJ - Volunteering projects	82	145	140	118	100
KA121-ADU - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	0	50	221	447	503
KA121-SCH - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	119	636	1,449	2,909	4,137
KA121-VET - Accredited projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	311	767	1,869	2,135	2,718
KA122-ADU - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in adult education	20	66	161	216	350
KA122-SCH - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in school education	528	797	1,611	745	1,236
KA122-VET - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff in vocational education and training	166	387	326	429	308
KA151-YOU - Accredited projects for youth mobility	225	866	1,445	1,475	2,369
KA152-YOU - Mobility of young people	393	865	746	830	598
KA153-YOU - Mobility of youth workers	27	251	348	276	174
KA154-YOU - Youth participation activities	340	603	1,995	3,037	2,344
KA155-YOU - DiscoverEU inclusion action	0	36	34	42	98
KA182 - Mobility of sport coaches and Staff	0	0	113	82	100
Totals	2,259	5,529	10,492	12,806	15,102

Number of Forecasted Participants with Fewer Opportunities in 2025 - Breakdown by Sector



In 2025, a total of 7,178 participants with fewer opportunities were forecast across all sectors, reflecting a continued focus on inclusion within Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps activities.

The Youth sector accounted for the largest share, with 3,937 participants, highlighting its strong role in reaching and engaging young people facing barriers. School Education and VET also made significant contributions, with 1,383 and 1,373 participants respectively, demonstrating the continued integration of inclusive practices within formal education and training settings.

Adult Education supported 395 participants with fewer opportunities, reinforcing its role in providing accessible learning pathways for diverse groups. Participation in Volunteering (55) and Sport (35) remained more modest, reflecting the scale and structure of activities within these strands, while no participants were recorded under the Solidarity category for 2025.

Overall, the distribution across sectors illustrates a broad and sustained commitment to inclusion, with particularly strong engagement in Youth, School Education, and VET, where programme actions are well-positioned to reach individuals with fewer opportunities at scale.

Number of Forecasted Participants with Fewer Opportunities 2021 to 2025 - Breakdown by Sector

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult Education	0	15	121	285	395
VET	180	457	700	1,182	1,373
School Education	51	332	492	815	1,383
Youth	310	1,089	1,888	2,374	3,937
Sport	0	0	13	4	35
Volunteering	40	104	82	59	55
Solidarity	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	581	1,997	3,296	4,719	7,178

Between 2021 and 2025, the number of forecasted participants with fewer opportunities increased significantly across all sectors, rising from 581 in 2021 to 7,178 in 2025. This substantial growth reflects a strengthened and sustained focus on inclusion across Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps actions.

The Youth sector consistently accounted for the largest share of participants, growing from 310 in 2021 to 3,937 in 2025. This highlights its central role in engaging young people with fewer opportunities and its capacity to scale inclusive participation.

School Education and VET also demonstrated strong and steady growth over the period. School Education increased from 51 participants in 2021 to 1,383 in 2025, while VET rose from 180 to 1,373. These trends indicate a deepening integration of inclusive approaches within formal education and training systems.

Adult Education, while starting from a low base, showed consistent year-on-year growth, reaching 395 participants in 2025. This reflects increasing engagement from the sector and a growing emphasis on widening access to learning opportunities.

Participation in Volunteering fluctuated over the period, peaking in 2022 before gradually declining to 55 in 2025, while Sport, although smaller in scale, showed renewed growth in 2025 following lower participation in previous years. No participants were recorded under the Solidarity strand during this period.

Overall, the upward trend across most sectors demonstrates a clear expansion in the reach of inclusion-focused actions, with particularly strong growth observed in Youth, School Education, and VET. These developments point to increasing capacity across sectors to engage and support participants with fewer opportunities.

Contracted Projects in 2025 - Breakdown of Work Programme Indicators per Sector

	% of projects/activities addressing climate objectives under Key Action 2 and Volunteering strand	% of participants with fewer opportunities taking part in activities under Key Action 1 and Volunteering strand	Number of distinct newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Actions 1 and 2
Adult Education	9.09%	46.31%	35
School Education	37.50%	25.74%	115
VET	100.00%	45.37%	11
Youth	35.29%	70.52%	31
Sport	n/a	35.00%	14
Volunteering	52.38%	55.00%	n/a

In 2025, work programme indicators highlight strong performance across sectors, particularly in inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Climate-related objectives under KA2 and the Volunteering strand were most strongly addressed in VET, where all projects (100%) incorporated climate actions. School Education (37.5%) and Youth (35.3%) also demonstrated solid engagement, while Adult Education recorded a more modest contribution (9.1%). Volunteering projects showed strong alignment, with over half (52.4%) addressing climate priorities.

In terms of inclusion, Youth recorded the highest proportion of participants with fewer opportunities at 70.5%, followed by Volunteering (55%) and Adult Education (46.3%). VET also demonstrated strong inclusion performance (45.4%), while School Education, at 25.7%, reflects continued scope for growth in this area. Sport activity recorded 35%, indicating moderate engagement.

The number of newcomer organisations remained strong, particularly in School Education (115), highlighting continued expansion and accessibility of the programme. Adult Education (35) and Youth (31) also showed solid engagement from new entrants, while VET recorded a smaller number of newcomers (11), showing a more established participant base. Sport contributed 14 new organisations, while data for Volunteering was not specified.

Overall, the indicators demonstrate strong inclusion outcomes, growing engagement with climate priorities, and continued success in attracting new organisations, particularly in School Education and Youth.

Section 6: Governance and Finance



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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 2025

Registration Number: 208725

Company Information

Directors	John Gilmore Jean-Marie Cullen Dipti Pandya Margaret Waters Theresa Reidy Frank Crummey (Resigned 02/12/2025) Nuala Keher (Resigned 02/12/2025)
Secretary	Damien Healy
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 3 Ballsbridge Park Merrion Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4 D04 C7H2
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Baggot Street Dublin 2
Solicitors	RDJ LLP, The Exchange, George's Dock, IFSC, D01 P2V6, Dublin 1, Ireland Arthur Cox LLP 10 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin D02 T380, Ireland

Chairman's Report

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 by Grant Thornton (Internal Auditors) and ASM (B) 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 (B) Limited have been or are in the process of being acted on.

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

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

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

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

I can confirm that Government policy on

the pay of Chief Executives and all State body employees is being complied with.

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

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

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

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

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with its Protected Disclosures Policy and received and granted zero protected disclosures in the reporting period up to 31 December 2025.

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 2025 there remained some administrative and reconciliation actions related to the NCGE to be completed.

For your information, a statement of expenses paid to members of the Board in 2025 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	€0
Frank Crummey	€0
Jean-Marie Cullen	€0
Nuala Keher	€0
Theresa Reidy	€248
Dipti Pandya	€0
Margaret Waters	€0

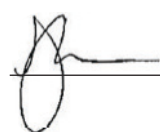
Executive Director: Lorraine Gilligan	
Salary	€131,057
Expenses	€5,618

Staff Pay Bands 2025	Number
€60,001 to €70,000	14
€70,001 to €80,000	1
€80,001 to €90,000	2
€90,001 to €100,000	1
€100,001 to €110,000	3
€110,001 to €120,000	0
€120,001 to €130,000	0
€130,001 to €140,000	1
€200,001 to €210,000	0

Consultancy Costs	
Legal	€61,466
Health and Safety	€0,00
Human Resources	€4,933

Travel and Subsistence and Hospitality Expenses (Including Board and Executive Director travel as set out in the attached schedules)	
Foreign travel and subsistence	€71,197
Home travel and subsistence	€46,590

Signed:



Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson

Directors' Report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2025.

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 (Resigned 02/12/2025)
- ▶ Jean-Marie Cullen
- ▶ Nuala Keher (Resigned 02/12/2025)
- ▶ 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 2025, there were five Board members on the Board of Léargas.

The board meets a minimum of five times annually.

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.

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.

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.

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 on-going operational expenditure. The policy is in accordance with good practice as outlined in the charities code.

Internal Controls

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

- ▶ Clearly defining management responsibilities, in a defined organisational structure with clear segregation of duties.
- ▶ Adopting the 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 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 (B) 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 (B) Limited have been acted on.

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, PEACEPLUS ASIRE.

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.

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

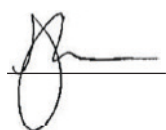
In accordance with the Companies Act 2014, Section 383(2) PKF Brenson Lawlor continue in office as auditors of the company.

Relevant audit information

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

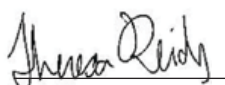
- ▶ so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- ▶ each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information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

On behalf of the board:



Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson

27 May 2026



Theresa Reidy
Director

27 May 2026

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

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

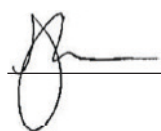
Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" 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.

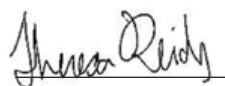
The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined 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:



Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson

27 May 2026



Theresa Reidy
Director

27 May 2026

Programme Report

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.

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, receiving support via co-finance from SOLAS.

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Léargas - The Exchange Bureau (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 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 2025 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 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

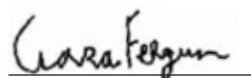
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

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.

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.



Ciara Ferguson

for and on behalf of PKF Brenson Lawlor
Statutory Audit Firm

27 May 2026

3 Ballsbridge Park
Merrion Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Income	6	6,864,281	5,407,762
Administrative expenses		(6,675,501)	(5,363,156)
Surplus before taxation		188,780	44,606
Tax on surplus		-	-
Surplus for the financial year		188,780	44,606
Transfer to designated reserves - operational		(188,780)	(44,606)
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 2025

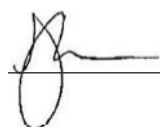
	2025 €	2024 €
Surplus for the financial year	188,780	44,606
Income and expenditure reserve at the start of the financial year	44,606	34,755
Designated reserve at the start of the financial year	1,303,720	1,268,965
	1,537,106	1,348,326
Income and expenditure reserve at the end of the financial year	188,780	44,606
Designated reserve at the end of the financial year	1,348,326	1,303,720
	1,537,106	1,348,326

Statement of Financial Position

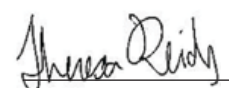
As at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	29,075	95,623
Net bursaries			
Bursary grant bank accounts		26,066,272	27,879,503
Bursary funding	9	(26,066,272)	(27,879,503)
		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	10	214,482	110,157
Cash at bank and in hand		2,387,772	2,765,034
		2,602,254	2,875,191
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	11	(844,434)	(1,153,652)
Operational grants in advance		(57,339)	(287,289)
Creditors and grants in advance		(901,773)	(1,440,941)
Net current assets		1,700,481	1,434,250
Total assets fewer current liabilities		1,729,556	1,529,873
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(192,450)	(181,547)
Net assets		1,537,106	1,348,326
Reserves			
Income and expenditure reserves	14	188,780	44,606
Designated reserves – operational	14	1,348,326	1,303,720
Total reserves		1,537,106	1,348,326

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 27 May 2026 and signed on behalf of the board by:



Dr John Gilmore
Chairperson
27 May 2026



Theresa Reidy
Director
27 May 2026

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	-	-
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	75,948	73,914
Accrued (income) / expenses	(30,266)	(276,730)
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other debtors	(104,325)	206,130
(Decrease) / increase in trade and other creditors	(309,219)	163,001
Cash flows (absorbed by) / generated from operations	(367,862)	166,315
Net cash used in investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(9,400)	(68,423)
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(377,262)	97,892
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	2,765,034	2,667,142
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2,387,772	2,765,034

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

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

Depreciation

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

- ▶ Fixtures, fittings and equipment 33% straight line

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Taxation

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

Employee benefits

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

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

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

4. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

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

Useful lives of tangible assets

Long-lived tangible fixed assets comprising primarily of fixtures, fittings

and office equipment are stated at cost less depreciation in note 8 to the financial statements. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated life of each type of asset. The directors regularly review these useful lives and change them, if necessary, to reflect current conditions. In determining these useful lives, the directors consider technological change, patterns of consumption, physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation charge for the financial year. The net book value of tangible fixed assets subject to depreciation at the financial year end date was €29,075.

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.

6. Income

Income arises from:

	2025 €	2024 €
Grants	6,864,281	5,407,762

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Grant income received	1,295,000	1,295,000

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

7. Staff Costs

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Management	7	7
Finance	14	15
Operations	35	30
Administration	2	2
	58	54

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2025 €	2024 €
Wages and salaries	3,217,650	2,782,067
Social insurance costs	363,128	337,572
Other retirement benefit costs	127,766	117,624
	3,708,544	3,237,263

Staff pay bands

	2025 €	2024 €
€60,001 to €70,000	14	7
€70,001 to €80,000	1	0
€80,001 to €90,000	2	0
€90,001 to €100,000	1	3
€100,001 to €110,000	3	2
€110,001 to €120,000	0	0
€120,001 to €130,000	0	1
€130,001 to €140,000	1	0
€200,001 to €210,000	0	1
	22	14

Termination Payments

	2025 €	2024 €
Termination payments made in the year	-	26,925

8. Tangible Assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	466,929
Additions	9,400
At 31 December 2025	476,329
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2025	371,306
Depreciation charged in the year	75,948
At 31 December 2025	447,254
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	29,075
At 31 December 2024	95,623

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 2025 €	Grant income to Dec 2024 €	Other in the year €	Grants paid in the year €	Balance at 31 Dec 2024 €
European Solidarity Corps	1,916,624	2,134,215	-	(2,280,943)	1,769,896
Erasmus+	25,962,879	35,341,706	(686)	(37,007,523)	24,296,376
	27,879,503	37,475,921	(686)	(39,288,466)	26,066,272

10. Debtors

	2025 €	2024 €
Trade debtors	214,482	110,157

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 €	2024 €
Trade creditors and accruals	698,143	1,020,349
PAYE	96,291	83,303
Staff termination provision	50,000	50,000
	844,434	1,153,652

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Total staff termination provision	242,450	231,547
Included within creditors falling due within one year	(50,000)	(50,000)
	192,450	181,547

13. Financial instruments

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Trade debtors	214,482	110,157
Cash at bank and in hand	2,387,772	2,765,034
	2,602,254	2,875,191
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors and accruals	851,773	1,390,941
Staff termination provision	242,450	231,547
	1,094,223	1,622,488

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 2026.

Appendix 1

Detailed Income Report For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Income		
European Commission	3,173,284	3,200,572
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	1,295,000	1,295,000
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	819,132	712,289
Department of Education	-	29,641
Other Education Programme Funding	1,529,376	40,000
Other Income	573	130,260
Total income	6,817,365	5,407,762

Appendix 2

Detailed Expenditure Report For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Expenditure		
Staffing and other Headcount Costs	3,764,542	3,279,756
Staff training	52,996	46,971
Office supplies	58,166	52,674
IT maintenance and supplies	254,589	249,631
Meetings / workshops	222,711	296,105
Grant Allocations	1,065,855	220,026
Travelling and subsistence	117,786	110,723
Service providers	526,869	440,148
Other costs	103,612	87,830
Building costs	416,967	465,741
Publications	67,704	91,879
Communications	23,704	21,672
Total expenditure	6,675,501	5,363,156

Appendix 3

Detailed Expenditure Report - Departmental Allocation For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 €	2024 €
Expenditure		
Operations and Finance	939,346	935,056
Finance and Corporate Services	1,333,296	1,532,527
PEACEPLUS ASPIRE	1,605,275	19,245
Education and Training	1,080,476	1,267,221
Youth, Sport, and ESC Development	1,021,751	984,250
Strategic Engagement and Communications	522,437	430,866
Executive Director	172,920	193,991
Total expenditure	6,675,501	5,363,156

