

POST	Development Officer
CONTRACT	Specific Purpose 2.5 year Contract
REPORTING TO	Head of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Project (Léargas)
JOB PURPOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the successful implementation of Léargas programmes and initiatives, specifically the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Project. • To support the project, its partners and its beneficiaries to achieve their strategic and operational goals. • To support the development, coordination, management, and implementation of the PEACEPLUS Shared Education Programme (ASPIRE), which works with approximately 100 schools in the border counties of Ireland. • To oversee the quality implementation of pupil engagement, and of monitoring and evaluation of pupil engagement, in shared education activities. • To promote shared education within the wider community and contributing to the development of a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for teachers.
PAY GRADE	Léargas utilises Civil Service Pay Scales. Appointment refers to Higher Executive Officer (H) PPC - successful candidate commences strictly at point 1 €63,537
APPLICATION DEADLINE	5pm on 27 th July 2026. In Person interviews week commencing 3 rd August 2026
ELIGIBILITY	Candidates must hold a valid visa or work permit to work in Ireland

Léargas is responsible for developing and implementing national and international exchange programmes across the sectors of adult education, school education and early years, vocational education and training, sport, youth and volunteering. These activities connect people in different communities and countries and bring an international dimension to organisations across Ireland. We are the National Agency for the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes of the European Union across the sectors mentioned above, and we are the National Support Office other EU initiatives in Ireland. We are a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity (CHY 8317).

The Education Authority in Northern Ireland, Léargas, Early Years Northern Ireland, National Childhood Network and Fermanagh Trust collaborate to implement the PEACEPLUS Advancing Shared Partnerships through Inclusive Relationships in Education (ASPIRE) programme. ASPIRE targets early years settings, primary, and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland, focusing on schools with little or no previous experience in providing shared education opportunities. The programme aims to build a culture of good relations among school children, equipping them with the skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a society free from sectarianism and intolerance and a culture of cooperation and collaboration is the norm.

We are now seeking an enthusiastic and driven individual to join the Léargas team as a Development Officer – PEACEPLUS ASPIRE. Reporting to the Head of PEACEPLUS ASPIRE, this role offers an exciting opportunity to advance your career while working in a transnational partnership for education and learning for children and young people.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

The responsibilities outlined in this job description are not exhaustive and may be adjusted or expanded as necessary, to align with the needs of the project and Léargas. The Development Officer will support the coordination, delivery and evaluation of the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Programme at Léargas. Working closely with school partnerships across the Border Countries, including some cross-border partnerships, and other stakeholders, this role will contribute to advancing the objectives of the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE Programme, supporting the development of shared education across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties, while ensuring high-quality programme implementation and impact.

1. Strategic Development:

The Development Officer will:

- Coordinate the activities of the team's Development Officers in ensuring effective engagement, support and monitoring of participating educational settings, with a particular focus on pupil engagement.
- Work closely with the Administrative Officer to ensure the effective disbursement of grant funding to shared education partnerships.
- Support with coordinating forward planning and delivery of the project.
- Provide leadership and support across the implementation team, assigning and managing delivery of tasks on time and to a high standard.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of annual delivery plans.
- Assist in evaluating the project's effectiveness.
- Work with the project team to plan and implement initiatives that aim to foster continuing shared education among partnerships beyond the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE programme.

2. School Support and Development:

- Build and maintain effective working relationships with participating schools, supporting them in managing and delivering effective partnerships and leadership in shared education.
- Liaise with external organisations supporting schools in Shared Education.
- Provide advice and guidance on resources for Shared Education delivery.
- Assist schools in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating Shared Education programmes.
- Work with the project team to plan and implement a CPD programme for teachers.

3. Accountability:

- Ensure full adherence to governance and accountability systems and operations policies and procedures.

Person Specification:

This is a post seeking an innovative and forward-thinking individual with a proven track record in leadership and experience within educational settings and/or coordinating projects. In addition, it is essential that the individual has strong inter-personal skills. The successful candidate will ensure supportive, efficient, and effective delivery of objectives for the project team, collaborating across the PEACEPLUS ASPIRE partnership.

Essential Skills, Experience, and Qualifications:

1. Knowledge:

- Programme development and implementation.
- Current educational developments in Shared Education.
- Communication strategies for educational projects.

2. Skills:

The candidate must demonstrate highly developed skills to:

- Lead, motivate, and inspire others.
- Articulate a clear vision for shared education.
- Build strong relationships at all levels and promote a collaborative team approach.
- Lead strategically and foster personal and professional development.
- Promote, achieve, and evaluate high-quality experiences for students and teachers in shared education.
- Facilitate effective partnerships between schools and their communities.
- Communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Utilise digital tools and innovations across IT systems and learning environments.
- Organise and prioritise workloads effectively.

3. Personal Qualities:

- Vision and a strong value system.
- Enthusiasm, motivation, and confidence.
- Integrity, empathy, and advocacy.
- Excellent judgement and decision-making skills, discretion and diplomacy.
- The ability to manage competing deadlines and priorities effectively while making decisive choices.
- Flexibility and adaptability.

4. Qualifications:

- Hold a relevant degree, or equivalent qualification, or have equivalent experience, preferably in the field of education.
- Have experience working in a leadership role including team leadership.
- Have a minimum of three years' experience in building and managing collaborative partnerships within and/or across diverse communities.

5. Desirable Qualities, Skills, and Experience:

- Commitment to improving Shared Education.
- Strong commitment to a customer-focused approach to service delivery.
- Strong commitment to equality of opportunity, inclusion, and diversity.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to communicate and collaborate well within and across project teams.
- Experience of working in an international and intercultural context an advantage.

6. Other Requirements:

- This role requires frequent travel to the Border Counties and Northern Ireland. ***A full driving licence and access to a car or suitable transport is necessary for this role.***
- Flexibility to work beyond normal office hours and at locations other than the main office when necessary.

General Requirements for All Léargas Staff:

Key capabilities required include:

- Building Future Readiness
- Leading and Empowering
- Communication and Collaboration
- Evidence informed Delivery

We expect our people to show leadership, exceptional organisational and planning skills, and to be analytical and conceptual thinkers with excellent digital, IT, networking and influencing skills. We expect excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including presentation and facilitation skills, combined with an ability to fit within a team that works to support the vision and mission of Léargas.

Application Process:

Submit your CV and a concise letter of motivation (max 350 words) to recruit@leargas.ie by 5pm on Wednesday 27th July 2026. In Person Interviews will take place w/c 3rd August 2026.

In your letter of motivation, using the Public Service Competency model for Higher Executive Officer grade, please detail your experience under each listed competency, and demonstrate how these will support your delivery of objectives in this role.

A panel of successful candidates may be formed following interviews, and candidates placed on the panel may be considered for future vacancies. Should a work permit be required for employment in Ireland, candidates must bring this to Léargas' attention and obtain the necessary documentation.

Working Conditions:

- **Location:** Dublin, with frequent travel within the specified regions targeted by this project as well as national and international travel required.
- **Hours:** 35 hours per week in a flexible work environment.
- **Hybrid Work Arrangement:** Combination of office, home, and off-site work.
- **Benefits:**
 - Generous annual leave
 - Defined contribution pension scheme
 - Staff development and further education support
 - Flexible working
 - Paid sick leave scheme
 - Death in service benefit
 - Employee Assistance Programme

Léargas is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from people with disabilities.

Funding for this role is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).