



## County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

E-mail: [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie); Web: [www.longfordppn.ie](http://www.longfordppn.ie)

fb: @longfordppn

Twitter: @LongfordPPN

Edel Kelly, PPN Support Worker, County Longford Public Participation Network, Longford County Council, Great Water Street, Longford

# PPN Newsletter September 2023 (Part 3)

## LOCAL NEWS

**Two hours is all you need for a Triple P Discussion Group Positive parenting help for parents around Longford**

| Venue  | Date  |
|--|---|
| Family Centre Longford, St Mel's Road            | 14 <sup>th</sup> September 10-12            |
| Ballinalee NS, N39 HY57                          | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 10.30-12.30      |
| Community House Farnagh, N39 AF30                | 29 <sup>th</sup> September 10-12            |
| Edgeworthstown Library, 28 Main Street, N39 F7Y8 | 5 <sup>th</sup> October 10-12               |
| Lus Na Greine FRC, Main St, Granard              | 6 <sup>th</sup> October 10-12               |
| Tivoli House, Leader Park, Glack,                | 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> October |

### Bookings and Information

Call 043 666 0977 or email [admin@Lngfrc.ie](mailto:admin@Lngfrc.ie)

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### EDI Centre ECCO Project

This programme is an opportunity for participants / colleagues in your network to engage in sustainable training,

The benefits and supports of this project are multidimensional at individual, community, or organizational level, to develop solutions to address climate action and face the many challenges in the transition to Circular Enterprise.

This can be achieved through education & training and learning by doing.

See attached information poster

If this interests your network, please complete the application form below

<https://shout.com/s/JUJKQdRK>.

This is a survey regarding community needs

<https://shout.com/s/ZmmftNNEI>

Please see [here](#) for information

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## Longford Women's Link



**DEW** Digital Entrepreneurship for Women

**Multiplier Event**

**Longford Women's Link**  
**October 3rd 2023**  
**10-12pm**



Co-funded by the European Union

I am inviting you to our Erasmus+ Event for the DEW (Digital Entrepreneurship for Women) Project which is nearing completion. We would be delighted to see you on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at LWL from 10-12 where we will provide an overview of the project results and demonstrate the online learning modules. Tea and coffee will be provided, and it will be a great opportunity to find out more about this digital project.

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## Autumn Eco Events by Transition Longford



**Forest Bathing Walk & Tea Ceremony**

**Saturday 30th September**  
**2 - 3.30pm**





Tickets are available to purchase via the event links on our Facebook page @transitionlongford.

Anyone who purchased a ticket for the event in July, which we had to postpone due to the weather is automatically entitled to attend.

They just need to register via email so we can keep track of numbers attending and bring their ticket/receipt with them on the day.

You'll find all the information via the links below:

<https://fb.me/e/12e2gtiNd>

<https://fb.me/e/3RTVtOr6U>

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## **CHIME The National Charity for Deafness and Hearing Loss**

Our free and confidential clinics provide a one-on-one space where you can receive information and advice about deafness and hearing loss. Join us to learn more about topics such as tinnitus, assistive technologies, minor hearing aid repairs, and low-cost hearing aid batteries. We are here to help and support you in any way we can.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CLINIC For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### **DROP IN & VISIT US:**

When: 10am - 1pm First Tuesday of every Month, starting from 4th July

Where: Longford CIC, Level 1, Longford Shopping Centre (Just above TESCO), Longford, N39 X

Contact: Email [fiona.hope@chime.ie](mailto:fiona.hope@chime.ie)

Tel. 086 8252538



Healthy Longford



Slaintecare. Healthy Communities



Longford LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

# Community Safety & Wellbeing Expo



CATCH BRESSIE'S  
MENTAL  
WELLBEING TALK  
AT 11AM



Longford Sports Hub

Behind St Mels College  
Longford Town

**Thursday, 5 October, 10am - 3pm**

Meet the Garda National Units and Civil Defence;

Try our 'Have a go sessions' with Sports Partnership; Check out information stands on physical, mental, financial, relationship wellbeing

Learn about our Community Safety Projects including  
Text Alert and Property Marking

**Lots of interactive activities, tips, tricks and advice on the day!**

For more info, email

[communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie)

## Exhibitors wanted for Community Safety & Wellbeing Expo Thursday 5 October Longford Town

Slaintecare Healthy Communities (Local Authority); Healthy Longford Programme and Longford Community Safety Partnership are arranging a free Safety & Wellbeing Expo on Thursday 5 October (10am -3pm) in the new Longford Sports Hub (Behind St Mel's College), with support of Longford County Council and An Garda Síochána.

**We would like to invite your projects/organisation to host an exhibit/info stand at the event and the more interactive or tactile they can be the better!!!**

This Expo event aims to showcase services and projects available in Longford to support people's sense of Community Safety & Wellbeing (Financial, mental, health, relationship, physical) and we want to have lots of interactive activities and information stands on the day with exhibits inside and outside.

**Niall Breslin 'Bressie' is giving a Mental Wellbeing talk at 11am in the main auditorium and this is a must see.**

All Garda national units will be in attendance along with Civil Defense and Fire Service. Learn CPR, meet the armed response unit and the Garda Dog Unit, learn how to sign up to the Civil Defense. Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman will be in attendance as well. Longford Sports Partnership are arranging ‘have a go’ sessions and tasters of different activities.

The event will be open to the public but we are specifically inviting all TY groups/Youth Reach ( and any other year groups that schools want to send) as well as Active Age , Disability groups, Community groups , Men’s Sheds. Day Care services, Groups supporting new communities, migrants, Roma Community, Travellers, Ukrainians, IPS clients etc.

We will compile a full list of exhibitors and a schedule of activities/mini talks on the day in a week or two once we firm up details. If there is any other service; project or organisation you think we should invite to have a stand, please let me know.

To confirm your attendance and any requirements you have ( access to electrical points etc.) please contact me or email [communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie) :

|                |                                 |              |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Janine Bartley | Community Safety Coordinator    | 086 103 7184 |
| Breda Greaves  | Healthy Longford Coordinator    | 087 277 7843 |
| Donal Mulligan | Slaintecare Healthy Communities | 086 012 3402 |

## **LONGFORD WOMEN’S LINK IS HIRING – CE POSITION**

- On-The-Job training
- QQI/Industry qualification
- Individual Mentoring and guidance
- Career planning
- Experience in an active working environment
- Positions include
  - Childcare
  - Maintenance
  - Cleaner
  - Administration
  - Cook

LWL CE scheme provides individual job opportunities through the provision of part time placement based within local communities in Longford Town and surrounding county.

### AREAS INCLUDE:

LONGFORD TOWN. ARDAGH. EDGEWORTHSTOWN. GRANARD. DROMARD. DRUMLISH. LANESBORO.  
BALLYMAHON. GLEN. MULLINALAGHTA. LEGAN. KENAGH. BALLINALEE.

Persons in receipt of Social Welfare payments including Disability Allowance and Illness Benefit may be eligible to find out more contact an LWL/DSP CE Supervisor: SIOBHAN MCGOEY OR KERRIE PRENDERGAST on 043 3341511 All current vacancies are advertised on [www.jobsireland.ie](http://www.jobsireland.ie)

Funded by Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DSP)





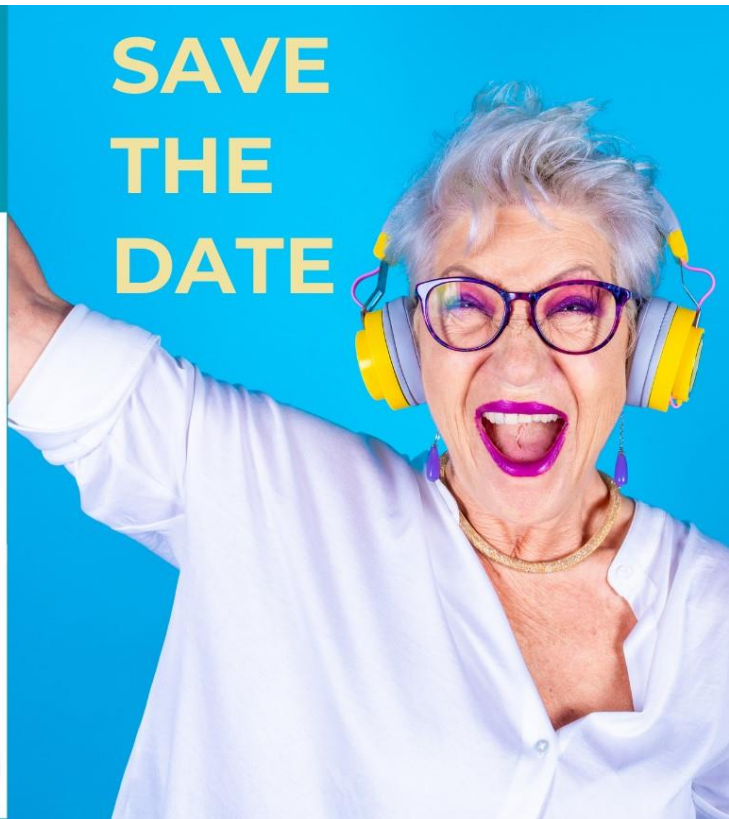
**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



**WISE & WELL, AGE FRIENDLY INFORMATION DAY -  
Monday 9th October, Longford Arms Hotel,  
11.00am - 4.00pm, Registration from 10.30am.**

**Talks, Demos, Entertainment & more!**

**LIVE PERFORMANCE BY MICK FLAVIN.**

**Pre-Booking is essential through your local library  
or online at [www.longfordlibrary.ie/events](http://www.longfordlibrary.ie/events)**

**Longford (043) 33 41124**

**Ballymahon (09064) 32546**

**Edgeworthstown (043) 33 43335**

**Granard (043) 66 86164**

**Lanesboro (043) 33 21291**

**Drumlisk (043) 33 24760**



**Club Ardagh CLG** is a community based childcare facility, supported by a voluntary Board of Management, providing a quality sessional Montessori Pre-School and Afterschool Childcare Service for children aged between 3 and 12 years of age.

**Club Ardagh CLG invites applications for the following position:**

**Preschool Support Worker – (15 hours per week)**

**Temporary Contract for preschool year Sept/Oct 2023— June 2024**

**Location: Senior Room, Club Ardagh, Ardagh, County Longford**

*This position is subject to AIM funding from Pobal*

**The Preschool Support Worker will:**

- Work with the Preschool staff and manager to support the children within the preschool room
- Ensure that Aistear Early Childhood Curriculum framework is incorporated into preschool curriculum and play activities on a daily basis.
- Ensure a good level of communication with children, parents and staff
- Contribute and support the children, staff and parents in a positive and constructive way
- Report to the Manager & Board of Management

**Essential Criteria:**

- Minimum childcare qualification – FETAC level 5 major award or higher
- Minimum 2 years experience working with children
- Excellent communication skills and ability to organize and plan ahead

***Shortlisting will apply***

**Closing date for receipt of applications**

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> of October, at 5:00pm**

**To apply for any of the above position, please provide CV and Cover letter to:**

Club Ardagh CLG, Attn: Chairperson of the Board of Management, Ardagh,  
Longford, N39 FH68. or email to clubardagh@gmail.com

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## **Promoting Wellness for Women - MenoWell Longford**

**MenoWell Longford**’ is a free 6-week online evidence-based exercise, nutrition, and health education programme promoting wellness for women in all stages of adult life, with a special focus on perimenopause and post-menopause.

Designed and delivered by EduFIT and funded by Longford Sports Partnership and Longford County Council the programme is aimed at women aged 30+ years living in Longford.

The programme will begin on **Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8pm** and run for **6 weeks** as follows:

- 2 x 40-minute live online women- and menopause-specific multimodal **exercise classes** per week – **Mondays and Thursdays at 8pm** hosted via Zoom, instructed in real time and include a suitable warm up and cool down.
- 1 x 30-minute live online women- and menopause-specific health **education masterclass** per week – **Wednesdays at 8pm** also be delivered via Zoom with a focus on different topics relating to women’s health and the menopause journey including muscle, bone, and cardiovascular health, healthy nutrition, sleep hygiene and self-care.

An on-demand library of women- and menopause-specific exercise videos and nutrition recipes, as well as recorded health education workshops will also be available to all participants.

You can sign up for the programme by clicking on the following link

<https://edufit.ie/menowell-longford/> you will be asked to complete a short-answer online questionnaire, but all information will be kept strictly private and confidential,

(There is a button to confirm you live in Longford, however as an LCC staff member you can click ‘Yes’)

Don’t worry if you can’t commit to all classes, once registered you can attend as many as you are available for.

Age Friendly Annual Information Day & Expo - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October

## **THE WHEEL’S FUNDING ROADSHOW – LEITRIM**

Are you looking to diversify your sources of funding but just don’t have time to do the research? Join us on Tuesday, 3 October in Leitrim for our Funding Roadshow where we will answer all your funding questions.

Attend this roadshow to:

- Learn about different types of funding opportunities available to your organisation – at a local, national and EU level
- Find out where future funding will come from, as well as tips for addressing challenges that will arise
- Talk directly to funders about your project
- Network with other community and voluntary organisations.

This is a free event, but registration is essential. Places are limited so don’t miss out.

**Full agenda coming soon.**

### **How to register**

This event is free. Registration is required.



## Who should attend

Members of The Wheel; staff or volunteers of community and voluntary organisations involved in fundraising, grant writing and development.

[LOGIN OR SIGN UP TO REGISTER](#)

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## Central Statistics Office - Small area population statistics are available for Longford

CSO launches interactive map for Census 2022 Small Area data which provides detailed information about every community in the country.

Have you ever wondered how people in your local area travel to work or school? Or how many people volunteer in local community groups or sporting activities? Or how many people of your age live in your area which might support a new business idea?

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has today (21 September 2023) published the Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from Census 2022. This is the most detailed set of data produced from the Census 2022 results covering topics such as sex, age and marital status, families, housing, education, commuting and occupation as well as new topics such as volunteering and childcare. Using our interactive maps, you can zoom in to your local area and learn more about your community.

The Census 2022 Small Area Population Statistics are available via the [Census 2022 interactive map](#). This easy-to-use interactive map allows you to search for your area by name or by Eircode and select a topic of interest to research. Data can also be downloaded in PDF or Excel format.

Cormac Halpin, Senior Statistician, explained: *“This is the most detailed set of data that is produced from the census. These statistics provide great detail on areas ranging from local communities and electoral divisions, right up to county and province level by using the Boundary dropdown menu.*

*Today’s publication means data is available for the full set of 18,919 Small Areas, each of which generally covers between 60 and 120 households. The data is used for everything from providing people with information about their local neighbourhood to helping businesses make decisions on where to locate. This could be a bike shop hoping to expand into a new area, a local transport operator assessing the viability of a new bus service, or a local business wanting data on the household composition of their area. Census small area data can help inform these types of decisions. Communities can use the data to strengthen their case in the pursuit of additional services, whether that is for child-minding facilities, youth services, or elderly support. This data is an important national resource, is easily accessible, and freely available for all to use.”*

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Don't Miss!



## COURSES

### TRAINING SESSIONS FROM THE WHEEL

Training sessions have been uploaded to the Gov.ie website. These training sessions include-

- **Basics of Employment and HR Practice**
- **Successful Communication for Community Groups and Voluntary Boards**
- **Leading Communities- The Role of the Board or Committee Member**
- **Social Media**
- **Procurement**
- **Strategic Planning**

The link to our website can be found [here](#).

## Training from The Wheel

### **An Introduction to Succession Planning**

**6 Oct 2023**

**LEARN MORE**

### **An Introduction to EDI - Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in the Workplace**

**10 Oct 2023**

**LEARN MORE**

### **Budget 2024 - Impacts on The Community & Voluntary Sector**

**13 Oct 2023**

**LEARN MORE**

### **Achieving & Maintaining Compliance with Data Protection & GDPR**

**17 Oct 2023**

**LEARN MORE**



## National News

### **Independent Living Movement Ireland invites you to the “The Green Paper on Reform of Disability Payments” Discussions!**

Discover the potential changes to Disability Payments in Ireland and have your say in this vital conversation. ILMI invites you to Zoom sessions on **October 18th at 11 AM and October 24th at 7 PM** to explore the Green Paper proposals and voice your concerns. This is your chance to help shape our (ILMI) collective response as we seek to ensure fair and effective policies. Email [info@ilmi.ie](mailto:info@ilmi.ie) to sign up, specifying your preferred daytime or evening session. For a detailed analysis, visit <https://ilmi.ie/government-publishes-green-paper-on-reform-of-disability-payments-need-to-create-strong-ilmi-response/> Make a difference, Have your voice heard – join us!

### **Government publishes Green Paper on Reform of Disability Payments: Need to create strong ILMI response.**

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, ILMI attended a briefing led by Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, and she published a Green Paper on reform to Disability Payments.

#### **What is a Green Paper?**

This green paper is not an agreed policy. It is a proposal by the Department to create a focussed discussion on how disability payments could be changed in the future. No decision has been made yet, and the Department did say that through consultation it is possible that no changes would be made.

#### **What does this Green Paper propose?**

The Minister and Department officials were keen to point out that there needs to be action based on the research from the Cost of Disability report but that the measures proposed alone would not be enough to meet the costs of disability. They pointed out that costs such as transport, medical supports and so on needed to be delivered by other Departments, but that in terms of reducing risk of poverty these proposals would look at changes to payments and measures to try and support more disabled people into employment.

The Green Paper sets out that the main aims are:

1. To encourage a higher level of employment for disabled to enhance their participation in society and reduce the risk of poverty and deprivation.
2. To better protect disabled people who cannot work from poverty and deprivation.

The green paper makes three changes to disability payments as follows:

- 1) Introduction of a Three-tiered Personal Support Payment:**
- 2. Introduction of new in-work supports**
- 3. Addressing inconsistencies in eligibility**

ILMI have published a short blog on our website ([link](#)) providing some analysis of the details of the Green Paper.

### **Concerns raised at the Green Paper launch:**

Whilst there is an increase in payment in Tier one and Tier two, neither come close to the cost of disability in the Department's report.

The "obligation" to engage with INTREO and take up training or work immediately raised concerns as ILMI raised that this sounded not dissimilar to the "Work Capacity Assessments" in the UK which used the language of "welfare reform" to make savings in the welfare budget and push disabled people into work, with huge human costs and suffering.

ILMI also raised concerns about the current capacity of mainstream employment services such as INTREO and the systemic barriers to inclusion of disabled people in the workforce, including the low expectations that systemic exclusion from employment has had on disabled people themselves.

### **Next steps for ILMI?**

It is vital that as a national cross-impairment Disabled Persons Organisation that we create a strong collective submission into this process.

We are going to have a discussion online to discuss the proposals and develop a clear sense of how to respond as a DPO.

These will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 11am and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. Both will be on Zoom with agenda and information to follow.

To sign up for the discussions, email [info@ilmi.ie](mailto:info@ilmi.ie) and please indicate which session (daytime or evening) work best for you.

For a more detailed analysis please click here <https://ilmi.ie/government-publishes-green-paper-on-reform-of-disability-payments-need-to-create-strong-ilmi-response/>

### **Invitation to participation in World Mental Health Month**

We are currently running online Connect Café information sessions throughout September. Registration is still open for the last few sessions, so if you didn't have the possibility to do so yet, could you please share this attached poster on your social media?

I would like to encourage you to give your local community opportunity to register and promote their WMHM events on our dedicated website <https://worldmentalhealthmonth-mhi.ie/get-involved/register-your-event/>

Every registered event will feature on the 'Find Out What's Happening in Your Area' page of the website. If you could also share this information on your social media and with your groups that would be great.

Viola Di Bucchianico, Thrive Action Research Officer, Tel. 083 478 2166

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‘See Change’ is an Irish organisation dedicated to ending mental health stigma. Their work is informed by people with lived experiences of mental health difficulties, who are best placed to give insight into mental health stigma and discrimination.



Their annual **Green Ribbon** campaign aims to spread awareness about all mental health difficulties to help end mental health stigma and discrimination. This year it takes place throughout the month of September.

If you would like to learn about stigma and the negative impacts, it can have on people with mental health difficulties you can visit the ‘See Change’ Website at

<https://seechange.ie/>

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### **National Disability Authority Annual Conference 2023: Public and Political Participation of Disabled People**

#### **Guaranteeing the equal participation of disabled people in political and public life in Ireland – United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Article 29**

**Date:** Thursday, 26 October 2023

**Time:** 9:30am – 4.15pm

**Location:** Aviva Stadium, Lansdowne Road and Online

**Cost:** Free of charge. [Registration required.](#)

We would like to invite you to our **Annual Conference 2023: Public and Political Participation of Disabled People.**

This year’s event will take an in-depth view of all the implications of Article 29 of the UNCRPD in Ireland, which focuses on the participation of disabled people in political and public life.

The conference will look at issues around accessible voting, and the public and political representation of disabled people in Ireland. Disabled people, public officials and elected representatives will discuss barriers faced by disabled people and propose solutions. We will look at international practices and present learning from other countries which could inform potential solutions to address the challenges and barriers faced in Ireland.

Speakers confirmed so far include:

- Art O’Leary, Chief Executive, An Coimisiún Toghcháin (The Electoral Commission),
- Cahir Hughes, Head of Electoral Commission Northern Ireland,
- Robbie Sinnott, Voice of Vision Impairment,



- John Dolan, CEO, Disability Federation Ireland (DFI),
- Ivana Bacik, TD, Labour Party.

The [conference programme is available on our website](#) and will be updated as more speakers are confirmed.

We encourage all relevant stakeholders to attend, including professionals who are preparing to implement the Electoral Reform Act 2022 and individuals whose lives will be impacted by it, including:

- Disabled Persons Organisations and other disability organisations
- Policy makers
- Public sector officials
- Local authority officials
- Individuals with disabilities and their families

The conference will be a hybrid event, in-person at the Aviva Stadium, Lansdowne Road or online via Zoom.

You need to [register to attend](#), but the event is **free of charge**.

**Irish Sign Language interpretation and real-time captioning will be available.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us [by email](#) or by phone on 01 608 0400.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Annual Conference 2023!

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## **LAUNCH OF BUDGET 2024 - ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE**

Less than 24 hours after Budget 2024 has been announced, *Social Justice Ireland* will launch our analysis. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the Budget and will cover aspects such as Child Poverty, Healthcare, Housing, Just Transition, Welfare, Taxation and others.

Join us in person in [Buswells Hotel](#), Dublin 2 or online via Zoom webinar.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 11am – 12.30pm

We'd love to see you there.

[REGISTER](#)

## BUDGET 2024 AND TAXATION - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORM

Budget 2024 should avoid using taxation measures as a means of providing short term solutions to the ongoing cost of living challenges that all of society continues to face. Reductions in income taxes, indirect taxes, excise duties and levies represent poorly targeted measures and should be avoided. Similar measures in Budget 2023 were regressive, with the benefits skewed to those on the highest incomes. The most prudent use of available resources is to target adequate increases in core welfare rates alongside targeted welfare supports for certain groups.

### **Budget 2024: an opportunity to reform Ireland's taxation system**

Budget 2024 offers an opportunity for Government to reform some aspects of the current taxation system in the interests of enhancing fairness and sustainability. It is an opportune moment to do so given the strength of the economy. In the forthcoming Budget, Government should strategically approach taxation issues with the objectives of prudently using the available resources, continuing to build a fairer and more sustainable taxation system, and acknowledging that post-pandemic Ireland will need to raise more recurring tax revenue.

### **Summary of *Social Justice Ireland's* main Budget 2024 taxation proposals**

- **Carbon Tax:** Budget 2024 should continue to abide by Programme for Government commitments and increase the carbon tax, as planned, by €7.50 per tonne. It should also include a commitment to use the revenue raised to fund a series of targeted accompanying measures to protect those most affected by it, in particular low-income households, and rural dwellers. **This proposal would generate an additional €166m in a full year to re-invest in accompanying measures.**
- **Post Pandemic Increase to Employers PRSI:** In European terms Ireland collects very low levels of employers PRSI. For most jobs the rate in Ireland is 11.05% compared to an EU average of 21.34%. Budget 2024 should commence a process of **increasing employers PRSI rates by 1% a year for the next five years** (reaching 15.05% by 2028). Given the cost-of-living crisis, the initial increase should be delayed to commence from April 2024 and will raise **an additional €600m in 2024.**
- **Taxing Empty Houses / Underdeveloped Land:** Budget 2024 should empower local authorities to collect a **new site value tax on underdeveloped land** - such as abandoned urban centre sites and land-banks of zoned land levied at a rate of €2,000 per hectare (or part thereof) per annum and replace the current vacant sites levy. Budget 2024 should also **introduce a levy on empty houses of €200 per month** with the revenue from this charge collected and kept by local authorities. **Income from both these measures would yield €100m for local authorities in 2024 reducing their central fund allocation by the same.**
- **Limit the ability to carry losses forward:** In Budget 2024 Government should **reform the tax laws so that limits are placed on the ability of individuals and corporations to carry past losses forward and offset these against current profits/income.** We suggest introducing a rolling limit of 5 years on these losses commencing from midnight of the day Budget 2024 is announced. Losses prior to this period would no longer be available to offset against profits or capital gains. Budget 2024 would also extend and amend the current banking levy. **Together this proposal would yield an additional €100m in 2024.**
- **Reform the R&D tax credit:** A tax break for companies engaged in research and development was introduced in 1997 and has been revised and reformed on a number of occasions since. The use of this scheme has allowed a number of profitable firms to record zero or negative (or 'refunded') tax-paid amounts. **This measure should be**

**removed from the structure of this tax break in Budget 2024. It would yield €150m in a full year.**

- **Abolish the Special Assignee Relief Programme:** The SARP was introduced in 2014 to provide a tax reduction to high earning individuals who locate to Ireland for work purposes (generally in MNCs in IT and the financial sector). This subsidy was intended to boost the attractiveness of Ireland for foreign investment. However, there is no evidence to suggest the scheme has achieved this or that it has induced any recent investment and relocations that would not have otherwise occurred. **The SARP should be abolished in order to make the tax system fairer. This would generate €35m in 2024.**
- **Minimum Effective Rate of Corporation Tax:** Government should commence the adoption of a Minimum Effective Rate of Corporation Tax of at least 10% over time in Budget 2024 by making the relevant adjustments to implement a minimum effective corporate tax rate of 6 per cent for 2024/25. **Such a rate would raise a stable and recurring additional taxation income of over €1 billion each year.**
- **Refundable Tax Credits:** Introducing a system of Refundable Tax Credit (for the two main income tax credits), **at a cost of €140 million in 2024** would allow low-income workers who do not earn enough to use their full credit to have the unused portion “refunded” and support their ability to deal with increasing living costs.
- **Increase the PAYE and Earning Income tax credits** for all workers by €5 per week at a cost of €670m in Budget 2024.
- **Increase Capital Gains Tax and Capital Acquisitions Tax** from 33% to 35% to yield €136m and €40m in Budget 2024.
- Increase the **stamp duty** on non-residential property from 7.5% to 8% to yield €59m in Budget 2024 and increase the stamp duty on residential property transfers (amounts in excess of €1m) to 5% to yield €64m in Budget 2024.
- **Restore the Non-Principal Private Residence charge** on second homes at €200 a year to yield €106m in Budget 2024.

[For full details on all of our taxation proposals for Budget 2024 click here.](#)

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## **IMPLEMENT SKILLS TRANSFER PROGRAMMES**

Census 2016 reports that 342,000 people in the work force were non-Irish nationals, with the four leading origins being the UK, Poland, Lithuania, and Romania. Forty-two percent of all non-Irish national workers were employed in four main sectors, namely Wholesale and Retail Trade (45,812), Accommodation and Food Services (40,859), Manufacturing Industries (36,387) and Human Health and Social Work (21,779). In terms of socio-economic groupings, nearly half (47 per cent) were classified in non-manual, manual skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled occupations, compared with 39 per cent of Irish nationals. This is at variance with the high educational qualifications of immigrants, indicating that many are employed below their skill level.

There is a need to accelerate the appropriate recognition of qualifications gained in other countries, so that migrants can work in their fields of expertise. Non-EEA nationals require a work permit to take up employment in Ireland in sectors where there is a skills shortage. In 2022, 39,955 permits were issued (over double that of 2021), 3,476 were refused and a further 1,705 were withdrawn. [1]

The numbers of migrants with a third level education continued to rise in 2022. Of those immigrating to Ireland, the number has increased (from 46,200 in 2021 to 70,300 in 2022) whilst the proportion has decreased (70 per cent in 2021 to 58.2 per cent of all immigrants in



2022). Migrants tend to be younger than the general population with just under half of both immigrants and emigrants in 2022 aged between 25 and 44. People aged over 65 continued to be the least likely to migrate. The number of emigrants with a third level education decreased slightly from 32,500 in 2021 to 30,700 in 2022. As a proportion of all emigrants, this represents 51.5 per cent of the total. Of those who left Ireland in 2022, 53.6 per cent were employed (a slight increase in the number, from 29,900 to 32,000).

A further 21.8 per cent were students, a slight increase from 21.5 per cent in 2021. The proportion of emigrants who are unemployed has been in decline since 2012, reflecting the decrease in unemployment generally since then. However, in 2021 the number of unemployed people emigrating increased from 3,000 in 2020 to 5,200 reflecting the impact Covid-19 health measures had on employment prospects, dropping to 4,100 in 2022. The lack of affordable housing, affordable childcare and other services is likely a contributing factor to the increase in employed emigrants from this country. If we are to retain our skilled workforce, we need to take a broader approach to retention that takes a whole of life-cycle approach.

In light of higher educational attainment levels of immigrants into Ireland, and the increasing number of Irish people returning to this country, there is a need for a skills transfer programme for returning migrants in order to ensure the skills that they have acquired whilst working abroad are recognised in Ireland. This is something that *Social Justice Ireland* has advocated for previously. A recent study from Eurostat found that across the EU, employed non-nationals are more likely to be over-qualified than nationals for their job. In Ireland, 41.4 per cent of workers from other EU countries were overqualified. [2] Given the investment made in the education of young graduates, it is essential that steps are taken to retain them and their expertise within Ireland, and to attract back those who have emigrated in recent years. Of course, this is coupled with the need to provide both decent work and infrastructure to support increasing numbers of immigrants who will need to be housed and whose healthcare and childcare needs must be accommodated, as set out in *Social Justice Ireland's* Policy Framework for a new Social Contract outlined in Chapter 2 of [Social Justice Matters](#). There has been criticism of Irish immigration policy and legislation specifically due to the lack of support for the integration of immigrants and a lack of adequate recognition of the permanency of immigration. In January 2023, the ESRI published a report on the wages and working conditions of Non-Irish Nationals in Ireland.[3] This Report found a 'migrant wage gap' in Ireland. Between 2011 and 2018, non-Irish nationals earned, on average, 22 per cent less per hour than Irish nationals which equates to 78 cents earned for every €1 an Irish worker earned. Of note is the smaller wage gap for those coming from West Europe, North America, Australia, and Oceania, "this is partly because they have higher educational qualifications, but they still get lower rewards for education than Irish workers." For many migrants, immigration is not temporary. They will remain in Ireland and make it their home. In turn, Irish people are experiencing life in different cultural contexts around the world. Ireland is now a multi-racial and multi-cultural country and Government policies should promote and encourage the development of an inclusive and integrated society with respect for, and recognition of, diverse cultures.

[1] <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/employment-permit-statistics-...>

[2] <https://www.ihrec.ie/our-work/equality-review/>

[3] <https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/JR2.pdf>

## **THE WHEEL CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO END PAY DISPARITY FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE WORKERS**

The Wheel, Ireland's National Association of Charities, is calling on the Government to end the ongoing pay disparity between frontline staff employed by state-funded health services and equivalent staff working for state-funded community health and social care services. This growing pay gap of between 10% and 12% has resulted in a debilitating recruitment and retention crisis, which is blocking thousands of children and adults from accessing critical mental health, disability, homelessness, and addiction services.

Speaking at the launch of [The Wheel's Pre-Budget Submission](#) on Monday (18 September) in Dublin, Ivan Cooper, CEO of The Wheel said, "Despite their indispensable role, community and voluntary service providers are grappling with a pay and staffing crisis that is blocking access to and affecting the quality of vital services. Turnover and vacancies are increasingly forcing organisations to reduce hours and cancel services because they lack the staff to deliver them. The vulnerability of service users and the risk of burnout among existing staff make this a matter of utmost concern."

Ivan Cooper cited the example of a major addiction service in Dublin which is unable to accept as many clients as they would have previously. "Having lost 40-50% of its staff in the last year alone, they are struggling to find experienced people to replace those who move on. Less-experienced staff cannot reasonably handle as much work as experienced employees, nor provide care to the same high standard, so the service is forced to reduce the number of individuals it can provide care for or risk a serious falloff in the quality of that care," said Ivan Cooper.

The crisis stems from the stark pay gap between staff working in these organisations and those in the public sector who perform similar, often identical, roles. By October of this year, current funding levels will result in a pay shortfall of, on average, 12% when compared to public-service salaries. The consequences of this crisis extend far beyond the organisations themselves; they jeopardize the delivery of essential services that countless individuals and families rely on.

"To effectively address this crisis, we urgently need comprehensive data from the HSE, Tusla, and the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage which will enable us to quantify the full extent of the crisis and identify the precise amount needed to bridge these gaps. In the process of resolving this issue, we must also recognize the unique position of sector representatives as employers. While their organisations are contracted to deliver services by the state under specific funding arrangements, they have limited control over salary levels and employment benefits. Simultaneously, they are subject to industrial action from a union perspective. Engagement with relevant bodies must consider this complex interplay of factors," said Ivan Cooper.

The Wheel called on the Government to resolve the crisis by addressing the current pay deficit of 10-12% for staff in these organisations to deliver pay parity for Section 39/56/10 organisations and their counterparts in state agencies. In addition, the Government should:

- Include administrative costs in public service contracts.
- Provide multi-annual funding to allow for service planning and development.

- Include state-funded charities in public-service pay talks and other relevant fora such as the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) to prevent future re-emergence of pay disparities.

Ivan Cooper added, “The organisations that provide these essential services deserve our full support, and that includes fair compensation for their employees. The time to act is now. Let's ensure that these organisations can continue their vital work and that no one in Ireland is left without the care and support they need.”

## **SUPPORT THE WHEEL'S PRE-BUDGET CAMPAIGN**

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### **SDG Week 2023 has Arrived!**

Ireland's second SDG Week (23 Sept - 1 Oct) is now underway, with over 100 events already registered! Libraries, local authorities, communities, and organisations up and down the country, are hosting a range of fantastic events to attend over the next couple of weeks.

Events are already in full swing with many taking place to coincide with the wider European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) (18 Sept – 8 Oct).

There are a range of events you can participate in, from a [Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt](#), to a [Community Biodiversity Knowledge Share Day](#), [The Guaranteed Construction Forum](#), to [Upcycling Furniture](#), to [Age Action Computer Skills](#), as well as walks, talks, workshops, storytelling sessions, book displays and more!

This year's SDG Champions are also participating in SDG Week. Here's a sneak preview of some of the events and activities they are hosting:

- An Taisce Green Schools - [Global Goals Book Club Slogan Competition ESDW](#) and [Tree Day Webinar ESDW](#)
- AONTAS - [Activating the SDGs in the Adult and Community Education Sector in Ireland](#)
- Ballyhoura Development CLG - [Interactive SDG Workshop](#)
- Sustainable Life School - [SDGs Fest](#).

You can find out all about this year's events or register your own at:

<https://esdw.eu/country/ireland/>

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### **Event to Launch Report, Website and Animation Documenting Lived Experiences of Poverty - 6 October**

In Ireland, research that dwells on lived experiences in the context of poverty has been absent in recent years. Conducted in partnership with ATD Ireland, the research being launched at

this event has sought to address this in creative and inclusive ways. The research has been participative, with input from participants invited at all stages. With respect to capturing lived experiences as a form of knowledge, the research has employed walking as a participatory arts methodology while using photography sound files and drawing/mapping. Alongside the research report, this event will also see the launch of a project website and the premier of a 10-minute animated short which uses the voices of the research participants as recorded during the walking interviews.

The aim for this research has been to connect with lived experiences of poverty in ways that are tangible, visceral, and visible.

The research will be formally launched by Father Peter McVerry, a long-time advocate for social justice and someone who has continually put forward a perspective which goes beyond individual explanations for poverty, homelessness, and social injustice by challenging common sense understandings of these issues. Some of the research participants will also speak on the day.

The event will run from 10:30am until 12:30pm with coffee available from 9:30am and a light lunch available afterward.

[Register your free place here.](#)

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## Volunteer Ireland Awards 2023 Now Accepting Nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2023 Volunteer Ireland Awards! The Volunteer Ireland Awards are the major national initiative to celebrate volunteers in Ireland. They take place annually and shine a light on the immense contribution volunteers make to communities across Ireland.

The Volunteer Ireland Awards are the major annual initiative to celebrate volunteers in Ireland. The awards shine a light on the remarkable achievements of volunteers around the country by honouring them at a national level.

Every volunteer that is nominated will receive a thank you card from Volunteer Ireland. We want to let everyone who is nominated know that their contributions are greatly valued and that someone took the time to put them forward for an award.

Awardees' volunteer stories will be shared across our social media channels and with local and national press. By sharing these incredible volunteers' stories, we are honouring their contribution to Irish society and inspiring others to get involved.

Nominations close on 8 October.

[Full details are available here.](#)

## Support the Enough Is Enough Insurance Reform Campaign

On 31 July 2023, the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee changed the law, introducing a significant number of changes to the duty of care in this country. For these purposes, the duty of care relates to the duty owed by occupiers (business owners, sports clubs, and charities etc.) to those that come onto their property whether as guests, visitors, or trespassers.

The following is not intended to be viewed as legal advice but as a basic introduction to where all our responsibilities now lie. These changes will likely be challenged in the courts over the coming years also.

- The new law does not do away with your duty of care where you have been negligent about the health and safety of others. So, for example, if you created or know there exists a potential hazard on your premises and you acted with “reckless disregard” about whether someone might be injured by this, then you will likely be liable for any harm that results.
- The new law makes it much harder for trespassers to bring a successful claim against your organisation. They can only do so where a court determines it is “in the interests of justice” that they can.
- The new law requires people to exercise a greater degree of personal responsibility for their health and safety. If they take chances, shortcuts or engage in inappropriate, risky behaviour, it will be more difficult for them to bring a claim.
- A court will also need to consider the probability of an injury occurring, the significance of the harm that might be caused and the cost of removing the potential hazard.
- The new law allows for more ways people can take part in activities that have a higher degree of risk without exposing the occupier/business to liability. This will be particularly useful in sports, recreation, and adventure sectors.
- **How does the new Duty of Care legislation assist in defending slips, trips and fall cases?** The legislation should help businesses by placing much greater responsibility on individuals to take care for their own safety. While it will come down to the individual circumstances, Minister Carroll MacNeill said: “The recently enacted legislation to reform the ‘duty of care’ is expected to significantly impact claims in this sector, especially the issue of ‘slips, trips and falls’. This in turn should generate benefits for businesses....”.

Download the updated Enough Is Enough logo in portrait format [here](#) and in landscape [here](#). You are encouraged to print and hang on premises to show support. Stickers (5" x 7") are



available for purchase for small fee. To learn more, or for any additional support / content, please contact Brian Hanley: [brian@insurancereform.ie](mailto:brian@insurancereform.ie).

[insurancereform.ie](http://insurancereform.ie)

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### **Create National Networking Day 2023 Booking OPEN**

We are delighted to announce that booking is now open for our National Networking Day 2023: Collaborating on Climate Justice, hosted on **19 October** at Project Arts Centre in Dublin.

The event will feature guest speakers including the Climate Justice team from **TASC**, the think tank for action on social change, and experienced environmental campaigner and journalist, **John Gibbons**. TASC will draw on their recent experience working at grassroots level through their People's Transition pilot projects around the country, while John will explore the complicated issues around media narratives, disinformation, and storytelling. Attendees will also have the chance to hear from a group of artists who have taken a range of approaches to engaging with the many nuances of climate justice through their practice. These presentations, and a workshop facilitated by TASC, will aim to stimulate discussion amongst those present and provide a basis for developing future work in this area.

After the close of the main event, we invite attendees to join us for a reception to celebrate the milestone achievement of **Create's 40<sup>th</sup> year**, as well as the **21<sup>st</sup> anniversary** of Create's management of the Artist in the Community Scheme.

Booking is now open [via Project Arts website](#).

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### **All About Hedgerows**      *October 15th*

Join us for Irish Environmental Network's upcoming Autumn event that is all about hedgerows in collaboration with Hedgerows Ireland!

Learn from experts, meet others in the field, take action for nature and biodiversity!

You will learn how to plan, plant and maintain a hedgerow, discover what makes up a hedgerow on the Hedge Walk, see a practical demonstration of hedge laying and more!

[Book your tickets here](#)

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**CURRENT GRANTS AVAILABLE: (PLEASE PRESS LINK FOR DETAILS)**

[Foras na Gaeilge – Colmcille Projects Scheme A](#)

[European Youth Foundation Grants – International Activity Grant](#)

[National Disability Authority's \(NDA\) Research Promotion Scheme](#)

[Investment Grant Aid Scheme for Private & Community SMEs](#)

[Colmcille Projects Scheme B](#)

[Patagonia Environmental Grants](#)

[Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme](#)

[Benefact Group – Movement for Good Awards](#)

[The EU JTF Community Facilities EV Charging Scheme](#)

[EU JFT 2<sup>nd</sup> call- Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative Scheme](#)

A promotional graphic for the Heritage Keepers programme. The background is a lush green field of purple and yellow wildflowers. On the left, a white handprint is filled with various nature-related icons like a bee, a leaf, and a tree. To the right, the words 'HERITAGE KEEPERS' are written in large, white, block letters with a black outline. Below this, the text 'Explore and enhance your place' is written in a smaller, white font. A purple banner at the bottom contains white text: 'Heritage Keepers is open to community groups and primary schools. Go to heritagekeepers.ie and complete an expression of interest before 12th October'. Below the banner are two white speech bubble boxes with black outlines. The left one says '5 WORKSHOPS THAT EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL HERITAGE' and the right one says 'FUNDED SUPPORT FOR A HERITAGE PROJECT'. At the bottom, there are two logos: 'burrenbeo trust connecting people and place' and 'An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council'.

**National Heritage Keepers Programme Opens for New Round of Applications: Lift the lid on your local heritage!**

Burrenbeo Trust, is thrilled to announce the latest round of the National Heritage Keepers Programme. The National Heritage Keepers Programme is a fantastic opportunity for schools and communities across Ireland. It empowers them to delve into their local built, natural, and cultural heritage and then provides funding to allow them to take action. This programme offers various learning formats, including in-person, online, and blended options, making it accessible to a wide range of participants.

In the previous year, 40 schools and communities participated in the programme, with the majority successfully completing local projects and actions. These actions included constructing ponds, developing heritage trails, hosting networking days, tree planting,

creating booklets on local built heritage, and even organising historic photography exhibitions. One programme participant from this year shared their experience, saying, "*I found it a wonderful programme for people like me who didn't think their voice could be heard, but now I feel that there are people who help and encourage everyone to protect nature, the environment, and the heritage of an area.*"

Mary Dillon, Heritage Keepers Co-ordinator, emphasised the programmes mission, stating, "*Heritage Keepers aims to empower people to explore and discover their own local heritage, fostering pride, ownership, and ultimately responsibility towards both their community and environment. Through Heritage Keepers, schools and communities can play a huge part in protecting and promoting their local heritage and Place.*"

The programme consists of five engaging two-hour workshops, followed by dedicated support while completing the funded action. It opens for expressions of interest on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, with options to begin this autumn or in the New Year. The programme is open to senior classes in primary schools (conveniently scheduled during school hours) and offers evening workshops for adult groups, including Tidy Towns, Heritage Groups, Age Action, Men's Shed, Resident Associations, and Town Development groups. Not part of a local group yet? Last year, some newly formed groups specifically came together to participate in Heritage Keepers.

For those eager to learn more about this wonderful opportunity, an online information session is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th, at 7.30pm. Visit [heritagekeepers.ie](https://www.heritagekeepers.ie) for additional details and to complete a brief Expression of Interest form (submission deadline: (October 12th). Discover, preserve, and celebrate the richness of your local heritage, and become a steward of your local environment – become a Heritage Keeper!

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## EU News

### **New Energy Efficiency Directive published**

The new, recast [Energy Efficiency Directive \(EU\) 2023/1791](#), which was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council earlier this year, has been published in the EU Official Journal today and will enter into force in 20 days. After its entry into force, EU Member States will have two years to transpose most of the different elements in the directive into national law.

Today's publication marks the final step in the legislative process that started with the Commission proposal in July 2021, as part of the ['Fit for 55' package](#), which was supplemented by an additional proposal as part of the [REPowerEU plan](#) in May 2022.

The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.

Changes from the previous directives 2018/2002 and 2012/27/EU include the following

- Establishing an EU legally binding target to reduce the EU's final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its **indicative national**

**contribution based on** objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission.

- Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That's an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030.
  - Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures.
  - Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole.
  - Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration.
  - Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit.
  - Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data.
  - Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities.
  - Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.
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### **NextGenerationEU: Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility firmly underway**

The European Commission has adopted its second annual report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the €800 billion reform and investment tool at the heart of NextGenerationEU. The report shows the progress made with the RRF to increase Member States' economic and social resilience and deliver on REPowerEU, the EU's response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Earlier this month, the Commission received its first payment request from Ireland for €323.8 million under the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

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### **Two young Irish students take 2nd prize at this year's EU Contest for Young Scientists**

The winners of this year's BT Young Scientist Competition, Liam Carew and Shane O'Connor, have taken a second prize at this year's Contest for Young Scientists for their project: "Assessing the Impact of Second-Level Education on Key Aspects of Adolescents' Life and Development". The winners were announced following a five-day competition in Brussels last weekend between 136 promising young scientists aged 14 to 20, coming from 36 countries across the EU and beyond. The four first prize winning projects were from Poland, Canada, Denmark and Portugal while the three other second prize winners came from the Netherlands, Canada and Italy.

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We are delighted to announce that the [#OurEUStory Awards 2023](#) are now open for entries. If you're an Irish organisation active in EU funding, don't miss this valuable opportunity to share your EU story and win a cash prize!

The #OurEUStory Awards celebrate the transformational impact that EU-funded projects have on communities and organisations across Ireland. Last year was the inaugural launch of the Awards and we were blown away by the [fantastic contributions](#) our sector has made to the development of today's European Union through these projects.

Entering the #OurEUStory Awards is your chance to showcase the difference EU projects have made in your community and inspire your peers to start their own EU journey!

## How to Enter

Entries consist of a 140-second (maximum) video shared on X (formerly Twitter) and/or Facebook and a brief application form. The application form is now live (see link below), so here's a handy 4-step guide for preparing your entry:

1. Visit <https://www.accesseurope.ie/our-eu-story>
2. After reading the Terms & Conditions and considering the judging criteria, brainstorm ideas with your team on how to best tell your EU story



3. Create your video and share on X and/or Facebook using the hashtag #OurEUStory and tagging Access Europe so we can share your story far and wide
4. Once you've shared your story, copy and paste the URL of your X and/or Facebook post into [this application form](#) before the deadline on 27 October.

All entries will be shared on the [Access Europe Facebook](#) and [X](#) accounts using the hashtag #OurEUStory. Entries close on 27 October at 5pm.

## Prizes

The three best entries will win a prize: €1,000 for first place and €500 each for second and third places.

We'll announce the winners at the #OurEUStory Award Ceremony at our Access Europe Showcase in December, so watch this space for more details!

Please contact us at [europe@wheel.ie](mailto:europe@wheel.ie) if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing your entries!

**Emily Nelson, EU Programmes Officer, The Wheel**

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