



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 12/12/2025

Dear PPN Member,

Welcome to our E-Bulletin!

Our E-Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with Cork County Public Participation News and to keep you connected to other communities, events, training, and information.

Whilst Cork County Public Participation Network has **over** 700 member groups, it has the potential to reach so many more - so forward this email to your committee members and volunteers!

I hope you find this helpful. Get in touch if there is anything you would like to include in future editions, we may even make you our next Group of the Week!

Watch a short video animation about Cork County PPN - Click the following [link](#).

Check Out our Website [Link](#)

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – [Cork County PPN](#)

Instagram – [@corkcountypn](#)

Happy Friday,

Morrin & Noelle



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Public Participation Network **Cork County**

News & Events:

Millstreet Pop – Up Volunteer Centre



**Cork
Volunteer Centre**
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE MILLSTREET LIBRARY

28TH JANUARY
WEDNESDAY
10:30–12:30



A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Speak 1:1 with Cork Volunteer Centre staff
- Find out more about the services Cork Volunteer Centre provides to volunteers and non-profit organisations
- Register as a volunteer and apply for volunteer opportunities
- Advice on recruiting and managing volunteers for community groups



Any questions? Contact: gosia@volunteercork.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

Think before you gift this Christmas



The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has launched a new safety campaign urging parents, guardians, family members and friends to think carefully before purchasing gifts for children under the age of 16 this Christmas. Specifically, the RSA is strongly advising against buying e-scooters, quad bikes or scrambler bikes for young people due to the significant

safety risks associated with these vehicles.

The RSA is reminding the public that powered vehicles are not toys. They pose real danger, particularly to children who lack the physical, cognitive and motor skills needed to operate them safely.

The [new campaign](#) has been developed in collaboration with Dr Irwin Gill, Consultant in Neurodisability at CHI at Temple Street Hospital.

Gifting a child an e-scooter could end in a life-altering injury. Consider what you gift this Christmas. E-scooters are not for those under 16 years.

Drawing on real clinical experiences, the campaign uses the voices of imaginary children who have suffered injuries after falling from an e-scooter, quad bike or scrambler. These messages, placed alongside simple imagery of the vehicles across outdoor, digital and social media channels, create a direct and human reminder of the risks these gifts can pose.



The central message is clear: before buying a powered vehicle for a child, pause and consider whether it is legal, safe and appropriate. A Christmas gift should bring joy - not endanger a child's future.

This initiative follows a separate RSA-CHI advertising campaign launched in November, warning parents not to buy e-scooters for children under 16. E-scooters are now the leading cause of traumatic brain injury among children admitted to CHI at Temple Street, Ireland's national neurosurgical centre.



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**Cork County Council
ROAD SAFETY PROMOTION**

**VISION
ZERO**
NO ROAD DEATHS
OR SERIOUS INJURIES BY 2020



Is your group interested in a Road or Water Safety Awareness workshop?

Caroline Casey, Cork County Council's Water & Road Safety Development Officer, has kindly offered to work with us from October! Is there anything you would like to learn more about, or raise awareness of?

Let us know!



Get involved! Join Our Linkage Groups!

Linkage Groups bring together stakeholder organisations and groups who are members of the PPN with a common interest to discuss their diverse views and interests in a specific policy area.

This is a pathway for such organisations and groups to have a real input into policy in their respective area of operation.

Linkage Groups are an essential component of the work of the PPN.

They are independent networks of community groups who are interested in a common theme such as Arts, Community, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Planning, Social Inclusion, Transport or Tourism (and more).

Linkage Groups work to influence change. They do this through advocating for policy changes on behalf of the community through PPN Reps engaging with Cork County Council and other bodies appropriate to the issue or subject matter of advocacy.

After our recent Plenary meeting, we are proposing four Linkage Groups:

1. Housing, Planning, Transport and Community Safety
2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Tourism
3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth, Enterprise & Recreation

Please let us know if your group would like to join to any of these Linkage Groups, by emailing ppn@corkcoco.ie .

By making submissions to a Linkage Group, you can support our SPC and LCDC Reps and give them a mandate to bring to the Council.



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Secretariat Vacancies:

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs, but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road !

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN. Its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

Commitment Involved:

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website [Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](#)

- or reach out to PPN@corkcoco.ie and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



#fundingfriday



Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2026

The Collaboration and Innovation Fund is a great opportunity to fund projects and activities that support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy, digital and financial literacy needs.

The following information and documentation will help you to make your application –

The closing date for the fund is 12pm on Thursday 22 January 2026.

How much funding is available? In 2026, the total funding available in the Collaboration and Innovation Fund is €1 million.

The funding will be divided into three strands as follows:

€700,000 for local and national projects that provide innovative and collaborative ways to:

- support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs, and
- create a more literacy friendly and equal society.

€200,000 for local and national projects that support innovative and collaborative ways to:

- improve financial literacy skills for adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs, and
- create a more literacy friendly approach to accessing financial services.

€100,000 for projects that;

- engage parents with unmet literacy, numeracy or digital literacy needs in family literacy projects in the community
- support parents to support their child's literacy skills in the home.

Further info: [Adult Literacy for Life National Framework Strategy](#)



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RETHINK IRELAND

Rethink Ireland Launches Impact Fund 2025

New Rethink Ireland fund to invest €1.1 million in community-led change across Munster and Wexford

Rethink Ireland has launched Impact Fund 2025, a €1.1 million initiative designed to support innovative, community-led projects across Munster and Wexford. The fund, established by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, as well as a suite of philanthropic donors, will back up to eight high-impact projects strengthening social inclusion, wellbeing, and environmental resilience at a local level across the south of Ireland.

Applications are now open at rethinkireland.ie/open-funds/ and will close on Friday, 16 January at 1pm.

Rethink Ireland is the national funding body supporting the most innovative non-profit organisations and social enterprises working to create a more just, equal and sustainable Ireland.

Impact Fund 2025 is created by Rethink Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, in partnership with the Parkes Family, Limerick; the Estate of Mary Coffey c/o Pat Toomey, Tipperary; the Hospital Saturday Fund; The Luan Fund, Cork; Ed Murphy, Wexford; Turas Nua and The Ireland Funds.

Further information: [**Impact Fund 2025 - Rethink Ireland**](#)



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€4.6 million in New Funding Opportunities



Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
Programme*



The Creative Ireland Programme is delighted to announce three new funding calls supporting creativity, connection and wellbeing across the island of Ireland.

- Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community, local authority partnerships with creative and community organisations grant call (with a Shared Island dimension)
- Creative Communities on a Shared Island, local authority partnerships with creative and community organisations grant call
- Creative Youth Nurture Fund grant call (with a Shared Island dimension)

These new funding opportunities advance Creative Ireland's mission to support inclusive, meaningful participation in creativity, strengthen communities, and nurture everyone's creative potential.

For further information, visit: [Creative Ireland - Connecting people, creativity and wellbeing](#)

To apply for any of these open funds, see: [Submit.com](#)



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Heritage Organisations Support Fund

Providing Core funding to non-profit organisations working in Ireland's heritage sector.

If your work has national or regional significance, this fund is here to help you grow stronger and make a lasting impact.

What the Fund Supports

Through this fund, the Heritage Council aims to support organisations to:

- **Build long-term strength and stability**
- **Plan for the future** and grow strategically
- **Adopt environmentally friendly practices and contribute to climate action**

This fund supports core operational work, not standalone projects. It helps heritage organisations to remain stable, plan for the future, invest in staff and governance, and contribute to climate action and public benefit. All funded work should align with the goals of [The Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#).

Further information: [Heritage Organisations Support Fund | The Heritage Council](#)



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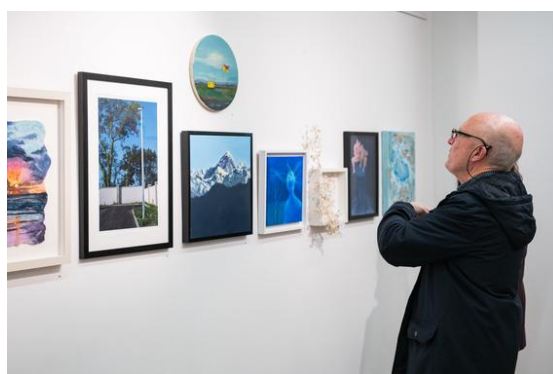


Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Stay Connected 



2026 Arts Funding Schemes



We are inviting proposals for arts projects, activities and events taking place in Cork County in 2026 that may be eligible for funding under a range of grant assistance schemes that are now open for applications.

Funds announced include the Arts Grant Scheme which will support arts organisations and the voluntary sector to deliver arts activity, support for developing arts projects through the Irish Language, and bursary and residency opportunities for professional artists working in all disciplines. In response to consultation with the sector, two new schemes were announced including the Artist in the Community Scheme which aims to support artists to work with communities, and a Small



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Capital Investment Scheme to support organisations in investing in equipment or improvements to their premises. The Creative Communities Scheme has also been announced which aims to support large scale community arts projects.

To assist applicants, Cork County Council will host a series of public information sessions in libraries across Cork. These lunchtime sessions will run from 1 –2pm. A list of these sessions is available below. After each session, attendees will have the opportunity to speak one-to-one with a member of the Arts Office team about their individual applications. These sessions are limited and advance booking is required. For those unable to attend in person, an online evening session will take place on Monday, 1st December. If you are interested in attending please contact arts@corkcoco.ie specifying which session you wish to attend, and if you wish to avail of a one-to-one meeting.

Timetable for Arts Grants Info Sessions:

Skibbereen Library: 1-2pm, Tuesday, 25th November
Midleton Library: 1-2pm, Wednesday, 26th November
Mallow Library: 1-2pm, Thursday, 27th November
Bandon Library: 1-2pm, Friday, 28th November
Online Session: 7-8pm, Monday, 1st December
Macroom Library: 1-2pm, Tuesday, 2nd December
Bantry Library: 1-2pm, Wednesday, 3rd December
Carrigaline Library: 1-2pm, Thursday, 4th December

[SEE ALL SCHEMES](#)

Arts Grant Scheme



The Cork County Council Arts Grant Scheme provides grants for arts activities, projects, or events in Cork County administrative area. The aim of the scheme is to support arts activity in the county, and it is open to organisations, community groups, or individuals to apply.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



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Small Capital Investment Scheme

Cork County Council aims to maintain arts activity in the county by providing opportunity for organisations to upgrade equipment and carry out improvement works. The scheme is designed to assist arts organisations to purchase equipment and/or carry out works to their premises.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Irish Language Arts Scheme



Iarrann Comhairle Contae Chorcaí ar thograí ó ealaíontóirí aonair, eagraíochtaí ealaíon gairmiúla, féilte agus grúpaí ealaíon deonacha d'imeachtaí, tionscadail nó gníomhaíochtaí ealaíon atá bunaithe i nGaeilge. Is í aidhm an snáithe maoinithe seo ná tacú le saothar nua a chruthú nó imeacht, tionscadal nó gníomhaíocht ealaíon atá bunaithe ar an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Creative Communities Scheme

This Creative Communities Scheme is designed to develop opportunities for ambitious placemaking projects, socially engaged projects, and community arts projects in County Cork. It is open to artists and organisations to apply.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)





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Artist in the Community Scheme

The Cork County Council Artist in the Community Scheme provides grants for artists to work directly with communities. Funds are granted for creative engagement activities delivered by artists with a community or for developing socially engaged projects with a community.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Artist Bursary Scheme



This Artist Bursary Award is designed to assist individual artists develop new work, further their professional development, or enable international performing or exhibition opportunities for their work.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Tyrone Guthrie Residency



Cork County Council offers bursaries to artists of any discipline currently resident in Cork County to support a two week working period at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan and is open to practitioners in all art forms including writers, composers, musicians, visual artists, filmmakers, practitioners in the performing arts, theatre, dance, and multi-media.



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[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Ballinglen Residency

The Cork County Council Ballinglen Residency Scheme provides a Bursary Award for a visual artist to avail of a residency at Ballinglen Arts Foundation for a two week period.



Ballinglen

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Centre Culturel Irlandais Residency



Centre
Culturel
Irlandais

Cork County Council is supporting a 1-month residency at the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris between September 2026 and August 2027 for an artist of any discipline who is based in the county of Cork.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

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EOPD Community Grant 2025/6 – Applications Now Open

EOPD.ie is proud to announce that the 2025/6 Community Grant Programme is now open! These grants aim to support initiatives that improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of people living with Parkinson's disease across the Republic of Ireland.

Total Fund: €6,000

Grant Size: Up to €1,200 per applicant

Focus Areas:

- **Exercise & Physical Well-being** – Parkinson's-specific programs such as dance, Tai Chi, cycling, or boxing.
- **Support for Care Partners** – Education, resources, and peer support initiatives for care partners.
- **Mental Health, Wellbeing & Social Inclusion** – Projects that reduce isolation, improve emotional health, and foster community connection.

Who Can Apply:

- Community organisations and local groups
- Coaches or instructors delivering Parkinson's-specific classes
- Gyms, community centres, or local facilities offering accessible programmes

Application Deadline: Saturday, 13 December 2025

Rolling review process – early applications encouraged as funds may be fully allocated before the closing date.

Apply here: <https://eopd.ie/get-involved/eopd-community-grants-2025/>

Questions? Contact us at info@eopd.ie

Through these grants, EOPD.ie aims to empower communities, promote resilience, and foster inclusive, evidence-informed approaches to living well with Parkinson's.



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Consultations

Ireland's 3rd Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan

The aim of this consultation is to gather stakeholder feedback on the preparation of Ireland's Third Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Implementation Plan (NIP).

[Third Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) National Implementation Plan - Consultation Document](#)

The Programme for Government sets out that the government is committed to accelerating Ireland's progress toward the 17 SDGs by 2030, addressing critical areas such as poverty eradication, climate action, and improved living standards for all and commits to: -

- adopt a coordinated approach to drive impactful action both at home and abroad, and
- to implement a Whole-of-Government Strategy to fully integrate the SDGs into national policies and initiatives, ensuring that each goal is actively pursued across all levels of government.

The Programme for Government also commits to supporting the work of young people to help their communities and support the SDGs.

Ireland's [Second National Implementation Plan \(NIP\) for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024](#) was published on 5 October 2022. Implementation of the NIP is ongoing.

How to make a submission:

Anyone wishing to submit observations can do so by email or post.

The closing date for submissions is **5.30pm on Friday, 16 January 2025**.

Late submissions will not be considered.

All valid submissions received will be published on the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment website.



Submissions should be sent by email to SDGs@dcee.gov.ie or post to:

SDGs National Implementation Plan Consultation

SDGs Team

EU and International Environment and Circular Economy Division

Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment

Tom Johnson House

Haddington Road

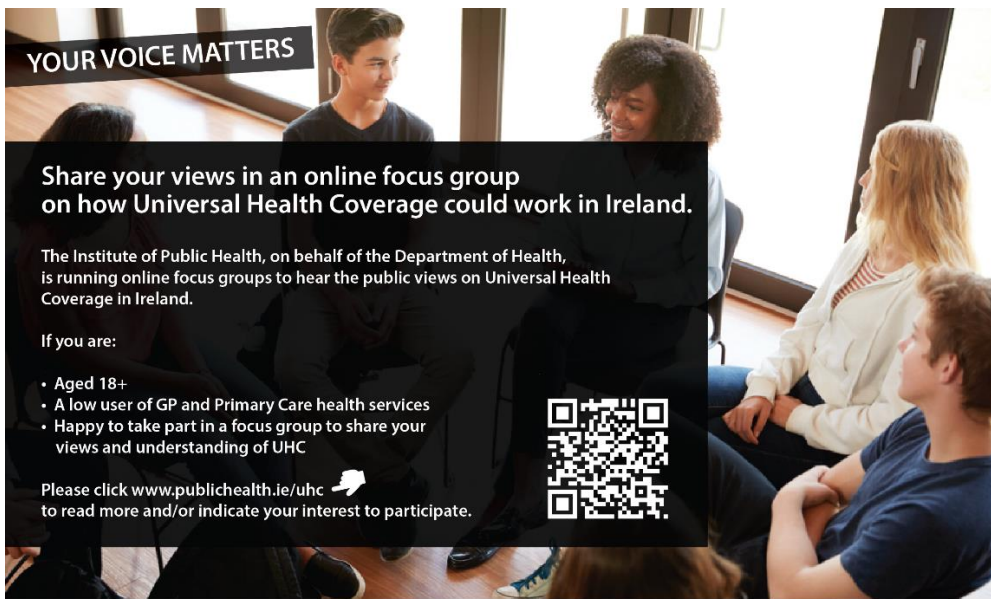
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Full details [here](#)



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Universal Health Coverage focus groups



YOUR VOICE MATTERS


Share your views in an online focus group on how Universal Health Coverage could work in Ireland.

The Institute of Public Health, on behalf of the Department of Health, is running online focus groups to hear the public views on Universal Health Coverage in Ireland.


If you are:

- Aged 18+
- A low user of GP and Primary Care health services
- Happy to take part in a focus group to share your views and understanding of UHC

Please click www.publichealth.ie/uhc to read more and/or indicate your interest to participate.



As a token of appreciation - focus group participants will receive a €30 gift voucher.

 An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

 Institute of
Public Health

The Future Eligibility Policy Unit (FEPU) of The Department of Health is responsible for setting out a vision for UHC in Ireland and developing proposals, in line with Sláintecare. To inform these considerations they want to hear what people understand about how UHC works and their views on how it could be implemented in Ireland.

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) have been commissioned to conduct the focus groups.

In the focus groups, the department would like to hear the views of adults who are low users of health care services. Participants may have a Medical Card, a GP Visit Card, private health insurance, or none of these. To be eligible you must be:

- Aged 18+ living in Ireland
- A low user of GP and primary care health services

The online focus groups will involve small group discussions of around 5-8 people. IPH researchers will facilitate the focus groups (lasting 60-90 minutes) and they will make sure everyone gets a chance to express their views. The IPH will write a report detailing



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the anonymised views expressed at the focus groups to give to the Department of Health. The report will not contain names or any details that could identify participants.

As well as the chance to give views to the Department of Health about UHC, participants who take part in the focus groups will receive a **€30 One4All gift voucher**.

Register your interest: [Universal Health Coverage Survey](#)



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Native Woodland Strategy: 2026-2030



Woodlands of Ireland is a partnership-based environmental charity founded in 1998 dedicated to native woodland conservation and expansion.

Previously, Woodlands of Ireland, in conjunction with a range of public and private sector stakeholders, had developed a 5-year native woodland strategy for the period 2016 to 2020. You can view this document here: <https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/a-strategy-for-native-woodlands-in-ireland-2016-2020/>

Since that time, grant-aided native woodland establishment has grown to form c.40% of afforestation activity, while native woodland conservation has struggled to gain significant ground.

Here are several factors which need to be considered in an updated strategy for 2026-2030:

- ✚ Many new organisations to engage with in the consultation have emerged to populate the fertile ground of native tree cover expansion in recent years.
- ✚ EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL) legally bound woodland targets require planning, implementation and long-term maintenance in the public and private sectors.
- ✚ Opportunities for hardwood timber production require consideration.
- ✚ Climate Resilient Reforestation and Emergent Woodland grants are some existing mechanisms to fund works.
- ✚ A comprehensive tree cover education and training strategy is needed to achieve the DAFM Forestry Programme, Water Framework Directive and NRL targets.
- ✚ IEN member groups' input will be welcome.

To get involved in the creation of this new strategy for native woodlands, Woodlands of Ireland will be commencing a public consultation from the end of September to run until December 2025. To contribute, you can get in contact with Woodlands of Ireland by email at info@woodlandsofireland.com. More details and requests for input will follow in the next few days.



Community Conversations Survey | Your Voice on Nature's Future

Following the adoption of the Nature Restoration Law in Europe in August 2024, all Member States must produce their own Nature Restoration Plan to show how they will achieve the targets set out in the regulation.

Community Conversations is a way to hear from communities across Ireland about what nature means to them - now and into the future.

The Community Conversations today will help shape Ireland's upcoming Nature Restoration Plan.

There is still time to add your voice [using this survey](#) .

For more info visit www.restorenature.ie .

You can listen to [an introduction to the Nature Restoration Law with Fintan Kelly here](#).



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Development of a Professional Doctorate in Community and Voluntary Sector Management

The Department of Social Sciences at TUS: Midlands are currently developing a Professional Doctorate in Community and Voluntary Sector Management in partnership with European universities.

The Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) (Ireland), University of Burgos (UBU) (Spain), NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (NHL Stenden) (Netherlands), Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) (Finland) and "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galația (UGAL) (Romania) are exploring the development of a new Professional Doctorate programme in the area of Community and Voluntary Sector Management.

We'd like to invite you to participate in a survey to help us design our programme. Our vision is that this programme will provide advanced professional development opportunities for leaders and practitioners in the community and voluntary sector. It will integrate cutting-edge research with real-world application, equipping practitioners and leaders with the tools to navigate complexity, drive innovation and sustain meaningful impact. Incorporating work-based learning across all modules will ensure that sectoral change occurs from the programme's outset.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to:

- Identify the needs and priorities of organisations within the community and voluntary sector.
- Ensure the programme supports leadership, innovation and sustainable impact.

We are seeking input from organisations of varying sizes and missions across Europe.

What participation involves:

Participation involves completing an online survey (approximately 10 minutes). Participation is voluntary. You are free to skip any question you do not wish to answer and you may withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you would like to participate in a follow-up focus group (60 minutes) to review draft programme proposals and provide feedback as the programme is being designed. This is optional.

For more information, go to:

https://qualtricsxm2d6nv8qbj.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0P8wCU6laahrorg



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Final Newsletter of the Year!



Dear PPN Representatives, Group Members, and Colleagues,

As we approach the festive season, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible efforts throughout the year in supporting the community and voluntary sector. Your dedication makes a real difference, and we know that commitment doesn't stop over Christmas.

Thank you for continuing to be a source of strength and support for those who need it most. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a bright New Year.