

Léargas eTwinning Microgrant Scheme

About the eTwinning Microgrant Scheme

Léargas is launching an eTwinning Microgrant Scheme to welcome newcomers to European funding and to increase awareness and engagement of small schools with eTwinning. The purpose of this scheme is to support the delivery of short-term primary school projects in digital education, making use of the eTwinning platform. The scheme will offer grants between €500 – €5,000 to small schools undertaking any activity which supports learner and staff engagement with eTwinning and digitalisation.

The aim of the eTwinning Microgrant Scheme is to further develop the school sector's engagement with eTwinning. The scheme is a fantastic way for small schools to gain experience applying for European funding and to engage in short-term projects, making use of the eTwinning platform.

Applications will be open from 6th – 13th September 2024.

The grant will fund projects taking place between October and December 2024.

About eTwinning

eTwinning is a free online platform connecting more than 1 million teachers across Europe. It supports primary and post-primary schools to find partners and work on joint projects in any curricular area, using Information and Communication Technology.

eTwinning on the European School Education Platform (ESEP) facilitates schools and teachers to engage in IT and digital tools. Many smaller or less resourced schools lack the capacity for major projects but show interest in smaller initiatives. The eTwinning Microgrants Scheme addresses this by providing small grants for short-term yet impactful activities.

Submission Criteria

What types of activities can the grant cover?

Any activity taking place within the Republic of Ireland before 31 December 2024, that supports school, learner and staff engagement with eTwinning with any of the priorities listed below. The project should involve use of the eTwinning platform and could be centred around online:

- Conference
- Consultation
- Workshop
- Music event
- Art exhibition
- Photo competition
- Thematic meetings
- Campaign
- Information session

The above are just some examples - we want to hear your ideas and support you to make those creative ideas a reality!

Who can apply?

Applications will be accepted from small primary schools based in the Republic of Ireland. To be classified as small, a school must have a staff of four mainstream teachers or fewer, as defined by the Department of Education.

When applying for an eTwinning microgrant we will ask applicants to highlight which of the following objectives their project most aligns with:

- The Digital Strategy for Schools 2021-2027, making specific reference to digitalisation in your school
- Use of eTwinning either as a newcomer to the platform or an experienced user
- Contact making and connecting online between schools through use of the eTwinning platform
- Innovation and digitalisation

When and where can projects take place?

To be eligible to receive the grant, your project activities must take place in the Republic of Ireland. Projects must be completed by 31 December 2024. A short report must be submitted by 31 January 2025.

Grant and Funding Guidelines

How much funding is available?

The grant received depends on the scale of the idea. Applicants will indicate the estimated cost of the project. There are three bands:

1. Small: €500-€1,500
2. Medium: €1,501-€3,000
3. Large: €3,001-€5,000

The successful school needs to be named for a grant. Financial responsibility and reporting obligations must be with a named school or eligible organisation.

A key part of the assessment of quality for applicants will be the provision of a suitable budget for the activity and a demonstrated ability to effectively manage the grant funding.

Can I submit more than one application?

No, each school will be eligible for only one grant.

How is funding allocated?

Successful projects will receive 70% of the awarded grant upfront. The final 30% will be allocated after:

- Project activities are completed within the allocated timeline.
- The organisation has submitted a satisfactory final report, documentary evidence and receipts to Léargas.

Only relevant, receipted expenses for approved projects will be accepted. Any pre-financing which was not spent, cannot be evidenced with relevant invoices/receipts, or is not deemed relevant, must be returned. As this is a once off small-scale funding opportunity there is no appeals process.

What types of expenses can the grant cover?

The grant can cover costs such as room hire, fees for an external speaker or workshop, transport, materials for project use such as stationery and refreshments.

The grant **will not** cover costs for:

- IT equipment for the running of a project (such as laptops or iPads)
- Staff costs that are usually incurred by the activity of the applicant
- Operational overheads such as utilities or rent of premises for usual work of the organisation.

What are reporting and evidence requirements?

If awarded an eTwinning Microgrant, organisations must submit a short report by **31st January 2025**.

The final report is a written document explaining what project activities took place and what the outcomes were. The report will include specific questions which you will need to answer. More details about the final report will be provided to successful applicants.

Successful organisations will need to provide evidence that the activity took place, and must also show consistent use of the eTwinning platform. Evidence can be provided in the following formats: blog posts, videos, photographs, social media posts showing your event/project, etc.

Submitting My Application

The eTwinning Microgrant application form will go live on **6th September 2024** and remain open until **13th September 2024 at 5pm**. Continue to watch this space and follow Léargas social channels for the launch of the form.

Other Key Dates

- Applicants can expect to be notified of their application outcomes by 4th October.
- Project activities must occur between 7th October and 31st December 2024.
- A short report must be submitted by 31st January 2025.

Please send any queries to etwinning@leargas.ie.