



European Opportunities with Léargas



**Youth, Sport, and
European Solidarity
Corps**





Léargas manages funding for national and international exchange [programmes](#) in education and training, youth, sport and community work. Our programmes connect people and communities across borders, adding an international dimension to organisations in Ireland. We are the National Agency for the European Solidarity Corps programme and Erasmus+ in schools, youth, sport, adult education, and vocational education and training.

Throughout the year, we run webinars and workshops to explain our programmes, help with applications and project development, and connect you with [training and networking](#) opportunities in Ireland and across Europe. We also manage [Eurodesk Ireland](#), a free information service which provides direct support to young people about how to access European opportunities.

At Léargas, we offer numerous opportunities for learning, volunteering, job shadowing and cultural exchange. Our team is here to help you find the right programmes and activities that are relevant to you, your organisation and the young people you work with.

Whether you're new to European projects and funding, or ready to start an Erasmus+ project, Léargas is here to guide you. Here, you'll learn about the programmes and activities we support, the criteria for applying, and how you can get involved in our training and networking opportunities.



Connect with us

Contact our team: yse@leargas.ie Visit our website: www.leargas.ie

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Opportunities within the European Solidarity Corps

The [European Solidarity Corps](#) (ESC) programme is the European Volunteering programme supporting organisations and young people aged 18-30 to address needs in the community. Through full-time volunteering, young people promote solidarity, social inclusion, and civic engagement, empowering them to tackle societal challenges. Projects cover various areas such as health, climate action, social inclusion, digital technologies and active citizenship, among other topics. There are two ways to get involved:

Volunteering Projects

Volunteering projects allow young people to volunteer in their own country or abroad, working on projects that address community needs like environmental protection, health, and social inclusion. Young people can volunteer individually or join a team. Youth or community organisations in Ireland will help the young person prepare for their experience and support them throughout, while host organisations in the destination country will assist on the ground.

Informal groups of young people can apply for European Solidarity Corps projects, as long as at least one individual is 18 years old. For assistance with their application, they can reach out directly to Léargas for support.

Solidarity Projects

Solidarity projects allow young people to lead and tackle local challenges in their communities. Groups of young people can design, run and apply for these projects, or have an organisation applying on their behalf. The projects offer non-formal learning experiences, helping participants develop personally, educationally, and socially while making a positive impact in their community.

Engaging Young People Directly

As you explore programmes and activities, consider these direct engagement opportunities for young people. Share them to help young people discover new experiences.

Connect with Europe: Eurodesk

Eurodesk Ireland, part of a European network with over 2,200 offices, provides free information on European opportunities for young people aged 13-30. Supported by Erasmus+ and managed by Léargas, it's a key resource for those interested in travelling, volunteering, studying, or working abroad. Visit the [Eurodesk Ireland website](#) for more details and contacts.

Explore with DiscoverEU

DiscoverEU, run by the European Commission, offers 18-year-olds the chance to explore Europe by train, learn about different cultures, and connect with their European identity. Applications are open twice a year, in spring and autumn. If selected, participants receive a travel pass to explore Europe. Apply directly on youth.europa.eu.



Opportunities within Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is a programme funded by the European Commission. It supports education, training, youth, and sport in Europe. It focuses on key themes such as inclusion and diversity, digital skills, environment, and participation in civic engagement. There are many opportunities for youth, sport and voluntary sectors to engage at both national and international levels.

Erasmus+ Youth Projects

The Erasmus+ Youth programme provides opportunities for young people and youth workers to exchange, learn, connect and participate in their communities. There are 4 ways to get involved:

- Youth Exchanges:** youth organisations can organise [exchanges](#) for young people to travel abroad for personal and learning growth and development. Exchanges help young people develop skills, learn about new cultures, and improve their language abilities. Activities aim to positively impact participants, the organisations involved, and local communities.
- Youth Worker Training or Job Shadowing:** known as "[Youth worker mobilities](#)", this supports youth workers to train, collaborate, and share best practice approaches across countries. Activities include job shadowing, training courses and workshops, international seminars and more.
- Youth Participation Projects:** [participation projects](#) place young people at the heart of designing and delivering youth services or community projects. These projects empower young people to take an active role in their communities and develop leadership skills. Activities can be local, national, or international.

Access Long-term Erasmus+ Funding

If your organisation has experience in running regular, strategic projects with Erasmus+, one way to simplify the application process is by becoming accredited. Applying for [Erasmus+ Accreditation](#) allows you to secure long-term funding for Erasmus+ Youth Exchange projects and Erasmus+ Youth Worker Mobility projects. Once accredited, multiple organisations can collaborate as a consortium. Even if you are new to Erasmus+, being aware of this pathway can motivate your organisation to use your first application and project as a stepping stone for future ambitions.

- DiscoverEU Inclusion:** offers [funding and support](#) for groups of one to five young people (18-21 year olds) with fewer opportunities to travel in Europe. Participants can explore Europe by train while engaging in projects that positively impact their communities. The short duration of these projects is ideal for those facing participation barriers, such as financial, social, or physical challenges.

Informal groups of young people can apply for Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges, Youth Participation, and DiscoverEU Inclusion projects as long as at least one individual is 18 years old. For assistance with their application, they can reach out directly to Léargas .

Erasmus+ Partnership Projects

If you're interested in collaborating with other organisations across Europe to exchange ideas, create new training courses and tools, or develop innovative practices, our [Erasmus+ Partnerships for Cooperation](#) might be a good fit for your organisation. There are two ways to get involved:

- Small-scale Partnerships:** these are ideal for grassroots organisations or newcomers to Erasmus+. These projects are great for starting small initiatives with a minimum of one international partner and trying out new ideas on a smaller budget, with funding up to €60,000 (see the criteria table on pages 6-7).
- Cooperation Partnerships:** for organisations that are larger and experienced in Erasmus+, these projects aim to improve the quality of work, build international connections and meet common needs in education and youth work. Organisations can receive up to €400,000 in funding and must collaborate with multiple partners (see table on pages 6-7).

Erasmus+ Sport Projects

The [Erasmus+ Sport programme](#) offers great opportunities for sports organisations. Additionally, some sports clubs and organisations may be eligible to apply for Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges or Youth Participation Projects if they work with individuals between 13-30 years old and their project fits the programme themes.

The main goal of the Erasmus+ Sport programme is to support training and job shadowing for sports staff, and to promote cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity, and innovation within sports organisations and policies.

Sport Training and Job Shadowing: known as 'Sport Mobility Projects,' organisations such as sport clubs can receive funding to help their sports' staff (both voluntary and paid) take part in international training and learning experiences.

Sports organisations and grassroots coaches can learn new skills that will help improve their organisations and their coaching methods. Participants can take part in activities such as job-shadowing with a partner organisation in another Erasmus+ country, to see and learn new practices or take part in coaching and training sessions at host organisations abroad. These experiences allow for valuable exchanges of knowledge and skills between partners.

While Léargas manage Erasmus+ Sport Mobility Projects, there are several other Erasmus+ Sport opportunities led by the European Commission which sport organisations in Ireland may be eligible for. These include Erasmus+ Partnership projects and Capacity Building in the field of Sport, among others. View the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) for eligibility criteria and how to apply.



How To Apply

The table below outlines application details for Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

For more information about where you and your organisation fit or how to apply, contact our Youth, Sport and ESC team at yse@leargas.ie

There are multiple funding rounds throughout the year and application deadlines vary per programme.

For deadlines visit the [Léargas website](#)

Ready to start your application? [Submit your Erasmus+ or ESC application here.](#)

You can also view the [Erasmus+](#) and [ESC Programme Guides](#) for additional information.

PROGRAMME / ACTION	WHO CAN APPLY?	NO. OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES
ERASMUS+ YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES (PAGE 4)				
Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges (KA1)	Youth Organisations working with 13-30 year-olds through informal/non-formal education; Young people (18-30 years old) can apply directly	Min 2 organisations (1 lead, 1 partner).	Min 16 to Max 60 participants per activity; Min 10 participants for projects with fewer opportunities	27 EU member countries and 6 associated countries (view programme guide for more details).
Erasmus+ Youth Worker Mobility (KA1) - Youth Worker Training/Job Shadowing	Youth Organisations working with young people (13-30 years old) through informal or non-formal education methods.	Min 2 organisations (1 lead, 1 partner).	A maximum of 50 participants per activity.	27 EU member countries and 6 associated countries (view programme guide for more details).
Youth Participation Projects (KA1)	Groups of young people (13 to 30 years old) who are active in the youth field can apply directly or through a supporting youth organisation.	Min 1 organisation (national project) and min 2 organisations (international project)	Core group of young people needed for project and then other young people can participate through events and activities.	27 EU member countries and countries associated to the programme (view programme guide for more details).
Erasmus+ DiscoverEU Inclusion	Organisations and groups of young people (18-21 years old) active in the youth field.	1 organisation	Min 1 to max 5 young people	27 EU member countries and countries associated to the programme (view programme guide for more details).
ERASMUS+ PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (PAGE 5)				
Small-scale Partnerships	Public or private organisations active in the youth field	Min 2 organisations (1 lead, 1 partner).	Not applicable	27 EU member countries and countries associated to the programme (view programme guide for more details).
Cooperation Partnerships	Public or private organisations active in the youth field	Min 3 organisations (1 lead, 2 international partners).	Not applicable	27 EU member countries and countries associated to the programme. 3rd countries not associated to the programme may be eligible if essential added value justified in application (view programme guide for more details).
ERASMUS+ SPORT OPPORTUNITIES (PAGE 5)				
Erasmus+ Sport Mobility (KA1) - Staff training/Job shadowing	Public or private organisations active in sport/ physical activity at grassroots level. Participants should be staff, coaches or volunteers involved in the sport.	Min 2 organisations (1 lead, 1 partner). Partner does not need to be identified at the application stage.	Min 2 to max 10 participants.	EU member countries and countries associated to the programme (view programme guide for more details).
EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS OPPORTUNITIES (PAGE 3)				
Volunteering Projects	Organisations active in a broad range of activities (who hold an EU quality label) established for a min of 1 year.	Min 2 organisations from different countries, except for in-country volunteering activities.	Individual volunteers and volunteer teams (groups of 10-40).	27 EU members, 6 countries associated to the programme, and additional countries (view programme guide for more details).
Solidarity Projects	Young people (18 - 30 years old). The group can apply with the support of an organisation. The group can apply for support of a coach.	1 organisation/group leading the project	Min 5 young people	Applicable to participants in Ireland only; no international partner necessary.

Learn with Léargas

Explore information, training and networking events and activities.

Léargas offers a diverse range of [events, workshops, training sessions and conferences](#) aimed at empowering youth, sport and community organisations. Here's how you can benefit:

Events and Workshops

We host a variety of online events to support:

- **Information Sessions:** Gain insights into all our programmes, including Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps.
- **Project Development Workshops:** Learn the skills necessary to bring your project ideas to life.
- **Application Development Workshops:** Receive guidance on crafting successful project applications.

International Training and Networking Activities

Léargas provides fully or partially funded international training opportunities across Europe. These experiences allow Irish residents to acquire new skills, explore best practices and connect with potential project partners.

These events are designed to encourage collaboration and the sharing of best practices within Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

Léargas is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity (RCN 20020330).
We work under the aegis of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Sign up for an event

Visit our [Training and Events](#) page to search for opportunities.



Connect with us

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