



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Shared Island  
Initiative

# Shared Island Initiative



22 July 2024

# Shared Island initiative - overview



- **Programme for Government - Shared Island chapter:**
  - *“Work with all communities and traditions on the island to build consensus around a shared future, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement.”*
  - **Significantly-enhanced level of ambition** for collaborative all-island investment cooperation (PfG and National Development Plan 2021-2030).
  - Deepening **cooperation and connections** across the island.
- **Good Friday Agreement** - relationships (N/S and E/W), institutions, principles, commitments.
- **Whole of Government approach:**
  - Shared Island unit in D/Taoiseach driving and coordinating; projects and programmes delivered by Government Departments and Agencies.
  - Working through **all-island partnerships** with NI, UK, Local Authority, Education and Civil Society partners.

# Shared Island initiative - elements

## Building a Shared Island

- Deliver long-standing and new cross-border investments

## Dialogue on a shared future

- 16 events, 3,500+ citizens from all communities, traditions and regions.
- Youth Forum of 80 young people meeting over a year to agree vision and values for a shared future.

## Research programme

- Evidence and analysis on economic, social, cultural, and political considerations for the island.



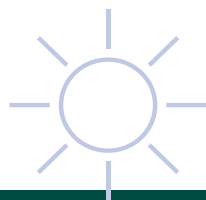
# Shared Island Fund

- Deliver **strategic investment objectives on Shared Island** in the Programme for Government and revised National Development Plan.
- Allocations by Government to Ministers to take forward projects.
- Working **with Executive, UK, Local Authority, Education, Civil Society** partners.
- **Portfolio approach** - Government, Executive, UK Government, Local Authority, EU funding sources to projects – e.g. Ulster Canal.
- Departments operating competitive **funding calls for all-island programmes.**

# Shared Island Fund – Allocations



Shared Island Initiative



## A more sustainable island

- €7m for all-island **bioeconomy demonstrators**
- €11m for **cross-border peatland restoration and biosecurity initiative**
- €15m for **sports club EV charging point installation**



## A more prosperous island

- €44.5m for teaching building at **Ulster University Derry**
- €20m for **Co-Centres for Research and Innovation** through Science Foundation Ireland
- €7.6m **collaboration** by Wild Atlantic Way and Causeway Coastal Route



## A more connected island

- €3m Shared Island **Civic Society Fund**
- €7.4m for **Arts investment projects**
- €6m Shared Island dimension to **Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027**

# Shared Island - latest announcements

- 20 February announcement by Government
- €800m in total for SI investment priorities:
  - €600m to **A5 upgrade** and progressing related N2 and Donegal TEN-T schemes.
- **Hourly frequency rail service Dublin – Belfast.**
- Contribution to **Casement Park redevelopment.**
- Construction of **Narrow Water Bridge.**
- Shared Island **Enterprise scheme.**
- Cooperation on **reducing educational disadvantage.**
- Renewal of **Battle of the Boyne** visitor experience.



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# Local Authorities

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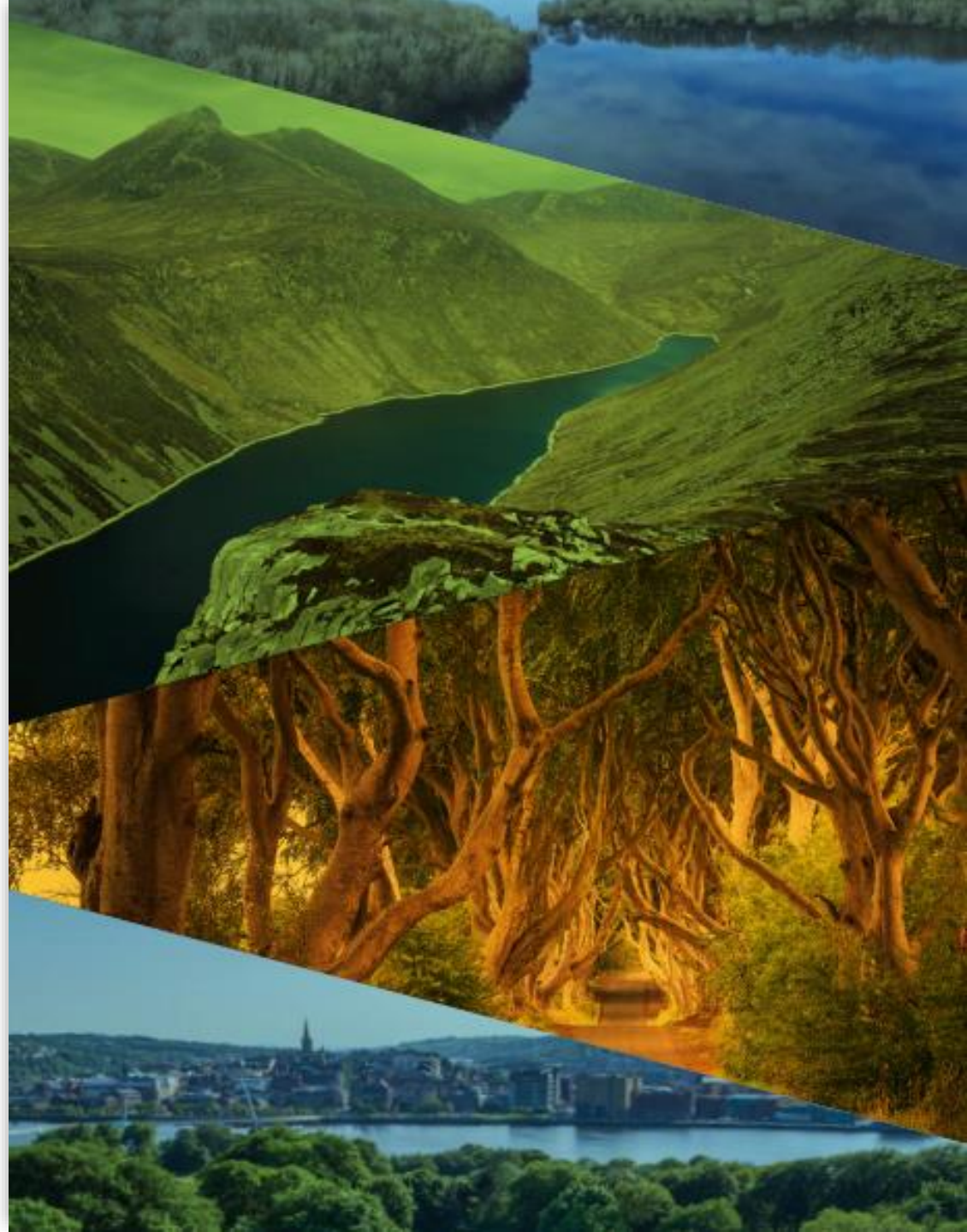
**Creative Ireland** programme (€6m)

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Shared Island **Local Authority  
Development** funding scheme (€5m)

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Shared Island **Community Climate  
Action** Programme (€3m)



# Shared Island dimension to the Creative Ireland programme

## Overview

- €6 million for a Shared Island dimension to the government's Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. Elements include:
- **Cruinniú na nÓg 2024:** Events programmed on an all-island basis.
- **Creative Communities on a Shared Island:** €850,000 to 9 cross-border creative and cultural projects led by Local Authorities.
- **Creative Youth on a Shared Island:** Funding of up to €180,000 to at least 3 projects that nurture collaboration, hope and understanding.
- **Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community:** €350,000 of Shared Island funding in 2024 for Local Authority led cross-border arts and health partnerships to deliver 5 projects.



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme





# Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme

## Overview

- Seed capital grants of up to €250,000 for cross-border Local Authority Partnerships.
- Support for Local Authorities North and South in progressing feasibility and development work on new joint investment projects which can deliver on shared local and regional development goals.
- Potential cross-border projects across a range of sectors including biodiversity, heritage, tourism, decarbonisation, the circular economy, rural and urban regeneration, education, business innovation, and cultural and creative industries.
- Departments currently engaging with Local Authority partners on the feasibility reports.

## Objective

- Generate well-developed pipeline of cross-border Local Authority projects.

## Impact

- Local Authorities cooperating to deliver shared regional development goals.
- More strategic cooperation by central and local government on the island.



# Shared Island Community Climate Action Programme

## Overview

- €3m for Shared Island strand to Community Climate Action Programme.
- Projects to include a partner in Northern Ireland (can be a Council).
- Minister for Environment [launched](#) Strand 1a in January 2024.
- Administered by Community Climate Action Officers in Councils.
- Grants of €5,000 to €100,000.
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications currently engaging with Local Authorities on applications received.

## Objective

- Support Local Authorities to step up climate action in partnership with communities across the island.
- Cross-border projects particularly sought on: Valuing Networks for Nature; Just Transition; Renewable energy; Flood forecasting; Coastal erosion.

## Impact

- Help to reach climate and energy targets on the island of Ireland.
- Support collaborative community involvement on climate action.



# Shared Island research programme



Shared Island Initiative

## ESRI publications to date:

- *Cross-Border Trade in Services*
- *Enhancing attractiveness of the Island of Ireland to FDI*
- *Analysis of Primary Health Care Systems of Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Comparison of Education and Training Systems and outcomes*
- *Modelling Productivity Levels in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Coordination of Energy infrastructure and renewable energy supports*
- *Early Childhood Education and Care, North and South*
- *Migrant Integration and Experience in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Student Mobility in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Social and political attitudes in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Contrasting Housing Supply in Ireland and Northern Ireland*
- *Gender and Labour market inclusion on the island of Ireland*



## Upcoming research:

- *Income distribution levels; Child poverty – Q4 2024*

All reports available at [gov.ie/sharedisland/research](https://gov.ie/sharedisland/research)



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn



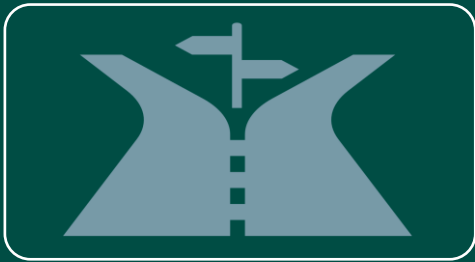
ECONOMIC & SOCIAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# Shared Island Youth Forum

- 80 young people (18-25) from diverse backgrounds across the island.
- Themes of Sustainability; Opportunity; Wellbeing; Equality; and Culture and Identity.
- Deliberative forum over a year to set out their visions and values for a shared future.
- **Outcome Statement of visions and values to be published in the autumn.**



# Shared Island initiative – 2024



Continue to implement Government **Shared Island investment priorities.**



Shared Island **Youth Forum Outcome Statement** and continue the **Shared Island Dialogue series.**



Progressing the **Shared Island research programme** to provide evidence and analysis on the opportunities, and the challenges, around deepening cooperation and connections on the island.



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**Further Information**

**[gov.ie/sharedisland](https://www.gov.ie/sharedisland)**

**[sharedisland@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:sharedisland@taoiseach.gov.ie)**



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# Shared Island Civic Society Fund



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- The Shared Island Civic Society Fund was launched in January 2023 to promote practical North South cooperation and engagement across a range of sectors and themes, consistent with the objectives and the commitments of the Good Friday Agreement.
- The latest round of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund is now open and will accept applications up to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 1PM, with total funding available of up to €1.5m.
- Applications are required to have a clear North South dimension, involving cross-border partners collaborating on a project to strengthen North South civic, economic, cultural, and/or political links.
- Grants of up to €50,000 available (average grant request of €25,000-€30,000)





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## Objectives of the Shared Island Civic Society Fund

Applications must have a strong North South dimension and applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their proposed project will do one or more of the following:

- Deepens North South links through the development of sustainable cross-border civic relationships
- Develops and/or deepens cross-border relations between civic society organisations, North and South



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- Promotes constructive and inclusive dialogue around the opportunities and challenges facing the island through cross-border and cross-community engagement
- Contributes significantly to the development of an all-island civic society ecosystem, particularly in relation to areas of cooperation and fundamental rights provided for under the Good Friday Agreement
- Adopts an innovative or novel approach to building North South relations



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## General Advice

- Identify and consult with partner organisation, where appropriate.
- Think about which of the organisations is best placed to lead on the application.
- Be clear, concise, and specific in completing the application form
- Ensure that the partner organisation reads the final application and agrees with the content.



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## Describe your project

- Summarise the entire project in a few short sentences
- Should include the following information:
  - *Objective of project*
  - *List of project activities*
  - *Background, age, and number of participants*
  - *Outputs and outcomes*
- Should capture – *Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How*



## Proposed Project and Activities

Must clearly describe:

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outline the objective of this project</li></ul>
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who the participants will be</li></ul>
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The types of activities planned</li><li>• The potential outputs</li></ul>
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where the activities will take place</li></ul>
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How often the activities will take place</li><li>• A timeline is useful to detail activities in chronological order</li></ul>
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How the participants will interact</li><li>• How the activities will contribute to achieving the objectives of your project</li></ul>



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# Outcomes and impacts of the project

- Extremely important section in appraisal process
- Clearly articulated and well thought-out, persuasive language
- Why you think your project is a good fit with the Shared Island Civic Society Fund



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# Finances and Budget

- Organisational sustainability
- Have you been funded by other Government sources?
- Funding received in the last 12 months
- Project budget should be Clear, Consistent and Descriptive
- Show your work! How are your costs estimated?



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# Project Budget *continued*

## Items we do NOT fund

- Salaries and other core costs, but administrative overheads can be considered
- Retrospective costs
- Standalone activities that are not part of a wider project/programme
- Capital – buildings, vehicles or equipment





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# Evaluation of the project

- A detailed vision on how you will evaluate the project, e.g. surveys, feedback forms, publications etc
- Essential for your final report requirements
- The impacts of this work – the immediate results, e.g. number of people trained/engaged, activities carried out etc.
- This is a further opportunity to sell this project and show us what you intend to achieve with this work



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## Additional requirements

- Tax Clearance Certificate from [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) (if €10,000 of a grant or more requested)
- Organisation's recent signed accounts
- Letters of support
- Bank details
- Child Protection Policy (if organisation works with under 18s)



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- Further information is available at:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/999af-shared-island-civic-society-fund/>
- Any questions should also be directed to [sharedislanddcsfund@dfa.ie](mailto:sharedislanddcsfund@dfa.ie).



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# Reconciliation Fund

July 2024

# Who Am I?



## Jenny Quinn

Joint Director of the Reconciliation Fund

Part of a team of 12 working with the Reconciliation Fund in DFA

Manage the Multi-Annual Funding Round



**The Reconciliation Fund awards grants to organisations working to build better relations within and between traditions in Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between Ireland and Britain.**



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**RECONCILIATION FUND**

# Reconciliation Fund



Since **1982**

*the Fund has supported...*

OVER  
**3,000**  
PROJECTS

*with*

MORE THAN  
**€65 million**  
GRANT FUNDING

*January 2023*



# 40 Years of the Fund



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# Reconciliation Fund Schemes



## ANNUAL

1 Annual Round per year

One-Year Projects

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic Partnership Scheme

3-Year Projects

# Reconciliation Fund Grants



## Annual Scheme

Awards grants to around **100-120** projects each year.

Supporting projects across the community, voluntary, and NGO sectors

Amounts for grants vary – from **€2,000** up to **€500,000** per year

**75%** of Grants awarded in 2023 were for **€30,000** or less

**€25,000**

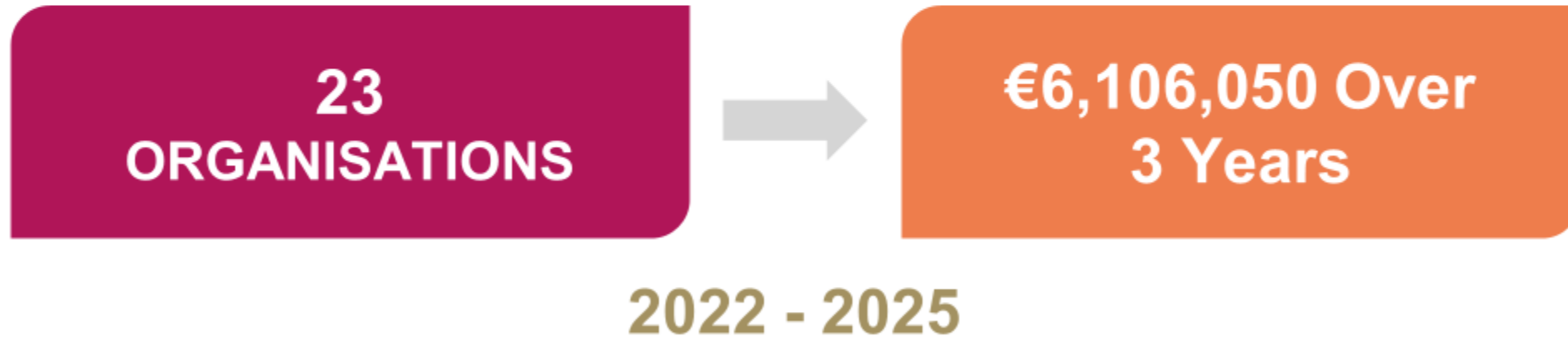
*Typical Grant Award*

# Reconciliation Fund Grants



## Strategic Partnership Scheme

Multi-annual funding support to enable organisations to operate more strategically and increase their impact



# 2024 Annual Round Details



Round Opened: **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Round Closed: **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Payments issued: **July 2024**

Application process is **online**

Application Portal available on **[dfa.ie/reconciliation](https://dfa.ie/reconciliation)**

# Recent Annual Funding Rounds



## Annual Round 2023:

Value of Applications Received: €7,403,128

Funding Awarded: €2,021,290 (90 projects)

## Annual Round 2024:

Value of Applications Received: €7,948,191

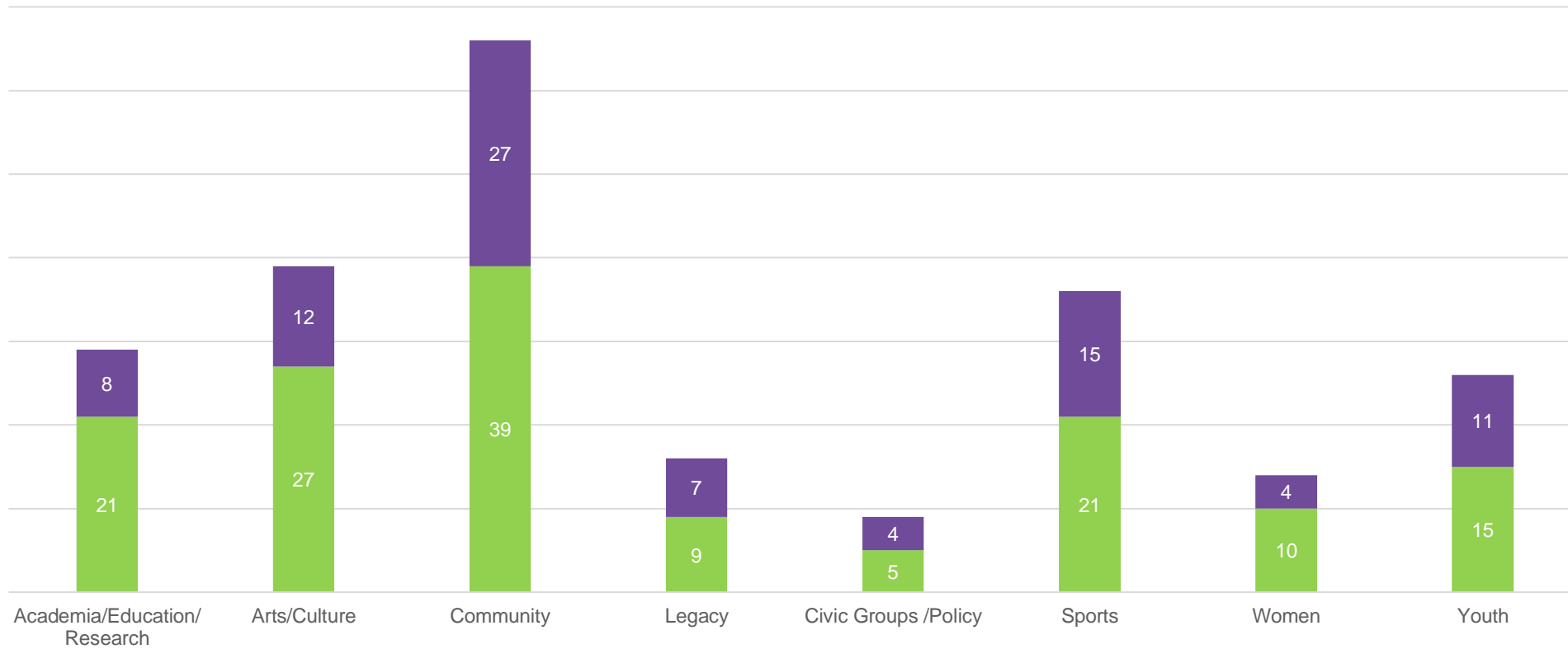
Funding Awarded: €3,423,593 (147 projects)

Total Applications Received for Annual Round 2024: **241**

Total Successful Applications: **147** (27 new to the *Reconciliation Fund*)



## Funding by Sector in Annual Round - 2023 vs 2024



# Strategic Partnerships



Q3 and Q4 – Development and launch of revised Strategic Partnership scheme.

**NB: Criteria to be developed, likely will not be open to organisations new the Reconciliation Fund.**

# Contribution to the objectives of the Reconciliation Fund Strategy



## **\*EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SECTION\***

- The Reconciliation Fund Strategy is our guiding document when appraising applications. **It will be re-designed in Q3 2024.**
- Available at [www.dfa.ie/reconciliation](http://www.dfa.ie/reconciliation)



# Reconciliation Fund Strategy

2021-2024



Key focus is to support projects & organisations that seek either to...

**REPAIR** those issues which lead to division, conflict, and barriers,

or to

**BUILD** a strong civil society that encompasses all communities.

# Reconciliation Fund Strategy



2021-2024

**15 PRIORITY AREAS** of activity including...

- Dialogue programmes that seek to build understanding between peoples and traditions within Northern Ireland and on a North-South basis.
- Initiatives that promote inter-community links and reduce segregation in Northern Ireland, including in the area of integrated education.
- Programmes that address the legacy of violence during the Troubles.

# Priority Areas *Continued...*



- Projects that specifically target sectarianism, and which are aimed at eliminating sectarianism from society.
- Initiatives that help tackle paramilitarism in local communities.
- Programmes that develop the role of women in peace-building and civic and political life.
- Exploration of issues around identity (including language & other cultural traditions) in ways that promote understanding, tolerance and inclusivity, or help to recognise the common aspects of traditions and identities shared by different groups.

# General Advice for Applying



- Be clear, concise, and specific
- Think about who the best placed person to fill out the application form is
- Have someone else read the application

# Background Information about your Organisation



- A detailed explanation of the context you are working within (e.g. border, marginalised, hard-to-reach)
- Identify the gap that your organisation would fill with this project
- What makes you the ideal organisation to deliver this project

# Proposed Project and Activities



- Must clearly describe:

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outline the objective of this project</li></ul>
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who the participants will be</li></ul>
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The types of activities planned</li><li>• The potential outputs</li></ul>
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where the activities will take place</li></ul>
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How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How the participants will interact</li><li>• How the activities will contribute to achieving the objectives of your project</li></ul>

# Items We Do NOT Fund



- Off-island's travel, e.g. flights
- Retrospective programmatic/core costs
- Commission/loss of profits, e.g. lower ticket takings from a theatre production
- Private Pension Contributions

# In summary....



Your project needs to be aligned to the Strategy!







## CONTACT US

**For all general queries  
on the Reconciliation  
Fund, please contact**

[reconciliation@dfa.ie](mailto:reconciliation@dfa.ie)



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RECONCILIATION FUND

**Thank you!**