



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Support for the Irish Abroad **Annual Report** **2017**



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Simon Coveney TD
Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign
Affairs and Trade

Foreword

Ireland's enduring connection with our diaspora is among our most important international relationships. It is based on mutual engagement and support and is both an asset and a responsibility.

This first ever Annual Report on Support for the Irish Abroad is an important document which highlights the continued Government support for Irish organisations worldwide and for projects which make a difference to our communities across the globe. In particular, we remain absolutely committed to facilitating support for, and solidarity with, our emigrants, citizens and communities who most need our assistance.

It is clear to me that this report also captures much of the depth and range of support that we as a nation provide for Irish people abroad and for those of Irish ancestry. These supports help sustain the Irish diaspora, and Irish culture and values, around the globe, from the well-established communities of America to developing and newly vibrant communities in Asia.

Building on the work of this report, I know that we will continue to support our diaspora ever more strategically and efficiently. The launch in 2018 of an Americas strategy and Asia-Pacific strategy will see the role of our diaspora recognised and enhanced going forward. Similarly, the recently launched policy 'Global Ireland - Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025,' affirms the importance of our diaspora and rightly sets out a role for them as we work to expand our overall engagement on the world stage.

The publication of this Annual Report for 2017 is therefore a timely and very welcome new development. It will inform the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and it sets a positive example of transparency and accountability that we will continue to live up to in future years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Coveney'.

Simon Coveney TD

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ciarán Cannon TD
Minister of State for the Diaspora
and International Development

Foreword

As Minister for the Diaspora, I am delighted to publish the first Annual Report on Support for the Irish Abroad.

Supporting and engaging with the global Irish community is a priority for the Government. The strength of the Government's continued commitment to our communities abroad is evidenced through the funding made available to diaspora organisations and projects through the Emigrant Support Programme and the Diaspora Affairs budget.

Irish people have a long history of travelling and moving abroad, and this has resulted in strong and vibrant Irish communities all over the world. Having relatives on distant shores is a reality for most Irish families, in communities in every corner of the country.

For me as Minister, it is vitally important that Irish citizens here in Ireland, as well as our global Irish community, are better informed about the links that exist between Ireland and the global Irish and the possibility of support through Government funding. I hope that a greater awareness of the work that is being taken forward all over the world will inspire people to get involved - leading to more ideas, to more innovation and more collaboration between diaspora organisations on projects making a real and lasting impact for our citizens and communities abroad.

The story of the Irish abroad is above all a human story. Supporting, maintaining and increasing engagement and ongoing connections between our communities abroad and communities in Ireland is a key objective for the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and in particular for its dedicated Irish Abroad Unit.

The publication of this Annual Report for 2017 is an important, and very welcome, new initiative in ensuring that story, in all its diversity and depth, is widely told.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cannon', written over a light blue background.

Ciarán Cannon TD

Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development

Introduction

Strengthening Ireland’s connections with our Irish citizens and people of Irish ancestry worldwide is a key objective of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. ‘Global Irish – Ireland’s Diaspora Policy’; published by the Government in 2015 sets out an ambitious vision for ‘a vibrant diverse global Irish community, connected to Ireland and to each other’. These Irish communities are made up of Irish emigrants, their descendants and those living abroad who share and celebrate an Irish heritage identity and global links with Ireland.

Central to achieving the objectives of the Diaspora Policy is the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP), which is administered by the Irish Abroad Unit (IAU) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin, in partnership with Irish Embassies and Consulates abroad.

Budget Line	2017 Budget	2017 Total Outturn
Emigrant Support Programme	€11.595m	€11.82 million
Diaspora Affairs	€0.68 million ¹	€0.68 million

Given the number of strong Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) project applications received, an additional €225,000 was allocated to the ESP from savings elsewhere in the Department to increase the overall expenditure under the ESP. For the first time in 2017, the Department was allocated an additional ‘Diaspora Affairs’ budget line. This budget line had previously been administered by the Department of the Taoiseach.

Over the course of 2017, a total of 396 Projects from 260 different organisations totalling some €12.5 million² were funded through IAU: €11.82 million through the Emigrant Support Programme and €0.68 million through the Diaspora Affairs budget line.

¹ This figure includes a Diaspora Affairs budget of €400,000 allocated specifically to DFAT for 2017 and an additional budget previously allocated to the Department of the Taoiseach. Following Ministerial changes over the course of the year, which saw the Minister for the Diaspora appointed solely to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, rather than to DFAT and the Department of the Taoiseach as had been the case with the previous Minister of State, an additional allocation under the Diaspora Affairs budget line was transferred to DFAT.

² Exact outturn €12,499,809 – ESP €11,819,907; Diaspora Affairs €679,902

Emigrant Support Programme

As set out in the Government's 2015 Diaspora Policy, the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) is a tangible expression of the Government's support of, commitment to and interest in the global Irish community. Through this important Programme, the Government aims to strengthen the international Irish community and its bond with Ireland.

This ongoing commitment allows the continuation and development of the important work of Irish organisations and communities across the world in support of Irish emigrants and the wider Irish diaspora.

Since its inception in 2004, the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) has assisted over 573 organisations in 34 countries with grants totalling over €159 million. Grants have ranged from small amounts for small voluntary groups, to major allocations awarded to community organisations operating on a large scale.

In 2017 there was over 420 applications from more than 20 countries requesting over €20 million worth of funding for the Programme's €11.595 million budget. The amount of funding awarded in 2017 was €11,819,907 to 252 organisations for 387 projects in 23 countries.³

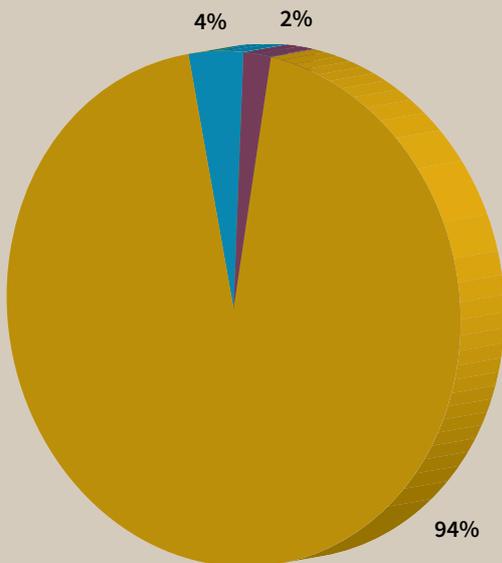
In addition to the expenditure resulting from the annual Emigrant Support Programme on-line grant round, further funding of €56,116 was allocated through the process known as the 'Mission Fund'. In 2015, in response to the commitment in the Diaspora Policy to look at ways of simplifying the application process for recipients of amounts less than €5,000, a special category known as the Mission Fund was developed, targeted at small projects which foster vibrant and diverse communities abroad. This Mission Fund grew from funding 5 projects in 4 countries totalling €7,104 in 2015, to funding 20 projects in 11 countries totalling €32,459 in 2016, and a total of 17 projects in 10 countries in 2017.

³ A full list of organisations funded under the ESP is available at Annex 1.

Separately, in 2017 a new ‘Strategic Diaspora Project’ stream was created within the Emigrant Support Programme funding allocation, on a pilot basis, to assist our Embassies and Consulates abroad to use their experience, reach and unique perspective to identify overarching projects with strategic importance for our Communities abroad. In particular this new category assisted our Missions in responding quickly to urgent needs of Irish citizens abroad that they identified, and to be able to respond affirmatively and quickly to requests for diaspora related projects to be taken forward in partnership with local governments where Ireland has a strategic interest in developing positive relationships. Funding totaling €147,520 was allocated to 8 projects in the United States, Britain and Canada under this new category. This included additional funding to support our undocumented citizens in the US in response to legislative changes there over the course of the year, through our Embassy Washington and our Consulate General in New York.

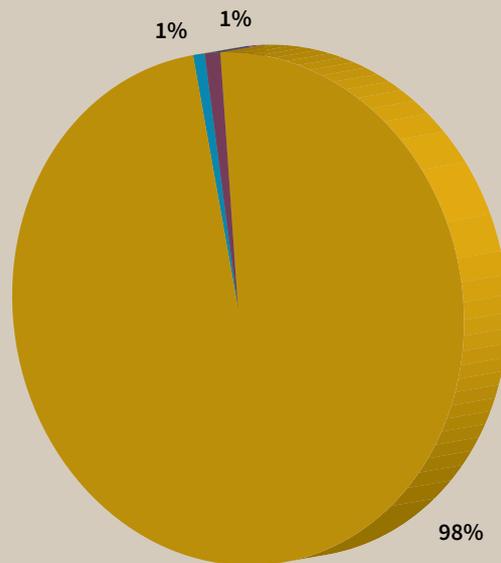
GRAPH 1

2017% Breakdown of Projects



GRAPH 2

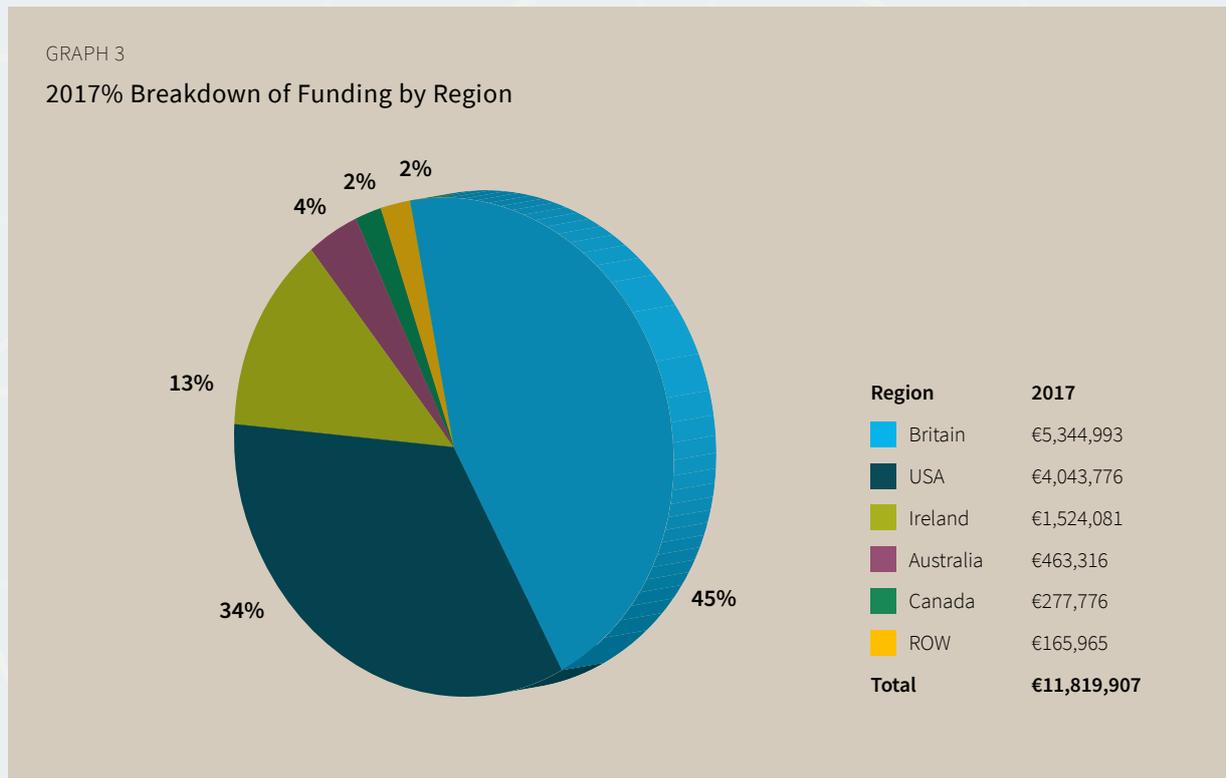
2017% Breakdown of ESP Expenditure



Overall Number of Projects Funded	2017	Total spent in 2017
ESP	362	€11,616,271
Mission Fund	17	€56,116
Strategic Diaspora Projects	8	€147,520
TOTAL ESP SPEND	387	€11,819,907

ESP Expenditure by Geographical Region

Britain continues to receive the highest percentage of funding under the ESP. In 2017, projects taking place in Britain represented 45% of total ESP funding allocated worldwide, with the USA second at 34%.



Over half of grants issued through the Emigrant Support Programme are small grants, under €10,000 – this includes some 86 grants (34%) which are under €5,000. At the other end of the scale, there were 15 grants for amounts larger than €200,000.

GRAPH 4

No. of Organisations Funded in Each Region Under Expenditure Bands



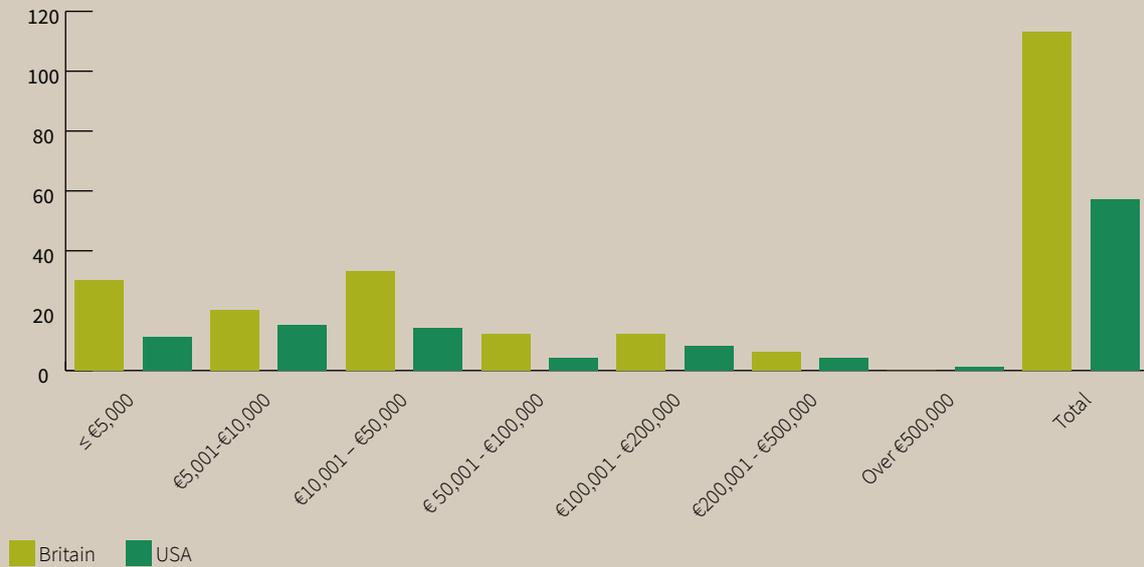
ESP, MF & SDP Funding paid to organisations in 2017 by Region

REGION	≤ €5,000	€5,001-€10,000	€10,001 – €50,000	€ 50,001 - €100,000	€100,001 - €200,000	€200,001 - €500,000	Over €500,000	Total
Britain	30	20	33	12	12	6	0	113
USA	11	15	14	4	8	4	1	57
Ireland	1	0	4	1	2	4	0	12
Australia	9	5	1	3	1	0	0	19
Canada	16	2	4	0	1	0	0	23
ROW	19	4	5	0	0	0	0	28
TOTAL	86	46	61	20	24	14	1	252

■ ≤ €5,000 ■ €5,001-€10,000 ■ €10,001 – €50,000
■ € 50,001 - €100,000 ■ €100,001 - €200,000 ■ €200,001 - €500,000
■ Over €500,000 ■ Total

GRAPH 5

No. of Organisations Funded in Britain and the US Under Expenditure Bands



ESP, MF & SDP Funding paid to organisations in 2017 by Region

REGION	≤€5,000	€5,001-€10,000	€10,001 – €50,000	€ 50,001 - €100,000	€100,001 - €200,000	€200,001 - €500,000	OVER €500,000	TOTAL
Britain	30	20	33	12	12	6	0	113
USA	11	15	14	4	8	4	1	57

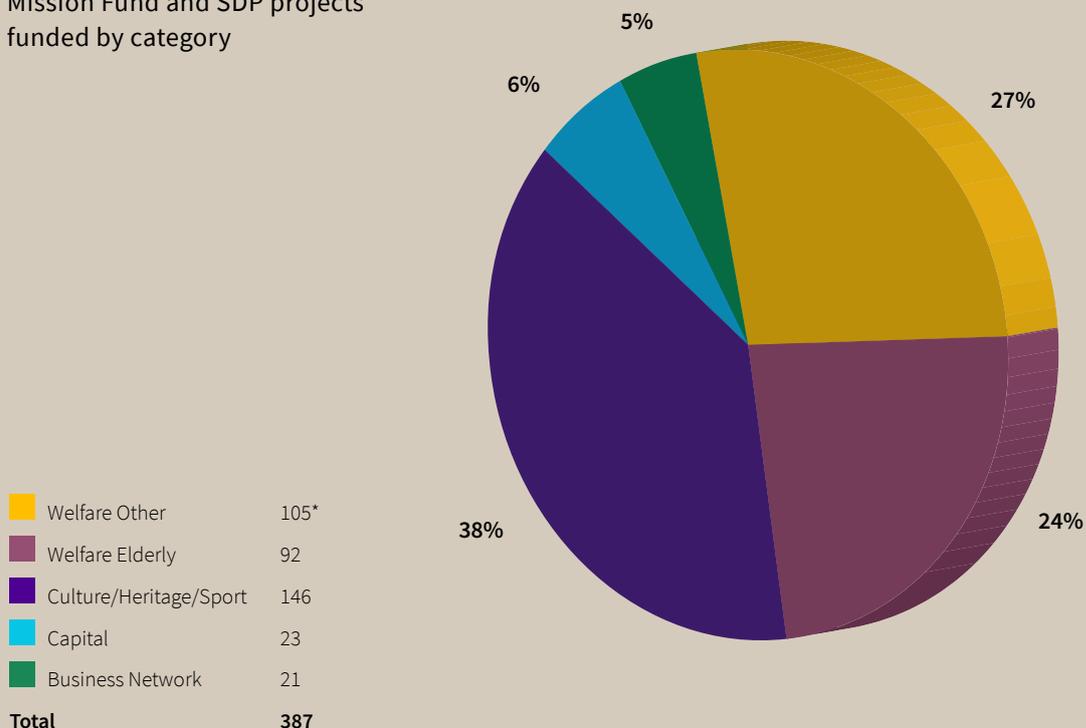
ESP Expenditure by Category

The Government’s vision, set out in the 2015 Diaspora Policy, of supporting, connecting with and facilitating ‘a vibrant, diverse global Irish community, connected to Ireland and to each other’ is given particular practical expression and visibility through the different funding pillars of the Emigrant Support Programme. Through the ESP, the Government supports projects in categories including Welfare (Elderly); Welfare (Other); Culture/Sport/Heritage; Capital; Business.

As set out in the Diaspora Policy, through the ESP, the Government continues to prioritise financial support to organisations engaged in the delivery of front line advisory services and community care to Irish emigrants, particularly to the more vulnerable and marginalised members of our community abroad, including the elderly. In 2017, €7,251,669 of the €11,819,907 awarded, representing 61% of total funding awarded, was under the welfare categories. This reflected a total of 197 separate projects representing over 50% of the total number of projects funded under the Programme.

GRAPH 6

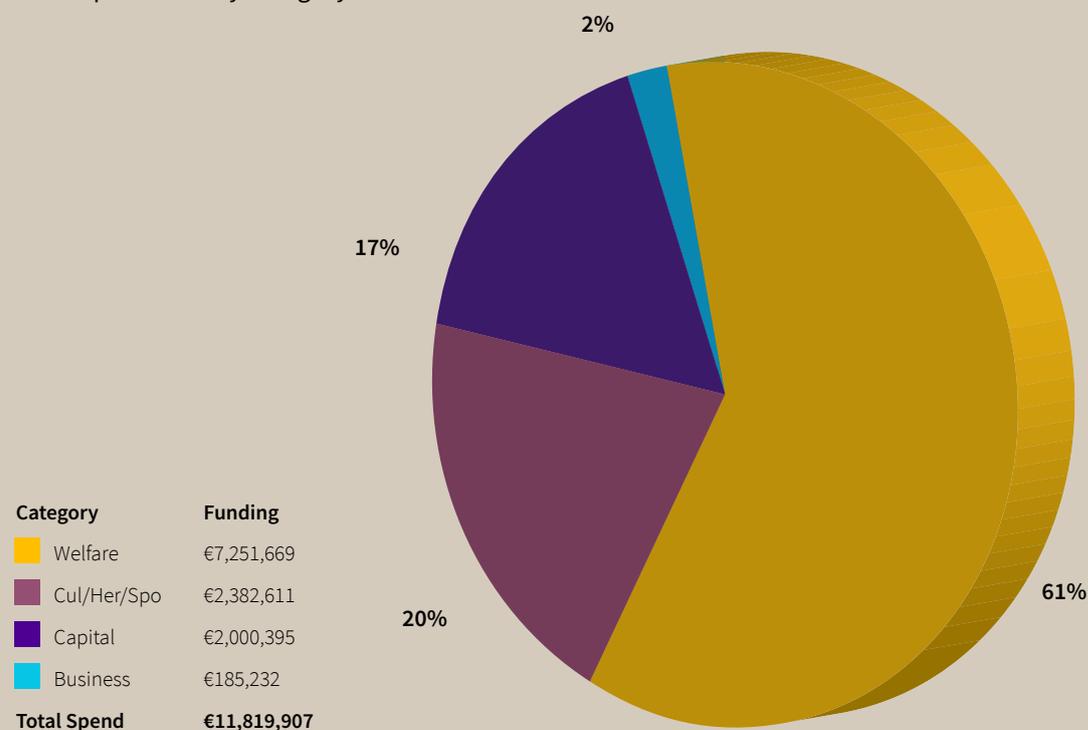
2017 Breakdown of Number of ESP, Mission Fund and SDP projects funded by category



*Includes Irish in Britain which covers Welfare Other and Elderly

GRAPH 7

2017 Breakdown of ESP total expenditure by category



2017	Britain	US	Ireland	Australia	Canada	ROW
Welfare	€4,621,731	€1,487,710	€666,427	€396,847	€75,413	€3,541
Cul/Her/Spo	€945,042	€774,617	€363,119	€41,600	€163,502	€94,731
Capital	€92,250	€1,840,007	€0	€21,676	€36,896	€9,566
Business	€53,679	€56,268	€2,000	€3,193	€1,965	€68,127
TOTAL	€5,712,702⁴	€4,158,602⁵	€1,031,546	€463,316	€277,776	€175,965⁶

⁴ Total includes an additional €367,709 given to CCE and GAA in Ireland towards funding in the UK

⁵ Total includes an additional €114,826 given to CCE and GAA in Ireland towards funding in the US

⁶ Total includes an additional €10,000 given to CCE and GAA in Ireland towards funding in Japan

Collaboration with Irish Cultural Organisations

There are over 420 GAA clubs outside of Ireland in 45 different countries worldwide.

For over a decade the Department has had an established funding partnership in place with the GAA for Games and Community Development officers in Britain and in areas of the US with grant funding of €250,000 allocated for this purpose in 2017.



Solace Women's Aid, London

In addition, since 2013, through the Global Games Development Fund, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the GAA have provided funding for developmental projects in GAA clubs in Asia, Australasia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America. This Fund provides financial support specifically for projects and initiatives that increase or improve opportunities for the Irish Diaspora and other communities abroad to play Gaelic Games, thereby strengthening Irish networks and Irish identity internationally, nurturing a sense of Irish community and creating important links between the global Irish and their local communities.



Derby St. Patrick's Day Parade

From supporting 14 projects in 2013, the Global Games Development Fund has grown to contribute funding to 59 different projects across the globe for 2017. Some projects are one-off events, others have activities lasting the course of a year. In 2017 the Department contributed €135,000 to the GAA for the Global Games Development Fund, this amount being matched by the GAA to complete the budget for the year.

The Department also collaborates closely with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in promoting Irish culture worldwide and fostering a deeper sense of connection amongst the Irish diaspora to their roots. With the assistance of funding through the ESP, Comhaltas use Irish music to reach out to the younger generation of Irish communities abroad and to our affinity diaspora. Last year saw €245,000 allocated to Comhaltas under the ESP for activities in Britain, North American and Canada, along with the expansion of Comhaltas into Japan.



First GAA Asian Youth Championship tournament participants



Aisling Return to Ireland

Audit and Quality Assurance

The Department is firmly committed to ensuring best practice monitoring of the financial expenditure associated with Emigrant Support Programme grants. Between 2014 and 2017, Irish Abroad Unit has undertaken 28 routine audits of ESP organisations using an external supplier. The annual figure more than doubled this year – with 11 organisations being audited, (2014-6; 2015- 6; 2016- 5) at an overall cost of €54,389. The 2017 schedule included an increased audit programme in respect of organisations in Ireland, maintained our regular audit level in Britain and extended our audit reach to Canada. At the time of audit the 11 organisations had all been in receipt of a 2016-17 grant, of which: 3 were less than €50,000; 2 between €50,000 &

€100,000; 4 between €100,000 & €200,000; and 2 of over €200,000. The auditors considered such areas as governance and management structures, board composition & rotations, value for money, that the grant had been used in accordance with ESP objectives, spent as per the agreed terms & conditions and accounted and reported properly. Organisations actively engaged with Irish Abroad Unit and relevant embassies on the findings and addressing recommendations.

Global Irish Civic Forum

The second Global Irish Civic Forum took place on 4-5 May 2017 in Dublin Castle, with the theme “Communities, Connections, Conversations”. As was the case with the first Global Irish Civic Forum held in 2015, Irish community leaders from around the world, drawn from emigrant and diaspora communities, came together to discuss the challenges facing the Irish abroad. The Forum brought together over 220 attendees, representing over 150 organisations working with the Irish diaspora globally.



Emerald Isle Immigration Center, New York



Luton Irish Forum

Panel discussions took place on key current thematic issues including: Evolving Global Irish Communities – meeting their needs and identifying opportunities for collaboration; Communicating Better in a Digital Age – using new tools to stay connected; Imagining an Irish Culture for the Future – representing a new Ireland and engaging future generations of the Irish abroad; and Voting Rights in Presidential Elections; as well as Workshops and sessions on specific topics including returning emigrants, our undocumented citizens in the US, mental health of citizens abroad, governance, fundraising, cultural programming and planning for the future.⁷ Participants engaged deeply and energetically on the topics for discussion, and this positivity was reflected in responses to the feedback survey which issued to all attendees. The Forum received very high satisfaction ratings, and 65% of attendees reported they had made lasting connections with new organisations and individuals. The Report of the Civic Forum identified seven key themes for follow up, resulting in 21 commitments made by DFAT, all of which have either been delivered or are underway. The total cost of the Civic Forum in 2017 was €69,751.

⁷ A full Report of the Civic Forum is available at <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa-2017/globalirish/Civic-Forum-Report.pdf>

‘Empowering and Connecting ESP Organisations’

The Global Irish Communications Handbook

Developed by Irish Abroad Unit and launched during the Global Irish Civic Forum in May 2017, the Global Irish Communications Handbook aims to help Irish Diaspora organisations improve their communications with their communities, with each other and with Ireland.

The Handbook also advises organisations how to maximize the impact of their communications, with a particular focus on social media and digital resources, peer learning and communications to improve funding opportunities.

Download the Communications Handbook [here](#).

The Global Irish Diaspora Directory

Collated by Irish Abroad Unit working with our Embassies and Consulates, the Global Irish Diaspora Directory is available on line and has over 760 Irish organisations listed from around the world. Already in its second edition, the purpose of the Directory is to help Irish Diaspora organisations improve their communications and collaboration with each other, and to assist individuals who may be interested in reaching out to Irish organisations in a particular location.

Download the Diaspora Directory Handbook [here](#).



Celebrating the achievements of the Irish abroad - The President and Mrs Higgins with the Tánaiste, Minister of State Cannon and 2017 PDSA Recipients

Presidential Distinguished Service Awards

The Presidential Distinguished Service Award, administered by IAU, remains an important symbol of the importance placed by Ireland on the global Irish, their contributions and their achievements.

While the PDSA scheme was originally designed to recognise ‘Irish citizens, those entitled to Irish citizenship and persons of Irish descent who have made a sustained and distinguished service to Ireland or Irish communities abroad’, following a review by the High Level Advisory Panel, the Government decided in October 2017 that this emphasis should be widened to include recognition of those individuals with Irish connections who have given sustained or distinguished contribution on global issues, which may not have a specific Irish or Irish community connection. It is hoped that this change will widen the reach and impact of these important awards and demonstrate the importance of broader global values in our recognition of the work and achievements of Irish individuals and communities worldwide. The overall cost of the PDSA scheme to IAU in 2017 was €45,962.

PDSA Recipient 2017	Category	Location
Bernard Canavan	Arts, Culture and Sport	Britain
Liam Neeson	Arts, Culture and Sport	US
Patricia Harty	Business and Education	US
Denis Mulcahy	Charitable Works	US
Mary T. Murphy	Charitable Works	Ethiopia
Hideki Mimura	Irish Community Support	Japan
Jacqueline O’Donovan	Irish Community Support	Britain
John de Chastelain	Peace, Reconciliation & Development	Canada
Marianne Elliot	Peace, Reconciliation & Development	Britain
William Campbell	Science, Technology & Innovation	US

Diaspora Affairs

In 2017, for the first time, Irish Abroad Unit had responsibility for an additional Diaspora Affairs budget line. In total 9 projects totalling €679,902 were funded under the Diaspora Affairs Budget line last year. This Diaspora Affairs expenditure was targeted at strategic projects that support the work of the Inter-departmental Committee on the Irish Abroad and existing Government Strategies, in particular those strategies which are most relevant to the wider work of this Department including Ireland Connected; the International Education Strategy for Ireland; Creative Ireland; and the National Tourism Strategy. A particular focus was on projects which supported returning Irish emigrants. Following a period of net outward migration from 2010, in 2016 Ireland returned to net inward migration with 26,428 Irish emigrants returning that year.

In 2017, the Department established a new mentoring programme called ‘Back for Business’, aimed specifically at returning emigrant entrepreneurs. Research suggests that time spent living abroad improves capacity to succeed in creating and growing businesses. At the same time, returning emigrants face challenges unique to them in setting up a business. These include gaps in personal and professional networks, support, and up to date local knowledge which would be crucial to successful establishment of new businesses. To address this potential deficit for returning emigrant entrepreneurs, 45 recently returned emigrants - 26 women and 19 men - from all over the country, enrolled in the Back for Business programme established by the IAU.⁸ Of the participants, eight of those selected report that they already have some exports- thirty five (78%) state that they expect to be exporters in five years’ time; 13 participants (29%) report having more than one person employed in the new business - all expect to be employers and half (51%) expect to employ ten or more in five years’ time. The impact of this pilot project will be reviewed on completion in Summer 2018.



Minister of State for the Diaspora Ciarán Cannon TD with participants at the launch of Back for Business

⁸For further information see <https://www.backforbusiness.com/>



‘Migration Nation’ Dr. Christopher Kissane (moderator), Taqwa Al Hariri, Marcin Piotrowski, Zainab Boladale discuss their experiences of immigrating to Ireland at Ireland’s Edge 2017, Dingle, Co. Kerry.

2017 saw an increase in the numbers of reports of ‘barriers’ to Irish emigrants wishing to return to Ireland to live. Building on the work of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Irish Abroad which is chaired by the Minister of State for the Diaspora, the Department’s 2017 Diaspora Affairs budget line also funded an independent economic report on difficulties experienced by Irish emigrants returning home.⁹ This Report, which was considered by Government in March 2018, makes thirty targeted recommendations across nine thematic areas, which are now being taken forward across relevant Government Departments.

Through the Diaspora Affairs budget line, we also supported the 2017 *Ireland’s Edge Conference*, which took place on 1-2 December 2017 in Dingle, Co Kerry. Ireland’s Edge is an annual creative conference event that takes place en marge of the Other Voices Festival. As part of the collaboration with IAU in 2017, the theme of the Conference was ‘*Ireland – Migration Nation*’. Panel discussions included a debate on the experiences of Irish emigrants and of immigrants in Ireland and the ways in which Ireland could contribute to debates about migration, both at home and abroad, in a way that reflects the two sides of our migration nation.

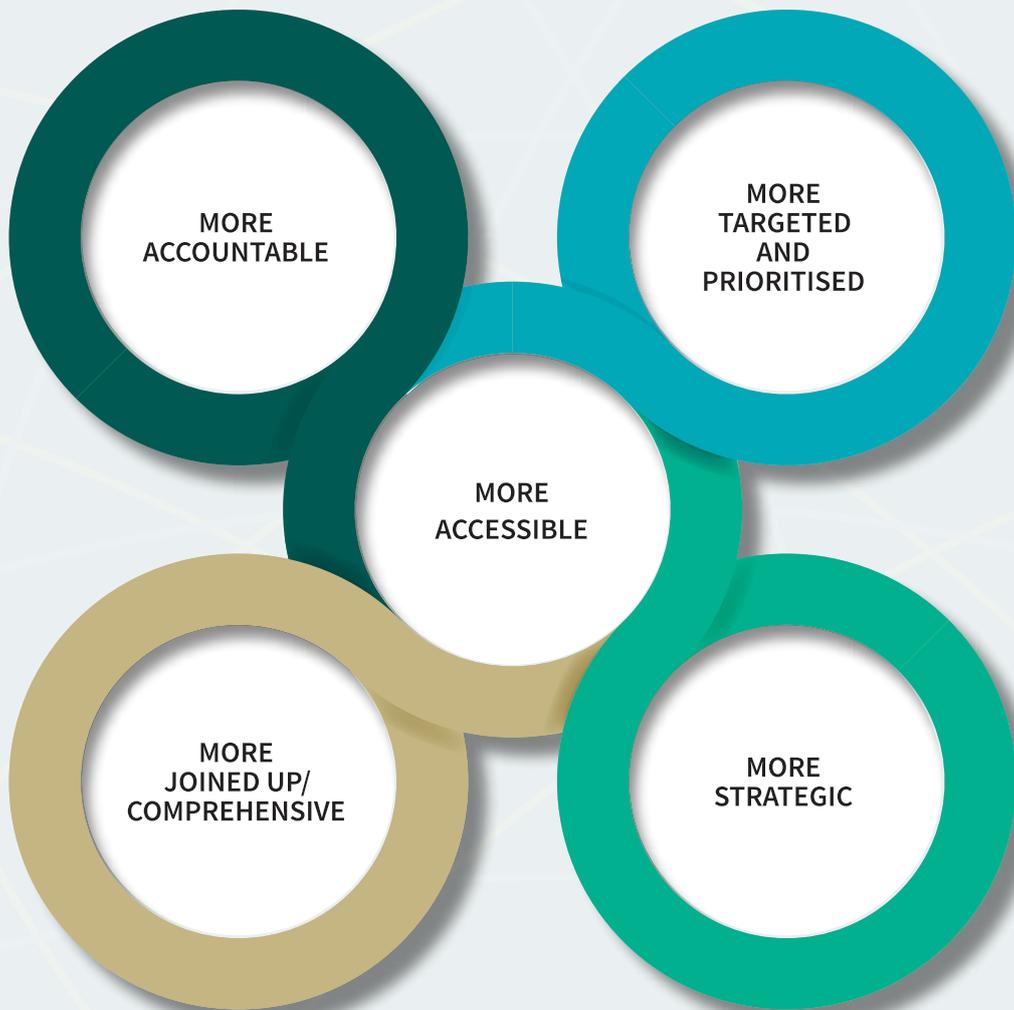
⁹For full Report see <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa-2017/globalirish/Report-on-Returning-Emigrants-2018.pdf>

Other projects funded through the Diaspora Affairs budget line focussed on increasing the engagement of the diaspora abroad with local communities here in Ireland.

Diaspora Affairs	Funding
Back for Business mentoring	€119,900
Report on Barriers for returning Emigrants	€67,478
Ireland Reaching Out - local diaspora engagement	€50,000
Ireland's Edge Migration Nation Conference	€50,000
EPIC – Ireland's Emigration Museum	€50,000
Failte Ireland Diaspora Tourism project	€210,000
Inlighten	€25,500
Quinnipiac University Exhibition on the Great Hunger in Dublin and Skibbereen	€85,925
Irish Technology Leadership Group Young Innovators Conference Shannon	€21,099
Overall Total	€679,902

Priorities for 2018

Building on the work that has been achieved in 2017, in the coming period, our focus in diaspora engagement will be to continue to deliver support for our diaspora that is:



More Accessible Support

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has listened to organisations who have highlighted that the current procedures for the Emigrant Support Programme may be overly onerous for small community groups who have worthwhile projects that can have a particular impact for the Irish community in a local area. In 2018, additional funding of €300,000 is being made available to Irish Embassies and Consulates abroad so that they can fund deserving small local projects directly and quickly, without the need for small organisations to fulfil all the criteria and documentation associated with the Emigrant Support Programme which is more suited to larger projects and organisations.

For those organisations which do wish to apply through the Emigrant Support Programme, and to support 'pop up' type once off events, new administrative procedures are being put in place in 2018 to facilitate faster decision making for some smaller grants, enhancing the role of our Embassies and Consulates in Britain, the United States, Australia and Canada.

These are among a number of key changes being made to Emigrant Support Programme procedures to make this important funding more accessible to diaspora groups. The operation of these revised procedures will be subject to internal review once the 2018-19 ESP grant round is finalised, at which point it is hoped that further consideration can be given to the possibility of multi-annual funding for some organisations.

The availability of clear information is another key pillar of improving accessibility to the Emigrant Support Programme. Key guidelines and information documents have been extensively reviewed and are now all available on-line to assist interested organisations, and to make clearer information more available as to how decisions are made in respect of ESP grants.

More Targeted/Prioritised Support

As set out in the Diaspora Policy itself, the key objective of the Emigrant Support Programme has been and will remain on supporting the welfare needs of the most vulnerable Irish individuals and communities abroad. This prioritisation of welfare support has been maintained over the review period, and will be maintained again in 2018-19.

While maintaining this commitment, we are also asking our partner organisations to do more to demonstrate the impact of our funding and the needs being addressed through ESP-funded projects. We are also encouraging more collaboration between organisations to ensure maximum impact for funding. Further to discussions at the Global Irish Civic Forum in May 2017, specific funding of €200,000 will be made available in the 2018-19 ESP grant round for new collaborative projects involving two or more organisations.

The Government will continue to prioritise Emigrant Support Programme funding for organisations and projects which support our undocumented citizens and their needs.

In terms of diaspora engagement more generally, we will work to ensure that the diversity of modern Ireland and our diaspora today is more fully reflected in our engagement and support. In addition to the Emigrant Support Programme budget, the separate 'Diaspora Affairs' budget line of €600,000 will be used as a Diaspora Development budget to extend the reach of the Government's current diaspora engagement. As well as engaging with traditional diaspora groups, opportunities will be proactively identified to extend our reach into additional groupings within the diaspora, reaching out in particular to 'non-traditional' or previously under-represented diaspora groups e.g. younger people, women, those with Ulster-Scots links, the LGBTQI community and the affinity diaspora.

More Accountable Support

Since its establishment in 2004, the Emigrant Support Programme has represented an overall commitment of €159,924,963 by the Irish taxpayer in our communities abroad.

Over time our auditing systems have evolved to ensure best practice monitoring of the financial expenditure associated with these grants. Between 2014 and 2017, The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has undertaken 28 routine audits of ESP organisations using an external supplier. The annual figure more than doubled this year – with 11 organisations being audited. It is intended to increase the number of organisations audited in 2018, following a competitive tendering process, to facilitate a wider routine auditing and quality assurance function within the ESP.

In addition, we are also looking more to increased and improved measurement of the impact of the grants, with a view to identifying more clearly for the Irish public the difference that their support makes in the lives of Irish individuals and communities abroad. As part of this we are working closely with funded organisations to ensure that their own internal governance structures facilitate high impact engagement. For 2018, we have also amended further our monitoring and reporting procedures so that the outcomes and impacts of our grants are front and centre of the reporting by individual organisations.

More Joined Up/Comprehensive Support

The period since 2015 has seen better connections and communications between diaspora organisations. The hosting of two Global Irish Civic Forums, in 2015 and 2017 was a key development in that regard, with organisations coming together to discuss common challenges and opportunities, and to forge direct and personal contacts and engagement. The importance and benefit of collaboration and joined up thinking by such organisations was a key theme at the 2017 Civic Forum. To support and encourage these efforts, for the first time the Government will ring-fence funding within the Emigrant Support Programme for collaborative projects involving two or more organisations. With regard to our community in Britain specifically we are funding a new project which is focussing on practical methods to address social isolation and the importance of inter-generational engagement in promoting healthy living for aging communities. Work is already underway through the GAA and Irish in Britain ‘Good Match’ project to link the older Irish community with newer arrivals.

This desire for more joined up action is also reflected in the work being taken forward by the Inter-departmental Committee on the Irish Abroad in ensuring there is better awareness within all Government Departments in respect of what others are doing to support and engage with the Irish abroad across a vast range of activities and issues.

More Strategic Support/Next Generation

As we look to the future of our diaspora engagement, in the face of changing patterns of international migration and, in particular, changing demographics in our traditional emigration and diaspora locations, there is no doubt that engagement through Irish culture and heritage will become more important. The 2016 Commemorations programme demonstrated how cultural and heritage projects engaged new audiences across many countries, and this is a legacy which can be built upon. In order to maximise the impact of this kind of engagement, it will be important for Ireland to utilise the entirety of the cultural infrastructure available to us globally and to develop and strengthen that infrastructure for our future needs.

Irish culture has a key role to play in the engagement of younger members and the next generations of our diaspora, which is central to Ireland's diaspora policy. Social media too will play a growing role in engaging our diaspora and the younger generations in particular. This is a specific priority for the Government's diaspora engagement efforts in 2018. In addition to the funding made available to Ireland's Embassies and Consulates for 2018, specifically to reach out to younger generations in our diaspora, and other groups who may be under-represented in our engagement to date, further funding of €200,000 will be 'ring-fenced' within this year's Emigrant Support Programme grant round to support projects aimed at younger people and/or intergenerational engagement.

Irish Abroad Unit

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

May 2018

Annex 1 - Full list of organisations funded under ESP

2017 Emigrant Support Grants Programme Grants Summary

COUNTRY/AREA	EURO
Britain	€5,344,993
USA	€4,043,776
Ireland	€1,524,081
Australia	€463,316
Canada	€277,776
Japan	€28,142
Zimbabwe	€25,000
South Africa	€22,184
Portugal	€15,000
New Zealand	€13,105
Switzerland	€8,484
France	€7,000
Hungary	€6,566
Kenya	€6,049
Russian Federation	€5,500
Netherlands	€5,500
Germany	€5,150
China	€5,103
Sweden	€3,528
Norway	€3,404
Luxembourg	€2,750
Chile	€2,000
Estonia	€1,500
Total	€11,819,907*

Figures includes Mission fund & Strategic Diaspora Projects*

Britain

PROJECT	EURO
Acton Homeless Concern Emmaus House and The Damien Centre	€32,618
Age UK Hillingdon	€13,591
Aisling Project	€106,553
Ashford Place	€159,919
Bell Farm Christian Centre	€6,710
Benefits Advice Shop	€2,237
Birmingham Irish Association	€212,285
Birmingham TradFest Ltd	€3,914
Blooming Survivors	€6,710
Bolton Irish Community Association	€5,592
Brent Centre for Young People	€20,130
Brent Irish Advisory Service (BIAS)	€129,113
Brian Boru Club	€17,893
Celtic & Irish Cultural Society	€11,743
Coatbridge St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee	€3,398
Connection at St. Martins, The	€17,893
Conradh na Gaeilge, Glaschú	€44,790
Corby Irish Centre	€9,106
Corby Young At Heart Luncheon Group	€6,151
Coventry Irish Society	€65,780
Derby St. Patrick's Day Celebration	€1,118
Doncaster Irish Association	€3,355
Edinburgh's Festival of Ireland	€3,262
Emerald Centre, The	€55,916
Emerald Circle Club	€3,805
Emerald Senior Citizens Group	€4,026
Feith an Cheoil School of Irish Traditional Music	€5,032
Friends, Families and Travellers	€39,141
Golden Shamrock Club, The	€9,242
Green Curtain	€2,500
Greenwich Irish Pensioners Association	€3,355
Halifax and District Irish Society	€5,436
Halifax Irish Centre	€8,695
Haringey Cultural and Community Centre	€139,798
Haslingden IDL Club	€4,473
Hibernian Society, The	€14,797
Huddersfield Irish Centre	€3,914
Huddersfield St. Patrick's Day Parade Association	€4,893
IIBN Ltd (Irish International Business Network)	€42,496
Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy (ICAP)	€162,172

Innisfree Housing Association	€5,436
Irish Arts Foundation	€44,733
Irish Business Network Scotland	€13,979
Irish Chaplaincy in Britain	€236,310
Irish Club Warrington	€5,144
Irish Community Care Manchester	€180,097
Irish Community Care Merseyside	€298,591
Irish Community Services	€221,427
Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith	€150,734
Irish Democratic League of Great Britain	€2,835
Irish Diaspora Foundation	€61,431
Irish Elderly Advice Network	€109,036
Irish Film London	€11,341
Irish Heritage	€7,067
Irish in Britain	€440,019
Irish Literary Society	€2,718
Irish Music and Dance in London	€14,176
Irish Pensioners Choir (London)	€2,268
Irish Pensioners Forum of East London	€5,436
Irish Tuesday Club, Liverpool	€8,155
Irish Women's Survivors Support Network	€55,363
Jersey Irish Society	€3,805
Kilburn Irish Pensioners	€1,701
La Fhéile Bhríde (St. Brigid's Day) London	€2,840
Leeds Gypsy & Traveller Exchange	€43,321
Leeds Irish Centre (Tuesday Club)	€15,936
Leeds Irish Health & Homes	€175,576
Leeds St. Patrick's Day Parade & Celebrations	€7,938
Leicester & Leicestershire Irish Forum	€27,182
Leicestershire G.A.T.E (Gypsy and Traveller Equalities)	€16,309
Lewisham Irish Community Centre	€54,907
Lewisham Irish Pensioners Group	€4,349
Liverpool Irish Festival	€10,873
London Gypsy and Traveller Unit	€84,264
London Irish Amateur Rugby Club	€7,399
London Irish Centre	€420,264
London Metropolitan University	€20,658
Luton Irish Forum	€106,799
Manchester Irish Education Group	€1,305
Manchester Irish Language Group	€797
Mansfield & Dukeries Irish Association	€6,524
Maya Centre	€16,309
Milton Keynes Irish Centre	€11,090

Mind Yourself	€56,828
Monica's Place	€63,508
New Horizon Youth Centre	€39,692
NOAH Enterprise	€68,296
North Wales Irish Society	€4,349
Northampton Irish Support Group	€48,927
Nottingham St. Patrick's Day Parade	€5,691
Older Irish in Britain Survey (IAU & S Brennan)	€24,600
Oxford Irish Society	€4,893
Passage, The	€39,780
Portsmouth Irish Society	€1,138
Safe Start Foundation	€81,955
Sandwell Irish Society	€39,270
SankTus	€26,964
Sheffield Irish Association	€1,191
SIFA Fireside	€17,011
Solace Women's Aid	€39,839
South London Irish Association, The	€3,969
Southwark Irish Pensioners	€140,117
Southwark Travellers Action Group	€51,940
St. Finbarr's Sports and Social Club	€3,415
St. Michael's Irish Centre	€50,015
St. Patrick's Festival Ltd. Birmingham	€9,073
Streetwork UK	€22,681
Teeside Irish Society	€1,588
Traveller Movement, The	€134,198
Tyneside Irish Centre	€15,877
Tyneside Irish Cultural Society	€29,356
West Hampstead Women's Centre	€5,436
York Irish Association	€3,402
Britain	€5,344,993

United States

PROJECT	EURO
Aisling Irish Community Centre	€332,960
Amherst Irish Association	€3,798
Battery Heritage Foundation	€7,623
Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Parade Inc	€8,440
Catholic Charities Community Services A-D NY	€60,139
Celtic Junction Arts Center	€10,971
Celtic MKE	€13,503
Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform	€20,923
Chicago Irish Immigrant Support	€132,340
CnaG Gaelic League LA	€3,376
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres	€77,500
Con Gen New York Strategic Project - Irish Screen America	€16,879
Digital Irish (New York)	€4,235
Emerald Isle Immigration Centre	€206,000
Embassy Washington Strategic Projects - 1.Undocumented & 2.Youth Survey	€21,626
Friends of Irish Studies, The	€14,685
Gaelic American Athletic Association of Buffalo	€1,719
Gingold Theatrical Group	€8,593
Glucksman Ireland House - NY University	€20,086
Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Foundation	€8,623
Hudson Valley Irish Fest Inc.	€9,995
Irish American Community Center	€12,705
Irish American Heritage Centre, Chicago	€182,550
Irish American Heritage Museum	€8,862
Irish Apostolate USA	€31,226
Irish Business Organisation of New York Inc	€5,929
Irish Congress of Southern California	€5,064
Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation	€16,879
Irish Cultural & Sports Association of Southern Connecticut	€2,965
Irish Culture Bay Area	€8,593
Irish Cultural Centre of New England	€107,407
Irish Culture Center Western New England	€54,633
Irish Fair of Minnesota	€8,440
Irish Heritage Centre of Greater Cincinnati	€8,440
Irish Heritage Society of Milford Inc	€6,444
Irish Immigration Centre Philadelphia	€160,728
Irish Immigration Pastoral Centre San Francisco	€158,494
Irish International Immigration Centre Boston	€209,374
Irish Network Bay Area	€2,532
Irish Network Chicago	€6,776

Irish Network USA Inc	€33,758
Irish Outreach San Diego	€55,629
Irish Pastoral Centre Boston	€124,093
Kansas City Irish Centre	€105,494
Louisiana Hibernian Charity	€210,296
Maine Irish Heritage Centre	€33,881
Marion Military Institute Gaelic Club	€268
New York Irish Arts Centre	€1,128,000
New York Irish Centre	€311,286
Origin Theatre Company	€10,139
Pieta House NY	€13,794
Rosenbach Museum & Library	€8,470
Seattle Irish Immigrant Support	€13,419
Society of Commodore John Barry	€4,913
South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce, Inc	€1,013
The Galway Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International	€6,822
Young Leaders Global Race	€446
United States	€4,043,776

Canada

PROJECT	EURO
Ancient Order of Hibernians Canada, Inc	€1,179
Benevolent Irish Society of PE Island	€4,111
Embassy Ottawa Strategic Project - Canada 150	€21,484
Celtic Cultural Society of Nova Scotia	€2,620
Emerald Isle Seniors Society	€21,194
Festival Bloomsday	€1,572
Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa	€1,965
Ireland Park Foundation	€32,750
Irish Association of Manitoba	€9,664
Irish Canadian Cultural Association New Brunswick, Capital Area Chapter	€3,799
Irish Canadian Club of Hamilton	€4,146
Irish Canadian Immigration Centre, Toronto - Eamonn O'Loghlin	€45,851
Irish Film Festival Ottawa	€1,999
Irish Heritage Society of Canada	€2,293
Irish Society Seniors' Drop-In	€5,432
Irish Women's Network of BC	€643
Memorial University of Newfoundland	€101,622
Okanagan Irish Society	€3,332
Renews and Area Irish Heritage Preservation Society	€2,666
St. Patrick's Day Parade Society	€1,310
St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa	€833
The New Trad Society	€3,332
Toronto Irish Players	€3,979
Canada	€277,776

Australia

PROJECT	EURO
Canberra Irish Club	€8,780
Canberra Irish Language Association	€2,433
Eureka's Children Inc	€2,266
Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee	€3,433
Ireland Calling Radio	€1,916
Irish Australian Association Inc	€9,579
Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce	€11,176
Irish Australian Support & Resource Bureau	€95,722
Irish Australian Support Association Queensland	€65,746
Irish Language School Sydney - Scoil na Gaeilge Sydney	€1,327
Irish Support Agency, Sydney	€133,566
John Boyle O'Reilly Association Inc	€1,644
Kidogo Art Institute (Fenians, Freemantle and Freedom)	€6,386
MCRA Ltd - Irish Celtic Community Broadcasting Group	€6,634
NT Irish Association	€2,235
Queensland Irish Choir Inc	€2,630
St. Patrick's Day Parade Association Inc	€9,862
Sydney Queer Irish	€4,151
The Claddagh Association Inc	€93,830
Australia	€463,316

Ireland

PROJECT	EURO
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann	€242,535
Conradh Na Gaeilge	€28,170
Crosscare Migrant Project	€229,322
GAA	€382,949
Helplink	€59,250
Ireland Canada University Foundation	€121,000
Irish Heritage Trust	€20,000
Irish Pages	€11,000
Ireland Reaching Out	€50,000
Irish Council for Prisoners overseas	€117,855
Safehome Programme Ltd	€260,000
USI	€2,000
Ireland	€1,524,081

China

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Chamber of Commerce China	€5,103

China	€5,103
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Chile

PROJECT	EURO
Fundación San Patricio	€2,000

Chile	€2,000
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Estonia

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Estonian Business Network	€1,500

Estonia	€1,500
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France

PROJECT	EURO
An Ghaeltacht-sur-Seine	€4,000
Irish In France	€3,000

France	€7,000
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Germany

PROJECT	EURO
Grúpa Forbartha Na Gaeilge, Hamburg	€1,150
Munich Irish Network	€4,000

Germany	€5,150
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Hungary

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Hungarian Business Circle	€6,566

Hungary	€6,566
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Japan

PROJECT	EURO
Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce	€28,142
Japan	€28,142

Kenya

PROJECT	EURO
Business Ireland Kenya Association	€4,387
Kenya 100 Years Committee	€1,662
Kenya	€6,049

Luxembourg

PROJECT	EURO
Luxembourg CCE	€750
British Irish Film Festival	€2,000
Luxembourg	€2,750

Netherlands

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Club Netherlands	€2,000
Stitching DeeAispora Foundation	€3,500
Netherlands	€5,500

New Zealand

PROJECT	EURO
NWSG Irish Interest Group	€333
St. Patrick's Festival Trust	€12,772
New Zealand	€13,105

Norway

PROJECT	EURO
Norwegian Irish Society	€2,388
Oslo Bloomsday Society	€1,016
Norway	€3,404

Portugal

PROJECT	EURO
Ireland Portugal Business Network	€15,000
Portugal	€15,000

Russia

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Business Club Moscow	€5,500
Russia	€5,500

South Africa

PROJECT	EURO
Business Ireland Southern Africa	€9,693
Irish South African Association	€12,491
South Africa	€22,184

Sweden

PROJECT	EURO
Swedish Irish Society	€3,528
Sweden	€3,528

Switzerland

PROJECT	EURO
Basel Irish Club	€2,641
Irish Business Network Switzerland	€4,302
The Geneva Irish Association	€1,541
Switzerland	€8,484

Zimbabwe

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Association of Mashonaland	€25,000
Zimbabwe	€25,000



Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade