



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

Support for the Irish Abroad

Annual Report 2018



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

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Foreword



Simon Coveney TD
Tánaiste and Minister for
Foreign Affairs and Trade

In June 2018 the Government published Global Ireland – Ireland’s Global Footprint to 2025, which sets out in an unprecedented way our ambition for the renewal and expansion of Ireland’s international presence. An integral part of this is our commitment to strengthening our engagement with our diaspora communities around the world and all those who value their connection with Ireland.

In the past through adversity and today through opportunity, Ireland has become a global nation. We see resilient, talented people around the world, from Sydney to San Francisco, who are recognised for the contribution they make to their adopted societies and who remain proud of their culture and heritage. We recognise and value everything they do to enhance Ireland’s global reputation and to build a presence in the world extending far beyond the shores of our small island.

In a fast-moving world patterns of migration can shift rapidly and Ireland today is no longer a country defined by emigration. As part of our Global Ireland strategy, we have undertaken to develop a new Diaspora policy that better reflects contemporary Ireland and the changing profile of our people abroad.

At the same time, the support we give the most vulnerable members of our diaspora communities will remain at the heart of what we do. Our continuing commitment is reflected in this report which sets out in detail the assistance we have given to Irish community organisations around the world through our Emigrant Support Programme. We are grateful to these organisations for their tireless work on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our global communities.

The report also sets out examples of the innovative ways the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in collaboration with our diplomatic missions are reaching out to our diaspora communities and building new networks among the Irish abroad. The range of activity and the global coverage is, by any standard, impressive.

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

Simon Coveney TD
Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Foreword



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

As Minister of State for the Diaspora, I am delighted to welcome this second annual report on support for the Irish Abroad.

The Irish diaspora is an inseparable part of Irish identity. Emigration is woven into our family histories and into our modern experiences. The Government recognises and values the connection we have with our diaspora and we are committed to maintaining and supporting that connection.

The organisations and projects we assist through the Emigrant Support Programme are diverse. Many provide vital services, working with older or vulnerable communities. There are organisations which support recent emigrants in getting on their feet and building networks in their new locations as well as those that help emigrants who are returning home. We also support organisations that help to maintain connections with Ireland through the celebration of our shared heritage and culture.

We know that our diaspora communities are changing. Emigration has been an intrinsic part of the Irish story for centuries, and there is scarcely a family in Ireland that doesn't have relatives or friends abroad. But where once the image of the Global Irish was one of people fleeing poverty and hunger, today the picture is more nuanced and, in many ways, more positive. Our long-established communities are today joined by teachers in the Gulf, by finance professionals in East Asia, and by nurses in Australia.

We are conscious that the needs of the Global Irish are diverse and complex and the Government is committed to ensuring that we serve them to the greatest extent possible. The publication of this annual report for 2018 sets out how we are taking on this challenge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ciarán Cannon', written in a cursive style.

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

Introduction

Strengthening Ireland's connections with Irish citizens abroad, people of Irish ancestry around the world and all those who have a connection with Ireland, 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 identity and value their 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.

Over the course of 2018, the Irish Abroad Unit's ESP and Diaspora Affairs budget lines together funded 429 projects from 271 different organisations totalling some €12 million. €11.627 million was spent through the Emigrant Support Programme and €0.3 million through the Diaspora Affairs budget line.

Emigrant Support Programme	€11,627,385
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Diaspora Affairs	€302,022
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Emigrant Support Programme

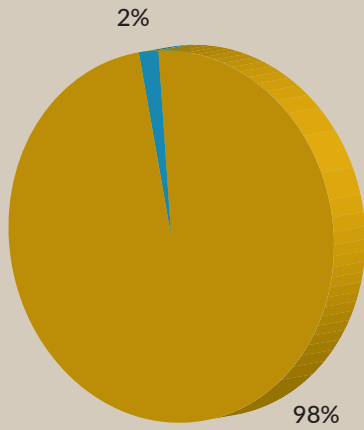
The Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) is a tangible expression of the Government's support of and commitment to the global Irish community. Since its inception in 2004, the programme has supported the work of Irish organisations and communities around the world. Grants have ranged from small amounts for small voluntary groups, to major allocations awarded to community organisations operating on a large scale.

In 2018 over 490 applications were received from 319 organisations requesting over €22 million worth of funding for the Programme's €11.595 million budget. The amount of funding awarded in 2018 was €11,448,100 for 402 projects.¹

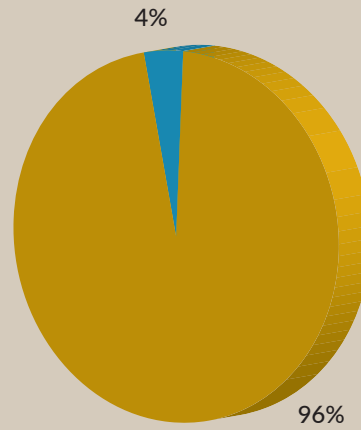
The 'Strategic Diaspora Project' stream supports the work of our embassies and consulates in extending our engagement with diaspora groups in innovative ways. It also assists in developing new diaspora contacts, in particular through reaching out to non-traditional or previously under-represented diaspora groups. In 2018, funding totalling €179,285 was allocated to 15 projects across our embassy network. Funding provided through this budget went towards a range of projects, including supporting our undocumented citizens in the US; outreach and engagement during Pride events in Ottawa and New York; and celebrating women's talent and creativity on Brigid's Day in London.

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

GRAPH 1
2018 % Breakdown of Expenditure



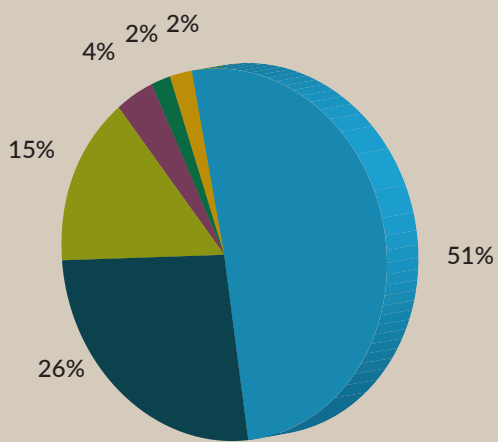
GRAPH 2
2018 % Breakdown of Projects



Overall funding under Emigrant Support Programme

	2018 Spend	Number of projects funded
Emigrant Support Programme	€11,448,100	402
Strategic Diaspora Projects	€179,285	15
Total	€11,627,385	417

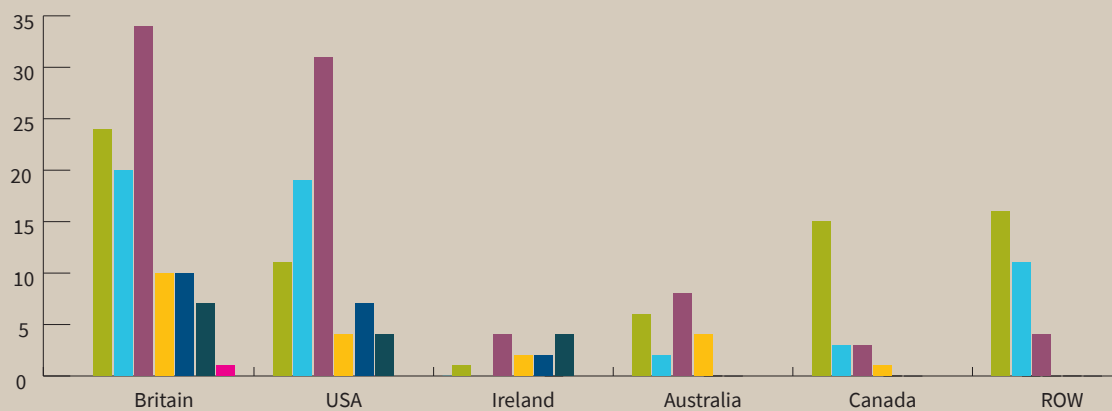
GRAPH 3
2018 Breakdown of ESP Funding by Region



	2018	%
Britain	€ 5,978,711	51
USA	€ 3,065,105	26
Ireland	€ 1,707,974	15
Australia/NZ	€ 462,905	4
Canada	€ 213,723	2
ROW	€ 198,969	2
Total	€ 11,627,385	

GRAPH 4

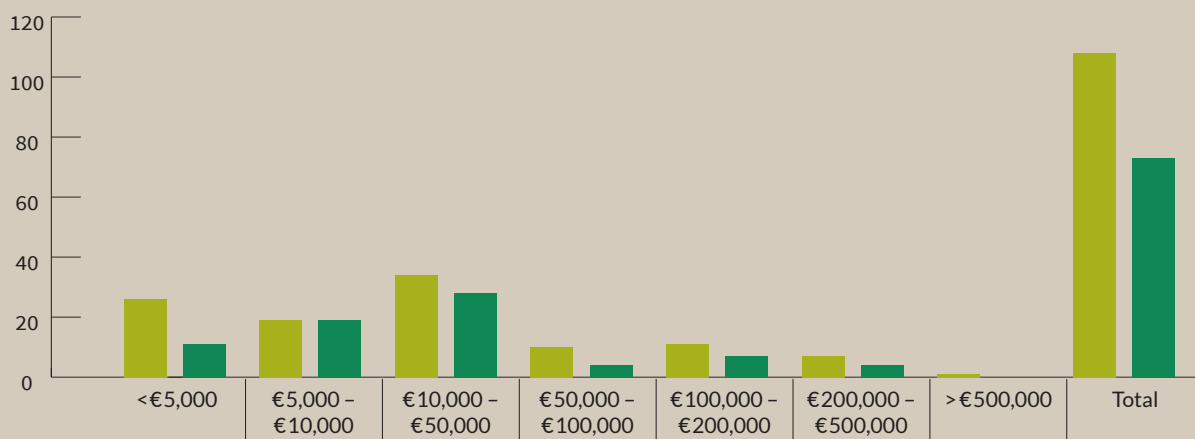
No. of Organisations Funded in Each Region Under Expenditure Bands



	Britain	USA	Ireland	Australia /NZ	Canada	ROW	Total
< €5,000	26	11	2	6	13	13	71
€5,001 - €10,000	19	19	0	3	3	11	55
€10,001 - €50,000	34	28	4	7	3	4	80
€50,001 - €100,000	10	4	2	4	1	0	21
€100,001 - €200,000	11	7	2	0	0	0	20
€200,001 - €500,000	7	4	4	0	0	0	15
> €500,001	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	108	73	14	20	20	28	263

GRAPH 5

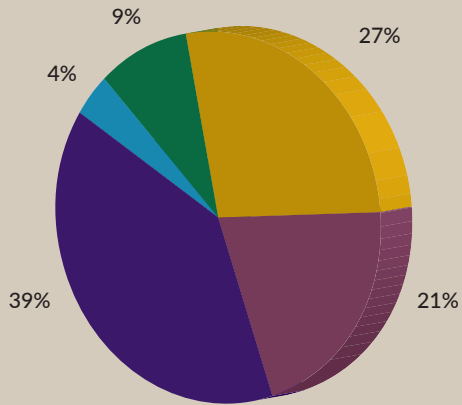
No. of Organisations Funded in Britain and the USA Under Expenditure Bands



	<€5,000	€5,000 - €10,000	€10,000 - €50,000	€50,000 - €100,000	€100,000 - €200,000	€200,000 - €500,000	>€500,000	Total
Britain	26	19	34	10	11	7	1	108
USA	11	19	28	4	7	4	0	73

GRAPH 6

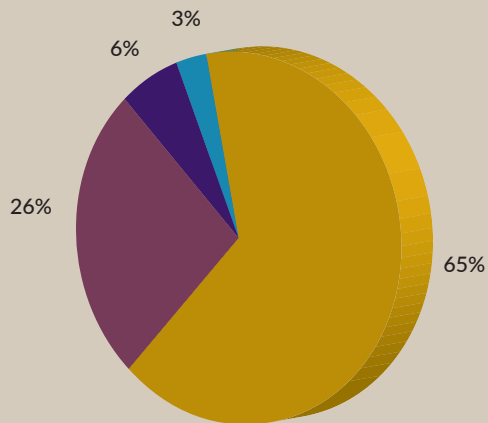
2018 Breakdown of Number of ESP and SDP Projects by Category



	2018	%
Welfare Other ²	111	27
Welfare Elderly	87	21
Culture/Heritage/Sport	164	39
Capital	17	4
Business Network	35	9
Total	417	

GRAPH 7

2018 Breakdown of ESP Total Expenditure by Category



	Britain	USA	Ireland	Australia /NZ	Canada	ROW	Total
Welfare	€4,915,219	€1,561,985	€650,622	€347,727	€131,505	€12,623	€7,619,681
Culture/ Heritage/ Sport	€713,303	€942,544	€1,051,668	€87,663	€67,037	€106,735	€2,984,272
Capital	€279,381	€365,148	-	€21,253	-	-	€665,783
Business	€70,806	€195,427	€5,685	€6,261	€15,183	€79,611	€372,972
Total	€5,978,709	€3,065,104	€1,707,974	€462,905	€213,723	€198,969	€11,627,385

2. Includes funding for Irish in Britain which covers both Welfare – Elderly and Welfare – Other.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Department is firmly committed to ensuring best practice monitoring of the expenditure associated with Emigrant Support Programme grants.

IAU commissions a number of on-site, external audits each year to ensure ongoing quality control. The objective of the audits is to provide the Department with assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems and controls in place within the organisations in receipt of ESP grants. In 2018, €31,759 was spent on audits.

Between 2014 and the end of 2018, 47 external audits were conducted on organisations funded by the ESP: 26 in Britain, 7 in Ireland, 8 in the US, 4 in Australia and 2 in Canada. In 2018, the Irish Abroad Unit decided to increase the number of audits being carried out annually, from 11 in 2017 to 19 organisations in 2018. Ten of these organisations are in the UK, 5 in the US and 4 in Australia.

At the time of auditing, the 19 organisations had all been in receipt of a 2017-18 grant, of which: 3 were less than €50,000; 8 between €50,000 - €100,000; 6 between €100,000 - €200,000; and 2 over €200,000

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

Collaboration with Irish Cultural Organisations

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)



GAA World Games
Sportsfile ©GAA

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 €270,000 allocated for this purpose in 2018.

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, Australia and New Zealand, 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 new links between the global Irish and their local communities.

The growth of Gaelic Games internationally, through the Global Irish Development Fund, has been phenomenal. There were 86 successful applications in 2018, compared to 78 in 2017. Some projects are one-off events, while others have activities lasting the course of a year. In 2018 the Department contributed €200,000 to the GAA for the Global Games Development Fund, this amount being matched by the GAA.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

The Department also collaborates closely with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in promoting Irish music worldwide and fostering a deeper sense of connection among the Irish diaspora to their roots. With the assistance of funding through the ESP, Comhaltas reach out through music to the younger generation of Irish communities abroad and to our affinity diaspora. In 2018 €255,000 was allocated to Comhaltas under the ESP for activities in Britain, North America, Canada and Japan.



Dr Betty Radier speaking at a Business Ireland Kenya Business Breakfast meeting
©DFAT

The Emigrant Support Programme at Work: Some Highlights from Around the World



Business Ireland Kenya, Kenya

The Business Ireland Kenya network (BIK), founded in 2013, is a platform that provides networking opportunities for Irish and Kenyan business people and companies. Through their networking events and invited speakers, they provide their members with information about doing business in Kenya and help them make new connections. Events organised by BIK include popular thematic Business Breakfast meetings, each of which has hosted over 50 attendees.

ESP funding provided to BIK has helped them increase their membership base and make information on the Kenyan business environment more accessible. By the end of 2018 BIK had expanded to include 13 corporate members and 46 individual members. The BIK Steering Committee also launched an updated Doing Business Guidebook in September 2018 for distribution to members and prospective Irish investors



Irish Australian Support Association (Brisbane) - Backpackers Project, Australia

The IASA's Backpackers Project has been supported by the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) for a number of years in order to provide assistance to newly arrived Irish people in Brisbane and the wider State of Queensland, the majority of whom are aged between 20 and 30.

They help Irish people settle into the State by:

- advising on housing, regional work, and general enquiries.
- providing referrals to Irish citizens in search of appropriate advice for legal and immigration issues.
- Holding regular social events for young citizens such as their "Fáilte Isteach" gathering.

The organisation also assists in traumatic cases involving young members of the Irish Diaspora in Queensland, including consular cases, repatriation, and support to families and friends of those affected.



SA Gaels, South Africa



SA Gaels Together
©SA Gaels

The SA Gaels Gaelic football club was formed in 2010 to promote the playing of Gaelic Games in South Africa, and eventually to establish a South African or Africa-wide GAA league. Since the team's inception, its goal has been to share the sport with locals as much as possible. Around 50 players are registered on the senior men's and women's teams, most of them South Africans. Three development centres have been set up to make the sport accessible to children in underprivileged townships around Johannesburg.

The SA Gaels have embraced global GAA tournaments as a way of building links with teams in other regions. Their most successful tournament to date was the 2016 GAA World Games, in which the men's team finished as runners-up in the plate final. Since then, they have also played in the 2018 Asian Gaelic Games, and they will be present at the 2019 GAA World Games.

The SA Gaels receive ESP funding through the Global Games Development Fund which is co-funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the GAA.



Irish Australian Support and Resource Bureau (Melbourne) - Elderly Outreach Programme, Australia

ESP funding provided to the IASRB's Elderly Outreach Programme ensures that the elderly, infirm and isolated members of the Irish community of Victoria can maintain vital social links.

The Bureau helps the elderly Irish community by assisting with:

- transport for appointments and shopping
- applying for government benefits
- weekly social events
- arranging funerals

The organisation also regularly visits people in their homes, nursing homes and in hospital and continues to ensure that any member of the Irish community in Victoria that requires a visit due to isolation or illness is assisted in order to maintain important links with the community.



Members of the Irish community in New York participate in the NYC Pride Parade 2018

Kim Haughton ©DFAT



NYC Pride, USA

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade wants to ensure that the image of Ireland it promotes is one that reflects the openness and diversity of contemporary Ireland. At the same time, we want to reach out to new groups among the Global Irish who have traditionally been underrepresented in Irish diaspora policy.

Among these initiatives is the funding of a range of LGBTI groups participating in Pride events around the world. In 2018, Irish participation in NYC Pride received funding of €28,000.



Raised on Songs and Stories, Britain



Raised on Songs and Stories

Simone Rudolphi ©Raised on Songs and Stories

Raised on Songs and Stories (ROSS) is a special project for older Irish people and their friends in the north of England organised by the Tyneside Irish Cultural Society. The project aims to bring together Irish emigrants who settled in the North East region during the 1950s and 1960s to celebrate their cultural heritage. The title comes from the famous Dubliners song - 'The Rare Ould Times'.

Every month ROSS is on the road to a local venue where there is a lunch, live Irish music and entertainment. The project has been running for a number of years and has visited many localities in Newcastle, Northumberland and Teeside.

The events allow participants to meet and enjoy activities that will help them stay in touch with their heritage, as well as reducing isolation.

Presidential Distinguished Service Award

The Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, administered by the Irish Abroad Unit, is an expression of the importance placed by Ireland on the Global Irish, their contributions and their achievements.

The Awards are presented by the President every year. They provide recognition by the Irish State of people living abroad who have given sustained and distinguished service to Ireland or to Irish communities abroad, or on a global or international issue of importance.

While the scheme is open to anyone living outside Ireland, it is primarily aimed at Irish citizens, those entitled to Irish citizenship and people of Irish descent. To date the awards have been presented to 71 recipients from diverse locations and backgrounds, who have made their contributions to Ireland in many different ways.

Nominations for the award are made through our diplomatic mission network, and are considered by a High Level Panel. The Panel recommends up to 10 people every year from these nominations which are then submitted to Government for approval. The categories under which individuals can be nominated are:

- Arts, Culture and Sport;
- Business and Education;
- Charitable Works;
- Irish Community Support;
- Peace, Reconciliation and Development;
- Science, Technology and Innovation.

The overall cost of the PDSA scheme to IAU in 2018 was just over €53,000.

The recipients of the 2018 Awards are as follows:

PDSA Recipient 2018	Category	Location
William Kennedy	Arts, Culture and Sport	US
Edna O'Brien	Arts, Culture and Sport	Britain
Munira Hamud Mutran	Business and Education	Brazil
John Lahey	Business and Education	US
Bridget Tighe	Charitable Works	Palestine
Breege McDaid	Irish Community Support	Britain
Tom Power (deceased)	Irish Community Support	Australia
Edward J. Ward	Irish Community Support	US
Mary Killeen	Peace, Reconciliation & Development	Kenya
Margaret Murnane	Science, Technology & Innovation	US



Celebrating the achievements of the Irish abroad
 - The President and Mrs Higgins with the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister of State Cannon and 2018 PDSA Recipients
 Maxwell Photography ©DFAT

Brigid's Day - Celebrating the Creativity of Women



Malcolm McNally ©DFAT

The Irish Embassy in London marked Brigid's Day, or Lá Fhéile Bríde, by celebrating the creativity of women on 1st February 2018. This initiative was supported by the Department's Emigrant Support Programme.

The Embassy hosted twelve different performances, talks and panel discussions over the afternoon and evening of 1st February in a variety of spaces throughout the historic building. The event celebrated the enormous contribution and talent of women in such diverse fields as music, film, comedy, architecture, poetry, literature, fashion, art, theatre, craft, business and entrepreneurship, science and technology.

Participants in the day's events included renowned figures such as award-winning TV actor, writer and producer Sharon Horgan, international fashion designer Orla Kiely, Enterprise Ireland CEO Julie Sinnamon, star of standup and TV comedy Roisin Conaty, and musician and recording artists Keeva and Camille O'Sullivan. President Higgins was guest of honor at the event.

The celebration of St Brigid's Day was chosen by the Department as a new and innovative way to celebrate the work of inspirational Irish women who are making their mark across a range of fields, while at the same time demonstrating Ireland's commitment to gender equality and diversity.



President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins at the 2018 Brigid's Day event in the Irish Embassy, London
Malcolm McNally ©DFAT

Diaspora Affairs

Since 2017, Irish Abroad Unit has had responsibility for an additional Diaspora Affairs budget line. Twelve projects totalling €302,022 were funded in 2018.

A particular focus was placed on projects which supported returning Irish emigrants and making it as easy as possible to move back to Ireland. In the year leading up to April 2018, the Central Statistics Office estimates 28,400 Irish nationals returned to Ireland.

An emphasis was also placed on projects that worked with the alumni of Irish educational institutions. Due to the large number of international students in Irish institutes of higher education, this is now a considerable cohort who often cherish good memories of their time living here and form part of the 'affinity diaspora'; people connected to Ireland through personal interest or experience, though not by ancestry. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is continuing to research this very geographically dispersed group to understand how best to connect with them.

Diaspora Affairs	Funding
Bangkok Alumni Project	€ 3,454
Citizens Information Board project for returning migrants	€ 85,000
Design & Craft Council of Ireland	€ 9,840
EPIC – Ireland's Emigration Museum	€ 19,190
INDECON Report on returning migrants	€ 6,150
Ireland Reaching Out	€ 97,190
Ireland's Edge conference	€ 50,000
Irish Educated – Globally Connected alumni event, Washington DC	€ 6,495
Irish Workhouse Portumna	€ 1,750
Mayo County Council	€ 5,000
Reverse diaspora project Poland	€ 7,953
Tech Ireland	€ 10,000
Total	€ 302,022

Back for Business

In May 2018, the pilot for the new Back for Business programme successfully concluded. Forty early stage entrepreneurs completed the programme, a new initiative from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to foster and support entrepreneurial activity among emigrants returning or recently returned to live in Ireland. The initiative was developed by Fitzsimons Consulting and was funded through the Diaspora Affairs budget line for €119,900 (2017 budget allocation).



Designer Clare O'Connor, retailer Thomas Ennis and Minister of State for the Diaspora Ciaran Cannon at the launch of Back for Business
Orla Murray/ SON Photographic Ltd ©DFAT

The programme, which ran from November 2017 to May 2018, addressed the challenges that all early stage entrepreneurs face with a particular focus on the additional barriers and challenges faced by those who have been out of the country for some time. This can often result in their local knowledge, contact base and professional and personal networks being less developed than those of typical entrepreneurs.

The programme was developed and designed on the principle that entrepreneurs learn best from each other. This applied learning model involved a series of round table interactive

sessions that were facilitated by Lead Entrepreneurs who have experience of successfully starting and growing a business. National in scope, but run on a regional basis, the six Back for Business groups were spread throughout the country from Donegal to Cork.

Due to the pilot's overwhelmingly positive evaluation by the participants (see inset), the programme has been renewed for another two years. A new cohort of 38 entrepreneurs is entering Back for Business 2, which will be funded from the 2019 Diaspora Affairs budget³. This second cycle was launched in November 2018 and is set to conclude in June 2019.

“This programme has literally changed my life for the better. I have no doubt it will encourage others to move home and follow their dreams. I’ve never been happier”
-Niamh O’Sullivan, Carb Cup Ltd.

Back for Business pilot results

- Everyone who participated in the programme described their experience as positive.
- 97% of participants were happy with how the sessions were run
- 90% had made firm decisions for their business as a result of participation, and 97% feel closer to achieving their ambitions since participating in the programme.
- 100% would recommend the programme to others
- 100% want to stay in touch with the programme.

³ As this programme will be funded from the 2019 Diaspora Affairs budget, it does not appear among line items listed in this report.

EPIC, Ireland's Emigration Museum

Summer 2018 saw the launch of a unique collaboration between EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with the creation of a DFAT Historian-in-Residence position based at EPIC, funded through the Diaspora Affairs budget line. The position was taken up by Dr Angela Byrne, who is leading on creating three temporary exhibitions at EPIC. These are to go on to reach a global audience by travelling to Irish Embassies and Consulates abroad over the coming years.

'Blazing a Trail: Lives and Legacies of Irish Diaspora Women', the first of the three exhibitions and a collaborative project between EPIC, Herstory and the Department, was launched on 12 November 2018. It celebrates the lives and legacies of 21 pioneering Irish diaspora women of the 19th and 20th centuries who blazed a trail in a wide range of fields. These included politics, sport, education, medicine, literature, the arts, the sciences and humanitarian work.



Dr Angela Byrne, DFAT Historian-in-Residence at EPIC

© EPIC Museum

The exhibition marked the centenary of partial women's suffrage in Ireland. It recognises the endeavours of individual Irish women across the globe who struggled for their own professional recognition, and for justice and equality for others.

Emigration offered many women access to education, careers and other opportunities that may not have been available in Ireland. These women made their mark across the globe, innovating in every field and paving the way for others to follow, navigating a male-dominated society on their own terms.

Returning emigrants

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides significant funding and support through the Emigrant Support Programme to organisations working with citizens who wish to return to Ireland. Over the last decade over €4 million has been allocated to Irish based organisations working with returning emigrants.

Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon TD, chairs the Interdepartmental Committee on the Irish Abroad which works to facilitate a whole of government response to issues affecting Irish people abroad. In recent meetings the Committee has focused on addressing government procedures reported to be negatively affecting returning emigrants.

In July 2018, DFAT published a new report on the challenges faced by returning Irish emigrants. This independent report was commissioned with the goal of reducing disproportionate or unnecessary administrative burdens affecting Irish emigrants wishing to return to live in Ireland.

In addition to this, Minister Cannon announced funding of €85,000 for the Citizens Information Board to create an online information and advice portal specifically for returning Irish emigrants. The new portal for returning emigrants is expected to go live in the third quarter of 2019.

Ireland's Edge conference

In November 2018, the 4th edition of Ireland's Edge took place, a conference on the Irish abroad and Ireland's relationship with its diaspora which is held each year in Dingle, alongside the Other Voices festival. As in previous years, the Department sponsored the 2018 conference, awarding a €50,000 grant under the Diaspora Affairs budget.

This year's theme was ÁIT/PLACE, and it focused on the experiences of second, third and fourth generations of Irish diaspora, examining their place within the diaspora community, their self-perception of their Irish identity and their relationship to Ireland.

Priorities and Strategy

In 2017, the Irish Abroad Unit embraced a five-part strategy to improve our support to the Irish Abroad, consisting of five ways in which the Emigrant Support Programme can be improved to better serve the Global Irish. Over the past year, the Irish Abroad Unit started implementing this strategy, with progress made in all five key aspects of support for the Global Irish.

- **More accessible support**

As part of IAU's commitment to improving the accessibility of ESP funding, our Embassies and Consulates in Canada, Australia, the US and Britain have been given greater decision-making power to fund local, smaller-scale projects. This takes advantage of their extensive local knowledge and existing relationships with community organisations, as well as their sense of the local Irish community and how its needs can be best met. In addition, it reduces the administrative burden on smaller community organisations.

- **More targeted and prioritised support**

The main objective of the Emigrant Support Programme has been and will remain supporting the welfare needs of the most vulnerable Irish individuals and communities abroad. The figures for ESP spending over 2018 demonstrate this commitment, with 65% of total ESP funding being spent on projects in the Welfare category.

We will work to ensure that the diversity of modern Ireland and our diaspora today is reflected in our engagement and support. While our commitment to traditional diaspora groups remains strong, over 2019 we will continue to seek out new ways to reach groups among the Global Irish who have traditionally been underrepresented in diaspora-related initiatives. These groups include women, young people, the LGBTQI community, those with Ulster-Scots heritage, members of the Travelling community and our affinity diaspora.

Following our first Brigid's Day event in 2018, Brigid's Day 2019 will be significantly expanded.

Alumni engagement projects in Thailand and Poland were also funded from the Diaspora Affairs budget this year in order to enable us to better understand the affinity diaspora. This group covers those who, despite not having Irish heritage, have links to Ireland, for example due to having studied or worked here. Over 2019, the Irish Abroad Unit plans to build on this foundation by commissioning research into the global Irish alumni network to better understand how to engage with this group.

- **More accountable support**

Since its establishment in 2004, the Emigrant Support Programme has represented an overall commitment of €171.5 million to our communities abroad.

Over time our auditing systems have evolved to ensure best practice in monitoring the financial expenditure associated with these grants. Between 2014 and the end of 2018, 51 external audits were conducted on organisations funded by the ESP using an external supplier. In 2018, the Irish Abroad Unit decided to increase the number of audits being carried out annually to 19 organisations.

- **More joined up/comprehensive support**

The Irish Abroad Unit has identified the need to offer more joined up and comprehensive support as a key way in which we can increase the efficiency and value of existing funding and initiatives. We are implementing this in two ways. First, we are prioritising ESP applicants proposing joint projects across two or more organisations. Second, we are also actively pursuing initiatives to streamline government support for the Global Irish across different government agencies and departments.

Minister of State Cannon chairs the Interdepartmental Committee on the Irish Abroad, which met three times over 2018. This committee brings together representatives from most government departments and semi-state bodies and gives a whole-of-government perspective to Diaspora issues. They are currently focused on implementing the 30 recommendations contained within the Indecon Economic Report on Addressing Challenges Faced by Returning Irish Emigrants, published in July 2018.”

- **More strategic and next-generation support**

The Global Irish are a diverse, complex and dispersed group. This complexity is in part the result of the diversity of the places in which Irish people have settled, but is increasingly also due to modern-day changes to the emigration experience. As new technologies and the global economy make it easier to emigrate, to stay connected to home and to return to Ireland after time spent abroad, we need to consider the different ways in which various generations of Global Irish relate to Ireland.

Engagement through Irish culture and heritage, and increasingly through ancestry research, will become a key way for Ireland to connect with the next generations of Global Irish. The ESP will continue to prioritise projects that focus on intergenerational links, and that transmit the culture and experiences of older Irish emigrants to younger generations and foster their connection to Ireland. Part of this also has to involve social media and new ways of communication. Every survey conducted demonstrates that social media and online communications services have transformed the way emigrants stay in touch with home, and it will be necessary to ensure that we keep up with these trends, to maintain and improve our relevance and accessibility to our people abroad. The Irish Abroad Unit is actively seeking to expand its Global Irish social media presence, to stay connected and increase its outreach to new generations growing up around the world.

ESP Priorities for 2019



Echoes of Erin from Hong Kong, prize winners at the 2018 World Irish Dancing Championships in Maastricht
© Johanna Cheung/Echoes of Erin

Connecting with Global Irish

Global Irish is administered by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and helps Irish people and people of Irish descent maintain their connections to Ireland and each other through information and support.

- Visit the Global Irish website at www.dfa.ie/global-irish
- Follow us on **Twitter @globalirish**
- Subscribe to our quarterly **Global Irish Newsletter**
- Email us at globalirishhub@dfa.ie

To ensure that we put these ambitions into practice, the Irish Abroad Unit has formulated a number of priorities for the ESP. For 2019, priority will be given to projects that are:

- **Collaborative**

In order to encourage an optimal return on investment and delivery of service, organisations applying to the ESP are encouraged to connect and collaborate with other organisations serving their geographical locations to work together on projects of higher impact, greater value for money and more ambitious scope.

- **Supportive of intergenerational links**

Priority will also be given to applications for projects that focus on fostering intergenerational links among the Global Irish. This will be one of the key factors that keep Irish culture around the world thriving for the generations to come.

- **Reflective of the diversity within the Irish diaspora and Irish communities**

The image of Ireland that is celebrated around the world should be one that reflects the full diversity of modern Irish society, as well as among the global Irish diaspora. This particularly includes groups among the Global Irish that in the past have been underrepresented, for example women, young people, LGBTQI communities, members of the Travelling Community, people with Ulster-Scots heritage, and Irish and Irish heritage communities in non-Anglophone locations.

- **Supportive of new emigrants**

The Irish Abroad Unit is mindful that Irish people are settling in an ever wider-ranging set of destinations around the world. Arriving in a new environment without a network can be a daunting personal and practical challenge and, especially in locations where Irish communities are recently established, recent emigrants will require services tailored to their particular needs. For this reason, priority will also be given to ESP applications for projects that support recent emigrants.

Annex: Full list of organisations funded under ESP

	EURO
Australia	€435,797
Belgium	€980
Britain	€5,978,711
Canada	€213,723
China	€14,689
France	€30,716
Germany	€18,771
Ireland	€1,707,974
Japan	€35,829
Kenya	€5,166
Malaysia	€8,339
Mexico	€4,980
Netherlands	€10,250
New Zealand	€27,109
Norway	€4,595
Portugal	€14,379
South Africa	€10,976
Spain	€2,660
Sweden	€10,767
Switzerland	€7,760
USA	€3,065,105
Zambia	€5,492
Zimbabwe	€12,620
Grand Total	€11,627,385

Australia

PROJECT	EURO
Canberra Irish Club Pty Ltd	€10,119
Claddagh Association	€67,048
Geelong Irish Society	€494
Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce	€18,157
Irish Australian Support and Resource Bureau Inc	€97,146
Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland	€62,313
Irish Families In Perth	€1,869
Irish Language School Sydney - Scoil na Gaeilge Sydney Inc	€1,233
Irish Screen Projects	€10,967
Irish Support Agency NSW INC	€94,606
Melbourne Irish Festival Committee	€1,558
St Patrick s Day Parade Association Inc	€9,347
St Patricks Festival WA	€21,386
Sydney Queer Irish	€6,231
Sydney Saint Patrick's Day Organisation Incorporated	€15,578
The Irish Club Of WA Inc	€14,006
The Queensland Irish Choir INC	€3,739
Australia	€435,797

Belgium

PROJECT	EURO
St. Brigid's Day	€980
Belgium	€980

Britain

PROJECT	EURO
Acton Homeless Concern Emmaus House and The Damien Centre	€33,858
Age UK, Hillingdon	€11,208
Aisling Project	€120,761
Ashford Place Cricklewood	€171,374
Association of Mixed Race Irish	€2,229
Bell Farm Christian Centre	€6,772
Benefit Advice Shop	€2,257
Birmingham Irish Association	€245,697
Birmingham Tradfest Ltd	€3,950
Bolton Irish Community Association Social Club Limited	€6,772
Brent Adolescent Centre (Brent Centre for Young People)	€20,879
Brent Irish Advisory Service	€134,417
Brian Boru IDL Club	€15,857
Causeway Irish Housing Association	€5,044
Causeway: Ireland Scotland Business Exchange	€28,215
Celtic and Irish Cultural Society	€12,979
Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields	€18,396
Conradh na Gaeilge Glaschú	€45,842
Corby Irish Centre	€2,914
Corby Young at Heart Luncheon Club	€8,182
Council of Irish County Associations - London	€14,571
Coventry Irish Society	€67,810
Derby St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee	€1,693
Edinburgh's Festival of Ireland	€3,923
Emerald Centre	€56,430
Emerald Circle Club	€3,950
Emerald Senior Citizens Group	€4,514
Feith an Cheoil	€5,079
Friends, Families and Travellers	€39,229
Glaschu Gaels GFC	€1,121
Gloucester and District Irish Society Ltd	€46,208
Golden Shamrock Club	€9,527
Greenwich Irish Pensioners Association	€3,950
Halifax & Irish District Society	€5,643
Haringey Irish Cultural & Community Centre	€182,270
Haslingden Davitt IDL Club	€4,514
Hibernian Society	€15,046
Hubert Butler Project	€3,422
Huddersfield Irish Centre	€3,923

Britain (continued)

PROJECT	EURO
Huddersfield Saint Patricks Day Parade Association	€4,514
Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy (ICAP)	€169,693
Irish International Business Network (IIBN)	€42,591
Innisfree Housing Association	€5,604
Irish Arts Foundation	€44,833
Irish Chaplaincy	€263,394
Irish Club Warrington	€5,192
Irish Community Care Liverpool	€310,141
Irish Community Care Manchester	€169,742
Irish Community Services	€228,088
Irish Cultural Activities Programme /ISW	€3,386
Irish Cultural Centre	€158,005
Irish Democratic League of Great Britain	€1,693
Irish Diaspora Foundation	€61,868
Irish Elderly Advice Network	€110,039
Irish Film London	€35,866
Irish Heritage Limited	€7,900
Irish in Britain	€33,513
Irish in Britain Service agreement	€449,095
Irish Literary Society	€4,483
Irish Music and Dance in London (IMDL)	€23,701
Irish Pensioners Choir	€3,362
Irish Pensioners Forum of East London	€5,643
Irish Repertory Theatre Company UK	€12,415
Irish Tuesday Club	€8,465
Jersey Irish Society	€7,957
Kilburn Irish Pensioners Club	€1,672
Leeds GATE	€34,746
Leeds Irish Health and Homes	€221,206
Leeds St Patrick's Day Parade	€8,967
Leicester & Leicestershire Irish Forum	€28,215
Leicestershire GATE	€22,572
Lewisham Irish Community Centre	€61,234
Liverpool Irish Centre	€79,579
Liverpool Irish Festival	€12,415
London GAA	€224,165
London Gypsies and Travellers	€88,545
London Irish Amateur Rugby Football Club	€6,725
London Irish Centre Charity	€510,355

Luton Irish Forum	€148,046
Manchester Irish Education Group	€1,354
Manchester Irish Language Group	€446
Mansfield & Dukeries Irish Association	€7,675
Maya Centre	€25,394
Milton Keynes Irish Centre	€11,432
Monica's Place	€63,202
New Horizon Youth Centre	€26,465
NOAH Enterprise	€61,645
North Wales Irish Society	€3,950
Northampton Irish Support Group	€48,530
Nottingham St Patrick's Day Parade and Festival	€5,604
Older Irish in Britain	€35,731
Passage 2000	€32,986
Portsmouth Irish Society	€1,129
Safe Start Foundation	€75,082
Sandwell Irish Society	€38,668
SanKTus	€28,328
Sheffield Irish Association	€2,158
SIFA Fireside Ltd	€16,812
Solace Women's Aid	€39,229
South London Irish Association	€3,950
Southwark Irish Pensioners Project	€140,624
Southwark Traveller Action Group	€56,041
St Patrick's Festival Birmingham	€8,915
St. Brigid's Day	€36,054
Streetwork UK	€21,296
Teesside Irish Society	€2,257
Traveller Movement	€134,499
Tyneside Irish Centre Ltd	€15,800
Tyneside Irish Cultural Society	€34,422
West Hampstead Women's Centre	€5,643
York Irish Association	€3,343
Britain	€5,978,711

Canada

PROJECT	EURO
Capital Area Chapter, ICCANB	€2,646
Celtic Cultural Society of Nova Scotia	€2,646
Cine Gael Montreal	€3,947
Emerald Isle Seniors Society	€21,877
Festival Bloomsday Montréal	€1,684
Halifax St. Patrick's Day Parade Society	€2,150
Ireland - Canada Chamber of Commerce Vancouver	€6,616
Ireland Park Foundation	€24,477
Ireland-Canada Centre for Commerce, Calgary	€4,201
Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce Ottawa	€4,366
Irish Association of Manitoba	€11,246
Irish Canadian Immigration Centre	€97,072
Irish Cultural Society	€2,646
Irish Film Festival Ottawa	€3,308
Irish Seniors Social Group Ottawa (ISSGO)	€5,292
Irish Women's Network of BC	€4,342
Okanagan Irish Society	€2,692
Ottawa LGBTQ Pride	€277
Re-Jigged Festival	€2,977
Toronto Bloomsday Festival	€2,646
Toronto Irish Players	€6,616
Canada	€213,723

China

PROJECT	EURO
Friends of Northern Ireland in China	€2,027
St Patrick's Society	€4,221
The Emerald Fund Limited	€8,441
China	€14,689

France

PROJECT	EURO
AFIL - Association Franco-Irlandaise de Lyon	€900
Group d'Interet Scientifique	€10,000
Irish in France Association	€3,416
NetworkIrlande	€16,400
France	€30,716

Germany

PROJECT	EURO
Conradh na Gaeilge Bheirlín	€7,861
Irish Business Network e.V. (Germany)	€9,963
St. Brigid's Day	€947
Germany	€18,771

Ireland

PROJECT	EURO
Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann	€255,000
Conradh na Gaeilge	€28,000
Crosscare Migrant Project	€250,305
Families of the Undocumented	€3,000
Gaelic Athletic Association	€470,000
Gallery of Photography Ireland	€62,100
Ireland Canada University Foundation	€121,000
Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas	€136,417
Irish Heritage Trust	€19,568
Irish Pages Ltd	€11,000
MART	€60,000
Safe Home Programme CLG	€260,000
Samaritans	€899
University College Dublin	€30,685
Ireland	€1,707,974

Japan

PROJECT	EURO
Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce	€28,092
Irish Network Japan	€7,737
Japan	€35,829

Kenya

PROJECT	EURO
Business Ireland Kenya	€5,166
Kenya	€5,166

Malaysia

PROJECT	EURO
Malaysia Irish Business Network (MIBN)	€8,339
Malaysia	€8,339

Mexico

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Mexican Chamber of Commerce	€4,980
Mexico	€4,980

Netherlands

PROJECT	EURO
Ireland Netherlands Business Association	€6,000
Stichting DeeAispora	€4,250
Netherlands	€10,250

New Zealand

PROJECT	EURO
Christchurch Irish Society	€13,866
NZSG Irish Interest Group	€1,204
St Patrick's Festival Trust	€12,039
New Zealand	€27,109

Norway

PROJECT	EURO
Norwegian Irish Society	€3,549
Oslo Bloomsday Society	€1,047
Norway	€4,595

Portugal

PROJECT	EURO
Ireland Portugal Business Network	€14,379
Portugal	€14,379

South Africa

PROJECT	EURO
Business Ireland Southern Africa	€1,001
Irish South African Association	€9,975
South Africa	€10,976

Spain

PROJECT	EURO
Spanish Irish Business Network	€2,660
Spain	€2,660

Sweden

PROJECT	EURO
Swedish Irish Society	€6,921
The Swedish Irish Chamber of Commerce (SICC)	€3,846
Sweden	€10,767

Switzerland

PROJECT	EURO
Basel Irish Club	€2,910
Irish Business Network Switzerland	€4,850
Switzerland	€7,760

USA

PROJECT	EURO
Aisling Irish Community Center, Inc	€131,738
American Conference for Irish Studies	€19,551
American Irish Historical Society	€8,804
Amherst Irish Association/Cumann Gaelach Amherst	€3,887
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.	€26,506
Battery Heritage Foundation	€7,952
Bay Ridge St. St Patrick's Parade Inc	€8,639
C/O Donegal Association Philadelphia	€4,886
Celtic Junction Arts Center	€13,518
CelticMKE	€56,034
Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform	€26,506
Chicago Irish Immigrant Support	€209,692
CNAG Gaelic League LA	€3,433
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers	€86,046
Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Center	€13,411
Connecticut Irish American Historical Society	€12,958
Corrib Theatre	€2,189
Craic Fest NYC	€2,592
Daltai na Gaeilge	€8,082
Digital Irish	€30,235
Edward M. Kennedy Center for the United States Senate	€26,506
Emerald Isle Immigration Center	€212,470

USA (continued)

PROJECT	EURO
Frederick Douglass	€19,109
Gael Scoil	€864
Gaelic American Athletic Assoc. of Buffalo, NY Inc.	€4,751
Gingold Theatrical Group Inc	€8,835
Glucksman Ireland House New York University	€23,726
Greater Danbury Irish Cultural Foundation	€3,693
Hudson Valley Irish Fest inc	€12,958
Inis Nua Theatre Company	€3,357
Ireland Institute of Ireland	€17,277
Ireland Network Chicago	€10,986
Irish American Bar Association of New York	€2,531
Irish American Business Chamber & Network, Inc.	€8,804
Irish American Community Center	€15,462
Irish American Heritage Center	€197,025
Irish Apostolate USA	€36,994
Irish Business Organization of New York, Inc.	€8,835
Irish Congress of Southern California	€5,150
Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation	€30,040
Irish Cultural Centre of New England	€104,259
Irish Culture Bay Area	€6,008
Irish Fair of Minnesota	€8,583
Irish Heitage Center of Cincinnati	€120,222
Irish Heritage Club	€12,874
Irish Heritage Society of Milford	€6,627
Irish Immigration Center	€190,912
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center	€145,567
Irish International Business Network	€32,573
Irish International Immigrant Center	€243,634
Irish Network Austin	€10,776
Irish Network Bay Area	€6,185
Irish Network Colorado	€31,099
Irish Network DC (IN-DC)	€10,366
Irish Network USA	€23,624
Irish Pastoral Centre	€150,142
Kansas City Irish Center	€11,230
Maine Irish Heritage Center	€27,611
Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce (Irish Network Michigan)	€8,154
Mother Jones Heritage Project	€7,418
New York Irish Center	€247,255

USA (continued)

PROJECT	EURO
NYC Pride Week	€28,830
Origin Theatre	€26,506
Quinnipiac University	€17,052
Savannah Irish Festival Committee, Inc.	€8,835
Screen America Inc	€30,041
Solace House Inc	€8,639
St. Pat's For All Parade	€11,721
The Catholic Charities of The Archdiocese of New York	€54,249
The Friends of Irish Studies	€19,312
The Irish Cultural Center of Western New England	€24,386
The Irish Outreach Center	€59,652
The Rosenbach	€8,804
The South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce	€2,685
Undocumented - Legal Services	€429
Undocumented - Strategic Legal Advice	€17,792
Washington Ireland Program	€15,020
USA	€3,065,105

Zambia

PROJECT	EURO
The Wild Geese Society Zambia	€5,492
Zambia	€5,492

Zimbabwe

PROJECT	EURO
Irish Association of Mashonaland	€12,620
Zimbabwe	€12,620

Grand Total	€ 11,627,385
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Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



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