

ANNUAL REPORT

CORK ETB YOUTH SERVICES



cetb

Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Choreal
*Cork Education and
Training Board*

2022

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INTRODUCTION

Youth Services represent one facet of Cork Education & Training Board (Cork ETB) - a large organisation that provides services in primary and secondary education, apprenticeships, back to education initiatives, community education and further education & training. Offering 'a pathway for every learner' and supporting young people are key aims of the organisation. Over €4.5 million in funding is drawn down from the DCEDIY via Cork ETB Youth Services for staffed projects and volunteer-led youth clubs in the city and county. The Cork ETB Youth Services team comprises a Youth Development Officer, two Youth Officers and two Youth Support Officers who monitor and support projects and develop initiatives and programmes to meet the changing and emerging needs of young people in Cork.

Youth Services Team

- Mick Finn, Youth Development Officer
- Caitríona MacNaeidhe, Youth Officer
- Cathal Geraghty, Youth Officer
- Abina Curtin, Youth Support Officer
- Gillian Beasley, Youth Support Officer



FOREWORD / Réamhrá

Cork Education and Training Board (Cork ETB) was at the centre of the Covid-19 pandemic response in the city and county, with all component parts of the organisation involved in supporting people of all ages through a difficult time.

Youth projects were deemed 'essential services' by government and right across rural and urban Cork, they stepped up to the mark in terms of delivery to an often-vulnerable cohort with the support of our Cork ETB Youth Service team. Little did we think that another emergency-type response would be required as we emerged from the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions but that was the landscape that emerged early in 2022 following the start of the war in Ukraine.

Apart from usual work of supporting the staffed projects and volunteer-led youth organisations in the city and county, the Youth Service team was also an integral part of the Cork ETB's Ukraine Response group that responded to the needs of Ukrainian young people who arrived in Cork throughout the year.

Courtesy of some repurposed funding approved by the DCEDIY, a co-ordinator of activities and supports was recruited to reach out to migrant young people in centres around the city and county and especially in areas without established youth projects. Summer activities were put on – including music and sports – alongside those organised for the regular attendees at projects which helped the new arrivals to settle following their uprooting. These supports will continue into 2023 and as long as required.

2022 was also a year in which the first festival in Cork exclusively for young people was organised by the Cork ETB...the *Seó Festival* at Marina Market in the summer involved 400 participants from UBU Your Place, Your Space projects from Beara to Mitchelstown and everywhere in between displaying their talents across a wide creative platform. It proved a huge success and the hope is that it will be repeated in 2024.

Other programmes undertaken by the Youth Services section included the third year of the Urban Outdoor programme for funded youth projects at Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre and I know there are plans for a re-fashioned version of this in 2023. A mental health and well-being fund was developed for and welcomed by projects, increasing the capability of youth workers to meet the needs of young people under their wing. A 'youth employability' initiative was also started alongside the annual allocation of government funding for the operation of projects, capital grants and the running of volunteer-led youth clubs.

I would like to thank the Cork ETB Youth Services Team of Mick Finn, Caitríona MacNaeidhe, Cathal Gerraghty, Abina Curtin and Gillian Beasley – as well as members of the Cork ETB Youth Committee – for their work along with youth organisations in making a difference for the young people of Cork.



Denis Leamy, CE, Cork ETB



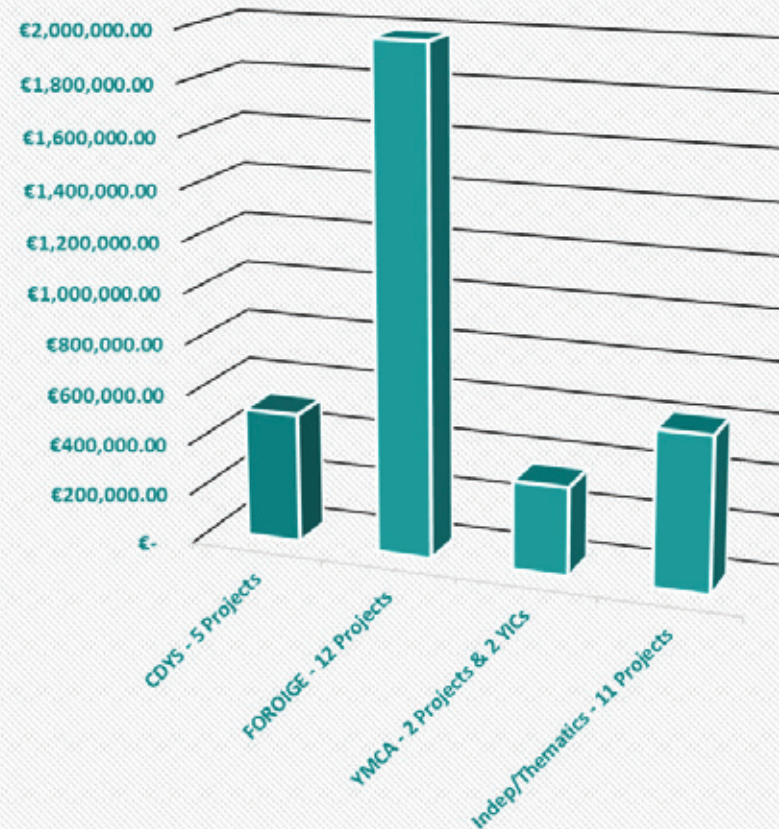
GRANT SCHEMES

UBU, Your Place, Your Space & Youth Information Centres

In 2022, Cork ETB administered over €4.5m on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth across a platform of youthwork services in Cork city and county. The majority, €3.5m, was administered to 30 projects via the **UBU Your Place Your Space** funding scheme. This replaced old funding models such as SPY and YPFSF, harmonising all staffed youth project funding under one umbrella.

Cork ETB has SLAs with 14 services providers who roll out projects in targeted areas, based on set Service Requirements that were compiled following extensive area profiling. The funding breaks down as follows: 12 Foroige projects received €1,979,055; 5 CDYS projects received €512,707; 11 x Independent/Thematic projects received €612,749 and YMCA received €348,849 for two UBU projects and two Youth Information Centres.

2022 DCEDIY Major UBU & YIC Funding administered by Cork ETB to 30 UBU Youth Projects & 2 Youth Information centres



Grant Schemes Summary

Agency/Project	Capital Grant	Minor Grant	Mentwell	Youth Employability	Other MISC Grants	Totals
CDYS - UBU	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,200.00		€300.00	€48,500.00
Foroige - UBU	€27,000.00	€26,750.00	€20,000.00		€ -	€73,750.00
YMCA - UBU & YIC	€18,000.00	€7,500.00	€4,000.00	€105,000.00	€22,000.00	€156,500.00
Indep/Thematics UBU	€74,311.00	€21,500.00	€14,300.00	€ -	€6,237.37	€116,348.37
Youth Clubs	€14,250.00	€61,600.00				€75,850.00
Totals Allocated per Grant	€149,561.00	€133,350.00	€54,500.00	€105,000.00	€28,537.37	€470,948.37

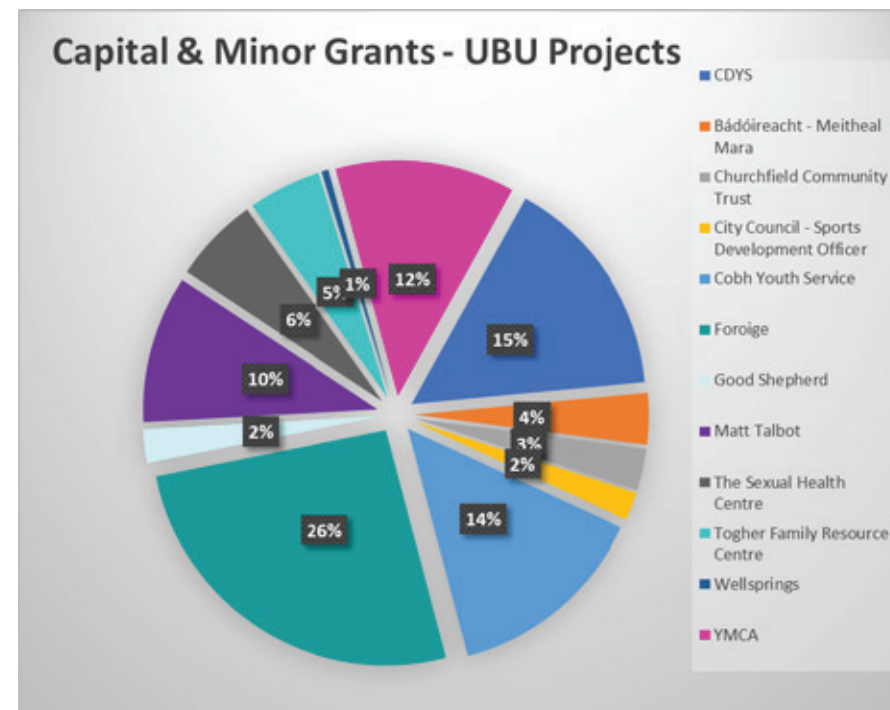
Capital & Minor Grants

The 2022 Staff Led Youth Service Capital Funding Scheme (minor works and/or equipment) supported the following:

- Small scale projects, including equipment for working with young people
- Adaptations to outside areas, outdoor furniture
- Refurbishment and health and safety improvements in local youth services
- ICT for working onsite or remotely with young people

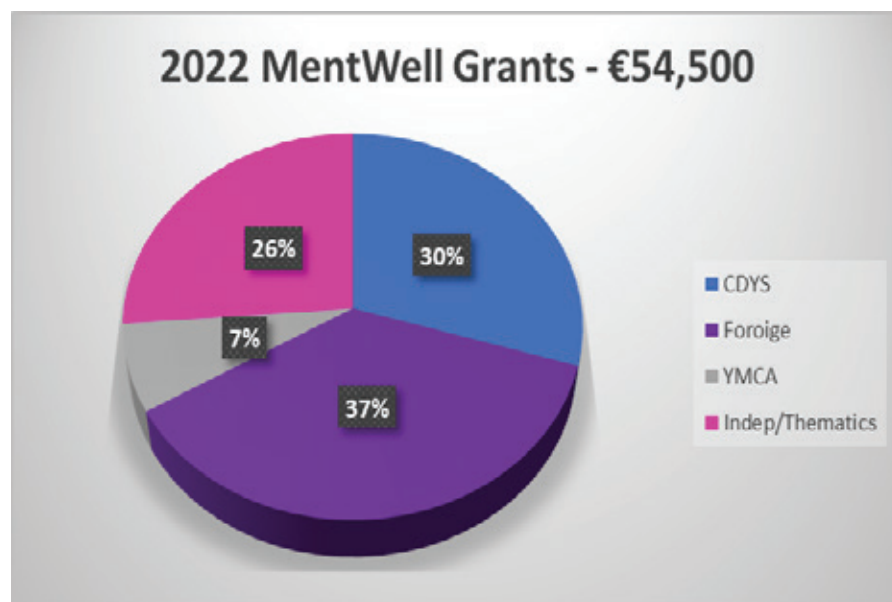
Cork ETB administered €146,311 under this **Capital Grant** heading in two tranches as per the criteria of the scheme: small grants of €750 per youth club or group were issued to 19 recipients; a total of €135,311 was issued to 12 UBU Youth Projects.

A **Minor Grant** allocation of €123,546 was administered by Cork ETB for the provision of *one-off additional supports to young people*, in two tranches: small grants of €900 per youth club or group were issued to 68 recipients; a total of €71,750 was issued to 18 UBU Youth Projects.



MentWell Grant Scheme

This was an initiative of Cork ETB designed to equip youth projects in urban and rural areas with extra resources in the areas of better mental health and wellbeing outcomes for participants. Many projects depend on donations or contributions to provide for individual counselling sessions, art, play or equine therapies in their response to young people's needs and this small grant fund (from Cork ETB resources) was very well received. Other usage included health and fitness outings, residential retreats and activities such as yoga.



Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative

The Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative (TYESI) was a Dormant Accounts Funded initiative, via DCEDIY and Cork ETB that ran in 2022. The initiative – titled *Rise* - was coordinated by YMCA Cork targeting areas in Blarney and Ballincollig. The focus of the TYESI was to support young people between the ages of 15-24 who were not in employment, education, or training (NEETs); the aim was to provide community-based interventions in an area largely without UBU services to a targeted group, to improve soft skills, self-confidence and to encourage progression to education or employment. The programme supported over 40 young people with a mix of one-to-one engagements and small programmes and workshops such as Photography, Creative Art, Driver Theory Group, Healthy Eating/Wellness, Barbering, Day Trips, and Costume Making. Unfortunately, the TYESI funding was once-off and had to finish upon the expiring of funding expenditure deadlines; Cork ETB would support a more sustainable programme to ensure continuity for workers and participants.



Rise Group

Ukrainian Response

The Cork ETB Youth Services team - as part of the overall Cork ETB Ukrainian Response Group - was tasked with supporting out-of-school provision for Ukrainian young people who arrived in Ireland early in 2022. This support, which was on top of existing services to young people in the various projects, came in two forms: -

1. The Cork ETB Youth Services team worked with UBU projects, Volunteer Youth Clubs, and Youth Information Centres across Cork City and County to encourage young Ukrainians in their areas to take part in a range of programmes and activities.
2. Working with YMCA, a part-time co-co-ordinator was taken on to provide outreach support for the many Ukrainian young people living in various accommodation centres, including Victoria Cross, Copley Street, the Commons Inn, Youghal, Millstreet & Buttevant. The YMCA coordinator worked on linking young people with their local UBU project where possible or other local youth provision but also provided opportunities for these young people in association with agencies such as Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre, Cork Local Sports Partnership and Area Partnerships throughout the year. Some of the young people who participated arrived mid-summer so had yet to receive school places and had little in the way of supports.



Above: Young people involved in Seó Youthfest.
Below: Fen from DCEDIY visits Togher UBU.





Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2022

Minister Roderic O’Gorman and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) allocated **€271,545** in grant funding to Cork ETB under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme (LYCGS) 2022. This represented an increase of almost 10% on funding received in 2021.

125 applications were received from volunteer-led youth groups in Cork city and county: 123 were deemed eligible. This represented an increase of 18 per cent on 2021 and followed engagement with the clubs by the Youth Support Officers in the Cork ETB Youth Service Department which we plan to continue in 2022/23.



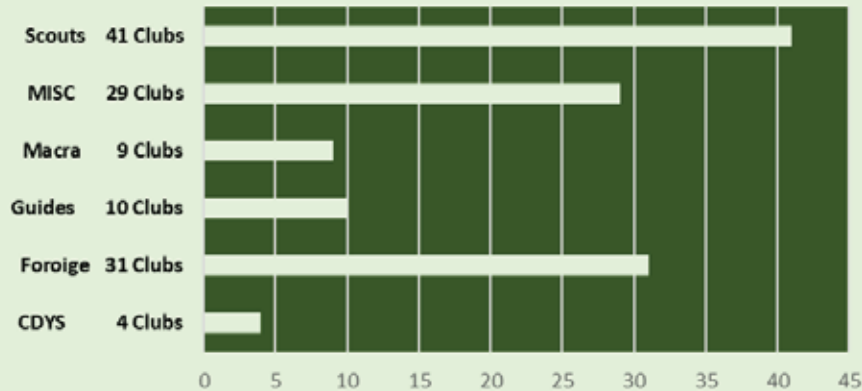
A total amount of €268,975 was awarded with €2,500 used for radio advertising for the first time as well as advertising on social media platforms. Approximately 6,000 young people aged 10-21 involved in 123 voluntary youth groups benefited from the scheme in Cork. The youth groups are supported by 1,585 volunteers. Grant amounts were recommended primarily based on the number of young people aged 10-21 participating in groups with exceptional circumstances i.e. youth special needs, exceptional events, specially-formed clubs (to support Ukrainian young people) also factored into the awards.

Grants were awarded as follows

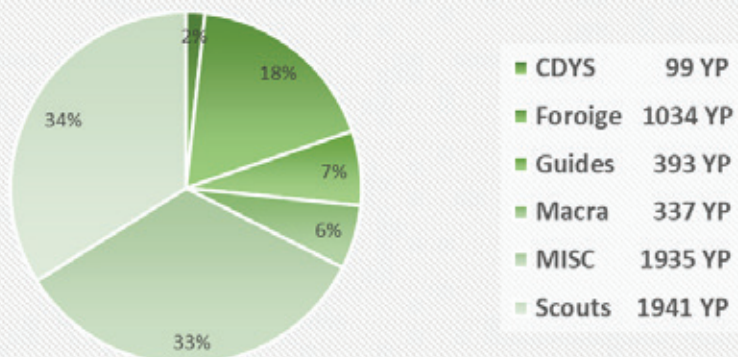
- €1,500 to Youth Clubs with 0 – 20 young people aged 10-21
- €2,000 to Youth Clubs with 21 – 40 young people aged 10-21
- €2,500 to Youth Clubs with 41 – 70 young people aged 10-21
- €3,000 to Youth Clubs with 71+ young people aged 10-21



Number of Clubs (per organisation) allocated the 2022 LYCGS



Number of Young People aged 10-21 Participating in Youth Clubs in receipt of the 2022 LYCGS



2022 PROGRAMME & EVENTS

Urban Outdoors Summer Programme

Cork ETB co-ordinated the third year of the Urban Outdoors Summer Programme which took place in Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre for UBU Projects across Cork city and county. Over 600 young people enjoyed outdoor activities during the 25 outdoor activity days varying from kayaking, team games, stand-up paddle boarding, surfing and campcraft. In the co-ordination of the programme, a total of five days were also assigned to Ukrainian young people from across Cork City and County. A fantastic summer programme was enjoyed by all participants; thanks to the Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre and its staff for their continuing support and collaboration on this project.



Farranree UBU group participate in Urban Outdoors Programme.



Cork ETB Youth Services at Seó Fest and (below) volunteers attending Re-vive Event in Midleton.



Seó Youth Fest

Over 400 young people from all corners of Cork entertained market goers and fans alike as the first ever Cork ETB youth festival and showcase took place at the Marina Market. Funded projects from the city and county participated in the Seó youth festival which included music, dance, fashion, crafts, sports, IT and information. The aim was to provide the young people and their youth leaders with a platform to showcase what they have been doing for the last couple of years in Covid times when such opportunities were not possible. It was a huge success and the feedback from the young participants was fantastic. This first youth festival, funded entirely by Cork ETB, gave young people and workers a taste for such an event and it is hoped to be presented again in the future.

Re-Vive – Volunteer Validation Events

A series of events to revive and reinvigorate the volunteer youth club sector in Cork took place in a bid to 'shrug off the remnants of Covid-19 and get the sector back to its best'. Cork ETB hosted several *Re-VIVE* events across the city and county, describing them as 'Volunteer Involvement and Validation Events'. Prior to Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions, there were over 250 volunteer-led youth clubs operating right across Cork but a number of them did not re-open following the pandemic. A similar picture is being painted across the country and Re-Vive was a response to this. ReVive provided an opportunity to acknowledge the work of the fantastic volunteers across Cork while also welcoming new volunteers to be exposed to the clubs in their areas that they may wish to get involved in. Appreciation nights were held in Mallow, Charleville, Midleton, Cork City and Clonakilty. Participants were treated to a very practical workshop with Sinéad Pollock who ran a session on co-operative and team games. Also, at this series of events, we recognised the work of exceptional nominated volunteers with nominations from various clubs and with certificates presented to many for outstanding service to their communities. As a result of this series of events, we will be providing opportunities for training and upskilling in specific areas for those who give up their time week in, week out for the benefit of young people.



Ukraine Christmas in Cork

Given that it was their first Christmas away from home, a very special concert 'Christmas in Cork' was organised for Ukrainian families in Cork City Hall in December. It was hosted in conjunction with the Cork Academy of Music and attended by Ukraine Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Larysa Gerasko along with families from various centres including Millstreet, Youghal, Kanturk and Cork City who were bussed to the event. As one of the main responders to the arrival of Ukrainians in Cork, Cork ETB was well positioned to organise this concert which provided some solace, comfort and joy to our Ukrainian friends who spent Christmas in Ireland. Cork ETB assisted with securing school places, language and training supports as well as providing activities for young people over the summer and this family event was a continuation of such supports. It featured performances from the Kalyna Choir, dancers and singers from Ukraine and also involved a traditional Parade of Flags and a Ceremony of Light.





Cork Youth Arts Hub

Cork Youth Arts Hub is a collaboration between Cork ETB Youth Work Services, the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and, more recently, the Cork Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP). The Youth Arts Hub supports Youth Workers, Youth Arts Practitioners, and local artists in working together to enhance young people’s experience of engaging in artistic and creative practices. Peer support and networking sessions are facilitated, as well as the provision of training and keeping members informed of funding opportunities. Training was provided on Inclusion in Youth Arts and film making for young people in addition to our networking sessions. The Local Creative Youth Partnership has been a welcome addition in 2022 and has helped to broaden the scope of the Hub moving forward.

Trauma-informed training module

Cork ETB has supported the advancement of trauma-informed initiatives going back to the initial gathering of professionals from the city and county in 2018. Developing awareness among practitioners and especially those working on the front line with young people and families, across organisations in Cork, has been a goal of a steering group established to co-ordinate the rollout. Along with Cork City Council, the HSE and Tusla, Cork ETB provided funding to produce a self-guided online module introducing the concepts and realities of trauma in people’s lives and how services could be shaped with a trauma lens. The module was launched in City Hall and sits on the council and HSE websites, with a link on the Cork ETB site also.

Link: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/community/cork-trauma-sensitive-city/>





Visiting Volunteer Led Youth Clubs in Knocknaheeny and Timoleague.



FUTURE PLANS

- Youthworker Training Day 2023
- Integration of Cork Local Creative Youth Partnership in YS
- New UBU cycle
- Strategic Plan Preparations
- Ongoing Ukraine Supports
- Activities for marginalised teens (including those in temporary accommodation, Direct Provision, members of the Travelling Community)
- Youth Club Supports. Following on from the inaugural ReVive event in 2022, it is envisaged that supports and training will be made available to volunteers from the youth clubs across Cork City and county. First aid training, administration/financial supports, supporting young people with additional needs are among the ideas to be considered.



AN FOCAL SCOIR ...The Last Word


It has been another busy and fruitful year for the Youth Services team that welcomed Cathal Geraghty to the ranks in 2022; alongside Caitriona, Abina and Gillian, we responded to our projects' requirements and the emerging needs of young people as the year unfolded.

As mentioned by our CE Denis Leamy, the war in Ukraine catapulted us into different actions post Covid and we were happy to be able to assist the young people fleeing their homes. The Ukraine Christmas in Cork concert held at City Hall was a moving event that represented a culmination of the year's activities; we plan to continue those into 2023 but our hope is that our Ukrainian friends will be able to return home soon.


While continuing to be flexible and responsive to needs – a focus in 2023 will be sustaining efforts to help young people who are homeless and living in temporary accommodations around the county – a major piece of work in front of us is the revision of area profiling that underpins all our UBU projects. It will involve us meeting people on the ground in all our project areas in a bid to update the service requirements issued three years ago and ensure services continue to reach their youth population targets. We will not have extra department funds or resources to open projects in areas of need – such as Ballincollig, Bantry, North Cork, Youghal among others – but we will be mindful of gaps in provision if extra projects are ever sanctioned.

It was great to have Fen Zhong, Assistant Principal of the DCEDIY Youth Affairs Unit visit us and some UBU projects in Cork late in 2022...she got to see some of the work being done on the ground and made connections that will foster positive relationships with the Department and youthwork operations. Thanks to the members of the Youth Service team for their hard work and dedication in 2022...their efforts, along with our service partners, continues to make a real difference to the lives of young people across Cork. Ar aghaidh agus suas...onwards and upwards.

Mick Finn



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EVERY learner...*





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