



2025 Year in Review

A note from our CEO



As we reflect on 2025, I am very proud of what we have achieved together at Volunteer Ireland. This year, we strengthened the foundations of volunteering across the country. We supported organisations, empowered volunteers and championed inclusive, high-quality volunteer experiences.

Through collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose, we expanded our reach, deepened partnerships, and continued to advocate for the vital role volunteering plays in building stronger more vibrant communities. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers and partners.

Looking ahead, we carry forward the momentum of 2025 with confidence and optimism, united by a belief in an Ireland where volunteering thrives.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Nina Arwitz
CEO, Volunteer Ireland

Advocacy and research

We advocate on behalf of volunteering in Ireland, volunteers and organisations that involve volunteers. Our vision is an Ireland where everyone who wants to volunteer can volunteer to create a better society. We work with Government and other bodies to make this vision a reality. Highlights in 2025 included:

- Discussed the importance of volunteering with:
 - **Minister for Health** Jennifer Carroll McNeill
 - **Minister of State for Migration** Colm Brophy
 - **Minister for Trade** Peter Burke
 - **National lead for civic engagement on the community engagement team**
- Held **sector and network-wide consultations** with professionals and volunteers to inform our submission on a new National Volunteering Strategy
- **Five submissions** to government on areas such as
 - Dept. of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's Statement of Strategy
 - Dept. of Social Protection successor to Pathways to Work
 - Ireland holding the Presidency of the EU Council
- Undertook exploration of **how volunteers can be legally protected** and supported without creating additional barriers to volunteering (National Volunteering Strategy action 27)
- Completed project to promote **flexibility in volunteering** including toolkit, templates, animated training modules, and local case studies (National Volunteering Strategy actions 1, 13, 53 5)

Volunteer Centre support

Fundamental to who we are is the active support of 29 Volunteer Centres across the country. We work closely with them to ensure volunteering thrives at local and national level. Highlights in 2025 include:

- **Built capacity** among VCs to deliver training on volunteer leadership topics.
- Supported VCs to **secure ongoing funding** to continue to work with new communities.
- Highlighted role and value of VCs in meetings with Government across community development, sport, health, emergency response, and migration.
- Coordinated **network-wide discussions** and engagements e.g.: response to Coimisiún na Meán regarding potential new regulatory requirements.
- Supported best practice and sharing across the network including issuing **20 network-wide newsletters**, coordinating working groups and supporting National VC Network meetings in Cork, Tullamore and Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Completed **quality reviews in 8 VCs** to promote continuous quality improvement.



I-VOL

I-VOL is the national searchable database of volunteering opportunities in Ireland and is owned, managed and administered by Volunteer Ireland and the network of Volunteer Centres across Ireland. By signing up you can register your interest in volunteering opportunities that are listed online by national and community groups across the country. Highlights in 2025 include:

- Newly registered volunteers: **19,750**
- Newly registered Volunteer Involving Organisations: **851**
- Volunteering hours logged: **339,659**
- **92 training hours** and **102 support cases** logged and resolved for VCs
- Secured ongoing funding for I-VOL and associated licences



Community Volunteers

Community Volunteers is a programme to support local needs in our communities. These unique volunteers have the opportunity to support local events and festivals along with more urgent, one off needs like the response to COVID-19 and support for displaced people in Ireland. Highlights in 2025 include:

- **1,579** new volunteers were engaged, bringing total number to over **6,000**
- A total of **29,008** volunteer hours were logged
- **469 campaigns** available to Community Volunteers across the country
- Diversity Awareness training module developed to improve the experience of volunteers

Learning and Capacity Building

The learning and capacity building team offers diverse trainings on all things volunteer management, best practice in volunteering relationships and more. They also manage most of our European collaborations and host a yearly National Volunteer Management Conference. Highlights in 2025 include:

- The launch of The Volunteer Charter which has since achieved **64 signatories**, impacting **47,689 volunteers**
- **35 training days** in the calendar, providing **609 attendees** with **85 hours** of training
- **41 bespoke trainings** delivered to 181 participants
- 4 training sessions on **building inclusion** into volunteer programmes, based on research findings from 2024
- 5 Erasmus+ funded projects establishing our standing as leaders in the field with our colleagues across Europe
 - on topics ranging from community resilience, social prescribing and loneliness
- **National Volunteer Management Conference** hosted 181 participants
 - **32** with additional support needs
 - **60** from volunteer infrastructure
 - **121** from Volunteer Involving Organisations



Employee Volunteering

The corporate team collaborates with companies on large scale partnerships to facilitate employee volunteering. These projects engage hundreds of employee volunteers in a range of community projects and global volunteer campaigns. Highlights in 2025 include:

- Engaged **1,936 employee volunteers** who contributed **6,398 hours**, benefiting **10,529 people** across **50 different projects**
- **88%** participating volunteers gained an increased interest in volunteering outside of the company
- **100% satisfaction** with volunteer experience, paired with **100% satisfaction** with host organisations
- Fielded enquiries from **228 unique companies** about employee volunteering
- Hosted **42 weekly information sessions** with 169 attendees from 128 unique companies



Volunteer Ireland Awards

The Volunteer Ireland Awards are the major annual initiative to celebrate volunteers in Ireland. The awards recognise their remarkable achievements and selfless contributions at a national level. Highlights in 2025 include:



- **530** nominations with **11** different counties on the shortlist
- Across social media, we reached over **129,000** with **4,560** engagements
- Print and broadcast media coverage to the value of just over **€374,300**
- **3.1 million** people had the opportunity to see or hear about the awards in traditional media

National Volunteering Week

National Volunteering Week is a weeklong celebration of volunteering that takes place every May. This year's theme gave us a chance to feature the social opportunity that volunteering offers. Highlights in 2025 include:

- **10 volunteer profiles** featured with templates provided to VCs and VIOs to feature their own volunteers
- **2 national print** publication pieces, and **2 national radio** pieces telling volunteer stories
- Reach of over **4.6 million** across social media
- Media coverage achieved:
 - Opportunity to see of **9,717,569**
 - PR value of **€533,022**





Our vision is an Ireland where
volunteering **thrives.**



**Volunteer
Ireland**

Obair Dheonach Éireann