



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Shared Island  
Initiative

# Shared Island Initiative

## *Presentation to Dublin City Council*

8 April 2024

# Shared Island initiative - overview



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

# Shared Island initiative - elements

## Building a Shared Island

- Deliver long-standing and new cross-border investments

## Dialogue on a shared future

- 16 events, 3500+ citizens from all communities, traditions and regions
- Youth Forum of 80 young people meeting over a year to agree vision and values for a Shared Island

## Research programme

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



# Shared Island research programme



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## ESRI publications to date:

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



## Upcoming research:

- *Gender and Labour market inclusion – Launch 10 April*

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



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn



ECONOMIC & SOCIAL  
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# Shared Island Youth Forum

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



# Shared Island Fund



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

# Shared Island Fund – Allocations



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## A more sustainable island

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



## A more prosperous island

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



## A more connected island

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

# Shared Island - latest announcements

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



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# Local Authorities

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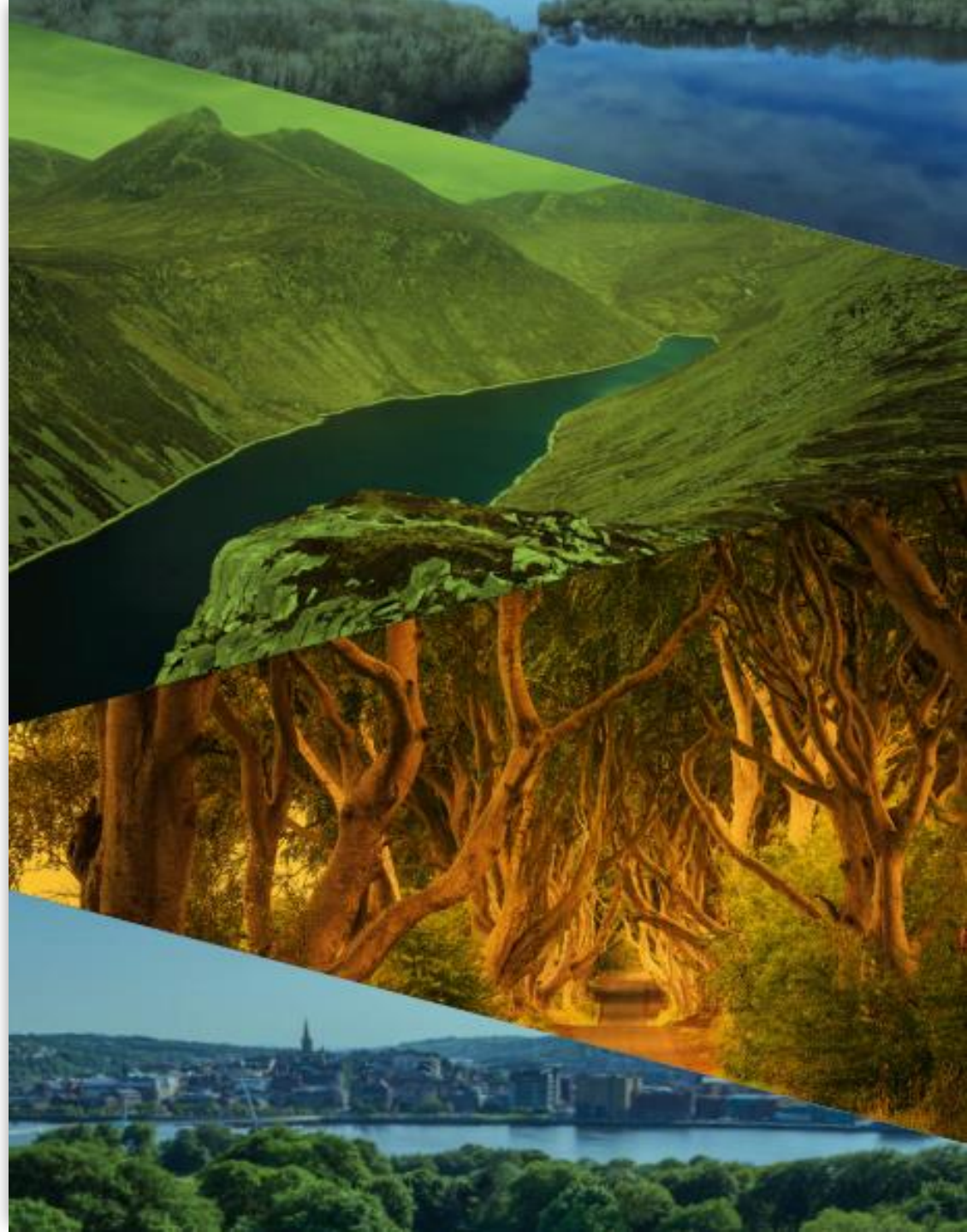
Shared Island **Local Authority Development** funding scheme (€5m)

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

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**Creative Ireland** programme (€6m)



# Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme

## Overview

- Seed capital grants of up to €250,000 for cross-border Local Authority Partnerships.
- 25 awards to 15 Local Authorities in the South working with 9 councils in NI.
- Projects are currently being assessed by Departments, consulting with NI counterparts.
- **Dublin City Council project with Belfast City Council** on feasibility of a circular economy partnership to jointly develop infrastructure, facilities, institutional frameworks to support transition to a green economy and meet climate ambitions.

## Objective

- Generate well-developed pipeline of cross-border local authority projects.

## Impact

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



# Shared Island Community Climate Action Programme

## Overview

- €3m for Shared Island strand to Community Climate Action Programme.
- Projects to include a partner in Northern Ireland (can be a Council).
- 50% of awarded funding for project delivery in Northern Ireland.
- Minister for Environment [launched](#) Strand 1a in January 2024.
- Administered by Community Climate Action Officers in Councils .
- Grants of €5,000 to €100,000.
- Applications **currently being assessed by Local Authorities.**

## Objective

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

## Impact

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



# Shared Island dimension to the Creative Ireland programme

## Overview

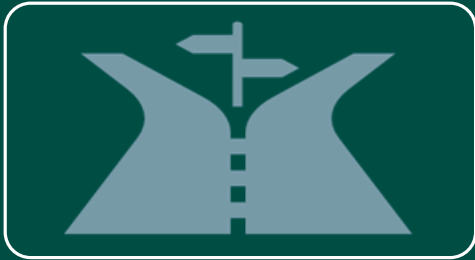
- €6 million for a Shared Island dimension to the Government's Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027. Elements include:
- **Cruinniú na nÓg 2024:** Events programmed on an all-island basis.
- **Creative Communities on a Shared Island:** €850k to 9 cross-border creative and cultural projects led by Local Authorities:
  - **Dublin City Council: aRchive** an immersive LED light installation at Five Lamps Festival. Programme of dialogue between young people and older generations in Shankill/East Belfast and Dublin's North East Inner City.
- **Creative Youth on a Shared Island:** Funding of up to €180,000 to at least 3 projects that nurture collaboration, hope and understanding.
- **Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community:** €350,000 of Shared Island funding in 2024 for Local Authority led cross-border arts and health partnerships to deliver 5 projects.



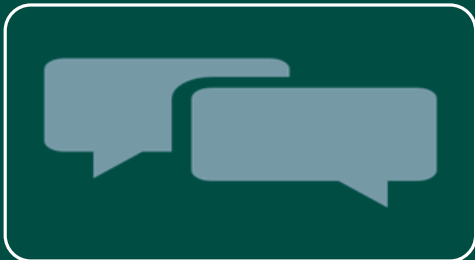
Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



# Shared Island initiative – 2024



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



Shared Island **Youth Forum statement** and continue the **Shared Island Dialogue series**



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



## Further Information

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

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