

Strategic Objective 1

The Strategy seeks to improve awareness of and increase participation in volunteering activities, particularly among those sections of our society that are currently under-represented. It also seeks to reflect diversity in volunteering and to integrate existing initiatives as well as adopting new and innovative ones.

To increase participation and diversity in volunteering including embracing new trends and innovation

Stakeholders:

- DRCD
- Volunteer Involving Organisations
- Volunteer Centres
- Volunteer Ireland
- Public Participation Networks
- Local Authorities
- Educational Bodies
- Sporting Bodies
- Other support organisations
- Government Departments

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
1	Greater diversity in who volunteers and how people volunteer	Introduce flexible volunteering options through the delivery of a time and needs match programme, including event volunteering, that will facilitate volunteering in local communities without long-term commitments	Medium-term	VIOs
2	The diversity in our communities and of people of different backgrounds and circumstances reflected more proportionately within the volunteering community	Provide public information and more awareness programmes to enable people to volunteer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from marginalised communities • from ethnic minorities • with disabilities 	Medium-term	VI/VCs VIOs DRCD D/Justice
3		Deliver engagement programme aimed specifically at potential volunteers reaching retirement and those over 55	Medium-Term	VI/VCs

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
4		Deliver an educational programme in partnership with youth organisations and Educational Bodies. While many young people volunteer through youth work and sports groups there is need to change the perception and encourage participation of volunteering among younger people, including those in higher education	Medium - Term	VI/VCS YSI Education Bodies
5		Consult on a Youth Engagement strategy	Long-Term	D/Education D/Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science D/Children
6		More cohesion in the various online volunteering services – volunteering promotional portals to be interlinked	Medium-Term	VI The Wheel Boardmatch Studentvolunteer.ie
7		Work in partnership with Sport Ireland to introduce newer forms of volunteer engagement that are ideally situated to modern times in conjunction with the <i>National Sports Strategy 2018-2027</i>	Medium-Term	DRCD Sport Ireland D/Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
8	An increase in the evidence base of the quantity and demographic breakdown of volunteers, contribution of volunteers and the value and benefits of volunteering individuals, groups and communities	National Survey on Volunteering to provide baseline data on volunteers	Medium-Term	All Stakeholders

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
9	A stronger culture of volunteering, leading to a potential increase in our volunteering population	Run a "Tell a Friend about Volunteering" campaign in conjunction with National Volunteering Week	Medium-Term	VI / VIOs / VCs / Volunteers
10		Promote/Fund a volunteer recruitment awareness campaign using existing structures and networks – National and Local campaigns	Medium-Term	DRCD VI Local Authorities
11		Support the introduction of a 'pilot-project' examining the potential for a 'time-bank concept' that allows individuals with specific skills and qualifications to volunteer hours that are then matched with the needs of VIOs e.g. accountants, tilers, etc.	Medium-Term	DRCD VI/VCs
12		Undertake a pilot project for professional mentoring as a support to volunteers and smaller Volunteer Involving Organisations	Medium-Term	DRCD VI/VCs Corporate Sector DETE: CSR Stakeholder Forum
13		Support VIOs to introduce task based volunteering as an alternative to role based volunteering where people can volunteer for a task as opposed to committing to a role	Medium-Term	VI/VCs VIOs
		  		

Strategic Objective 2

This objective aims to have the best possible supports and infrastructure in place so that volunteering, volunteering infrastructure, Volunteering Involving Organisations, volunteering supports and the volunteers are empowered in the work they do in our communities.

To facilitate, develop and support the Volunteering Environment so that it contributes to vibrant and sustainable communities

Stakeholders:

- DRCD
- Volunteer Involving Organisations
- Volunteer Centres
- Volunteer Ireland
- Public Participation Networks
- Local Authorities
- Educational Bodies
- Other support organisations
- Government Departments
- Corporate Sector

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
14	Delivery of the National Volunteering Strategy	In partnership with stakeholders, deliver, implement and ongoing review of the Strategy	Long-term	DRCD led All Stakeholders
15	More volunteers – who know how and when they can get involved	Support the ongoing development of the national volunteering database, I-VOL (website and app) where individuals can easily find volunteering opportunities	Long-term	DRCD VI/VCS

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
16		<p>Develop the potential for further volunteering partnerships between the corporate sector and community organisations through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The delivery of an awareness programme aimed at companies highlighting the benefits of volunteering 2. Establish a forum for sharing best practice on employee volunteering, engaging community organisations so that the needs of the company, employee volunteers and the community organisation are all met 3. Ensure that the importance of volunteering is represented in the next iteration of the National Plan on CSR in line with EU and international best practice on CSR policy 4. Working with the corporate sector to develop volunteering among employees, which could include an extension of Volunteer Ireland's Business Assistance Programme 	<p>Medium - term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Medium-term</p> <p>Long-term</p>	<p>Chambers Ireland</p> <p>DRCD</p> <p>VI</p> <p>Business in the Community Ireland</p> <p>DETE: CSR Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>Corporate Sector</p>
17		Explore the potential for a volunteering policy across the public sector	Short-term	<p>DPER</p> <p>DRCD</p>
18		Develop a research-based toolkit for VCs/VIOs on how to develop volunteer programmes for young people in collaboration with NYCI, Campus Engage, Foróige and other stakeholders		<p>DRCD</p> <p>VI/VCs</p> <p>VIOs</p> <p>Youth Representative Organisations</p>
19		Develop programmes aimed at increasing the numbers of volunteers from under-represented groups	Long-term	<p>DRCD</p> <p>VI/VCs</p>
20		Invest in capacity building in VIOs through the delivery of a suite of training to Volunteer Managers	Short-term	<p>DRCD</p> <p>VI/VCs</p>
21		Provide a shared "volunteer manager" service to Volunteer Involving Organisations	Medium Term	<p>VI/VCs</p> <p>VIOs</p>

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
22	A more streamlined Garda vetting system	Undertake an examination of the current Garda vetting process	Long-term	Garda Vetting Office
23	A highlighting of the cost and availability of insurance for volunteering activities	Represent the views of the sector in relation to the impact of the cost and availability of public liability insurance on volunteering through engagement with Insurance Reform Sub-group of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Recovery and Investment, which was established to implement the Government's insurance reform agenda	Long Term	All Stakeholders
24	An increase in the quality of the volunteering experience for all stakeholders	Introduce a standard tiered code of conduct(s) for Volunteer Involving Organisations, to offer protection and clarity on expectations of the volunteer and the VIO	Medium-term	VI/VCS
25		Introduce a standard code of conduct for volunteers, to offer protection and clarity on expectations while volunteering	Medium-term	VI/VCS
26		Provide a bursary fund to support Volunteer Involving Organisations to build capacity in their organisations	Medium-term	DRCD VI
27		Undertake a review to examine the requirement to introduce protections for volunteers e.g. in cases of bullying, discrimination or protected disclosures	Long-term	VI
28	An increase in the capacity of the national volunteering infrastructure	Provide funding to Volunteer Centres and Volunteer Ireland in order for them to provide support and capacity building to Volunteer Involving Organisations and volunteers	Medium-term	DRCD
29		Upgrade the seven VISs to full VCs in order to provide a network of volunteering centres nationwide	Short-term	DRCD VI

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE


11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES


16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS


17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS


Strategic Objective 3

The Strategy wants all who volunteer to know their contribution is appreciated and valued and that volunteering is celebrated for its vital contribution to Irish society, developing communities as vibrant, inclusive and sustainable places where people want to live.

To recognise, celebrate and communicate the value and impact of volunteers and volunteering in all its forms.

Stakeholders:

- DRCD
- Volunteer Involving Organisations
- Volunteer Centres
- Volunteer Ireland
- Public Participation Networks
- Local Authorities
- Educational Bodies
- Other support organisations
- Government Departments

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
30	An increased recognition of the value of volunteering	Explore the potential for the introduction of a formal qualification in recognition of the skills, knowledge and competencies acquired from volunteering	Long-term	D/Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Higher Education Authority
31		Further develop the IVOL database to include a 'volunteering passport' section that records the accredited skills and competencies of volunteers gained through volunteering roles	Medium-term	VI/VCs
32	Volunteering is recognised and valued for the contribution it makes to Irish Society	Support Local and National Awards ceremonies that recognise the contribution and impact our volunteers, VIOs, community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises are making to society	Short-term	All Stakeholders

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
33		Explore the potential of the CSO regularly including a question on volunteering in their quarterly national household survey annually	Long-term	DRCD VI CSO
34		Inclusion of a question on volunteering as part of the 2022 Census of Population and beyond	Short-term	DRCD VI CSO
35		Based on the data from the 2022 Census, develop a programme specifically targeted at underrepresented cohorts of volunteers	Long-term	VI / VC lead with support from all stakeholders
36		Conduct benchmarking exercises and peer reviews with other jurisdictions	Long-term	VI
37	An increased awareness among individuals, families and groups of how their skills, interests, talents and education can contribute to their community.	Develop a national communications strategy to include information campaigns at national, regional and local levels communicating the value, benefits and impact of volunteering to include targeted media campaigns focusing on specific areas of volunteering e.g. benefits for the unemployed, health benefits, community benefits, young people, older people	Medium-term	DRCD / VI lead with support from all stakeholders
38		Deliver a co-ordinated national volunteering week campaign that engages all sectors of society	Short-term	VI lead with support from all stakeholders
39	Volunteering is recognised as a viable pathway to work	Promote volunteering to job seekers through the INTREO centres and social welfare offices	Short-term	DSP VI
  				

Strategic Objective 4

Ethical and skills-based international volunteering can play an important role in delivering results for beneficiaries and in fostering Global Citizenship. A global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands our rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world - and their place in it. They take an active role in their community, and work with others to make the world more equal, fair and sustainable in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To promote ethical and skills-based international volunteering to deliver results for beneficiaries and to enhance Global Citizenship in Ireland

Stakeholders:

- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Social Protection
- Irish International Volunteer Sending Organisations
- Comhlámh
- Volunteer Ireland
- Local Authorities
- Educational Bodies
- Irish Development Education Association (IDEA)
- Dóchas

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
40	Ireland viewed as an example of international best practice in international volunteering.	Review the Irish Aid Volunteering Initiative (2013)	Short-term	DFA
41	Sustained and expanded support for increased public awareness of our rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world	Engage with the EU in relation to the European Solidarity Corps	Long-term	D/Children and DFA
42		Support ethical and responsible international volunteering, including through the promotion of the Comhlámh <i>Code of Good of Practice</i> for international volunteer-sending agencies		

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
43		Ensure international volunteers are supported, including through the provision of credited pay-related social insurance contributions and exemptions, where appropriate	Long-term	DFA and DSP
44		Ensure that Ireland's support to the UN Volunteer Programme reflects the geographic and policy priorities of <i>A Better World</i> , Ireland's Policy for International Development	Long-term	DFA
45		Explore the potential to expand the National Volunteer Database to include international volunteering opportunities	Short-term	VI and Comhlámh
46		Revise travel advice to highlight issues and provide information for citizens to consider before engaging in international volunteering	Short-term	DFA
  				

Strategic Objective 5

This Strategy affirms the contribution of volunteering at local and national level and commits to developing a cooperative approach between public bodies and volunteering representatives in the advancement of coherent policy. This Strategy also acknowledges the importance of ongoing research into the volunteering community in developing informed, evidence-based policy beyond the lifetime of this document.

To improve policy coherence on volunteering across Government both nationally and locally

Stakeholders:

- DRCD
- Volunteer Involving Organisations
- Volunteer Centres
- Volunteer Ireland
- Local Authorities
- Educational Bodies
- Other support organisations
- Government Departments

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
47	Greater understanding among public representatives, policy makers and decision makers of the impact of volunteering	Examine the scope to carry out an impact assessment on volunteering prior to introducing local and national strategies, legislation, programmes and schemes that include VIOs or volunteers as part of the implementation	Medium-Term	All Stakeholders
48		Commission an evidence based report on the economic and social value and impact of volunteering on our economy	Short Term	DRCD
49	An increase in the capacity of Volunteer Involving Organisations	Through <i>Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities 2019-2024</i> : Support and develop a sustainable model to support the community and voluntary sector, through: A multi-annual funding approach An appropriate cost-recovery model for programmes delivered by the C&V sector Core funding for autonomous community and local development	Medium-Term	All Stakeholders

	In five years' time, we will see	Action	Timescale	Responsible Bodies
50		Examine the scope to reduce the cost of compliance and administrative burden of regulation, insofar as possible, in order to free up resources for volunteering	Medium-Term	All Stakeholders
51		Provide on-going guidance and support to VIOs on a range of issues such as volunteer management/leadership	Medium-Term	VI/VCs
52		Provide training on good governance to volunteer board members, as well as a matching service to recruit new board members	Medium-Term	DRCD VI/VCs Boardmatch
53		Support Volunteer Involving Organisations to create more diverse roles e.g. short-term, virtual, micro, one-off and episodic volunteering	Medium-Term	VI/VCs VIOs
54		Provide networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunities for volunteer managers	Medium-Term	VI/VCs
55	Supports for all VIOs to implement and raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals	Develop toolkits to develop and proof plans against SDGs Support capacity in VIOs in relation to deliver of the SDGs	Medium-Term	All Stakeholders
56	Supports for Reserve Volunteering Corps	Establish a national "Reserve Volunteering Corps" in order to support national, regional and local emergency responses	Short Term	VI/VCs/VIOs
				