

Strengthening Democracy Through Civic Participation: 2023 Awardees

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description
Irish Council for Civil Liberties	Rochtain: Democratising Advocacy	To establish an on demand and standing free advisory service for allied value-sharing organisations which will offer resources and training on how to effectively engage with the national political system. This service will offer training and insights to smaller CSOs and those who have had difficulty accessing the political system. The project will also involve a series of dedicated online and in-person workshops to foster a deeper understanding of the political legislative processes in Ireland and how civil society groups can position themselves within those structures.
Akidwa and African and African Descent Federation of Ireland	Including the People (ITP)	The Including the People Project is an initiative that seeks to strategically enable and support people of African descent in Ireland in actively participating in the Irish democracy. It entails the organisation of community workshops on civic participation across a number of counties in Ireland and will provide information and training on political participation, policy development and advocacy in Ireland. Participants will be required to register to vote in Ireland as an assignment and also prepare a campaign to invoke civic participation in Irish democracy. They will also be given the opportunity to become Champions of Civic Participation who will organise and facilitate events that raise awareness on civic participation in the community of people of African descent.
Down Syndrome Ireland (Tipperary Branch)	Meitheal SPEAK	To establish a Regional Advisory Council in Tipperary that will represent the voice of adults with Down Syndrome in Tipperary and surrounding counties in issues that affect them. It will provide a platform for advocacy, awareness and participation and provide a conduit for members to have a voice at National Level. The programme will give adults with Down Syndrome a clear structure and framework as well as skills development and support to represent their peers and have their voices heard.
Involve	Democracy innovators' network	To establish a new Democracy Innovators' Network, an important initiative to strengthen civic voice, promote active citizenship, and advocate for participatory and deliberative democracy across the island of Ireland. It will incorporate a wide range of civil society organisations from Ireland and Northern Ireland and aims to create a platform for campaigning, learning, collaborating, capacity building, sharing news and opportunities and growing a vibrant community of practice.

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Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) in partnership with Community Work Ireland (CWI)	Voice, Equality, Experience, Power - Building all island community development approaches to mental health and poverty through a social lens	To establish an all-island dialogue exploring community development approaches to mental health and poverty through a social and environmental lens. The project seeks to harness the skills, analysis, experience, and voice of mental health stakeholders, experts by experience, and community and health workers to work together, share learning and experiences, and build community networks of solidarity and support. Working collectively, it will identify ways to strengthen the structural capacity to change policies and practices and improve our communities' mental and physical health and well-being.
TASC	'The People's Democracy'	A project to support active citizenship, especially amongst those least likely to participate in politics. The work will focus on access to information about rights, exposure to Irish political institutions and government agencies, and a supportive forum for reflecting upon community priorities and methods for engaging policymakers in the advancement of these priorities.
National Women's Council	A Feminist future for Ireland	To bring together women from across the island of Ireland to consider what a feminist future might look like. These spaces will mimic the format of a citizens' assembly and will support the facilitation of greater cooperation and dialogue amongst women across the island harnessing and promoting key feminist aspirations at all levels of society and decision making. These spaces bring together women leaders, academics, artists, community activists from all communities to assess the limitations put on women by our current systems, addressing specific barriers for women from marginalised communities and the possibilities of imagining an alternative feminist future.
AsIAm	Supporting Autism Advocacy and Civic Participation within the Autistic Community	A participative capacity-building project that will build on the successful piloting of AsIAm's Youth Leadership Team, to include the voices of autistic adults and to support both groups to identify and amplify issues of importance to them, to advocate for their rights and to support increased civic and political participation among the community.