



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Life Worth Living – Oversight Group

Implementation Progress Report

December 2021



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1. Introduction

The Arts and Culture Taskforce, established in September 2020, was tasked by Catherine Martin, T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media with producing a report to include a set of recommendations on how best the arts and culture sector could adapt and recover from the unprecedented damage arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The sector includes culture, the arts, the audio visual industry and the live entertainment industry.

The Taskforce published a report, called '*Life Worth Living*', in November 2020 which included ten recommendations to assist the recovery of the arts and culture sector post-pandemic. The Report focused on adopting a solution focused approach with strong stakeholder and sector specific input, identifying immediate and medium-term goals for recovery and sustainability in the sector. This included whole of Government policy initiatives and actions to support the sector.

The Taskforce identified a real risk that Ireland will emerge from COVID-19 to find its arts, culture and events sectors decimated, with some venues closed for good, many businesses folded, large numbers of skilled and talented performers and workers gone to other careers, and much of the experience and creativity of the sectors gone.

The Taskforce's recommendations were designed to help support the recovery and ongoing sustainability of the arts and culture sector.

Oversight Group

In April 2021 the Minister established an Oversight Group tasked with appraising the recommendations set out in *Life Worth Living* report and to report to the Minister in relation to the implementation status of the recommendations.

The Oversight Group was chaired by the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and joined by representatives of the Departments of Finance, Social Protection, Public Expenditure and Reform and Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Directors of the Arts Council and Screen Ireland and a representative of the County and City Managers' Association were also members.

This report from the Oversight Group identifies progress on the implementation of the recommendations made by the taskforce up to and including December 2021.

2. Summary of Recommendations

The table below sets out the Oversight Group’s assessment of the implementation status of the recommendations of the Arts and Culture Recovery Taskforce Life Worth Living Report.

The implementation status of the recommendations is categorised as follows:

- **Implemented:** the recommendation has implemented.
- **In Progress:** work is currently underway to achieve implementation.
- **Closed:** not currently under consideration for further progress.

Status Overview

- Implemented: 75% of recommendations (no.’s 4,5,6,7,8,9 and 10 and no. 3 partially implemented)
- In progress: 21% of recommendations (no.’s 1, and 2 and 3 (partially implemented and partially in progress))
- Closed: 4% of recommendations (no. 2 partially closed)

	Recommendation	Implementation Status
1	Pilot a Universal Basic Income Scheme for a three-year period in the in the arts, culture, audio-visual and live performance and events sectors.	In Progress
	Extension of the professional artists on jobseeker’s allowance scheme to other art forms as recommended in the 2019 review.	In Progress
2	Establish a new VAT compensation for artists and for freelance arts, live entertainment and events workers and companies.	Closed
	Enhancements to Existing Tax Legislation	In Progress
	Implement Section 195 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended)	In Progress
3	Transpose the <i>EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market</i> into Irish law without adjustment or dilution of the intention of the directive as it relates to rights holders.	Implemented
	Transpose the Audiovisual Media Service Directive (AVMSD) 16 into Irish Law immediately, because of its importance to the Audiovisual and Creative Screen sectors.	In Progress

4	Introduce a Business Supports Grants Scheme for SMEs in the events industry that are excluded from the COVID-19 Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)	Implemented
5	Government should commit to continue its provision of financial support to local authorities to offset any loss of income they experience in 2021 so as to enable them to maintain their investment in arts, culture and events at 2020 levels.	Implemented
6	Establish a programme that provides wellbeing supports to the creative sector.	Implemented
7	Establish a capacity building and upskilling scheme for artists and creative workers aimed at recovery and renewal programme through professional development.	Implemented
8	The treatment of cultural activities and venues under the various levels of the Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan for Living with COVID-19 requires urgent review to better reflect actual circumstances and the particular behaviours of artists, audiences and venue staffs in this area of Irish life.	Implemented
9	Establish 'Re-imagining our public spaces': a capital improvement programme. Creative Activation Fund: Regional Project Fund: Privately Operated Venues Fund	Implemented
10	Establish and fund a 'Creative Green Programme'	Implemented

3. Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Recommendation 1
1a. Pilot a Universal Basic Income Scheme for a three-year period in the in the arts, culture, audio-visual and live performance and events sectors.
Status – In Progress
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>As part of the National Economic Recovery Plan launched on June 1st 2021, the Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, secured a commitment from Government for a Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for artists. The pilot was a key priority of the Minister as part of Budget 2022 and funding of €25m was allocate for 2022 to provide for the launch of the pilot scheme. The delivery of pilot is a key priority of the Minister to underpin the recovery in the arts and culture sector and provide much needed certainty to the artists and creatives who choose to avail of the pilot scheme.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for artists and arts workers is not a Universal Basic Income (UBI), rather it is a sector specific intervention being led on by the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. This is entirely separate to the Programme for Government <i>Our Shared Future</i> commitment to introduce a universal basic income pilot in the lifetime of the Government. The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment has responsibility for the UBI commitment and has requested that the Low Pay Commission examine that commitment in the Programme for Government. While the Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for artists and creative arts workers, as a sectoral intervention, may provide relevant findings to the Low Pay Commission to inform their project, it is important to note that these are two individual and separate projects and a UBI is outside of the scope of the Oversight Group on the Arts and Culture Recovery Taskforce Report – <i>Life Worth Living</i>.</p> <p>In examining the manner in which the recommendation for a Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for the arts, culture, audiovisual, live performance and event sectors could be implemented the Oversight Group reviewed international literature in relation to models of delivery for different types of Basic Income Supports. A number of countries have trailed basic income supports in the arts and culture sectors including Canada, Finland and Germany. In addition, the Oversight Group sought input from various stakeholders in order to determine the most suitable model to deliver a Basic Income Guarantee for artists and arts workers. Presentations were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the NCFA (the National Campaign for the Arts)- Social Justice Ireland- Praxis – the Artists Union- Dr Stephen Kinsella – Economist in University- SIPTU/Equity – the Actors Union

- The Arts Council supplied a position paper to the Department which provided further context to the precarious nature of arts workers supporting the case as to why investment in a basic income scheme would be justified.
- The Arts Council also provided detailed and specific feedback on the Department's options paper during the drafting process on a range of areas including eligibility and verification of professional status, determining a sample, research and evaluation

Having considered a number of delivery models the Oversight Group made a proposal to the Minister as outlined below. This model closely aligns with the ambitions of the Arts and Recovery Taskforce. The Taskforce considered the arts sectors as an appropriate sector to pilot a Basic Income Guarantee for the following reasons:

- It is often characterised by low and precarious income;
- It includes a broad mix of employment types;
- It involves significant positive externalities, and;
- It has been chosen for BI pilots in other countries, allowing for international comparison.

Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme – Proposal by the Oversight Group

The Oversight Group recommended the following:

- The Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTACGSM) should take responsibility for the operational delivery of the pilot scheme;
- DTACGSM should develop an ongoing research and evaluation programme for the duration of the pilot scheme in conjunction with the Department's Strategic Policy Unit.
- The pilot scheme should focus on professional artists including developing artists in order to ensure that artists are given the opportunity to focus on their creative practice. In addition, there should be a stream for creative arts workers, i.e. those working in the sector who have an essential creative input into the final output of an artists practice e.g. screenwriters, directors, costume designers etc.
- DTACGSM should develop eligibility criteria based on creative practice so applicants can demonstrate that they are either (a) a professional or developing artists or (b) a creative arts worker.
- Participation in the pilot should not be based on a means test.
- Participation in the pilot should be a non-competitive process, therefore once a person can satisfy the eligibility criteria they should be included in a randomised selection process.
- A number of unsuccessful but eligible applicants should be asked to participate in a control group in order to collect data to underpin a comprehensive *ex post* appraisal of the pilot in due course. This would allow an assessment of achievement of pilot's objectives to be undertaken after the three year pilot period concludes.
- The payment rate should be set at €10.50 per hour (the National Minimum Wage).
- To aim to include up to 2,000 participants in the pilot scheme.
- That a Stakeholder Forum should take place after the publication of the Oversight Group Report to ensure that the views of the sector, resource organisations and representative bodies are considered on the proposed model of delivery for the pilot scheme.

The Oversight Group considered that the objectives of the pilot scheme include:

- To give recognition to the intrinsic value of the arts in Irish society.
- To give recognition to the value of unpaid work in creative practice.
- To pilot a sector specific support for the arts sector, in the form of a basic income, to provide financial support for individual workers who make a key contribution to the creative production process.
- To minimise the loss of skill and experience from the arts sector.
- To enable arts sector workers to focus on artistic production without having to enter into employment in other sectors to sustain themselves.
- To reduce reliance of the arts sector on the social protection system.

Recommendation 1

1b. An extension of the professional artists on jobseeker's allowance scheme to other art forms as recommended in the 2019 review.

Status – Implemented

Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation

- The Department of Social Protection (DSP) has now concluded the pilot status of the Artists Jobseekers scheme and has established the scheme as a permanent support.
- Following the 2019 Review of the Jobseekers for Artists scheme DSP, following consultations with the Arts Council and the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht Sport and Media extended the scheme to the following art forms:

Artform	Professionals	Certifying Organisations
Theatre	Actors Costume Designers Theatre Directors Set Designers Stage Designers	Actors Equity/SIPTU
Music	Musicians, including traditional, popular and rock music	Musicians Union of Ireland/SIPTU
Dance	Dancers Choreographers	Dance Ireland

Opera	Composers	Musicians Union of Ireland/SIPTU
Film	Actors Screen Writers Film Directors	Actors Equity/SIPTU Writers Guild of Ireland Screen Directors Guild of Ireland
Circus	Street Performers	Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network

- The Arts Council will consider, in conjunction with the relevant resource organisations, if further refinements to the certification process is required to extend the scheme to other art forms. The Arts Council will present a proposal to the DTCAGSM and DSP in 2022 in this regard.

Recommendation 2

Recommendation 2
2a. Establish a new VAT compensation for artists and for freelance arts, live entertainment and events workers and companies.
Status – Closed
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
A Compensation Scheme was introduced for Charities because their charitable activities are ‘outside the scope’ of VAT or are exempt from VAT. They are neither obliged nor entitled to register for VAT to reclaim VAT on their purchases and expenditures. Artists are taxable persons who are operating below the VAT registration threshold and are not registered for VAT so can’t reclaim VAT on their expenditure. However, if any of these taxable persons have significant VAT on purchases, they can elect to register for VAT to reclaim this VAT. Accordingly, a VAT compensation scheme for artists would not be considered appropriate.
2.b. Amend the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 to provide for an income disregard for earnings of up to €50,000 as part of the Artists Tax Exemption
Status – In Progress
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
There was no change to this in Budget 2022. The Department of Finance will keep the proposal under review.
2c. In relation to Section 481 of Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 that:
a. DTCAGSM would ensure that the legislation is in line with the policy objectives for the film sectors growth. b. Consideration to be given to increasing the €70m cap to maximize the potential to attract large budget productions to Ireland.
Status – a. In Progress b. In Progress
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
a. DTCAGSM will undertake a review of the policy objectives for the film sector to determine if the legislation remains appropriate to support the sectors growth. Section 32 of the Finance Bill 2021 includes a proposed change to the definition of eligible individual for Section 481 to confirm that payments made directly by a qualifying company, to an individual involved

in the provision of labour-only services for the purposes of the production of a qualifying film, qualify as eligible expenditure.

The proposed introduction of a Digital Games Tax Relief is now published in Section 33 of the Bill. The introduction of a new digital games tax credit was announced in Budget 2022 and were published in Section 33 of the Finance Bill 2021. The relief will be available at a rate of 32%, on eligible expenditure of up to a maximum limit of €25 million per project. The introduction of a tax credit specific to the gaming sector, allied to synergies with our established film and animation sectors, will support quality employment in creative and digital arts in Ireland. The new credit will be introduced in Finance Bill 2021, subject to a commencement order pending State aid approval.

- b. Consideration was given to increasing the cap of €70m to maximise the opportunities to attract large budget productions to film in Ireland. However no change was made in Budget 2022 and this proposal will be kept under review by the Department of Finance.

Recommendation 3

Recommendation 3
3a. Transpose the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market into Irish law without adjustment or dilution of the intention of the directive as it relates to rights holders
Status – Implemented
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>The European Union (Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Single Market) Regulations 2021 (Statutory Instrument No. 567 of 2021) was signed into law by Tánaiste Leo Varadkar on 12th November 2021 and came into force on date of signature.</p> <p>These Regulations, made pursuant to the European Communities Act 1972, transpose Directive 2019/790/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019. These Regulations also further amend the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p>The new Regulations strengthen the rights and protections afforded to various categories of rights holders in order to reflect the impact of technological advances and increased digitisation. They also provide for wider access and use of copyright protected works to the potential benefit of the creative sectors, press publishers, researchers, educators, cultural heritage institutions, and citizens.</p>

Recommendation 3
3b. Transpose the Audiovisual Media Service Directive (AVMSD) 16 into Irish Law immediately, because of its importance to the Audiovisual and Creative Screen sectors.
Status – In Progress
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>The Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) does not have direct effect in Member States and therefore, must be implemented in Irish law in order to take effect in Ireland. Such transposition must take place through primary legislation and will be achieved through the enactment and subsequent implementation of the Online Safety and Media Regulation (OSMR) Bill.</p> <p>The General Scheme of the OSMR Bill was published on 10 January 2020. However, the unusual circumstances of 2020, including a General Election, a lengthy Government formation period, a reorganisation of Ministerial responsibilities, together with the general disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, delayed progress of the Bill. As such, the transposition deadline of 19 September 2020 was missed.</p>

On 8 December 2020, the Government approved the finalisation of the General Scheme of the proposed Bill through the addition of 25 further Heads. Then, on 18 May 2021, the Government approved the integration of the Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill, 2019, into the Bill and three further provisions, including one in relation to the prominence of public service content.

In February 2021, the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media commenced pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme by requesting submissions from targeted stakeholders. The Committee then held oral hearings from May to end-July, hearing from regulators, industry, NGOs and other affected stakeholders. The report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee was published on 3 November 2021. The 33 recommendations contained in the report cover a wide range of important issues and highlight the scale and complexity of the matters to be addressed in the Bill.

In late-October 2020, detailed legal drafting by the Office of the Attorney General commenced. This process is now nearing completion. Subsequent to completion, and an assessment of the recommendations of the pre-legislative scrutiny report, the OSMR Bill will be brought forward for publication and passage through the Houses of the Oireachtas in 2022.

On 20 November 2020, Ireland received an infringement notice from the European Commission. The notice asked Ireland to notify the Commission of transposition measures within 2 months of receipt of the notice and/or submit observations. On 18 January 2021, Ireland replied to the Commission outlining the circumstances of 2020 which caused a delay in transposing the Directive. It also outlined the extensive work and consultation that has been involved so far in order to give proper effect to the Directive in Irish law.

On 23 September 2021, Ireland received notice that the European Commission had progressed infringement proceedings to the “reasoned opinion” stage. Ireland is again required to reply to the European Commission within 2 months, outlining the measures being taken to transpose the revised AVMSD. Eight other EU Member States received similar notice including Spain, Croatia and Italy.

European Works

The enactment and implementation of the OSMR Bill will ensure the complete transposition of the revised AVMSD, including of Article 13(1) which requires that on-demand services secure at least a 30% share of European works in their catalogues and ensure prominence of those works. This particular Article will be transposed through provisions relating to Head 65 of the General Scheme of the Bill.

Moreover, Article 13(2) allows, though does not require, an EU Member State to impose a content production levy on media service providers targeting a national audience. Heads 76 and 77 of the General Scheme of the OSMR Bill will allow the Media Commission, once established, to implement a content production levy scheme. This is, however, on condition that the Commission has completed a review of the viability of such a scheme.

Recommendation 4

Recommendation 4
Introduce a Business Supports Grants Scheme for SMEs in the events industry that are excluded from the COVID-19 Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS).
Status – Implemented
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>Under the National Economic Recovery Plan the government announced a new €11.5m fund for the entertainment industry. The Events Sector Covid Support Scheme (ESCSS) was launched in August 2021 to provide additional support for larger SME's (with turnovers in excess of €150,000) in the events sector who were ineligible for Revenue's CRSS (Covid Restrictions Support Scheme) and for whom schemes such as SBASC (Small Business Support Scheme) and MEBAS (Music and Entertainment Business Support Scheme) did not make a significant contribution to fixed costs. This scheme was administered by DTCAGSM with a Vote Transfer of €11.5m from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE).</p> <p>The scheme was open to those firms who provide services to the events industry including all forms of live performance and trade shows, including event promoters, performers, event management, security, supply of sound, lighting and stage equipment. Under Phase I of the scheme grants of approximately €10.5m were allocated to support SME's in the sector. On foot of the success of this scheme and positive feedback from the sector, the Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media allocated an additional €4m of funding for a second phase of the scheme bringing the total fund to €16.5m. ESCSS Phase 2, opened for applications in October.</p> <p>This scheme was a successful targeted support for SME's supplying services in the events sector which were significantly negatively impacted by restrictions required to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2019 and 2020.</p>

Recommendation 5

Recommendation 5
Government should commit to continue its provision of financial support to local authorities to offset any loss of income they experience in 2021 so as to enable them to maintain their investment in arts, culture and events at 2020 levels.
Status – Implemented
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>The Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media allocated €5million to the Local Live Performance Support Scheme (LLPSS). This funding was allocated to every local authority in the country to provide for local live performances during the summer and early autumn 2021. This scheme facilitated programming of outdoor live performances and the animating town centres for local communities. The funding provided much needed employment opportunities for those working in the arts, culture and live events sector during a period when significant public health restrictions were in place. On foot of the success of the first round of LLPSS the Minister allocated a further €5million to provide for live events in every county in Ireland during the late Autumn to Christmas period 2021.</p> <p>The Creative Ireland Programme, through its Creative Communities initiative, engages local communities with creativity to support wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development. During 2020, funding to local authorities by the Department through the Creative Ireland Programme more than doubled to €4.9 million delivering 850 projects to support the delivery of their Culture and Creativity Strategies and provide a creative response to COVID-19. This higher level of funding is expected to be maintained in 2021. It included the continuation of the Creativity in Older Age Scheme which invited local authorities, directly and/or through partnerships with creative operators or organisations in the community, to deliver initiatives of creative engagement to older members living within the communities and residential care facilities.</p> <p>Through Creative Ireland the Creativity in Older Age Scheme supported positive ageing, mitigating the negative impact of social cocooning and social distancing, and developed and established new forms of creative engagement for older people that accommodated prevailing public health guidance in the community and for residential care facilities</p>
Local Authority Actions
Supportive financial considerations were made against a backdrop of decreasing self-generated income in local authority arts offices, for example, cessation of studio rents for the lockdown period(s). However, in general, it should be acknowledged that funding levels remained at pre-pandemic levels despite the challenging environment. Many venues, whilst closed to the public, moved their resources from programming to supporting artists – enabling them to use their space and facilities to create work when the buildings were re-opened but events were not taking place.

New platforms of supports arrived such as a mentoring programme between artists and residencies in local authority venues countrywide.

Many Local Authorities focused on upskilling artists in digital media. The key objective was to enable them to develop their practice to offer programmes online to groups they previously had been working with in person. There are many examples across the sector, one of which is Clare County Council, where the Arts Office worked in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office, offering three dedicated programmes, as well as producing a handbook with guidance for artists working in schools and disability settings.

The pandemic has illustrated that the majority of funding received by Local Authorities is allocated to artists' fees, thereby creating employment opportunities and supporting livelihoods at local level. Without such funding, for many artists, there are no other sources of employment locally.

Local authorities also mobilised during the pandemic to come together to create a specific bursary programme for artists called Platform 31 which saw one artist in 31 Local Authority areas receive funding, professional development and mentoring. This joint initiative proved very successful and will take place again in 2022.

Recommendation 6

Recommendation 6
Establish a programme that provides wellbeing supports to the creative sector.
Status – Implemented
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>In December 2020, the Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media announced funding of €230,000 for the expansion of Minding Creative Minds’ existing service to the entire Irish creative sector, both home and abroad in 2021. It has been confirmed that DTCAGSM will continue funding Minding Creative Minds with €220,000 in 2022.</p> <p>Minding Creative Minds is an organisation established to offer wellbeing & support programmes to the Irish creative sector, including a 24/7 free dedicated phone helpline, free counselling sessions, financial assistance, consumer and legal advice, career guidance, life coaching and support for Non-Irish nationals and their families.</p> <p>More recently, a career and mentoring programme has also been made available, along with Mindfulness Classes and Mediation Services for the creative sector.</p>

Recommendation 7

Recommendation 7
Establish a capacity building and upskilling scheme for artists and creative workers aimed at recovery and renewal through professional development.
Status – Implemented
Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation
<p>The Arts Council introduced two new schemes in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The schemes were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Agility Award2. The Capacity Building Support Scheme (CBSS) were developed by The Arts Council <p>The Agility Award aims are to support professional freelance artists and arts workers at any career stage to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop their practice;- Develop their work;- Develop their skills;- Create new work;- Present new work <p>There were 3 rounds of the Agility Award in 2021. An initial budget of €5.6m was allocated of which €5.4m was spent over the first 2 rounds. An additional €2.7m was allocated to the final round with decisions due to be issued in mid-November 2021.</p> <p>3,756 applications were received for the Agility Award in 2021, and a total of €8.5m was awarded to 1,802 artists.</p> <p>The CBSS aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support arts organisations to gain support, skills and expertise to review and adapt their artistic and/or business models- Support arts organisations' strategic development in the medium to long term.- Support activities in these arts organisations that will assist in building capacity, in developing inclusivity, and/or in growing peer support and collaborations <p>There were 2 Rounds of the CBSS in 2021 with €4.2m in funding allocated to 248 arts organisations. Average funding of €28K to consortia, and €16K to single organisations.</p> <p>The <i>Life Worth Living</i> Report also recommended the following:</p>

A sectoral Training Needs Assessment would be commissioned alongside this initial programme to influence future provision, both academic and sectoral. This assessment did not go ahead.

Screen Ireland

Screen Ireland introduced a number of new schemes and funds to support with capacity building and upskilling in 2020-2021. These include:

1. The Screen Stakeholders Fund
2. National Talent Academies
3. Screen Mentoring Scheme
4. The Pathways Fund
5. Passport To Production Initiative

The Screen Stakeholders Fund supports organisations, guilds or companies to deliver skills development supports for their members and/or for the wider sector that focus on priority themes such as

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Sustainability/Green Production
- Future Technology/Virtual Production
- Improving Workplace Culture & Wellbeing
- Regional Development
- Careers in the Screen Industry for Young People
- Development of a Competency Framework for Sectoral Roles

There were 3 rounds of the Screen Stakeholders fund in 2020-2021. 22 different stakeholder organisations were supported across these 3 rounds with a total of €550k in funding awarded.

In 2021 Screen Ireland launched 3 new National Talent Academies, one for Film and TV Drama based in Galway, one for Animation based in Dublin, and one for Production Crew (split into 3 regional crew hubs in Wicklow, Limerick and the Gaeltacht Region in Galway). The aim of the Talent Academies is to support capacity building and upskilling by developing and nurturing creative talent for both creative and production roles at new entrant, emerging, established and expert levels. The Talent Academies will support the development of a diverse and regional pool of creative and production-ready talent, whilst also ensuring opportunity within the industry for those who may at present feel precluded from a thriving career within the sector. Each Talent Academy will be guided by Screen Ireland and by a dedicated Steering Committee made up of key sectoral representatives including employers, employees, studios, education and training providers, film offices and community groups. Over €2.1m in funding will be invested in the National Talent Academies in 2021.

The Screen Mentoring scheme offers screen professionals structured mentoring support at key stages in their career development across business, creative and/or technical mentoring. Through the scheme, emerging talent (mentees) within the sector are carefully matched with experienced professionals (mentors) and allocated up to 20 hours of mentoring time over a 5-10 meeting

assignment, over a 12-month period. Each mentor provides practical tailored advice and guidance based on their industry experience, on a one to one basis. 75 mentor/mentee match ups have been supported over the past 18 months.

Recommendation 8

Recommendation 8
<p>The treatment of cultural activities and venues under the various levels of the <i>Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan for Living with COVID-19</i> requires urgent review to better reflect actual circumstances and the particular behaviours of artists, audiences and venue staffs in this area of Irish life.</p>
Status – Implemented
<p>The Government’s <i>COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead</i> plan set out the Government’s objectives for the full recovery of social life, public services and the economy. The plan also committed to the development of sectoral guidance for very large purpose built event facilities, for example: stadia, auditoriums, conference or event centres. To facilitate the development of this guidance the Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media established a technical Working Group called the Live Entertainment Guidance Development Working Group.</p> <p>The Live Entertainment Covid Guidance Working Group was established with the following mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop overarching Covid-19 sectoral guidance for the Live Entertainment sector;• To ensure that such Guidance provides for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consistency of approach across all live performance venues;- A set of overarching guiding principles which all venue promoters can adapt for their specific purposes;- Alignment with the Government’s <i>Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 – The Path Ahead</i>;- Alignment with the Government’s <i>Stay Safe Guidelines</i>;- Alignment with the Government’s <i>Work Safely Protocols</i> <p>The membership of the Working Group included stakeholders with the appropriate technical knowledge in the planning, management and delivery of events, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Events Industry Alliance of Ireland (EIAI);▪ The Live Venue Collective;▪ The Large Venue Collective;▪ Event Production Industry COVID-19 Working Group (EPIC);▪ Give Us The Night;▪ The Venue Operators and Promoters Forum;▪ The Music and Entertainment Association of Ireland,▪ Aiken Promotions;▪ Theatre Forum;▪ The Arts Council;

- Fáilte Ireland;
- The City and County Managers Association (CCMA);
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Eamonn O’Boyle and Associates (Department’s Event Safety consultants), and;
- Representatives from DTCAGSM Culture Division and Covid Support Unit.

These guidelines called *COVID 19 GUIDELINES FOR EVENT ORGANISERS AND VENUE MANAGEMENT FOR A RETURN TO PUBLIC EVENTS*, were published on Gov.ie in September 2021.

In its decision of 19 October 2021, Government agreed that the remaining aspects of the hospitality, entertainment and night-time economy sector could reopen with a full range of protective measures in place and the wide and robust implementation of the COVID-19 pass. Further stakeholder engagement took place between the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Live Entertainment Working Group. The following additional bodies were also involved in stakeholder meetings:

- Licensed Vintners Association,
- Vintners Federation of Ireland,
- Irish Hotels Federation,
- The National Campaign for the Arts.

Following the conclusion of these discussions the guidelines were updated and republished during October 2021 as: *Updated Guidelines for Nightlife and Entertainment*.

In addition, the Arts Council Expert Advisory Group – Return to Arts and Culture, was also established; membership included Fáilte Ireland, Theatre Forum and representatives of DTCAGSM. The group developed and published the following guidance documents to support the live entertainment, arts and cultural sectors in reopening.

- Guidelines for Safe Presentation of Festivals and Live Events (in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland).
- Covid-19 Guidance for the Arts Sector
- Young People Children & Education – Additional Covid-19 Guidance

Guidelines prepared by sectoral groups, such as Theatre Forum, Dance Ireland and the Irish Ballet Teachers Association were also reviewed by the group prior to their publication.

Recommendation 9

Recommendation 9

Establish 'Re-Imagining our Public Spaces': a capital improvement programme. Initiative a twin-track scheme to address:

1. A targeted and accelerated public realm capital improvement programme to fund local authorities to adapt, equip or otherwise improve public spaces cultural and events activities, taking account of public health guidelines and the needs of the local arts community, to include a competitive fund that would encourage the development of spaces of regional strategic importance by local authorities.
2. A targeted fund to incentivise the Private Sector to activate appropriate private spaces for public attendance at artistic, cultural and entertainment events.

Status – Implemented

Oversight Group Appraisal of Implementation

The Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media launched two new capital schemes to provide capital funding for arts and cultural spaces.

1. 'The Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021'. This scheme specifically provides funding for local authorities to provide outdoor performance and artistic spaces, to improve wellbeing and that can provide year-round use. Each local authority can apply for up to €250,000 under the scheme. The scheme has been running since early July 2021 with over 15 applications received.
2. The €5m Commercial Entertainment Capital Support Scheme. Under this scheme funding is provided for capital projects and works that respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19 and that support the recovery of the creative, cultural, entertainment and events sector. Funding of up to €25,000 will be offered to facilitate capital works that assist organisations in reopening and continuing to operate safely for staff, classes and audiences.

Recommendation 10

Recommendation 10
Establish and fund a ‘Creative Green Programme’
Status – Implemented
<p>In 2021, the Minister for D/TCAGSM alongside the Minister for D/ECC launched the <i>Creative Climate Action Fund</i> on behalf of the Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the D/ECC. This new €2 million fund invited partnerships including local authorities and creative practitioners to put their skills of engagement to the cultural challenge of climate action and behaviour change.</p> <p>In July 2021 the successful projects were announced that will receive funding which will be administered by the Creative Ireland Programme and addresses the Programme for Government commitment to “Support Creative Ireland in their ‘Engaging the Public on Climate Change through the Cultural and Creative Sectors’ initiative”. A total of 15 projects will receive funding up to the end of 2022 to offer innovative means, through the cultural, arts and creative sectors, of engaging the public on the urgent need for climate-related system, lifestyle and behaviour changes. The projects will collaborate with communities across the country and cover themes such as Biodiversity, Shopping & Recycling, Energy, Coastal Resilience, Food & Local Climate and Environment.</p> <p>In parallel, the Creative Ireland Programme is commissioning MaREI (the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research at University College Cork) to conduct research on the initiative to analyse the impact of the Creative Climate Action Initiative on Climate Change Awareness, Engagement and Action in Ireland.</p> <p>Specific mention of sustainability was also made in the launch of the National Development Plan, including strategic investment priorities to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen Ireland’s reputation as a leader in the cultural arena through the development of a world-class network of sustainable cultural infrastructure through the National Cultural Institutions Investment Programme.• Support place-making through investment in Regional Cultural Infrastructure, with a focus on sustainable and energy efficient infrastructural investment.• Develop the Creative Industries and a vibrant Media Production and Audio Visual Sector through investment in Screen Ireland and the Media Commission (which is to replace the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland).• Safeguard our important cultural heritage through Digitisation of the National Collections, which will provide new ways to interact with our rich collection of artistic works and important historical artefacts, as well as providing increased opportunities to access the collections

Appendix I – Membership of the Life Worth Living Taskforce.

Member	Organisation
Clare Duignan	Chair
Colette Byrne	County and City Management Association
Denise Chaila	Artist
Jane Daly	Co-Director, Irish Theatre Institute
Pearse Doherty	Event Industry Alliance
Conor Falvey	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Désirée Finnegan	Director, Screen Ireland
Elaine Geraghty	CEO, Screen Producers Ireland
Martin Hayes	Musician
Andrew Hetherington	CEO, Business to Arts
Rónán Hession	Department of Social Protection
Maureen Kennelly	Director, The Arts Council
Mary McCarthy	Council of National Cultural Institutions
Eleanor McEvoy	Irish Music Rights Organisation
Aoife McWeeney	Department of Health
Elaine O'Connor	Event Industry Alliance
Karan O'Loughlin	Irish Congress of Trade Unions & Irish Equity
Micheál Ó Fearraigh	Ealaín na Gaeltachta
Secretariat	
Fergal Curtain	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Tadhg O'Shea	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Appendix 2 - Oversight Group Membership

Conor Falvey	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
David Hegarty	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Marcus Breathnach	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Gerry Kenny	Department of Finance
Rónán Hession	Department of Social Protection
Brian O'Malley	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Maureen Kennelly	Director, The Arts Council
Désirée Finnegan	Director, Screen Ireland
Pat Dowling	County and City Management Association
Sharon Barry Media	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Secretariat

Niamh O'Doherty	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Simone Barnett	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media