

Ireland

**QUADRENNIAL PERIODIC REPORT ON MEASURES TO PROTECT AND
PROMOTE THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE 2005 UNESCO CONVENTION**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

(a) Name of Party

Ireland

(b) Date of ratification

In Ireland, 22 December 2006

(c) Ratification process (eg. parliamentary process)

(d) Total contribution to IFCD (to date)

(e) Organisation(s) or entity (ies) responsible for the preparation of the report

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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Permanent Delegation of Ireland to UNESCO, Paris

(g) Date report was prepared

08 June 2012

(h) Name of the designated official (s) signing the report

(i) Description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report and name of representative(s) of participating civil society organisations

2.1 Cultural Policies and Measures

There have been a number of key developments in terms of cultural policy in Ireland which are of relevance to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Culture as a policy priority at national level, whether measured in terms of public resource allocation or in political weight at the Cabinet table, has managed to hold its own in the face of increasing pressures on the public purse. Despite various reports¹ recommending inter alia the abolition of the Department, some of its Agencies, and some key supports to the Arts and Culture sector, the Irish Government has remained committed to the development of the sector throughout the current economic crisis, recognising its importance as a net contributor to the economy, a vital source of inspiration and creativity, and as a highly effective means of presenting a sophisticated, potent national brand internationally.

In response to the growing number of immigrants in Ireland, there have been a number of important initiatives over the last few years which have increased the profile and understanding of “intercultural dialogue” at a policy and practical level across a range of policy fields – from education, health to culture and sport.

In its most recent Statement of Strategy (2001-2014), the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht includes specific references to culture – “to promote and support Ireland’s world-class artistic and cultural strengths, at home and abroad and - to foster, promote, conserve and present our heritage and culture, including the Irish language”.

The body with the primary responsibility for the promotion and development of the Arts in Ireland is the Arts Council (see www.artscouncil.ie), Strategic Overview for 2011-2013 *Developing the Arts in Ireland*.

Despite reductions in its financial allocation the Arts Council has sought to attend to all aspects of its remit including those to do with public access and engagement and with social inclusion, broadly defined. While these are corporate values, they find particular expression in the funding relationships, schemes, and strategic partnerships in Local Arts (where the Arts Council partners with 34 Local Authorities); in Young People Children and Education (YPCE); and in Arts Participation (incl. Arts and health; Arts and Disability; Arts and Community; Arts and Older People; and Cultural Diversity).

Recent years have seen some important policy and strategy initiatives with exciting outcomes in terms of provision. The Young Ensembles Scheme; policies and actions arising in Cultural Diversity, Arts and Health, and Arts and Disability; and an anticipated significant re-drawing of the Arts Council’s partnership with local government are among the changes of relevance to the UNESCO 2005 convention. More detail is offered on these elsewhere in this document.

¹ See two key reports: Commission on Taxation Report, 2009 (see www.commissionontaxation.ie) and Report of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure Programme, 2009 (see www.finance.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=5861)

Arts Participation

The Arts Council understands Arts Participation to be an important area through which it protects and promotes the diversity of cultural expressions in line with the UNESCO convention. Arts Participation is a core value across all areas of the Arts Council's work as reflected in the current Mission Statement, which commits to increasing public access, participation and engagement in the arts. Due to the diverse nature of the artists, groups and communities involved in Arts Participation, the Arts Council sub-divides the area into five different strands, each with its own set of knowledge, expertise and cross-sector partnerships. These include: Arts and Health; Arts and Disability; Cultural Diversity and the Arts; Arts and Communities; and Arts and Older People.

The Arts Council's approach towards access and participation is built on a commitment to ensure that those who are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion have opportunities to access and participate in the country's artistic and cultural life, at least to the extent that is the norm in Ireland. It acknowledges the value of this approach, not only in terms of cultural equity but also in terms of informing and enhancing arts practice, enabling a diversity of voices and perspectives that enrich the arts in Ireland. The Arts Council has undertaken a five year programme of policy development in this area, with an emphasis on the areas of Cultural Diversity, Arts and Health and Arts and Disability.

Cultural Diversity

In partnership with the Minister for Equality, Integration and Human Rights/ National Action Plan against Racism (NPAR), the Arts Council commissioned a research and consultation process into the area of Cultural Diversity and the Arts as a means of informing Arts Council policy and strategy in this area. The research process was co-ordinated by Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts and a final report *Cultural Diversity and the Arts* was submitted at the end of 2009. The Arts Council considered the findings of the report in 2010 and met with the researchers to further probe issues that arose in the course of the consultation process. Following a series of discussions, the Arts Council drew up and agreed a policy and five year strategy for Cultural Diversity and the Arts and this was launched in September 2010 (<http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/areas-of-work/actions/arts-and-cultural-diversity.aspx>).

The Arts Council's policy and strategy document identifies four key principles that underpin its approach to cultural diversity and the arts. These include:

- a belief that cultural diversity enriches the arts sector in Ireland and will contribute to the ongoing invigoration of arts practices and artform development
- a recognition of the value of an intercultural approach towards arts provision in Ireland, promoting inclusion and interaction between individuals and groups from different cultures
- a recognition that Irish society is made up of different strands and identities, which are constantly changing
- a recognition that the process of interaction between cultures involves change for all involved, and that this may involve the reconfiguring of what is known or assumed about artforms and arts practices, the people who make art and the ways in which they are supported.

The five year strategy focuses on three overlapping areas, which reflect the Arts Council's intention to build capacity internally as well as in the wider arts sector. These include a series of initiatives related to:

- Structures and operations
- Resources and supports
- Partnerships

Since then, the Arts Council has taken a series of actions towards the implementation of the strategy. It has:

- made available the policy and the full research report on the Arts Council website (Oct '10)
- launched and disseminated a pamphlet entitled *Cultural Diversity and the Arts – Language and Meanings*, which is intended as a resource to inform and enrich public discourse about culturally diverse interaction, collaboration and experimentation in the arts based on shared understandings of relevant terms; this is also available on the Arts Council website (Oct '10)
- introduced a two-year cultural diversity strand to the *Local Partnership Scheme* in order to foster intercultural capacity at local and national level through strategic collaboration among local authorities and with arts and non-arts organisations (first award made in July 2010 - Ongoing) and augmented by an annual information and networking event (piloted in May 2011)
- initiated a cultural diversity audit on five selected Arts Council schemes on a pilot basis (2010 – 2012), with a view to informing a further review of all grants and awards (2012 – 2014); the schemes participating in the pilot audit include: the Artist in the Community Scheme; Deis Scheme; Small Festivals Scheme; Young Ensembles Scheme and the Local Partnership Scheme (Ongoing)
- worked in partnership with other members of the CNCI ECO group to plan and deliver a national seminar on *Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity in Ireland's Cultural Spaces*, (Nov '10) followed by a regional event in Kilkenny (Nov '11)
- developed and advertised a brief for a Cultural Diversity Adviser to assist in the implementation of other aspects of the strategy (May 2012)

Arts and Health

The Arts Council has supported the practice of Arts and Health since the late 1990s through a programme of research and funding support for the sector. In 2008, an Arts and Health Adviser was appointed to assist with the development of policy and strategy. Following a two year period of research, consultation and a series of strategic arts and health events, a report was produced, the findings of which informed Arts Council thinking in this area of practice. The Arts Council adopted a new Arts and Health policy and strategy in May 2010.

(http://www.artscouncil.ie/Publications/Arts_and_health_policy_2010_2014.pdf).

The Arts Council's policy and strategy document identified six key principles that underpin its approach to Arts and Health, including:

- Long term strategic partnerships and planning where practice is built on a process of ongoing dialogue across the arts and health sectors, and the development of shared aims, understandings, resources and responsibilities.
- Integration into the healthcare environment where it is jointly planned and agreed by the artist, participants and healthcare staff, and delivered in accordance with relevant codes of practice, health and safety requirements.
- Monitoring and evaluation with a commitment to ongoing review of direction, purpose, practice and process, and where practice is adjusted in the light of evaluation.
- Engagement with professional artists in high quality arts experiences and with access to high quality, appropriate art materials, adequate facilities, time, expertise, support and funding.
- Adoption of inclusive, participant-centred approaches, which take account of the wellbeing of participants at all stages, valuing and encouraging each participant's contribution in a manner that is fair, equitable and inclusive.
- Documentation and dissemination with the permission and involvement of stakeholders, taking account of relevant policies relating to child protection and vulnerable adults.

The strategy outlined a series of actions and commitments in three areas including :

- The promotion of Arts and Health at national level
- Resources and supports
- Partnerships

A review of the impact of the new policy and strategy is currently underway but some key developments are already apparent:

- *The development of a national Arts and Health resource* – A new national resource www.artsandhealth.ie was developed and launched at the end of 2011. The website features information, case studies, and contacts from the sector
- *A more integrated approach towards Arts and Health across a range of Arts Council funding supports* – An R&D fund is being piloted among small to medium festivals supported by the Arts Council
- *Partnerships* – A series of exploratory meetings has been agreed between the Arts Council and the HSE in order to identify ways in which a more formal relationship could be built between the two organisations at national level

Arts and Disability

The Arts Council has been active in addressing Arts and Disability over a period of at least 25 years. It has conducted research², produced resources³ and developed a number of discussion documents and initiatives designed to improve access and participation both internally and among the wider arts sector. In 2012, it intends to update its policy and strategy in the area of

To Enable – A Report on Access to the Arts in Ireland for People with Disabilities (1988)

³ *The Arts and Disability Handbook* (1999) now available as an on-line resource www.artsanddisability.ie

Arts and Disability to reflect developments in provision and practice as a result of Arts Council actions in recent years (some unilateral and some in partnership), and to take account of the requirements of disability and equality legislation. The development of such a policy would provide clarity and continuity for the Arts Council and the sector over the next five years.

The Arts Council uses the term ‘Arts and Disability’ to encompass a range of arts practices and activities involving people with disabilities both as practitioners and as audience members. It embraces inclusive and collaborative practices, disability arts, Deaf arts and advocacy. The Arts Council works to the social model of disability⁴ and across art-forms. It envisages the involvement and engagement of people with disabilities in the arts at all levels as practitioners, participants, employees, audiences, advisors, and board members, following principles of access and equality.

The Arts Council is in a final stage of consultation and a new policy is likely to be in place by the end of 2012. In addition to a commitment to support for the sector through a suite of grants and awards, the Arts Council will outline a number of developmental initiatives related to:

- The provision of advice and expertise at national level
- The roll out of a capacity building model at local/ regional level
- Mainstreaming access as part of Arts Council provision
- International collaboration

In parallel, the Arts Council will update its policy in relation to internal access, with regard to buildings, systems and services.

The Arts Council - Young People, Children, and Education (YPCE)

Cultural entitlement

“Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.” Article 31, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Arts Council upholds the rights of children and young people to enjoy their full cultural entitlements. The Arts Council's strategy *Partnership for the Arts 2006-2010* and the current *Strategic Overview 2011-2013* identify children and young people as an important constituency, with a wide range of programmes and supports in place for both ‘in-schools’ and ‘out-of-schools’ activity. In 2006, the Arts Council established a Young People, Children, and Education (YPCE) team to oversee policy development, manage advocacy initiatives, and administer funding programmes in this area of its work. 2009 marked thirty years of involvement by the Arts Council in the development and support of programmes for children and young people.

⁴ The Social model of disability understands that it is society that disables people with impairments, by the way in which it is organised and by the conventions and priorities it displays. For example, many buildings are inaccessible to people with impaired mobility, but this results from specific conventions and traditions in building design rather than being an inevitable consequence of mobility impairment.

The Arts Council is keenly aware of the lack of sufficient existing national data sets to support meaningful 'data mining' within the arts in Ireland generally, and that data gathering is poor in relation to children's and young people's participation, even quantitatively. There is a need to gather sufficiently precise and differentiated data relating to, for example, the nature of arts experiences; the location in which they occur; quality assurance, particularly regarding initial and continuing professional development of artists and teachers; and the demographic context. The Arts Council welcomes the National Data Strategy launched in 2011 by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Arts Council's YPCE team is engaging with the process with a view to increased national understanding of the role of the arts in children's lives, increased information on children's participation, and on the range of services which support children's engagement with, knowledge of, and enjoyment of arts and cultural activities.

*Art-Youth-Culture: FYI*⁵ was a consultation initiative held in 2010 which brought together more than 60 young people between the ages of 15 and 23 to discuss their participation in cultural life and the arts with their peers and key policy-makers during three days of arts-based workshops, discussions and meetings. Participants shared their experiences, concerns, and ideas with policy-makers and cultural providers through a day-long series of round-table discussions and artistic presentations, the themes and format of which were determined in advance by the young participants. Thirty-five representatives from key public agencies and government departments whose activities impact on young people's experience of arts and culture attended the event. A dedicated website was designed and managed by a youth arts collective. The event, which took place in Dublin, was funded with support from the European Commission (Youth in Action). *Art-Youth-Culture: FYI* has been selected by Leargas as an example of good practice for inclusion in a European Commission publication focusing on youth entrepreneurship (education).

In July 2008, the Arts Council published *Points of Alignment: The Report of the Special Committee on the Arts and Education*. The Special Committee was established by the Minister for Arts Sport and Tourism in tandem with the Minister for Education and Science. The Report focuses on arts-in-education provision in Ireland and makes five key recommendations to improve such provision. Arts-in-education involves artists and arts organisations of all disciplines (theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, music, film etc) visiting schools to present work and to engage in both short and long-term projects in which they collaborate with students and teachers. It also includes visits by schools to galleries, theatres and arts centres for exhibitions, performances and workshops of all sorts designed to enrich the school experience of thousands of young people throughout Ireland. The Report was presented to both Ministers in July 2008.

The Public and The Arts 2006 (Arts Council) identified that the top priority for the public in terms of spending on the arts was “arts programmes and facilities dedicated to working for and with children and young people”. The same study also found that 82% of respondents agreed that “arts education is as important as science education” and that “lack of an arts education at school is a significant obstacle to developing an interest in the arts”. It concludes that while there has been some progress in arts

⁵ <http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/areas-of-work/actions/FYI.aspx>

provision for young people both within the formal school system and in the public domain, *“relative to their demographic significance, the developmental import of childhood experiences and the economic dependence of young people, however, it would appear that further progress is required and would be welcomed by the Irish public”*. The 2007 National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) report identified that *“concerns have been raised about the level of expertise available among teachers and within schools to adequately implement the arts curriculum”*. It went on to suggest that it would be *“useful to have more links between artists, arts organization and schools to do this”*.

*Arts, Education and other Learning Settings, A Research Digest*⁶ an online resource which makes available, in summary form, a very wide range of research, including a number of action research projects, undertaken in the field of arts-in-education in Ireland. While the focus is on arts in schools, other settings also feature such as: arts in youth work; arts in healthcare; and arts in communities. The digest contains summaries of seventy-two publications of which fourteen are summarised in detail. It spans an almost thirty-year timeframe of 1979 to 2007.

*Artists~Schools Guidelines*⁷ providing practical guidance for artists and teachers on how to design, manage and evaluate schools-based arts initiatives collaboratively. The guidelines were disseminated widely within the arts sector and to every school in Ireland. The Arts Council and the Department of Education and Science each contributed 50% of the total costs of this research initiative which was managed by a jointly established working group.

The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children⁸ is an example of a facility dedicated exclusively to arts programming for children. The Ark, which opened in 1995, is Europe’s first custom-designed cultural centre for children. Located in an award winning building in the heart of Temple Bar, Dublin, it houses an indoor theatre, outdoor amphitheatre, gallery spaces and a workshop. Over the last three years, the Ark’s work has expanded greatly through significant public investment with a particular focus on intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

Funding Supports

The Arts Council supports work for and with children and young people in the following ways:

- €2.7million was allocated in 2011 to arts organisations wholly and exclusively dedicated to children and young people (please see Appendix list of these organisations). Included here is the National Youth Arts Programme catering for out-of-school contexts. The programme was established in 1998 by the National Youth Council of Ireland and is jointly funded by the Arts Council and Department of Children and Youth Affairs.
- An estimated €4.2million was disbursed indirectly through funding a wide range of venues, festivals, local authority programmes and arts organisations across the country providing arts services for children and young people both in and out of school, as part of a wider remit.
- A further €280,000 was allocated to supports that include professional development (mainly in the form of bursaries and training grants) for artists and practitioners working,

⁶ http://www.artscouncil.ie/Publications/Research_Digest.pdf

⁷ http://www.artscouncil.ie/Publications/ArtistsSchools06_English.pdf

⁸ See www.ark.ie/index.html

or wishing to work in the area of children and young people's arts; and collaborative projects between artists, children and young people involving most art forms and organised in a range of settings including:

- o *Writers-in-Schools* – managed by Poetry Ireland
- o *Artists-in-Residence in Youth Work* – managed by the National Youth Arts Programme.
- The Young Ensembles Scheme⁹ established by the Arts Council in 2008. By 'young ensemble' is meant a collection of young people working together to create art. Examples of ensembles might include a youth orchestra, youth choir, a circus group, a band, youth theatre, film group, dance group, a group of young visual artists working together to create an exhibition (or a single art work, such as a mural or graffiti piece), a poetry or writing group, or a group that works together to combine a number of art forms into a performance/event. A fund of €170,000 was disbursed to projects through the scheme in 2011.
- Other significant initiatives specifically focused on children and young people include Laureate na n-Óg¹⁰ managed by Children's Books Ireland and, through our funding relationship with Music Network, we enjoy good relations and ongoing dialogue with Music Generation¹¹ an initiative aimed at creating local music education partnerships supported by U2 and the Ireland Funds.

International Co-operation

In keeping with its policy to support mobility, training and professional development opportunities, the Arts Council oversees four distinct programmes of activity in the area of International Arts: the European Cultural Contact Point; the Venice Biennale; the Location One residency; and the Travel and Training Award.

The CCP is a service provided in 37 eligible countries and the Arts Council is the designated service provider in Ireland. The role of CCP Ireland is to promote the EU Culture Programme at local, regional and national level and it provides information, advice and technical assistance to cultural operators in Ireland interested in applying for funding under the EU Culture Programme 2007-2013. This has added significance in a reducing budgetary environment.

The Arts Council partners with Culture Ireland to support Ireland's participation in the Venice Biennale. The Council agreed to commit funding to the Venice Biennale in 2012 (architecture); 2013 (visual arts); and 2014 (architecture) and has agreed a policy underpinning this commitment.

The Arts Council Council supports an Irish artist at the Location One Studio in New York while staying at an apartment in the city. Such an opportunity is of unquestionable value to an artist's professional development.

⁹ <http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/areas-of-work/actions/young-ensembles-scheme-1.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://childrenslaureate.ie/>

¹¹ <http://www.musicgeneration.ie/>

The Arts Council offers a Travel and Training Award across a range of artforms and practices. The primary purpose of Travel and Training is to support individuals who wish to avail of training and other professional development opportunities abroad, where the focus is on the development of the individual's own arts practice. It also supports individuals or organisations who wish to invite specialists from abroad to deliver high-level training or mentoring. In 2012, a third strand was introduced to the Travel and Training Award and this provides assistance to arts organisations planning to make applications to the EU Culture Programme 2007-14.

Other Policies and Measures

Both the Arts Council and Culture Ireland, among others, administer grant programmes to support mobility of artists in and out of Ireland. These include: Culture Ireland Grant programme; Travel and Training Award (Arts Council); Banff Residency (Arts Council); Location One Fellowship (Arts Council); Artist-in-Residence Programme (Centre Culturel Irlandais / Culture Ireland); "See Here" Programme (Culture Ireland); Translation Bursary Programme (Ireland Literature Exchange); Residency programmes (National Sculpture Factory); International Associate Artist Programme (Dance Ireland); and Fiction International Production (Irish Film Board)¹²

Education, Community and Outreach [ECO]: The Council of National Cultural Institutions (CNCI), established by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, devised a policy framework for Education, Community and Outreach work by the cultural institutions, which was published in 2004. Key actions proposed for ECO work included a strategic plan, developing indicators, a cycle of evaluation, providing skilled staff to work on ECO, and an emphasis on the value of partnership with other organisations (cultural and non-cultural) in carrying out this work. Over recent years, this work has been stepped up and mainstreamed in most of the cultural institutions¹³.

Culture Nights

The "Culture Nights" initiative, launched on a national level in Ireland by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in 2008, is an opportunity for participating towns and cities to showcase the best of their artistic and cultural heritage and facilities for free for one day a year. All National Cultural Institutions participate in the initiative. Cities and towns across Ireland participate in providing new and imaginative ways for people to participate in cultural life in all its diversity, free from time pressures or financial constraints¹⁴.

Access Programme

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht established *ACCESS II (2007-2009)*, which builds on a previous programme, to support refurbishment of cultural buildings with a view to improving and extending access to, or participation in, the arts within the catchment area of the

¹² See Ireland report as part of Commission-sponsored ERICarts Institute Mobility Matters study: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/key-documents/doc/annex03_final_country/IRELAND.doc

¹³ see www.CNCL.ie

¹⁴ see www.culturenight.ie/

relevant facility'. It is a requirement that all funded facilities be 'universally accessible, both in terms of general access and participation in the practice of arts and culture activities'¹⁵.

Mainstreaming intercultural dialogue

In the context of the significant inward migration into Ireland in recent years and the consequent growing diversity that is a feature of our society, the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008 presented a unique opportunity to promote dialogue and understanding about the challenges and opportunities arising from this diversity.

In Ireland a steering group was established to help coordinate the Year which comprised Government Departments and key stakeholders from civil society such as the Trades Union Congress and umbrella body for Irish Employers and bodies such as the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) was designated as the National Coordinating Body for the year.

The national strategy was designed to address a variety of target audiences across six key programmes: *Education and Young People* – focusing on schools, colleges, youth organisations and clubs including for example advice and support for events, classroom materials, competitions; *Arts* with a focus on interaction and participation in the arts in Ireland as a tool to help stimulate interaction and dialogue including music, theatre, poetry, participation of arts institutions; *Service Providers* with a focus on local authorities and government agencies on linking more effectively with new and existing minority communities in Ireland through more effective communication; the *Business Sector* with a focus on chambers of commerce, employer bodies, trade unions and government bodies participation in promoting greater understanding of the business case for diversity; *Communication and Media*, looking at support and participation of the media in the Year plus public relations material; and finally, *Community participation and sports*, with an emphasis on involvement of sports, community and voluntary bodies in the Year, including provision of some funding.

Promotion of culture as an important element in international relations

The importance of culture in Ireland's external relations has long been recognised and by extension, Ireland recognises the clear benefits to the European Union in deploying culture as a means of building good relations with its neighbours and global partners. To be effective, this should of course be a two-way process and for that reason, Ireland is a strong advocate of the UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity, being among the first group of contracting parties to the Convention.

At a national level, there is now a growing recognition among key decision-makers at business and political level regarding the importance of culture in developing the external dimension of culture.

Culture Ireland¹⁶ has been established to promote and advance Irish arts in a global context, helping to create international opportunities for Irish artists and cultural practitioners and leading to a deeper mutual understanding between Irish and other cultures and communities.

¹⁵ see www.dast.gov.ie/arts/access.html

¹⁶ See www.cultureireland.gov.ie

The strategies being pursued to help realise this mission include: providing a flexible range of international funding supports for artists and cultural practitioners; supporting Irish participation in key international showcases, festivals and promotional events; strengthening Ireland's cultural networks abroad; exploring issues of European cultural identity, diversity and commonality; strengthening cultural relationships with other countries; encouraging diverse cultural communities in Ireland to participate in international artistic exchange and dialogue; contributing to intercultural dialogue; and managing strategic initiatives in response to Government priorities, for example a major Irish arts season in the United States in 2011.

Since it was established, Culture Ireland has promoted and supported over 1,800 Irish cultural initiatives and events in 74 countries, ranging across music, theatre, dance, literature, film, visual art and architecture. Some of these have been collaborative projects with partners as far reaching as Asia and many others have involved contact with other artists in the EU e.g. through group shows, translated theatre performances.

Culture Ireland also coordinates at an operational level with fellow EU cultural promotion agencies through the EUNIC network of EU National Institutes of Culture, collaborating on international cultural exchange strategy and programmes.