



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Tasc is an independent think-tank whose core focus is addressing inequality and sustaining democracy



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The present report does not represent the collective views of TASC, but only of the respective authors. The responsibility of TASC is limited to approving its publication as worthy of consideration of the global progressive movement.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1 Our Name

Think tank for Action on Social Change. Our name states what we do- we think and we act for social change.

1.2 Our History

In May 2001, TASC was formally incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (CLG) and was registered as a charity on the 12th December 2002. The original name for TASC was The Foundation for Policy Alternatives. In 2002, it changed to TASC- A Think Tank for Action on Social Change. It is registered in the Companies Office as TASC Europe Studies Company CLG trading as TASC.

The objectives of TASC, as per its constitution, are:

1. To promote education for the public benefit in issues of public policy, politics, economics, culture, the environment and other related and compatible fields so as to encourage a more participative and inclusive society.
2. To promote public benefit research in any of the foregoing fields of education and to publish the results of such research.

When TASC was established in 2001, think tanks of any kind were a rarity in Ireland and there were few alternatives to neoliberal thought in the public sphere. Public engagement with politics was relatively low with little discussion or debate on public policy. Few genuinely 'progressive' or alternative socio-economic policy debates had been generated over the decades prior to TASC's arrival on the scene.

Even though the 1990s was an era of unprecedented economic growth in Ireland, the persistent level of economic inequality showed that there was an urgent need to develop a persuasive counter-narrative.

One of the most important of decisions was that the new think tank should be independent of all political parties, clear in its founding statement that its values were those traditionally associated with the political left but would not wish to be associated with any one political party.

By 2003, TASC brought out its first publication 'After the Ball', a searing analysis of Irish society by Fintan O'Toole.

In 2008, Atlantic Philanthropies provided us with a grant to cover our core costs for a five-year period, a grant which was renewed for three further terms of three years taking the organisation to the end of 2019. With this funding, TASC was able to put in place a more formal structure with expert policy staff and much enhanced communications, funding, governance and administration.

Since Atlantic Philanthropies ceased their funding in Ireland, TASC has undergone further transformation, employing a dedicated fundraiser and working to diversify its sources of income. These strategic measures aim to secure the long-term viability of the organisation.

1.3 Our Vision

A sustainable, flourishing society characterised by economic equality, with strong public engagement in politics and an accountable government.

1.4 Our Mission

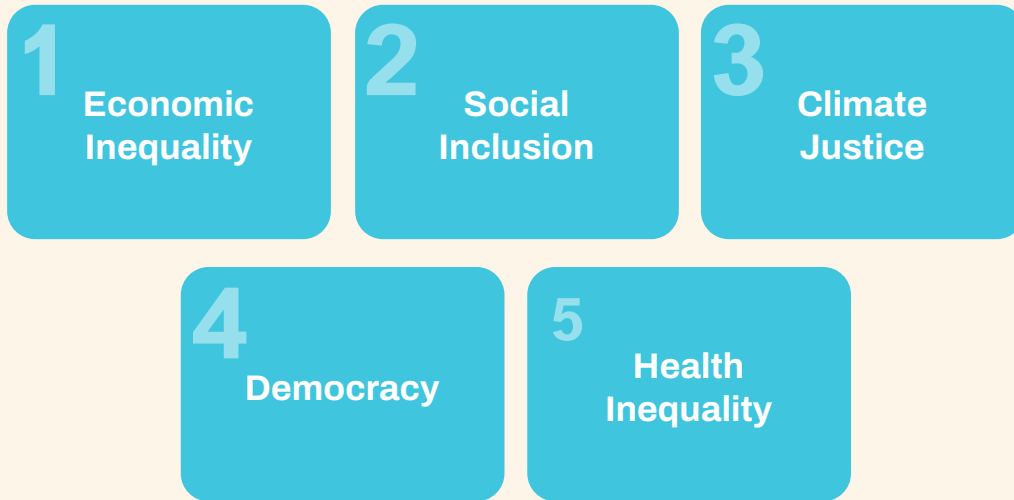
To develop policies and solutions using evidence based research and catalyse momentum for progressive change.

1.5 Core Values

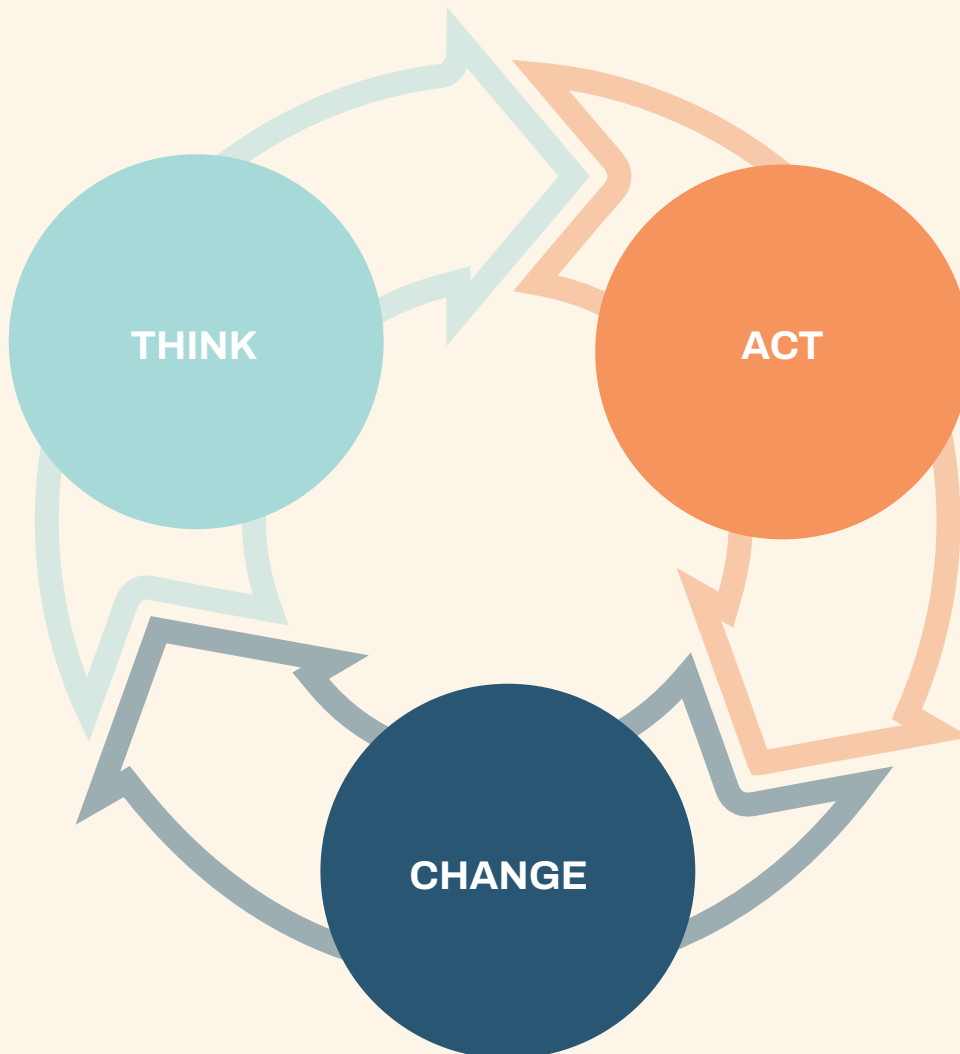
We believe that greater economic equality is unequivocally positive for society as a whole as it improves wellbeing for everyone.



1.6 Core Workstreams



1.7 Key Activities



1.8 Chairpersons's Report

There is a phrase which is familiar to almost every human being on planet Earth. That phrase is “It is a great honour for me to...”. In Ireland that same phrase contains probably the best-known words ever uttered in Irish; “Is mór an onóir é...” This ‘best-known’ status arises from the fact that these are words which are frequently the opening lines of a speech delivered (often to ecstatic fans) by a person who is accepting a trophy, or an equivalent reward, for some great achievement in sport or, indeed, in any area of laudable activity.

Looking back over the past five occasions when it was gifted to me to write introductions to annual reports from TASC, I see that I deployed the phrase “it is a great honour” in the opening line in, I believe, every single such piece. It is time for me to “fess up” to experiencing an “imposter syndrome”. Because on every such occasion I may have been guilty of the sin of implying that I, personally, was due some credit for the remarkable activities, successes and achievements referred to in all of the Annual Reports which I was privileged to be associated with.

This year, let me make at least one fact explicitly clear: The credit for every activity, success and achievement by TASC as set out in the following pages belongs to the entire TASC team in which I play only a minor, and mostly ceremonial, role.



“In 2023, TASC continued to assert its status as an independent research organisation, and its commitment to the ideals of equality, democracy and climate justice.”

Foremost in the ranks of those who should be acknowledged and praised is our incredibly hard-working, dedicated and skilled Executive Director, Dr. Shana Cohen. As Shana herself often states, there is also huge recognition due to the staff of TASC, who do such tremendous work in administration, fund-raising, research, accounting and governance.

As a registered charity, depending for our finances on the generosity of donors and on contracts from sponsors seeking our expertise in research into areas in harmony with our own goals and values, we have to expend much time and effort in ensuring that we comply with multiple compliance indicators set down by the Charities Regulator. Fundamental to our status as an approved charity is the fact that TASC is led and directed by a Board of volunteers who give so generously of their time and expertise. So, I extend my heart-felt thanks and appreciation to the volunteers who sit on the TASC Board and oversee and govern all of our activities. Deserving of special mention are the Chairs and members of our Board's sub committees which direct our work in the specific areas of Finance & Risk, Research & Policy, Fundraising and Governance & Compliance.

In the pages that follow you will get a chance to read of the huge and demanding diversity of work done by TASC in 2023. This work is spread over our five areas of specialisation; Economic Inequality, Social Inclusion, Climate Justice, Democracy, and Health Inequality. I am especially pleased to be able to report that in each one of these five areas TASC has increased its volume of outputs with no compromise as to its quality and societal relevance.

The past year was the first full year since COVID that TASC was able to carry out its work without that dark shadow looming over us. One joyful result of this transition was the fact that an event of special importance, which had been postponed several times due to the pandemic, was finally allowed to proceed. This event was, without doubt, the single most joyful and meaningful occasion of the entire year. I am referring, of course, to the fact that, in April 2023 Úachtarán na hEireann, Michael D Higgins, hosted a special reception in Árus an Uachtarán to celebrate TASC's 20th Anniversary and to acknowledge the work done on behalf of Irish society in all of the years since our foundation in 2001.

The year 2023 was another great and fruitful year for TASC. Looking back, I am reminded of the truism that "the poor have only their friends". Well, the same is true of philanthropic organisations working to help to create a world of less poverty and more equality, democracy and social justice. So, let me conclude with a sincere and heartfelt word of thanks to our supporters and benefactors who have been, in a true and meaningful way, valued friends of TASC and, by extension, friends of those whom, we hope, are the beneficiaries of our work.



Mike Jennings

Chair, TASC

1.9 Executive Director Statement

TASC had another successful year in 2023 due to the efforts of the staff, the board and all of our supporters. Several individuals, particularly Senan Turnbull, helped us tremendously in improving governance, including improving the format and content of our annual report.

TASC's work continues to grow, especially in partnership with other non-profits, foundations, and corporations invested in social change and climate action. Since 2019, TASC has prioritised diversifying its income and cooperating more closely with other charities to improve their frontline services and advocacy. Additionally, it has focused on raising its profile as a think tank dedicated to progressive policy alternatives. That said, we have also asserted our political independence, so that in an era where trust in political life has noticeably declined, we can focus in our publications and public education projects on the data and evidence of impact.



The annual inequality report, *The State We are In*, continues to be our signature output, tracking trends in inequality while highlighting particular areas of concern. Last year, the report looked at the positive trends in respect to equality in Ireland and the effects of inflation rates on lower income households. Other reports included one on the community health programme in NEIC, launched in partnership with the HSE and Dublin City Community Co-op and attended by TDs Pascal Donoghue and Hildegard Naughton; several People's Transitions reports (Mountbellew, Roscommon, and Enniscorthy), as well as the Fair Clare report with the Clare PPN; a report on fiscal rules in the EU in partnership with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies; a comparative analysis of mental health services in the EU; and a report assessing the impact of funding on staffing for The Wheel.



The State We Are In, Inequality In Ireland 2023

Report Launch, Tuesday 20 June 2023 11:00-13:00



Robert Sweeney
Head of Policy at
TASC



Kevin Callinan
General Secretary
for FORSA and
President of ICTU



Michelle O'Sullivan
University of
Limerick



Reamonn Lydon
Deputy Head of
Monetary Policy,
Central Bank of
Ireland

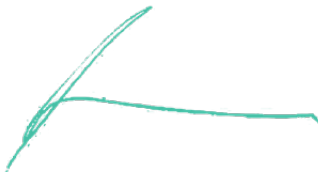
Our two primary public education projects – Financial Resilience Training and the People's Transition - continued to attract support and attention. The People's Transition was cited by An Uachtaráin Michael D. Higgins as an example of the thinking we need to address combined challenges of climate change, inequality, and disaffection. The project, now in its second phase with support from AIB, has been implemented in multiple locations across the island. Our financial resilience training continued with the support of IBCB and Aviva and partnerships with Safe Ireland and local development companies.

The People's Transition Enniscorthy

Implementation of Community-Led Development for Climate Justice



As our work has grown, so has our staff. TASC, like other charities, faces the challenge of balancing the need for income with capacity, quality control, and good governance. We rely upon generous donors, as well as foundations and other funding bodies to continue to conduct research, publish reports, and translate our research into practice. Our position, as an independent think tank engaged with issues of inequality and democracy in Ireland, and the EU, has never been more important in a period of divisiveness and the consolidation of the far right. We depend upon the support of our network to sustain this engagement, not just in terms of funding but in the use of our reports and public education to strengthen the case for progressive policy alternatives.



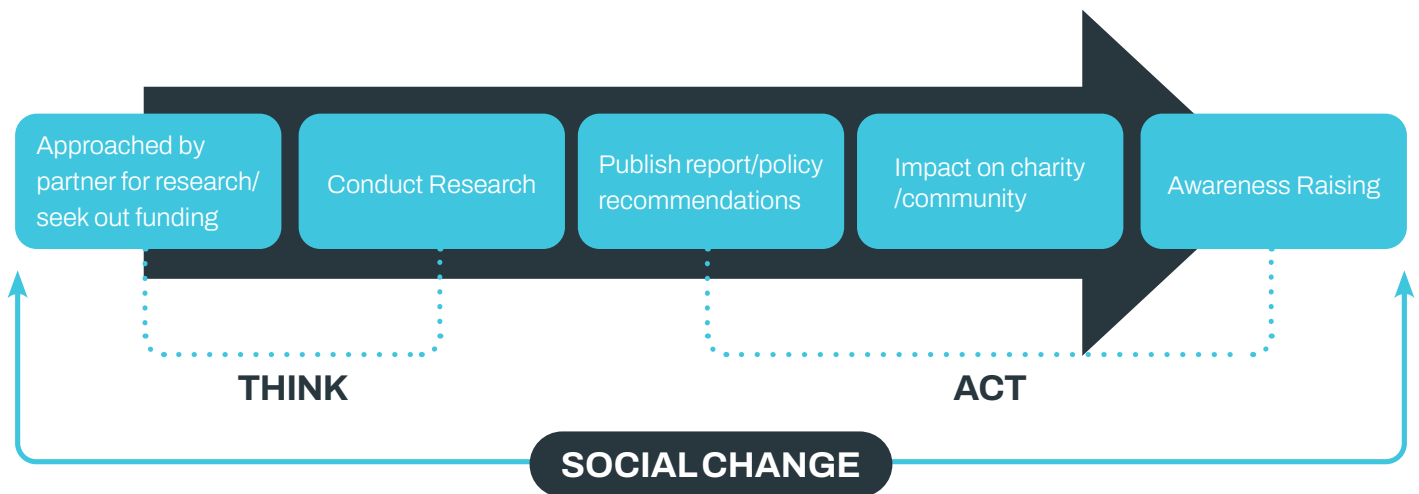
Shana Cohen
Executive Director, TASC



Our Work

Key Achievements in 2023

2. Our Work



In 2023, we expanded the People's Transition initiative with three projects in Roscommon, Mountbellew, and Enniscorthy, marking the beginning of Phase II. In June, we launched a successful inequality report addressing income distribution, poverty, inflation, and the cost-of-living crisis in Ireland.

We strengthened our democracy initiatives by engaging in several projects focused on civil society, including Young People and Democracy, Media Literacy for Democracy, and The Future of Public Service Delivery.

Additionally, we consolidated efforts on social inclusion and health inequality to expand financial resilience training. Collaborating with various charity and corporate partners, we published a highly successful report on the NEIC community health programme.

Our [5 Year Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027](#), details our objectives to expand our policy work with policymakers and our capacity to support other civil society organisations in Ireland and the EU. This document outlines how our commissioned project work, public education through the media, events, other platforms, and training will continue to develop during this period, in line with our mission of translating research into action. We partnered with an increasingly diverse range of stakeholders across the public, private, community, and voluntary sectors.

In this section, we outline the key outcomes of our work in 2023. These outcomes are organised according to our five Strategic Priorities, each of which is connected to the five key workstreams we are engaged in.

5 Strategic Priorities 2022 - 2027

1. Conduct and publish research that benefits the public and contributes to policy debates.
2. Design and deliver public education projects and events that generate greater solidarity and a fairer, more democratic and sustainable society.
3. Develop progressive policy responses to regional, national, and local challenges across Ireland and the EU.
4. Partner with other civil society organisations, unions, government bodies, and the private sector across Ireland, Europe and globally.
5. Continue to diversify raising awareness outside of conventional methods.

Strategic Priority 1: Conduct and Publish Research

Conduct and publish research that benefits the public and contribute to policy debates.

1.1 Summary

TASC’s primary activity is to conduct policy research and publish findings with the aim of informing policymaking and benefiting other CSO organisations and community groups. We also engage directly in providing services and working with communities, as discussed later in this report.

TASC operates in on an all-island basis, including the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and across the EU. Our ethos is to aspire to create a more flourishing society with greater equality and opportunities for all. Our research aims to contribute to social progress in Irish society and a fairer economy. Through our research, TASC engages with government, local authorities, civil society, and individuals at both national and community levels.

We adopt and apply rigorous research methods, adhere to the highest ethical

standards, and submit all our reports for peer review. To ensure the broadest possible reach and to foster inclusive policy debates and discussions, all of our research is open access. Our reports are available to download free of charge on our website.

In 2023, TASC maintained its influential role as an independent advocate for vulnerable and marginalised communities in Ireland. TASC’s work focuses on how the challenges posed by global economic and political uncertainty, climate change, and rising living costs affects us all.

During the year, TASC produced 15 significant research reports across its five workstreams. Additionally, the organisation conducted commissioned research for external partners, with these reports accessible on our partners’ websites.

Month	Title	Month	Title
March	Fiscal Rules – Time for a Reboot	October	Football for Climate Justice Community and Fan Survey
March	Is an EU-wide approach to the mental health crisis necessary?	October	Football for Climate Justice Research Report
March	The Future of Public Service Delivery by the Community and Voluntary Sector	November	Fair Clare
June	The State We Are In: Inequality in Ireland 2023	November	Towards a Green and Just Transition in Ballyhoura
June	TASC People’s Transition Enniscorthy	December	Zero Together: Understanding the Impact of a transition to net-zero on communities in Dublin
July	Dublin Inner City Community Co-operative Evaluation – Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-2023	December	Healthy Communities Project: Impact evaluation report
August	The People’s Transition Mountbellew	December	The People’s Transition Roscommon Farmers: Implementation of Community-led development for climate justice
October	TASC Annual Report 2022		

1.2 Key Outcomes

Economic Inequality

Methods of Modern Construction

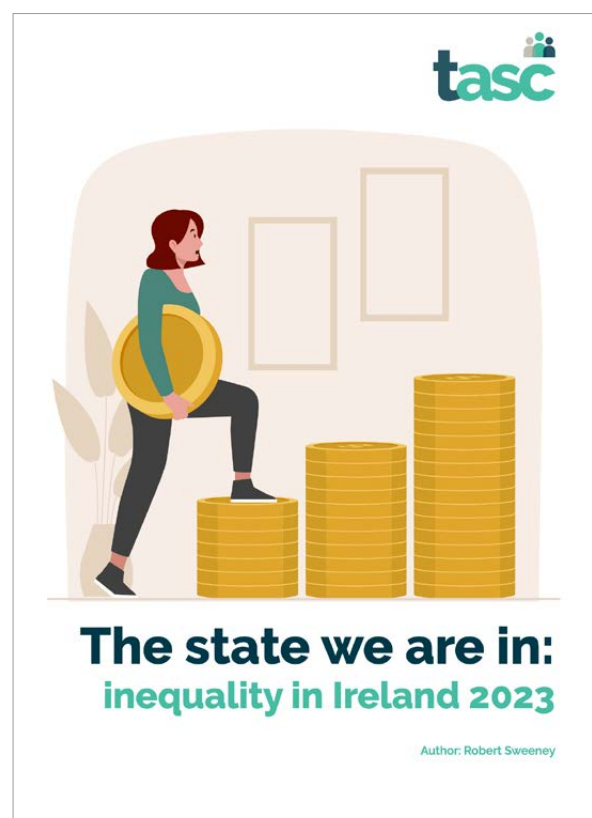
In January 2023, TASC once again partnered with the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) to research the use of offsite construction in Ireland and how social housing new builds can drive and kickstart the sector. Despite economic success and a high standard of living, housing affordability is a major issue, especially for urban renters, leading to increased homelessness and social unrest. Internationally, Ireland struggles to meet climate change obligations despite legislative commitments.

EU fiscal rules

In March 2023, TASC continued its long-standing partnership with The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and launched a report on EU Fiscal Rules. The fiscal rules are arguably the single most important aspect of EU policymaking. The rules determine how much member states can spend each year, and how much they may or may not need to increase taxes. Aside from their ability to affect social cohesion across the union, the rules are consequential for the EU's ability to meet its climate obligations. A diversity of stakeholders participated in the launch including EU policymakers, elected representatives, academics, and trade union officials.

The State We Are In

The last three years have seen repeated crises and hardship for large swathes of Irish society. Just as Ireland was recovering from Covid, a cost-of-living crisis erupted, and continues today. While everyone has been affected, not everyone has been equally affected. But who, if anyone, is to blame? Has inequality increased over the last couple of years, and why? This report examines inequality in Ireland in recent years and over the long run. It examines Ireland's ongoing cost of living problems, and the distributional impact of inflation. It also attempts to chart a way forward.



Social Inclusion

Dublin Inner City Community Co-operative Evaluation - Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-2023

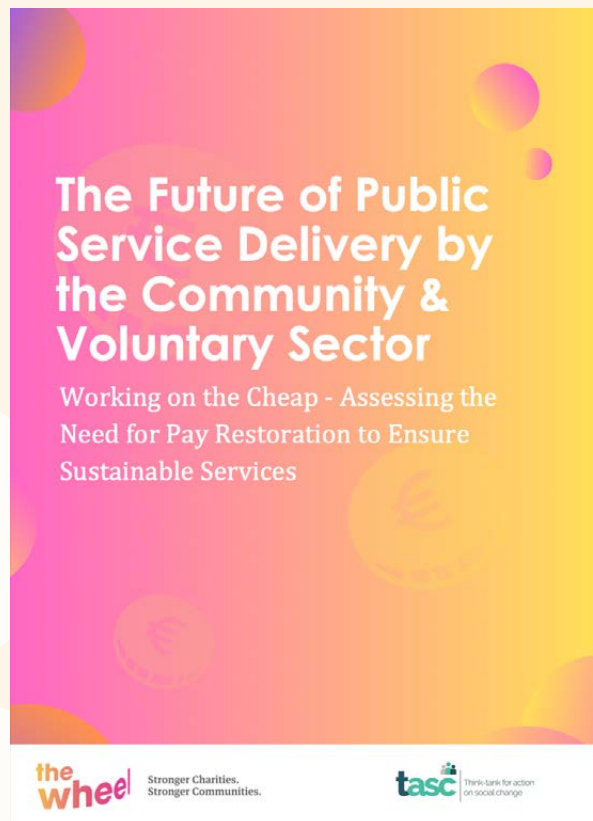
In 2023, the Dublin Inner City Community Co-operative Society Limited (the Co-op) commissioned TASC to evaluate its SICAP-funded initiatives (The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme). TASC conducted an independent assessment focusing on the impact of the Co-op and its 13 member organisations in NEIC. The evaluation combined quantitative analysis from the SICAP Integrated Reporting & Information System (IRIS) with qualitative data from interviews and focus groups with service users and member organisations.

Findings highlighted the Co-op’s effective delivery of social, economic, environmental, and cultural services, underpinned by the cooperative structure’s support for collaborative efforts among members. The assessment identified strengths and areas for improvement, offering insights into beneficiary experiences and outcomes beyond quantitative metrics. Recommendations for future development were informed by stakeholder input, emphasising the Co-op’s commitment to enhancing community well-being through responsive and impactful initiatives.

Democracy

The Future of Public Service Delivery by the Community & Voluntary Sector

This report launched in June and is based on original data generated by individual organisations regarding services and staffing, and analysis of existing research published by organisations like The Wheel, The Community Foundation Ireland, The Charities Institute, and the organisations involved in the research. The research shows divergent trends in demand and staffing numbers across not-for-profit organisations working in distinctive areas of frontline services and support, for example, disabilities, homelessness, and home care.



Turnover and vacancies are increasingly forcing organisations to reduce hours and cancel services because they lack the staff to deliver them. They also must maintain quality, especially considering the vulnerability of their service users, and limit the risk of burnout amongst existing staff. Beyond staffing, organisations are facing greater pressure on their resources from government requirements to implement increasingly stringent standards regarding service quality and governance. However, the contracts to deliver public services do not account for the staff time, training, and potentially, consultation fees, to comply with standards. Finally, organisations must respond to rising costs in their own overheads and the delivery of services, for instance, fuel costs for home care staff travelling to service users.

How young people facing disadvantage view democracy in Europe

TASC, in partnership with FEPS, Fondation Jean-Jaures in France, IBRiS in Poland, and TUDATOS IFJÚSAGERT ALAPÍTVANY in Hungary, began research into the views on democracy amongst young people (18-29) from disadvantaged backgrounds. The aim of the qualitative research for the report was to complement repeated surveys that show growing disaffection with democracy amongst younger generations. The report examines how young people facing socioeconomic disadvantage perceive politics and democracy. It analyses views on political participation, policymaking process, and the political system.

Media Literacy for Democracy

On January 20, 2023, TASC launched the EU-funded Media Literacy for Democracy (MLFD) project to combat disinformation and promote democratic values through media literacy. The project involves organisations from five European countries and follows a three-phase approach: an awareness campaign, context analysis via focus groups, and community empowerment through media education.

In 2023, TASC held an online conference with 123 participants and conducted three interactive workshops in Dublin, each attended by 10-12 people, focusing on fake news and misinformation. Additional workshops in Italy, Spain, and Poland aimed to empower participants to become more informed digital citizens. The project aims to develop an inclusive EU-wide media literacy strategy.



“We were very pleased to partner with TASC in 2023 to publish a report on The Future of Public Service Delivery by the Community and Voluntary Sector. TASC researched and produced a high-quality document, well evidenced, and thorough in an area where data is hard to come by. The report was acknowledged by our campaigning partners as a crucial cornerstone evidencing the changes needed for sustainable community and voluntary sector services.”

Ivan Cooper – CEO - The Wheel

Climate Justice

Fair Clare: Securing Socio-Economic Rights and a Just Transition in County Clare

This report examined the impact of the ongoing transition to zero emissions on groups who experience one or many forms of structural disadvantage in County Clare. Underpinned by a human rights-based approach, focusing specifically on realising the socio-economic rights of Clare residents, the report makes recommendations and contributes to the discussion of how Just Transition planning and policy in Clare can begin to address underlying inequalities and ensure that those who experience poverty, as well as the most marginalised in society, are protected and benefit from the transition.



Football for Climate Justice

Throughout 2023, TASC continued its work on the Erasmus+ funded Football for Climate Justice project in collaboration with football clubs across Europe, Fundación LaLiga, and the European Football for Development Network. As the research partner on this project, TASC authored a report presenting the findings of a survey of 1,432 football fans and their local community members across seven European football clubs. It endeavours to understand the local environmental and climate justice challenges that fans are experiencing across several themes, including energy, transport, and access to green space and clean air. The final report was launched online by each project partner in October 2023. The findings will be used into 2024 to explore how football clubs can engage in and support community-led climate action that is inclusive, equitable, and benefits from widespread social approval.



Towards a Green and Just Transition in Ballyhoura

TASC and Ballyhoura Local Development worked in partnership throughout 2023 to develop a Green and Just Transition Strategy for the Ballyhoura Region. The strategy, toward a Green and Just Transition in Ballyhoura, which sets out a roadmap for community-led climate action, was published and launched at a community event held in Pallasgreen, Limerick, in November 2023. Taking on board community knowledge, capacity, assets and priorities, this strategy views climate action as an enabler of local development. This 'whole of Ballyhoura' plan is intended to support communities throughout the region to plan for and benefit from the transition to zero emissions and was made possible by the participation of 603 local people who lent their voices and time to this endeavour.



"We commissioned the report "Understanding the impact of a transition to net-zero on communities in Dublin" with TASC in 2022 as part of the Zero Together initiative. Working with Kieran allowed us to identify the communities that are most vulnerable to the transition away from fossil fuels; to understand their needs and the barriers preventing them from making environmentally-friendly changes. Dublin has the potential to lead the way in reaching our climate targets, but we need to make sure that we are listening and learning at a local level. It's crucial that more opportunities are provided for people living, working and studying across the county to have their voices heard on how we can move away from fossil fuels, especially those that will be most impacted. Kieran's thorough work in developing this report has provided us with a fantastic stepping stone in understanding how best to do this. The report was launched in 2023 and we gained substantial media attention with the findings of the report discussed across print, radio, and online media outlets. I would highly recommend working with the team in TASC."

Katie Harrington Codema- Dublin's Energy Agency

Zero Together

TASC collaborated with Codema on the Zero Together report. This focused on the views of communities most at risk of being left behind in the transition to net zero. The report found that while community members were aware of the benefits of a transition to net zero, the cost of the transition was identified as the primary barrier to taking action.

Empowering Young People Through the Sustainable Development Goals (ongoing):

In 2023, this project examined young people’s perceptions of the social and environmental issues encapsulated by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The research focused on climate action and the role of youth organisations in empowering young people to take individual and collective action as part of a societal transformation towards sustainability, social equity, and wellbeing.

Health

In 2023, TASC made significant strides in the health sector through various initiatives and collaborations:

Assessment of Health Needs of Migrants

Funded by the Irish Cancer Society, TASC assessed the health needs of migrants in Ireland, focusing on access to cancer services. This project included a comprehensive survey and stakeholder interviews with over 240 migrants, aiming to understand and address the specific health challenges faced by marginalized communities. TASC partnered with service providers and conducted in-depth stakeholder interviews to inform their findings.



“At Cairde, we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with TASC on the Migrant Communities Needs Assessment commissioned by the Irish Cancer Society. Our partnership has been instrumental in ensuring that the voices of disadvantaged migrant individuals are heard and represented in this crucial research endeavour.

Through our joint efforts, we have empowered members of migrant communities to actively participate in the survey, providing them with the necessary support and resources to engage meaningfully. This inclusive approach has not only enriched the diversity of perspectives captured but has also helped in uncovering vital insights into the unique needs and challenges faced by these communities regarding cancer awareness, prevention, and support.”

We commend TASC for their dedication to conducting thorough and insightful research, and we are confident that the anonymised findings shared with the Irish Cancer Society will contribute significantly to informing policy, campaigns, and initiatives aimed at addressing the specific concerns of migrant populations in the fight against cancer.

Together, we are making strides towards a more equitable and inclusive approach to healthcare, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of better outcomes for all.”

Tonya Myles - Cairde

Healthy Communities Project Evaluation

In collaboration with the Dublin City Community Co-operative, TASC provided continuous stakeholder feedback and evaluated the Co-op's Healthy Communities Project. Using a mixed methods approach, this evaluation highlighted the positive impact of initiatives such as social prescribing and smoking cessation supports on local residents. The findings validate the NEIC Healthy Communities Programme's approach, offering a framework to tackle health inequalities in the area.



Social Prescribing Programme Evaluations

Following recommendations from the Healthy Communities Programme (HCP) evaluation, TASC supported the HCP team by evaluating the social prescribing (SP) programme. This involved conducting interviews with individuals who exited the SP programme and analysing administrative data to measure the programme's impact. Additionally, TASC partnered with the South Dublin County Partnership to assess the SP programme at their Clondalkin site.



Review of Community Diagnostics Scheme

TASC performed a desk-based review of the General Practitioners Access to Community Diagnostics Scheme, as part of a broader study on the scheme's impact on waiting lists. This review is intended to provide insights into the effectiveness of improving access to diagnostic services for the community.



Is an EU-Wide Approach to the Mental Health Crisis Necessary?

Launched in March, this policy study examined whether an EU-wide approach to the mental health crisis is necessary. Mental health is an intrinsic human right and an invaluable resource for the European Community. The study reflected on the current provision of mental health services in France, Ireland, and Poland. It reviewed EU policy to date on developing a mental health strategy for the union and, for each case study country, outlined mental health provision and the policy context to inform findings from interviews with representatives of their mental health sectors. The study found that none of the three countries had the capacity to address the rising demand. All countries focus on hospital treatment and lack primary and community services, face barriers to access for vulnerable groups, including stigma, and require more investment.

Given these findings, the policy study highlighted the necessity for the EU to take a strategic leadership role, working with member states to develop a comprehensive EU-wide mental health strategy. This strategy aims to enhance resilience among populations to address the numerous challenges they encounter.



The effects of COVID-19 restrictions and the cost-of-living crisis on the mental health of vulnerable young people

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the rising cost of living on the mental health of vulnerable young people was investigated in a research project funded by the Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF). The study highlighted that young people not in education, affected by job cuts or reduced hours, and unable to engage in activities like sports, experienced increased depression, anxiety, and declining mental health. The research conducted 3 focus groups with 24 young adults aged 18-25 from marginalised social or economic groups. It explored their decisions on education, job prospects, travel, and life opportunities, as well as their perceptions of community and social networks. The findings, published in a final report in May 2023, underscored how structural conditions significantly impact mental health in these communities.

Augmented Social Play (ASP) Belong

The project, which is led by UCD, started in November 2023 and uses an Augmented Social Play (ASP) approach to create a smartphone-enabled group psychotherapeutic intervention that boosts adolescent mental health by supporting real-world connection and a sense of belonging. The countries involved are Ireland, the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Portugal, Austria, and Norway. Over a two-year period, TASC will identify and engage experts from key sectors, conduct scoping reviews on mental health priorities and policies, host expert consensus workshops, and design implementation strategies for the ASP intervention tailored to each country's context.

Strategies for Promoting Straight Allyship with LGBTQIA+ Young People in Ireland

This project started in November 2023. The project investigates how allyship can enhance the mental and physical health of LGBTQIA+ young people in Ireland. Through an extensive literature review and primary data collection via focus groups and interviews, the study aims to identify effective strategies for promoting allyship in settings like schools and workplaces.

For this project, TASC has partnered with ShoutOut. The project is funded by The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Key media coverage of research publications in 2023:

Media	Project	Link to Media Article
The Irish Times	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	President condemns 'obsession' with economic growth
Buzz.ie	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	Michael D Higgins hits out at 'bad economics' as he calls for a paradigm shift towards a more inclusive Ireland
The Irish Times	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	Kathy Sheridan: Michael D Higgins thinks economists are out of touch. They could say the same of him
RTE Radio One	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	Brendan O'Connor Newspaper Panel
Irish Examiner	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	John Gibbons: Higgins was right with magical thinking view of economists
RTE Radio One	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	The President and the Economists
The Irish Times	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	Justine McCarthy: The €15.90 chicken wrap that proves Michael D Higgins has a point
The Irish Times	21st Anniversary at Áras an Uachtaráin	Economists didn't like it, but we can't afford not to listen to what Michael D Higgins had to say
The Clare Champion	Fair Clare Report	Clare faces an unjust transition, finds ground-breaking Clare PPN report
The Irish Times	FEPS-TASC: Fiscal Rules - Time for a Reboot	EU fiscal rules must be more country-specific and allow for green spend, think tank says
NewsTalk	FEPS-TASC: Fiscal Rules - Time for a Reboot	NEWSTALK BREAKFAST - May 23rd, 2023 - 7:00 AM-9:00 AM
Business Plus	Financial Resilience Training	Aviva partners with TASC for resilience training
RTE Radio One	Financial Resilience Training	Today With Claire Byrne Wednesday 20 September 2023
Irish Examiner	Mental Health in Europe	Irish mental health services 'too hospital-centric'
RTE Radio One	Mental Health in Europe	Research shows Ireland is too reliant on voluntary sector for mental health services
Irish Independent	The People's Transition	People's Transition report will be launched in Enniscorthy
South East Radio	The People's Transition	Morning Mix Friday 30th of June
Today FM	The People's Transition	The Last Word with Matt Cooper - June 29th, 2023 - 4:30 PM-7:00 PM

Media	Project	Link to Media Article
Irish Independent	The People's Transition	Ireland's first fully passive commercial building opens in County Wexford
Irish Independent	The People's Transition	Report on climate action is launched in Enniscorthy
Today FM	The People's Transition	The Last Word with Matt Cooper - July 24th, 2023 - 4:30 PM-7:00 PM
Clare FM	The People's Transition	New Research Highlights Barriers Faced By Clare Communities To Reach Net Zero Emissions
Irish Examiner	The People's Transition	Study finds cost of sustainable home energy and lack of public transport curbs 'just transition'
The Sustainability Report	Football for Climate Justice	How football clubs can support the people's climate transition
Kildare Now	The People's Transition	A 'Greenish' Transition? - Kildare seminar on dealing with end of peat extraction on bogs
The Irish Times	The People's Transition	Dublin's poorest communities at risk of being 'worse off' via climate-action measures
Irish Independent	The People's Transition	Dublin communities facing being 'left behind' in move towards sustainability, says report
Agriland	The People's Transition	Report: Cooperatives can be key to helping Roscommon farmers
Q102	The People's Transition	Cost of living crisis is halting Dublin communities' climate targets
Farmers Journal	The People's Transition	Wool co-op would 'diversify' Roscommon farm incomes
Roscommon People	The People's Transition	Launch of The People's Transition for Roscommon Farmers'
Galway Bay FM	The People's Transition	Galway Talks with Keith Finnegan (Friday, 13th January 2023 9am-12pm)
Radio Kerry	The People's Transition	North Kerry areas chosen for climate action project
WLR FM	The People's Transition	The People's Transition on WLR FM on the 20th of April just after 11am.
The Irish Times	The People's Transition	Avoid cutting taxes in budget to prevent 'surge' in inflation, Tasc advises
RTE Radio One	The People's Transition	Morning Ireland Tuesday 20 June 2023
Midlands 103	The People's Transition	Midlands Today with Will Faulkner
The Irish Times	The People's Transition	Tax cuts in budget would be 'inappropriate' and 'irresponsible', says union chief
RTE Radio One	The People's Transition	Charities calling for pay parity
RTE News	The People's Transition	Some charity services at risk of collapsing - report
Irish Examiner	The People's Transition	Think tank recommends pay rises of up to 15% in charity sector
Dublin Gazette	The People's Transition	The Future of Public Service Delivery shows reliance and disparity between voluntary and paid sector

Strategic Priority 2: Design and Deliver Public Education Projects

Design and deliver public education projects that generate greater solidarity and a fairer, more democratic and sustainable society.

2.1 Summary

As a public education charity, TASC's mission is not just to conduct policy research but also to encourage public discussion and debate on policy and deliver public education. To this end, we organise events and we use our research to develop projects that benefit communities directly. Our two primary public education projects emerged or came out of original research conducted by TASC. That said, both projects are continuously changing in response to feedback from communities and participants. We are unique in that we both conduct research and translate this research into practice. At the same time, we always look to work with partners in civil society business and government.

A principal aim of our events is to disseminate ideas, engage the media and encourage broader interest in advancing policy change in Ireland. TASC events vary from report launches to stand-alone events, including our annual lecture, expert roundtables and a hybrid/ online lecture-style series.

Participants in our events typically involve politicians, academics, civil society and community representatives, service users, media, TASC supporters and the general public.

Correspondingly, we hired in-house media expertise to promote and record the events for ease of accessibility and archival purposes.

As per our mission, these events represent a critical part of our work. The events bring together diverse stakeholders to discuss a common concern and the potential of a policy response.

We received funding for both of our primary public education projects:

1. The pilot for the People's Transition (PT) took place in 2021. AIB funded Phase II in 2022 for a further 3 years. The objective of Phase II is to reach 30 communities across the island of Ireland by 2025.
2. TASC's Financial Resilience Training (FRT) received further funding from The Irish Banking Culture Board (IBCB) for specific training of Safe Ireland staff to help victims of financial abuse. AVIVA provided funding for three years for a full-time FRT trainer responsible for the delivery of training to charity staff and individuals.

2.2 Key Outcomes

Public Education projects

Social Inclusion

Aviva Financial Resilience Training

In February 2023, TASC launched the Financial Resilience Training (FRT) initiative, a three-year programme aimed at enhancing financial resilience across Ireland to help communities tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Funded by Aviva Ireland, the training is delivered through frontline charity services and directly to communities nationwide via an interactive and educational financial inclusion and training programme. The goal is to upskill individuals and households to better manage their finances, positively impacting their families and the wider communities. Starting March 2023, TASC began delivering the FRT programme across Ireland.

TASC worked with charities, community groups and local development companies across Ireland to recruit individuals for FRT sessions.

The training covers topics such as budgeting and saving, energy use, managing debt, online tools and services, utility costs, and available financial supports. 193 individuals received FRT in 2023.

During 2023, FRT was delivered to charity staff working in various services, including those experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, chronic illness, disability services, senior services, and community services. The content is contextualised for charity staff depending on their target groups.



<h1>65</h1>	<p>Staff members were engaged in the training. Feedback highlighted the training's effectiveness in providing a framework for discussion, signposting to relevant supports, and a practical toolkit.</p>
<h1>10</h1>	<p>Aviva staff members were trained as FRT Champions. These Champions are tasked with delivering bespoke training to Aviva staff across the country, aiming to train 100 staff members annually until 2026.</p>
<h1>258</h1>	<p>Charity staff and community members participated in FRT, impacting 774 individuals and their households. Sessions were conducted both in person and online in various locations, including Dublin, Donegal, Carlow, Limerick, Roscommon, Mayo, Cork, and Galway. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants noting significant improvements in their financial management skills.</p>

Comments on FRT training from Safe Ireland staff

“I work 3 hours a week. I cannot work full time with my MS diagnosis. I had never sought help before.”

“There has always been financial pressure. I didn't come from money. It's a lot better now. The state supports are great, disability allowance, my parents get fuel allowance, and the free travel pass is brilliant.”

“Financial Resilience Training has definitely had a positive effect on how I manage my finances. I had a bit of a false sense of security. I was just sitting there, letting it all go on. If you said budgeting to me when I was in dire straits, I would have told you where to go. It gave me the nudge I needed to look at my finances. I was surprised when I actually started budgeting and seen that there was money there. I started the conversation with my family, we are looking at comparison websites to change the electricity bill and I convinced my mam to move her money from her regular deposit account to a savings account. I have also started saving. It feels great. I know I can cover the big costs like car insurance when they come up. I can also buy things for myself and not feel guilty because I know I have budgeted for it. Just knowing new things like small loans from the credit union are there in case of emergencies is great. I checked and it is available in my local Credit Union. I am more conscious of my money. It's measurable. Things are a lot easier.”

- Sarah Elder – Participant

“The training was very well organised, and the delivery was suitable to our needs The information provided was beneficial to our organisation as we work with vulnerable and disadvantage groups. Excellent tutor with the ability to engage with the group. I would highly recommend this training as it us beneficial to everyone”

- Declan Savage - Carlow County Development Partnership



Financial Resilience Training

Initiative to Financially Empower Survivors of Domestic Violence

In partnership with Safe Ireland, the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS), and the Irish Banking Culture Board (IBCB), TASC designed and delivered bespoke financial resilience training for frontline service providers supporting victims of domestic abuse. Financial abuse involves depriving victims of resources, controlling bank accounts, harassing them at work, and undermining their confidence, which impacts their ability to manage finances and seek support. Financial abuse often persists post-separation, leading to long-term financial hardship and mental health issues. The training programme ran in three cycles from October 2022 to March 2023 and included eight online

sessions per cycle, covering budgeting, debt management, fraud prevention, and access to support services.

The project facilitated important discussions and recommendations on tackling socioeconomic challenges for domestic violence survivors. The FRT programme notably increased participants' confidence in aiding victims of financial abuse and coercion, directly benefiting 36 keyworkers. This training improved their ability to assist clients with finances and resource access, enhancing knowledge across Safe Ireland's network. The collaboration between TASC, Safe Ireland, and the IBCB is a significant step in helping survivors regain financial independence and control.

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

tasc
Think Link Foundation

Queen Mary
University of London

FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG

**THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE EU**

**24th October
10:00-13:30
Belfast**

Pedro Silva Pereira
MEP, Vice President
of the European
Parliament and
Member of the EP
EU - UK Delegation

Matthew O'Toole
Leader of the
Opposition in the
Northern Ireland
Assembly and SDLP
MLA for South
Belfast

Kate Nicholl
Alliance MLA for
South Belfast and
former Lord Mayor
of Belfast



Reviewing the DEIS System and its Potential to Address Social Mobility in Ireland

In April 2023, TASC partnered with the Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) on a research initiative evaluating Ireland's Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme. Despite improvements in tertiary education progression from DEIS-designated schools, a notable educational attainment gap persists between these institutions and non-DEIS schools.

The research involved collecting primary data from teachers and school management to gain deeper insights into this issue. Additionally,

the project examined broader determinants of social mobility, such as socioeconomic status, geographic location, and resource accessibility. By identifying persistent barriers within the DEIS framework, the project aims to offer actionable insights and recommendations for enhancing educational policies and support mechanisms.

This collaborative effort will culminate in a pre-budget submission in late 2024. Our goal is to equip policymakers and educators with evidence-based recommendations. Surveys, interviews, and focus groups with TUI members will cover topics including job satisfaction, career development, student opportunities within DEIS, and perceived advantages and disadvantages of DEIS status.

Democracy

Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Civic Initiative

The Northern Ireland Civic Initiative is a coalition of civic society organisations working to address the lack of structured civic engagement in Northern Ireland. The project was initiated in June 2023 and builds on the provisions for civic participation outlined in the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement. This initiative seeks to create a space for communities to identify challenges and propose solutions for issues related to peace, reconciliation, and well-being. TASC sits on an advisory panel and oversight committee for this project and will complete an end of project evaluation.

Evaluation of the Building Bridges project in partnership with Ballyhoura Development Company

This project started in September 2023 to assess a Community Drama Project that provides a safe space for Traveller young people (15-24) to explore their vision for their future and examine opportunities for them to get involved in decisions that directly impact them. The project will culminate in a series of performances including a theatrical forum attended by key stakeholders. The research will form a key part of the project with a focus on evaluating and understanding how the project builds confidence and supports positive interactions with wider society. The evaluation research will inform a paper on how the creative arts can enable young people from Traveller communities or other socially marginalised backgrounds to become more confident in their ability to express their concerns and interests to their wider communities and to local and national policymakers.

Enabling Participatory Democracy through the People’s Transition

This project is funded by St Stephen’s Green Trust and Dermot Desmond, through a private donation. The project represents a pilot to be conducted in Ballymun and another one to two locations in Ireland. The project aims to draw out the participatory democracy dimension of the People’s Transition to enable communities to become more confident and collaborative in their strategic thinking about local social change.

Climate

The People’s Transition Enniscorthy

Enniscorthy was the first community to participate in Phase II of the People’s Transition. Community members identified the lack of public transport options as an issue facing the town. Following the publication of this report in June 2023, TASC, alongside researchers in UCD and Trinity College secured funding from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to work on an 18-month project focusing on creating shared and sustainable mobility with Enniscorthy acting as a pilot location.



The People's Transition Mountbellew

In 2023, Mountbellew became the second community to participate in the People's Transition. Community members identified the lack of tourist accommodation as a key factor hindering the area's potential for sustainable tourism. In August 2023, TASC, supported by AIB, hosted its second community launch for the People's Transition in Mountbellew, Co. Galway. This initiative is part of a nationwide project focused on community-led local development for climate justice. The project, which began in October of the previous year, involved 97 community participants through focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Researchers at TASC developed two potential solutions to address community needs while supporting climate action: community-owned accommodation and a hydroelectric co-operative.



Testimonies:

"Mountbellew is a locality of just over 2,000 people. It is proud of its natural, educational and economic history. Yet, as a community, we are befuddled as to how to develop the locality in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Enter the People's Transition!"

"The effort launched in November 2022 and wrapped up in June 2023. The value of each project phase, (Mapping, Listening, Solutions) is clear and understood within our community."

"It is TASC's expertise and encouragement that is resulting in this deep level of engagement. This builds community confidence in the economically-just and climate-sustainable solutions coming our way."

"By combining the mapping phase & listening phase outputs, The People's Transition Project is delivering a joined-up, relevant overview of the Mountbellew locality."

"This report will deliver an indirect, yet exponentially beneficial output for our locality. Mountbellew Smart Villages will distribute the report to the local community groups as a jumping-off point for developing a shared understanding of our locality, its strengths and opportunities."

"It will also contribute to the upcoming Town Planning effort. Having such valuable information, provided by a trusted party, sets the stage for community engagement beyond the project's original scope." Marilyn, The People's Transition, Co. Galway

Strategic Priority 3: Develop Progressive Policy Responses

Develop progressive policy responses to regional, national, and local challenges across Ireland and the EU.

3.1 Summary

TASC was established in 2001 by a group of journalists, activists and politicians who wanted independent policy research to inform policy making. Since then TASC has successfully maintained its independence, interacting with members of all political parties, business, other civil society organisations, unions and community groups. Though TASC has focused on progressive policy options, it remains independent of any political party or institutional affiliation.

In 2023, TASC staff continued to contribute to policy debates through Oireachtas appearances, published reports, events and media. TASC staff also have been interviewed and featured in traditional print media, radio and television on a local, regional and national level. TASC also continued to increase its activity on social media platforms. In order to expand our profile and public outreach we have specifically promoted out public education activities, the People's Transition, FRT, and partnered with other civil society organisations to raise attention to specific issues, like health inequalities.

In all of our work we aim to influence policymaking through formal presentations at the Oireachtas, meetings with policymakers, participation in events and organisation of TASC events.

3.2 Key Outcomes

Policy work

Climate

Fair Clare

Published in November 2023, Fair Clare: Securing Socio-Economic Rights and a Just Transition in County Clare makes 27 recommendations to local and national government. The aim of presenting this report and its policy recommendations is to ensure that a broad audience – including policymakers, elected representatives, civil servants, planners and community organisations – can access this information and assess for themselves how it might look if, in Clare, we sought to use all avenues of influence and all available resources to deliver a democratic, fair and fast transition to a low carbon society.

The report has been cited in the Draft Local, Economic and Community Plan for Clare, the Clare 2024-2029 Climate Action Plan, and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as part of Ireland's fourth periodic review.



Climate Policy without Stormont: TASC Shared Island Online Event

This event was the third of a series of online panels exploring a shared island approach to reducing inequality, understanding social change, and promoting social inclusion. Iar-Taoiseach and Tánaiste Micheál Martin launched the series in May 2022.

This third panel focused on climate policy across the island of Ireland in the context of the absence of a power-sharing Executive in Stormont. The panel was chaired by Kieran Harrahill, Senior Researcher in Climate Justice with TASC.

Panellists included Professor John Barry (Professor of Green Political Economy at Queens University Belfast) and Ian Marshall (Former President of the Ulster Farmers' Union and member of Seanad Éireann).

The panel discussed:

- What will happen to climate action in Northern Ireland without a functioning legislative assembly?
- How the Shared Island Unit can help to enhance climate action North and South?
- Can climate action help to bring communities together via cross-border and inter-communal cooperation?

Contribution to the National Budgetary Oversight Committee – 8th March 2023

TASC researchers Rob Sweeney, Adeelia Goffe, and Róisín Greaney spoke to the Committee about the Report of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare, specifically, the chapters related to climate and health.

A panel discussion on Community Wealth Building at the National Ploughing Championships, September 2023

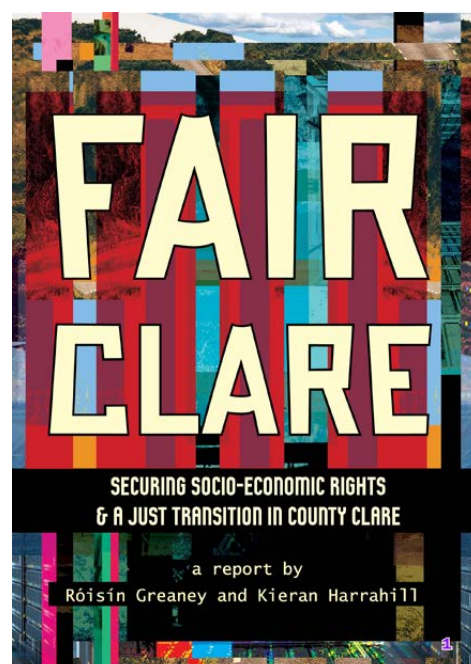
TASC participated in this panel discussion which was organised by the Irish Local Development Network. Alongside Waterford Area Partnership, Róisín spoke about TASC's People's Transition project with two communities in Waterford City, Larchville, and Lisduggan, which will continue throughout 2024. SECTION3.

Create National Networking Day

In October 2023, TASC partnered with Create – the national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts - on their National Networking Day, which incorporated a climate justice focus. TASC researchers presented and delivered a participatory workshop on the concept of just transition for the audience of socially engaged artists in attendance.

A seminar on the (In)equality Implications of the Green Transition at TU Dublin – 2nd November 2023.

TASC researcher, Róisín Greaney spoke about the findings from the Fair Clare project.



Presentation at the Mary Robinson climate conference in Ballina - 7th July 2023

Kieran Harrahill spoke at the Mary Robinson Climate Conference in Ballina. He presented an overview of TASC's People's Transition initiative which seeks to support community-led local development for climate justice. Kieran also spoke of the communities across Ireland which TASC is working with from 2022 to 2025 alongside developments that have taken place

in the pilot locations of the People's Transition (Phibsborough and Ardara).

Kieran conducted a workshop alongside Deirdre Carolan (TASC Researcher and Irish Research Council PhD Scholarship Recipient) and Mariana Cerca (PhD with UCD and BiOrbic) as part of the conference. The workshop focused on people's perspectives of an unjust transition, what a just transition to a sustainable future looks like and what are the actions communities and decision-makers can take to secure a just transition.



Presentation to members of the Sinn Féin Parliamentary Party – 27th June 2023

Members of TASC's Climate Justice stream were invited by Senator Paul Gavan to present to members of Sinn Féin's parliamentary party. The presentation focused on the People's Transition and the concept of community wealth building more broadly.

Presentation at Queen's University Belfast's Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action

In May 2023, TASC researcher Kieran Harrahill spoke about the People's Transition initiative.

Presentation at the UCD Just Transition conference - June 2023

In June 2023, TASC researcher Kieran Harrahill was one of six speakers to talk about varying subjects connected to Just Transition. Kieran spoke about the People's Transition initiative.

Presentation at the National Climate Stakeholder Forum – 6th November 2023

TASC researcher Kieran Harrahill presented an overview of the People's Transition initiative.

Health

FEPS TASC Launch EU Mental Health Report

Mental health is an intrinsic human right and an invaluable resource for the European community. This policy study reflects on the current provision of mental health services in France, Ireland and Poland. The authors review EU policy, to date, on developing a mental health strategy for the union and, for each case study country, outline mental health provision and the policy context to inform the findings from interviews with representatives of its mental health sector.

This policy brief analyses the current provision of mental health services in France, Ireland and Poland. In light of these findings, it considers the need for an EU-wide strategy for mental health. Mental health is recognised both as an intrinsic human right and as an invaluable resource by the EU.

Oireachtas: Committee on Budgetary Oversight Debate

In March 2023, Dr. Robert Sweeney, along with Dr. Adeelia Goffe and Ms. Roisin Greaney, presented TASC's response to the commission's findings on tax and welfare reforms. They supported recommendations to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and equalise excise duties, emphasizing the need to protect low-income households. They called for reforms in the agricultural sector to promote ecologically regenerative practices and address rural inequalities.

In healthcare, while acknowledging progress, they emphasised the need for better access and community-based services, recommending the reallocation of funds from private health insurance subsidies to universal care initiatives. They also advocated for standardized fiscal treatment of conventional and electronic cigarettes to improve public health outcomes.

Oireachtas: Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach debate

In May Dr. Robert Sweeney, presented TASC's thoughts on the EU fiscal rules and findings from their report. They discussed the complexities and inadequacies of the current fiscal rules, emphasising the need for major reforms. The original debt and deficit limits were deemed arbitrary and problematic. They noted the severe measurement issues with the structural deficit and the problematic nature of the expenditure benchmark and debt reduction rule. The recent EU Commission proposal for country-specific debt reduction plans was welcomed, but concerns about the short timeframe and stringent metrics were raised. TASC recommended focusing on the burden of servicing debt rather than debt levels, advocating for revised debt limits and the creation of an EU climate investment fund to help member states meet their emissions targets.

National Civic Forum for Dialogue with the Community and Voluntary Sector

In November Dr Shana Cohen participated in the second annual National Civic Forum for Dialogue with the Community and Voluntary Sector, under the theme of 'Bringing the Values and Principles to Life', in the Aviva Stadium, Dublin. The Second Civic Forum was designed drawing on the feedback from the 2022 Forum and attended by approximately 130 delegates from across the state and C&V sectors.

Ireland's Fourth Open Government Partnership National Action Plan

Executive Director Dr Shana Cohen participated at the 4th OGP National Action Plan (NAP4) seeks to build on the lessons and success of the third OGP National Action Plan (NAP3). It consists of a focused set of commitments, which will be delivered by five government Departments to further enhance transparency, civic participation, and public accountability.

Annual Lecture with Labour MP Stella Creasy

In September, Labour MP Stella Creasy (Walthamstow) delivered the TASC annual lecture, chaired by Orla O'Connor from the National Women's Council of Ireland with Martina Devlin as respondent. The event focused on the intersection of UK politics and women's rights, emphasising the power of unity and grassroots activism. Speakers highlighted the unique challenges faced by women in politics and stressed the importance of ongoing support and advocacy. They advocated for consistent efforts to embed progressive change into societal norms, making it the 'common sense' approach.

Strategic Priority 4: Partner with other Organisations

Partner with other civil society organisations, unions, government bodies, and the private sector across Ireland, Europe and globally.

4.1 Summary

TASC plays a vital role in connecting decision-makers, unions, academia, and community-based organisations to enhance existing services and advocate for policy reforms. In 2023, TASC continued collaborating with national, local, and EU organisations to deliver training and public education programs, translate research into policy recommendations and new front-line services, and support advocacy efforts for other organisations.

Our work with other charities includes conducting action research, sharing research

findings, and organising events. We have also prepared documents such as pre-budget submissions for other civil society organisations. In 2023, we expanded our efforts to an all-island basis and increasingly focused on regional and local initiatives outside of Dublin through the People's Transition and Financial Resilience Training projects. TASC's Executive Director and staff devoted considerable time to networking and expanding the opportunities to collaborate with partner organisations. We also formed new partnerships in 2023 with the following organisations:

National



International



4.2 Key Outcomes

In January 2023, TASC once again partnered with the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) to research the use of offsite construction in Ireland and how social housing new builds can drive and kickstart the sector. Ireland faces significant challenges both domestically and internationally. Domestically, despite economic success and a high standard of living, housing affordability is a major issue, especially for urban renters, leading to increased homelessness and social unrest. Internationally, Ireland struggles to meet climate change obligations despite legislative commitments.

For the social inclusion stream, TASC collaborated with a range of civil society organisations, unions, government bodies, and private sector entities across Ireland, Europe, and globally. One example included the event on financially empowering survivors of domestic violence, which featured an address on financial coercion in Ireland and discussions with partners including Safe Ireland, IBCB, and MABS.

Beyond the Border: The Impact of Brexit on the Island of Ireland

TASC, in collaboration with FEPS, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), and Queen Mary University London, conducted a project throughout 2023 that investigated the effects of Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol on economic prosperity, social cohesion, and peace in Northern Ireland. The project aims to understand the impact of economic inequality and other socioeconomic factors on the protocol's functionality. It investigates four key questions: the influence of Brexit on

economic inequality, access to services and employment, the differential impacts on various demographics, and perceptions of Brexit's effect on the peace process and identities. TASC's research involved analysis of existing research and data sets, and 19 in-depth interviews with employers, social workers, local councillors, TDs and MLAs, community workers, and senior civil servants.

Climate

During 2023, TASC continued its membership of Coalition 2030 and the Just Transition Alliance.

Empowering Young People Through the Sustainable Development Goals:

Conducted in 2023 / 2024, this report examined young people's perceptions of the social and environmental issues encapsulated by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate action, and the role of youth organisations in empowering young people to take individual and collective action as part of a societal transformation towards sustainability, social equity, and wellbeing.

CONUNDRUM: Co-creating shared and sustainable mobility:

Conundrum is a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Sustainable Communities Challenge funded project which aims to empower communities to adopt more sustainable modes of mobility by demonstrating how shared low-carbon transportation can plug the gap when high-frequency public transport might not be available. The project builds upon the findings of the People's Transition for Enniscorthy.

Health

Healthy Communities Project Evaluation

Since early 2021, TASC has been working alongside the Dublin City Community Co-operative (Co-op) to provide ongoing stakeholder feedback and evaluate the Co-op's Healthy Communities Project programming on residents of the local community who avail of their services. Dublin's North East Inner City (NEIC) is an area with historic and continuing high levels of social and economic deprivation. Residents of the NEIC come from diverse backgrounds, and the Healthy Communities Project seeks to support their needs by providing assorted programming, such as Social Prescribing, Healthy Food Made Easy courses, and smoking cessation supports, among others.

In order to evaluate programme delivery, a mixed methods approach was employed (e.g., qualitative interviews, focus groups, self-reflections, and quantitative data) from engaging with an array of stakeholders. The study revealed strong teamwork and partnerships internally within the Healthy Communities Programme team and externally among the Co-op, Health Service Executive (HSE), and Department of Health. It highlights the positive influence of the Healthy Communities Project Health Teams in facilitating program implementation and participation, validating the approach of the NEIC Healthy Communities Programme while offering a framework to advance efforts in addressing health inequalities in the NEIC. The report was launched in collaboration with the HSE's Office of Health and Wellbeing and the Co-op in December 2023. A full copy of the report may be found [here](#).

Testimony

"Dublin City Community Co-op engaged TASC for our Healthy Communities Project Evaluation. This piece was an in-depth evaluation which spanned two years and looked at all aspects of the project services, delivery as well as Service User and staff experience."

"TASC were in constant contact with us at every point in the evaluation process and worked closely with the project team to ensure they had all relevant data needed while keeping us up to date on the progress of the work. This was an important piece of research as it was the first of its kind on a Sláintecare Healthy Communities site and TASC carried it out with diligence, professionalism, and sensitivity to our Clients and Service Users." **Healthy Communities Project Coordinator Adeelia didn't put name in form**

ASP Belong (with Maria Pachowicz - Ongoing)

This project began in November 2023 and uses an Augmented Social Play (ASP) approach to create a smartphone-enabled group psychotherapeutic intervention that boosts adolescent mental health by supporting real-world connection and a sense of belonging. Two TASC researchers were involved in the project representing Ireland over a two-year period. TASC sought to identify and engage experts from key sectors, conduct scoping reviews on mental health priorities and policies, host expert consensus workshops, and design implementation strategies for the ASP intervention tailored to each country's context.

Migrant Community Needs Assessment

In 2023, TASC continued its work funded by the Irish Cancer Society to assess the health needs of migrants in Ireland, focusing particularly on access to cancer services. Primary data collection included a survey for migrants and stakeholder interviews, with over 240 migrants responding. To reach marginalised communities, TASC partnered with service providers, and conducted interviews with various stakeholders to understand the needs of these communities.

Social Prescribing Programme Evaluation

In late 2023 with Dublin City Community Co-operative, TASC followed up on the recommendation from the HCP evaluation to further support the work for the HCP team through evaluating the social prescribing (SP) programme. The evaluation included conducting interviews with SP exits while also investigating administrative data.

Social Prescribing Programme Evaluation

In late 2023 TASC partnered with the South Dublin County Partnership to evaluate the social prescribing programme run out of their Clondalkin site.

GP Access to Community Diagnostics External Evaluation

In 2023, through a private donor, Dr. McManus, TASC conducted a desk-based review of the General Practitioners Access to Community Diagnostics Scheme, as part of a larger study assessing the impact of the scheme on waiting lists.

Corporate partners

– The People’s Transition to tackle climate action

In line with its funding and strategic objectives, TASC partners regularly with corporations to conduct research and public education projects.

In 2023, AIB and TASC extended their partnership in applying ‘The People’s Transition’ throughout Ireland. With support from AIB, TASC engaged with thirty more communities for the People’s Transition. Engaging with communities from across the island of Ireland, TASC supports the implementation of community-led development for climate justice.

Financial Resilience Training to tackle the cost of living crisis

TASC maintained its corporate partnerships established in 2022 as part of our financial resilience programme.

IBCB continued its collaboration with TASC and Safe Ireland, offering funding, banking expertise, and customised financial resilience training for victims of domestic abuse. This partnership had a nationwide reach, providing valuable training across Safe Ireland’s national network of organisations.

TASC and Aviva sustained their partnership on a programme aimed at delivering financial resilience training across the country to help communities address the cost-of-living crisis. This three-year initiative focuses on helping low-income families and households better manage their finances. It will be implemented by frontline charity services and community groups nationwide through an interactive and educational financial inclusion and training programme. It is expected to benefit up to 25,000 people, including 1,350 individuals and 22,500 people currently supported by small charities.

Government sponsorship

In 2023, TASC continued to receive funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for the first time in TASC’s history through the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO) which is administered by Pobal. This funding was granted to organisations which “promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland”.

Strategic Priority 5: Diversify Awareness Raising

Continue to diversify raising awareness through our events, report launches and social media.

5.1 Summary

The standout event in our 2023 calendar was the TASC 21st Anniversary Celebration, held in April at Aras an Úachtaráin. This milestone event not only commemorated our achievements but also reinforced our commitment to advancing social change.

In September, we hosted our Annual Lecture at the Royal Irish Academy, featuring MP Stella Creasy as our distinguished speaker. Her insights sparked meaningful discussions and underscored our mission to engage with contemporary policy issues.

Throughout the year, we also organised a series of report launches in Dublin and across the country. A key objective of recent years has been to broaden TASC's impact beyond the Dublin region, and these events have played a crucial role in that effort.

Our commitment to fostering dialogue on policy continued through in-person events designed to stimulate debate and engagement. We enhanced our digital presence by regularly sharing content on platforms such as Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, which helped to amplify TASC's profile and reach.

In 2023, we witnessed significant growth in engagement across our channels, including increased website traffic, report downloads, and interactions on our social media platforms. This expansion reflects our ongoing dedication to connecting with diverse audiences and promoting informed discussions on critical social issues.

+ 71.5% 

Instagram followers
(compared to 2022).

1,793 

LinkedIn followers
(and 27,000 impressions).

7,772 

twitter followers

42,937 

website visits

Corporate partners**List of events hosted in 2023**

Month	Event name	Location
January	Media Literacy for Democracy Launch Conference	Online
January	Ballyhoura Development's Winter Networking Forum	In person
March	EU Fiscal Rules: Time for a Reboot Report Launch	In person
March	Assessing the proposed auto-enrolment Pension Scheme	In person
March	Climate policy without Stormont: TASC Shared Island Online event	Online
March	The Role of Youth Media Literacy in Fighting Disinformation: TASC event series	Online
May	An Introduction to Financial Resilience Training for Staff and Individuals – 3 events	Online
June	The state we are in, Inequality in Ireland Report Launch	In person
June	The people's transition for Enniscorthy: Report launch	In person
August	The People's Transition for Mountbellew: Report Launch	In person
September	TASC Annual Lecture 2023 with MP Stella Creasy	In person
November	Does Economics Need to Change?	In person
November	CONUNDRUM: understanding transport needs Enniscorthy	In person

5.2 Key Outcomes**2023 STATS**

19 
progressive blogs produced

1,024 
event registrations
(41% increase from 2022).

3,500 
report downloads

Inequality

The State We Are In, Inequality in Ireland 2023 - Report Launch

In June 2023, TASC launched its annual Inequality Report. Well-attended and well-received in the media, the discussion entailed a wide range of stakeholders from trade unionists, central bankers, academics, and more. Takeaways from the report were that though inequality has declined over the past three or so decades, it has increased most recently. Inflation, moreover, has impacted those with the least means the most. The report cautions against reducing taxation, among other proposals.

Rosheen Callender, who worked for many years in Ireland’s largest trade union and Colm Fagan, actuary and Past President of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. After this, three eminent speakers, John Fitzgerald, Dr. Donal de Butleir and Dr. Laura Bambrick (ICTU) responded to these suggestions and made further comments.

Social Inclusion

Beyond the Border: The Impact of Brexit on the Island of Ireland

TASC, in collaboration with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), and Queen Mary University London, conducted a project throughout 2023 that investigates the effects of Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol on economic prosperity, social cohesion, and peace in Northern Ireland.

An event on October 24th held in Belfast included an ‘in conversation’ session with Pedro Silva Pereira, Vice President of the European Parliament, and senior Northern Irish political figures: Kate Nicholl, Alliance MLA, and Matthew O’Toole, SDLP MLA. Consultative workshop sessions were held to generate recommendations. The event aimed to envision a positive future for Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework and explore potential future relationships between Northern Ireland and the European Union (EU). Attendees included local councillors, MLAs, NGOs, academics, and representatives from various sectors.

tasc **The State We Are In, Inequality In Ireland 2023**
 Report Launch, Tuesday 20 June 2023 11:00-13:00

Robert Sweeney
Head of Policy at TASC

Kevin Callinan
General Secretary for FORSA and President of ICTU

Michelle O'Sullivan
University of Limerick

Reamonn Lydon
Deputy Head of Monetary Policy, Central Bank of Ireland

Assessing the proposed auto-enrolment pension scheme

This event provided a forum to discuss the government’s draft legislation on auto-enrolment to a new state-run pension scheme for workers who are not already members of an occupational or private pension scheme. At present, very large sections of our population will be without adequate incomes in retirement unless further provision is made for good supplementary pensions.

Tim Duggan, senior official in the Department of Social Protection outlined the main elements of the proposed new legislation and discussed where it now stands following the end of a consultation. After his presentation responses and suggestions were given by economist

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE EU
 BEYOND THE BORDER: THE IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

24 OCT
11:00-14:30
Belfast Ireland

Queen Mary University of London | tasc | FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG | FEPS FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

Financial Resilience Training



Financial Resilience Training

In 2023 TASC delivered Financial Resilience Training throughout the country to help communities better tackle the cost-of-living crisis. The programme is supported by Aviva Ireland.

TASC offered Financial Resilience Training (FRT) to charity staff, which helps staff to support service users to improve their financial resilience, and to community groups to help increase their own financial resilience. FRT covers topics such as talking about money, budgeting and saving, managing debt, utility costs and support services.

Financial Resilience Training Taster Sessions

In May 2023, to promote the FRT training, TASC delivered two short Financial Resilience Training taster sessions online for any organisations or individuals interested in learning more about the programme.

Financial Resilience Training CESCA

In May 2023, TASC hosted a half day event, in association with Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliance, to give an overview of the programme and bring together representatives of local charities for a discussion on how to incorporate the training material into their own services.

Initiatives to Financially Empower Survivors of Domestic Violence

In September 2023, TASC held an event on Initiatives to Financially Empower Survivors

of Domestic Violence. The event included an address on financial coercion in Ireland, a panel discussion and a Q&A with speakers from TASC and its partners Safe Ireland, Irish Banking Culture Board (IBCB) and the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS).

Initiatives to Financially Empower Survivors of Domestic Violence
#FinancialEmpowerment #DomesticViolenceSupport

Wed. 20 Sep 2023 10:00 - 11:30 (Irish time)
Dublin Chamber

Marion Kelly
CEO
IBCB

Dr Sara Singleton
Senior Researcher
TASC

Mary McDermott
CEO
Safe Ireland

Bridget Clarke
retired MABS and
Financial
Resilience Training

Democracy

Media Literacy for Democracy

In January 2023, TASC organised an online conference to launch the Media Literacy for Democracy (MLFD) project. The project was funded by the EU CERV programme and aimed to tackle disinformation and empower citizens to protect democratic values by contributing to an EU-wide media literacy strategy. The project launch conference involved 123 participants from various sectors and countries, focusing on exchanging ideas and comparing existing initiatives across the EU. The event aimed to educate, raise awareness, and disseminate information on media literacy.

The MLFD project, a collaboration between organisations from five European countries (Ireland, Italy, Bulgaria, Poland and Spain), included a three-phase approach: an awareness campaign, context analysis via local focus groups, and community empowerment through targeted media education. The overall goal was to promote an EU-wide media literacy strategy.

In March and April 2023, TASC conducted three interactive workshops in Dublin for the MLFD project, each attended by 10-12 participants. These workshops addressed fake news and misinformation, particularly engaging younger citizens in recognising, fact-checking, and responding to false information. International workshops in Italy, Spain, and Poland further empowered participants to become informed digital citizens. 123 participated in the launch conference and 29 people participated in the Irish workshops organised by TASC. The project contributed to defining an inclusive European media literacy strategy through policy recommendations aimed at civil society, media workers, educators, and policymakers.

- FIDU - Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani Comitato Italiano Helsinki (Italy)
- TASC – Think tank for action on social change (Ireland)
- Fundacion Alternativas (Spain)
- Universidad de Jaén (Spain)
- Fondatsia za ZA Predpriemachestvo, Kultura i Obrasovanie (Bulgaria)
- Uniwersytet Szczeciński (Poland)

Annual Lecture

In September 2023, Labour MP Stella Creasy (Walthamstow) delivered our TASC annual lecture. The event was chaired by Orla O'Connor from the National Women's Council of Ireland and with Martina Devlin as respondent, key themes emerged regarding the intersection of UK politics and women's rights. The discussion highlighted the power of unity and grassroots activism in addressing national challenges, drawing inspiration from successful movements in Ireland. Emphasising the unique challenges faced by women, particularly feminists, in politics, the speakers stressed the importance of ongoing support and advocacy. They underscored the necessity of remaining

rooted in values and communities to sustain progress, advocating for consistent, everyday efforts to embed progressive change into societal norms and make it the 'common sense' approach.

Key Points from the lecture:

What's the point? It lies in the difference we can make when we work together

We emphasised the power of unity, collaboration, and collective action in addressing the deeply rooted national challenges.

Grassroots activism works - a proven success in Ireland

Drawing from our rich Irish history, we celebrated the successes of grassroots activism as a driving force for positive transformation.

Being a woman in politics is challenging; being a feminist in politics is even more so

Our speakers shed light on the unique challenges faced by women in politics, highlighting the added complexities of being feminist advocates.

Progress doesn't endure unless we are rooted in both our values and our communities

We agreed that to achieve lasting progress, we must stay firmly connected to our values and the communities we are here to support.

Striving not just at elections or in referendums but every single day for the ideas and actions that are the hard yards of progressive change to become the 'common sense'

We confirmed that our dedication extends beyond occasional events to the day-to-day efforts required to transform progressive ideas into commonly accepted principles.



tasc Annual Lecture 2023
26 September


Orla O'Connor
Director of National Women's Council (NWC)


MP Stella Creasy
Labour and Cooperative MP for Walthamstow


Martina Devlin
Author and award winning journalist

Climate

Events

Ballyhoura Development's Winter Networking Forum

TASC and Ballyhoura Local Development worked in partnership to develop a Green and Just Transition Strategy for the Ballyhoura region. To kick off the community engagement phase of the project, TASC joined Ballyhoura Development's Winter Networking Forum on the 28th of January 2023 in Knocklong, Co Limerick to facilitate a Just Transition workshop and gather local knowledge and experiences regarding a just transition for the 54 communities that make up the Ballyhoura region.

People's Transition for Mountbellew - Project Launch

On the 31st of August, TASC hosted its second community launch for the People's Transition, supported by AIB. Mountbellew in Co. Galway is the second community participating in this nationwide project focusing on community-led local development for climate justice.

The project began in October of 2022, and 97 community participants, through focus groups, interviews and surveys. Researchers in TASC developed two potential solutions

that could address community needs while supporting climate action: community-owned accommodation and a hydroelectric co-operative. Further information on the project, as well as the report on the People's Transition for Mountbellew, can be found on our People's Transition website

Football for Climate Justice project

In September TASC visited Bruges this month for our Football for Climate Justice project. This project aims to transform football's potential as a climate champion by focusing on actions that EU football clubs, leagues & associations can take to lead in the fight for climate justice.

Other

Our 21st Anniversary at Áras an Úachtaráin

On the 28th April 2023 Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland hosted a reception for TASC at Áras an Úachtaráin to mark and celebrate our 21st Anniversary. Since 2001 TASC has been addressing inequality and sustaining democracy in Ireland and the EU.

The reception was attended by former and past members of the Board, staff, key supporters and funders. The President gave a lengthy speech in praise of the great work of TASC over the past two decades.



Governance, Structures and Management

3. Governance, Structures and Management

3.1 Company Information

Board of Directors	Directors/Trustees Micheál Collins Proinsias de Rossa Mike Jennings (Chair) Bríd Nolan Orla O'Connor Michelle O'Sullivan Donald Storrie Paul Sweeney Joe Saunders Elaine Stephen Ciaran O'Mara Keletso Malepe Bernard Harbor	Stepped down: Orla O'Connor 31.03.23 Bríd Nolan 24.11.2023
Revenue Number Registered Charity Number:	CYN 14778 RCN 20049096	
Registered Company Number:	342993	
Registered Office:	Hill House 26 Sion Hill Road Drumcondra Dublin 9 Ireland	
Independent Auditors:	Whelan Dowling & Associates Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Block 1, Unit 1 & 4, Northwood Court Santry Dublin 9 Ireland	
Bankers:	Bank of Ireland Collinstown Cross Co. Dublin	
Solicitors:	Ryans Solicitors LLP 46 Harrington St Saint Kevin's Dublin 8	
Legal Name:	TASC Europe Studies a Company Limited by Guarantee	

3.2 Board of Members

Mike Jennings	Board Chair	Mike Jennings was General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) from 2007 to 2017. He is also a former member of the Executive Council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. (Appointed 01.12.2018)	(Reappointed 21.01.2022) 2 nd Term
Proinsias De Rossa	Board Member	Proinsias De Rossa, one of the founders of TASC in 2001, was appointed to the Board in 2012 following his retirement as a public representative. Since coming onto the Board he has served a period as Chair of the Board and currently serves on the Governance and Fundraising committees. Formerly an MEP for Dublin (1989- 1992, 1999-2012), Member of the Dáil (1982-2002) and Minister for Social Welfare (1994-1997) when he introduced the first ever National Anti-Poverty Strategy in Ireland. Proinsias is also a member of the IIEA and the European Movement. (Appointed 03.04.2013)	(Reappointed 21.01.2022) 2 nd Term
Brid Nolan	Board Member	Brid Nolan has been associated with TASC since its inception. She is a former EU official of some 30 years experience. She has been a member of the Board of Beaumont Hospital and its Research Ethics Committee, and as well as a member and sometime chair of the Research Ethics Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons. (Appointed 01.05.2018)	(Reappointed 21.01.2022) 2 nd Term
Joe Saunders	Board Member	Joe Saunders is Manager at the Irish Local Development Network. He holds 35 years of experience in the community sector in roles as diverse as frontline worker, animator, advocate, trainer, researcher, consultant and manager. (Appointed 22.05.2018)	(Reappointed 21.01.2022) 2 nd Term
Donald Storie	Board Member	Donald Storie is Chief Researcher at the Dublin based EU Agency Eurofound, with coordination responsibility for research. Before joining Eurofound in 2005 he worked primarily in academia on a wide range of issues related to the labour market. His publications include research on employment contracts, migration, health and active labour market and European employment policy. He was previously Director of the Centre for European Labour Market Studies and Research Policy Officer at the Ministry of Employment (both in Sweden). He has a BSc in Mathematics, a PhD in Economics and is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Gothenburg. (Appointed 28.06.2018)	(Reappointed 21.01.2022) 2 nd Term

3. GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURES AND MANAGEMENT

Michelle O'Sullivan	Board Member	Michelle O'Sullivan is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Limerick Kemmy Business School. Her expertise is primarily on precarious work with particular attention on wage setting and public policy in low wage jobs. She has been an invited speaker at numerous seminars and conferences including the James Connolly Memorial Seminar, the Griffith College Employment Law Forum and at TASC. She is also co-editor of the Irish Journal of Management a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Industrial Relations. (Appointed 04.07.2018)	1 st Term
Micheál Collins	Board Member	Micheál Collins is Assistant Professor of Social Policy at School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, at University College Dublin. He was previously a Senior Economist at the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI), as well as a member of the Commission on Taxation (2008-2009) and the Government's Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare (2011-2014). (Appointed 28.08.2018)	1 st Term
Paul Sweeney	Board Member	Paul Sweeney, former Chief Economist of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, was President of the Statistical and Social Enquiry Society of Ireland, a member of the National Competitiveness Council of Ireland, the National Statistics Board, the ESB, TUAC (at OECD) and other bodies. He has written books on the Irish economy and on public enterprise, including The Celtic Tiger; Ireland's Economic Miracle Explained and Selling Out: Privatisation in Ireland, chapters in other books and many articles on economics. (Appointed 15.11.2018)	1 st Term
Elaine Stephen	Board Member	Elaine Stephen was a Corporate Responsibility Adviser with Business in the Community Ireland from 2007 to 2019. Prior to that she had a career in IT in the public and private sector. She was Director of IBM's Dublin Software Lab and was on the board of F.I.T. for several years. (Appointed 01.04.2020)	1 st Term

Ciaran O'Mara	Board Member	Ciaran O'Mara is a well regarded employment and equality lawyer being involved in many major cases to Supreme Court and CJEU level throughout his career. He has written extensively on the European aspects of employment and equality law. He has also served as Programme Manager to the Minister for Finance in the 1990s. Ciaran is also a member of the IIEA. (Appointed 01.04.2021)	1 st Term
Keletso Malepe	Board Member	Keletso Malepe is a co-founder and a national chapter coordinator for the South African Youth Biodiversity Network. She is a former environmental researcher at University College Dublin and is currently working as part of a sustainability team and involved in ESG sustainability reporting and governance. She holds a first-Class MSc degree in Environmental Resource Management from University College Dublin and an Honours Degree in Geology from University of the Witwatersrand. She has extensive experience in environmental research, Biodiversity policy advocacy, community-based conservation work, climate actions and GIS and Remote Sensing. (Appointed 31.05.2021)	1 st Term
Orla O'Connor	Board Member	Orla O'Connor is Director of National Women's Council of Ireland (NWC), the leading national women's membership organisation in Ireland, with over 190-member groups and currently Co-Director of Together For Yes, the national Civil Society Campaign to remove the 8th Amendment. Orla holds an MA in European Social Policy, and after starting out in local community-based projects, has worked in senior management in non-governmental organisations for over 25 years. (Appointed 08.08.2018)	1 st Term
Bernard Harbor	Board Member	Bernard Harbor was Head of Communications with Fórsa trade union and a member of ICTU's executive council. He is an experienced communications and media relations practitioner with many years' experience in industrial relations, political, and public service settings. He was Director of Communications and Media for President Michael D Higgins's 2018 re-election campaign, and was a special advisor to Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Alex White between 2014 and 2016. Earlier in his career, he did policy research at Sussex University's Science Policy Research Unit. (Appointed 20.05.2022)	1 st Term

3.3 Board Composition

The Board of Directors is required to meet at a minimum six times a year, which it did in 2023. The CEO prepares a report for each Board meeting, which reports on outcomes and activities against the operational plan.

The Executive Director with the assistance of the Finance and Risk Committee also prepares a financial report for each Board meeting, which is reviewed and approved at a meeting of the Finance & Risk Committee.

Minutes of the Board are drafted and reviewed by the Chairperson and approved as the first order of business at the following Board meeting. The Executive Director and Chair monitor and maintain an attendance record of board members which are recorded in the meeting minutes.

The principal issues the Board focused on in 2023 were governance, or compliance with charity regulations, and fundraising. The Board continues to prioritise these two issues, as well as ensuring inclusion and diversity on the Board itself.

TASC's Board of Directors should not exceed 12 (including the Chairperson). All Directors sit on the board on a voluntary basis, receiving no remuneration for their time and contribution.

The Board is made up of individuals with experience in law, finance, public affairs, marketing, economics and inequality.

Orla O'Connor stepped down from the board in March 2023 and Brid Nolan in April 2023. A new agenda format was agreed at the March meeting for use going forward to adhere to good governance and compliance practices.

3.4 Board Effectiveness

A review of the Board Effectiveness took place in September by external consultant, Liam Scollan.

The TASC Board Effectiveness Report outlined 22 recommendations across various aspects of board dynamics, structure, strategic planning, operations performance, and compliance.

Key suggestions included:

- A review of meeting agendas to prioritise policy research and advocacy, clear differentiation between informational and decision-making items, and a mix of virtual and in-person meetings for improved team-building.
- Subcommittees should meet regularly with clear terms of reference, and quarterly management accounts should be presented with a conservative financial outlook.
- The strategic plan should be costed, and Board meetings should focus on progress evaluation. Stakeholder mapping is recommended, along with a consideration for a TASC alumni role.
- Operations should have a sustainable business model, key operational targets, and resources aligned with strategy. Compliance measures include a Directors Handbook and familiarity with the Compliance Tracker.

three more recommendations, advocating for continuous professional development, addressing representational gaps, and exploring ways to enhance Board engagement in TASC policy matters.

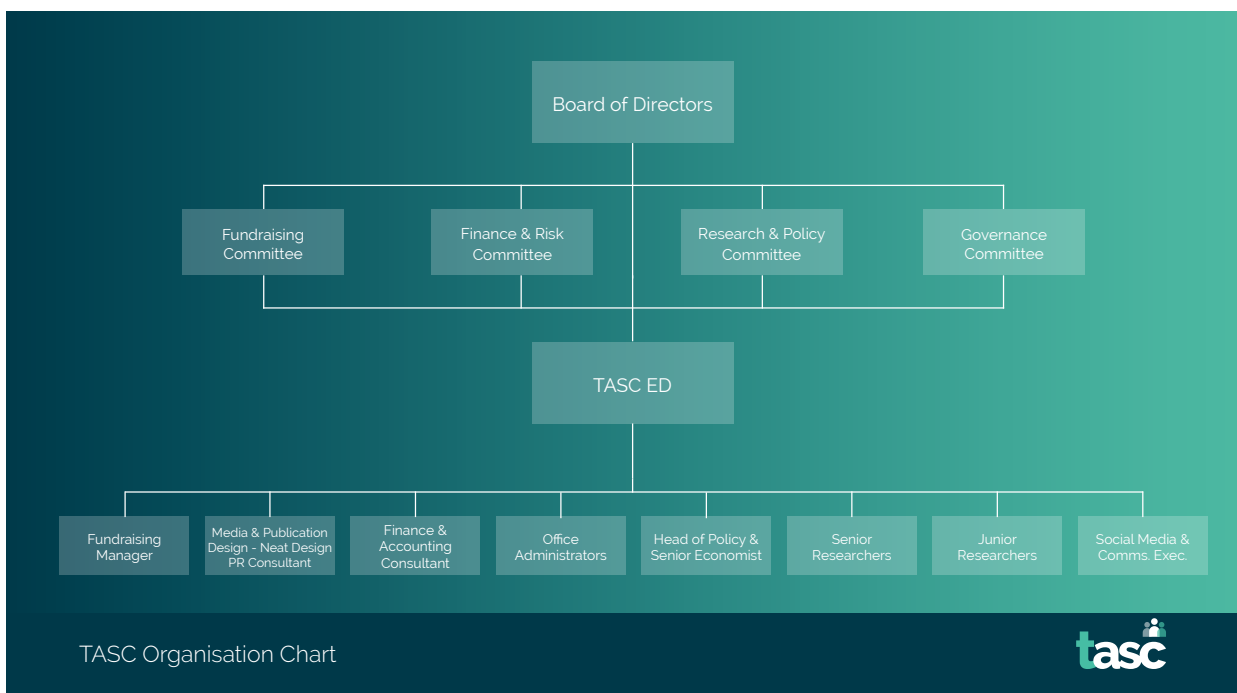
Facilitating training sessions for Board Directors was suggested, emphasising competencies in various areas, and efforts to diversify board representation are encouraged, avoiding tokenism.

Finally, exploring ways for increased Board engagement in policy matters was proposed, recognising the importance of maintaining a separation between board and executive roles.

The CRA CRS (Compliance Registration Submission) was lodged in time for the October deadline and Joe Saunders continued to oversee the submission as chair of the Governance and Compliance Subcommittee. TASC continued to use its compliance and risk management software CalQrisk streamlining the process and outputting clear compliance reports to distribute to the TASC Board.

It is anticipated that full governance compliance will be achieved again in 2024

The Board Competency Report added



3.4 Decision Making

The TASC Board has full responsibility for the governance and finances of the organisation. The board has several matters that are specifically reserved for its decision including strategic plans, annual operational plan, annual budgets, approval of all policies, approval of new staff appointments, performance review of the Executive Director, approval of members, approval of annual reports/accounts, procurement contracts above €10,000 and all governance issues including the composition of sub-committees.

The board delegates day to day management of the business and its operations including all staff matters to the ED. At each Board Meeting, the ED report gives an overview of finances, operations, HR and staffing, fundraising, services and strategy implementation. The board monitors the ED and the organisation's progress against its annual operational plan, provides feedback and direction to the ED as the need arises. The Board, represented by the Chairperson, will support the ED in delivering on all aspects of these duties and if necessary, can establish sub committees to assist in or oversee specific tasks.

All spending for goods or services in excess of €10,000 must be referred to the Finance and Risk subcommittee for approval prior to the expenditure being incurred.

3.5 TASC Sub Committees

Finance and Risk Committee

The Finance and Risk Committee consists of 3 members including the Chair and the ED alongside Ciaran O'Mara.

The Finance and Risk Committee plays a vital role in assisting the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities concerning the financial statements of the company as outlined in the Companies Act 2014 and Charities Act 2009.

The committee's duties encompass several key areas. In financial management, they review the adequacy of financial procedures and internal controls while ensuring the company maintains proper accounting records. They also prepare and present an annual budget to the Board for approval, monitor income and expenditure against the budget on a quarterly basis, and oversee the management of the company's cash resources. The committee's duties encompass several key areas. In financial management, they review the adequacy of financial procedures and internal controls while ensuring the company maintains proper accounting records. They also prepare and present an annual budget to the Board for approval, monitor income and expenditure against the budget on a quarterly basis, and oversee the management of the company's cash resources.

Regarding risk management, the committee assesses the company's long-term financing and potential risks, recommending improved controls as necessary. They also focus on compliance with corporate governance best practices for charities in line with the Charity Regulators Governance Code.

Furthermore, the committee is involved in the appointment, review, and removal of external auditors. They meet with the auditors to review the annual financial statements, ensuring compliance with accounting standards, assessing significant audit differences, and verifying adherence to legal requirements. Reporting procedures include regular reports to the Board and the preparation of an annual report on audited financial statements, which includes a review of director's responsibilities and the director's report.

Research and Policy Committee

The Research and Policy Committee consists of 9 members including Chair and the ED. 2023 members included Ciaran O'Mara, Donald Storrie, Keletso Malepe, Maeve O'Sullivan, Micheál Collins, Michelle O'Sullivan, Mike Jennings, Paul Sweeney and the ED Shana Cohen.

The RPC committee's primary responsibilities are to recommend TASC's annual research and policy program for Board adoption and to approve and maintain the program's schedule. They also assist the ED in developing new project ideas and reviewing proposals for the program. The committee reviews and approves ethical reviews conducted by TASC staff and receives updates on research launches and policy engagements. The committee ensures that all final output are technically reviewed and incorporates feedback from reviewers into the documents.

Additionally, they make sure that all final output aligns with TASC's mission by having at least one nominated member review it. Overall, the committee plays a crucial role in shaping TASC's research and policy agenda, monitoring progress, and ensuring the quality and consistency of the organisation's work.

Governance and Compliance Committee

The Governance and Compliance Committee consists of 6 members including Chair and the ED. 2023 members included Bríd Nolan, Ciaran O'Mara, Joe Saunders, Mike Jennings, Proinsias de Rossa and the ED.

The principal objective of the Governance Committee is to ensure good governance and, in particular, to monitor adherence to best practice in this area. This includes adherence to the CRA's Governance Code and other relevant guidelines. The Committee is also responsible for the induction programme for Board appointees.

The Governance Committee is tasked with performing an annual review to encompass the following: an appraisal of the Board; the performance of the Chairperson; the Committees' performance, size, membership; and the adequacy of information provided for Board meetings. This may include the completion of a Board Skills Assessment Matrix, to be reported to the Board as required.

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee consists of 6 members including the Chair, ED and Fundraising and Development Manager. Members in 2023 included Mike Jennings, Elaine Stephen, Bernard Harbor and Proinsias de Rossa.

The Fundraising sub-committee supports TASC by planning, coordinating, and implementing fundraising activities. The committee's objectives include advising the board on fundraising matters, developing a fundraising strategy, and monitoring its implementation. They maintain a list of donors and potential funders, take the lead in certain fundraising actions, and assist board members in engaging with sponsors and building relationships. The sub-committee also reviews upcoming application rounds for suitability. By fulfilling these responsibilities, they play a crucial role in securing financial resources and partnerships to support TASC's programs, projects, and overall organisational activities.

3.6 Key Policies of the Company

Conflicts of Interest

TASC has a Conflicts of Interest Policy. The Board of Directors are required to complete a conflicts of interest declaration when taking up their position on the Board. At the beginning of each board meeting, members have the opportunity to disclose any conflicts of interest which may arise before any agenda items are considered by the board and if any events have arisen which may impact their independence and/or loyalty.

Any instances which may arise are recorded in the minutes. All Board members are reminded that they must update the Company Secretary on any changes in this regard. TASC conflicts of interest policy was reviewed in May 2023.

Risk Management

TASC uses its Risk Register to monitor and mitigate controls arising from the risk across the full range of its activities. All legal, financial, strategic, operational and reputational risk are reviewed by the Board on a bi-monthly basis. The Risk Register is examined by the Finance and Risk Committee at each meeting with a particular focus on any new risks, or increases in the likelihood of a risk occurring.

The Board are updated at each meeting on proposed changes to the Risk Register and any updates to internal procedures and policies which will need to be introduced in order to reduce or mitigate new or existing risks. In October 2023 the TASC Risk Register was reviewed, updated and adopted by the Board.

On joining TASC and prior to carrying out activities on its behalf, all staff members are afforded time to read the organisation's key policies and procedures which sets out the rights, responsibilities and conduct required of employees and of the organisation. All employees are required to sign a Code of

Conduct Declaration acknowledging they have read and understood the organisation's policies and procedures.

TASC uses an external HR consultant to ensure it remains compliant with employment legislation and ensure remuneration and benefits are benchmarked against industry standard.

Reserves policy

TASC has a board approved reserves policy as part of its good governance requirements and also to ensure strong financial controls and the internal management of its resources. TASC's

reserves policy stipulates that the organisation must hold a minimum of €230,000 or if greater an amount sufficient to discharge all obligations of the organisation, including proper and reasonable provision for staff, in the event of a winding up. In the event that this minimum cash position is likely to be breached, the board will be convened at an earlier date and will consider its response to the financial situation, with a view to appropriate actions, and the situation will be kept under review by the board until rectified.

Investment Policy

TASC does not hold any fixed or cash assets for the purposes of investing, therefore the organisation does not have an Investment Policy.

Governance Code Compliance

TASC are in compliance with the Charities Regulators Governance Code and completed our annual return in October 2023. TASC conducts an annual self-assessment against the Code, reviewing and updating its policies accordingly.

3.7 Board Recruitment and Induction

TASC has a comprehensive recruitment and induction plan for all new Directors as set out in the TASC Governance Manual.

There are two board categories;

1. Member elected board members which are recruited by way of nomination from all governing members and democratically elected at a board meeting.
2. Expert board members which are recruited using other networks, such as The Wheel and Activelink, selecting candidates based on their skill set, experience and competencies.

Prior to initiating the recruitment process the Chairperson will instigate an audit for the Board Directorship, with a view to ensuring that the Board meets the following good practice guidelines:

- a. The Board has at least one member with relevant financial experience;
- b. The Board has an appropriate mix of experience including both sectoral and corporate, and;
- c. The Board has an appropriate gender balance.

New Directors attend an induction meeting with the ED and the Chairperson of the board prior to attending their first board meeting and receive coaching on the activities of TASC; its aims, history and success.

Prior to this meeting new Directors will receive; a copy of the TASC Governance Manual; the organisation's Strategic and Operational Plan; minutes of the previous six Board meetings; a copy of the financial procedures and policies manual, and a copy of TASC's Constitution.

Upon joining the board, new Directors must sign a Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests acknowledgement form in respect of their role and responsibilities as TASC board members.

On an annual basis board members are afforded the opportunity and encouraged to undertake training and development in support of their role as board members to learn new skills and maintain and grow their specific areas of expertise. A calendar of training dates is circulated at the first board meeting of the year and each board member carries out a self-assessment of their individual needs. Much of this training is offered by The Wheel.

3.8 Staff Movements in 2023

The average number of TASC employees in 2023 was 8. TASC did not have any volunteers in 2023. TASC, an organisation focused on social and economic equality in Ireland, made one key additions to its team in 2023.

Rob Keogh joined TASC as a Junior Researcher in Climate Justice in July 2023. He is working in the area of climate justice, including the People's Transition, as well as wider analysis of public policy for TASC's work on economic inequality and democracy.

3.9 Performance Management

One week prior to each board meeting, the Board of Directors receive an e pack which includes the agenda and supporting documents which will be up for discussion, which allows the Directors to adequately prepare. They also engage in a Board performance review annually which assists in identifying specific development needs of the board for the forthcoming year.

TASC is committed to providing the right conditions and support for everyone to achieve excellent performance and to achieve their full potential. On an annual basis TASC's ED and the Board of Directors agree to allocate a budget for training and development activities.

All staff members take part in the organisation performance management process. In order to ensure staff members can perform their roles to the highest of standards, TASC's ED and senior staff carry out regular discussions with members of their team about their development needs and aspirations. This includes ensuring that reviews are scheduled throughout the year to monitor an individual's progress against individual and organisational objectives set and jointly evaluating future training and development needs, with both parties taking the initiative.



Financial Review

4. Financial Review

4.1 Financial Outcome

The financial outcome for 2023 is set out in the statement of financial activities and balance sheet from page 64 below.

The final outcome for the year was a small deficit of expenditure over income of €27,764.

Income in 2023 was €843,458 which was a 31% increase on 2022. This increase is reflective of the continuance of a diversified income strategy including an increase in positive fundraising outcomes and an increase in commissioned research projects, most notably multi-year partnerships. Income from donations was €157,576 a 32% increase on 2022 and project income was €497,821 a 20% increase on 2022.

In 2022 TASC was awarded core funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development's (DRCD) Scheme to Support National Organisation (SSNO) as administered by Pobal. This multi-year funding, which runs for three consecutive years out to 2025, is granted to organisations aligned with the DRCD's mission statement: To promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland. The funding, valued at €85,168 in 2022, contributed towards part of the Executive Director and Office Administrator's salaries.

Total expenditure totalled €871,222 a 36% increase on 2022. This includes:

- Direct project costs of €134,330 an increase of 43% on 2022 expenditure.
- Staff related costs totalled €596,570 which was 68% of total expenditure and a 39% Increase on 2022 expenditure.
- Overhead and other expenditure totalled €140,322 which was 16% of total expenditure and a 38% increase on 2022 expenditure.

At 31st December 2023 TASC had unrestricted reserves of €617,296. This is represented by cash reserves held in bank accounts and amounts owed to TASC of €832,704 less creditors of €65,408 and deferred income of €150,000.

4.2 Funders, income sources and sustainability

In 2023 TASC secured two projects with government departments from The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). TASC expanded its collaboration with other charities, including The Wheel, with Ireland's national association of community & voluntary organisations, charities & social enterprises. This collaboration demonstrates TASC's growing role within the effort to improve existing public and charity-based services and support policy reforms.

In line with our objective of developing policies and practical solutions that advance progressive change, TASC pursued partnerships with a range of actors. For example, we received funding from St Stephen's Green Trust to develop a pilot participatory democracy project; from the Rowan Trust to investigate how external pressures, including far right activism and harassment, are affecting the capacity and sustainability of CSOs; and from Scouts Ireland to explore young people's attitudes toward climate action. These projects reflect the breath of TASC's project work, while continuing to diversify income streams.

4.3 Going Concern

TASC operated on a going concern basis during 2023 and the financial statements were prepared on this basis.

The Directors are in a position to manage the activities of the organisation such that existing funds available, together with committed funding, will be sufficient to meet the organisation's obligations and to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of the financial statement.

On that basis, the Directors do not consider that a material uncertainty exists in relation to going concern and have deemed it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Political Contributions

No political donations were given by the company during the year and no political donations were received either.

4.4 Accounting Records

The measures taken by the Directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 regarding adequate accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise, and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records are maintained at 28 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2.

4.5 Looking Ahead

2023 was a challenging year in terms of fundraising. We are a nonprofit organisation, but must not rely too much on reserves to compensate for even small deficits. For this reason, going forward, it will be essential for TASC to operate to a slight profit in order to build up and protect our reserves, which we are committed to maintaining.

TASC's most challenging funding requirement is clear: unrestricted core funding to cover expenditure on staff salaries and overheads. Soliciting funds from major donors and grant organisations will continue to be a focus for TASC's fundraising strategy in the years ahead.

We want to thank all of our donors - both our new donors and others who have been consistently supporting TASC's work for many years. TASC's vision is a sustainable, flourishing society characterised by economic equality, with strong public engagement in politics and an accountable government. Together, through innovative ideas and unwavering determination, we strive to build bridges, break barriers, and create a future where every individual thrives, empowered by equality, an active electorate, and opportunities for all. We hope you will join us on this mission.

If you have been inspired by any of the work set out in this report and would like to learn how you can contribute towards a more progressive future for Irish society, please do reach out to our Executive Director at scohen@tasc.ie

Independent Auditors' Report

TASC Europe Studies CLG
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Whelan Dowling & Associates
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,
Northwood Court
Santry
Dublin 9
D09 E438
Ireland

Company Number: 342993
Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20049496

TASC Europe Studies CLG

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TASC Europe Studies CLG

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Micheál Collins Proinsias De Rossa Mike Jennings Kelesto Malepe Brid Nolan (resigned 24 November 2023) Orla O'Connor (resigned 31 March 2023) Ciaran O'Mara Michelle O'Sullivan Donald Storrie Joe Saunders Elaine Stephen Paul Sweeney Bernard Harbour
Chairperson	Mike Jennings
Company Secretary	Shana Cohen
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20049496
Company Registration Number	342993
Registered Office and Principal Address	Ground Floor 28 Merrion Square North Dublin 2 D02 AW80
Auditors	Whelan Dowling & Associates Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Block 1, Unit 1 & 4, Northwood Court Santry Dublin 9 D09 E438 Ireland
Principal Bankers	Bank of Ireland Dublin Airport Dublin
Solicitors	Ryans Solicitors 48 Harrington Street Dublin 8

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The directors present their Directors' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Directors' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The directors of the charity are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the charity's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the directors of TASC Europe Studies CLG present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 2023.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

The charity is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Introduction

The Directors, who are also the trustees for the purposes of charity law, present their annual report and audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The content of the Director's annual report is set out in the following headings:

- Objectives and activities;
- Achievements in 2023
- Main Activities in 2023
- Financial review;
- Structure, governance and management;
- Reference and administrative details;
- Exemptions from disclosures; and
- Funds held as custodian on behalf of others.

Our Vision

A sustainable, flourishing society characterised by economic equality, with strong public engagement in politics and an accountable government.

Our Mission

To develop policies and solutions using evidence-based research and analysis on economic inequality. To work nationally and internationally, in partnership with other organisations, to catalyse momentum for progressive change, especially for those marginalised from both political decision-making and economic opportunity.

Our Values

We believe that greater economic equality is unequivocally positive for society as a whole; as it improves wellbeing for everyone.

Objectives

Since it was founded in May 2001, TASC, the Think tank for Action on Social Change, has been dedicated to championing the value of equality, human rights, democratic accountability and sustainability.

TASC's work currently addresses five critical areas for a flourishing society:

- Economic Inequality
- Social Inclusion
- Climate Justice
- Health Inequalities
- and Democracy.

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Our work consists of four principal activities:

- conducting policy analysis
- initiating and contributing to public awareness and understanding of policy
- engaging with policymaking and policy makers
- and supporting social change and climate justice within communities.

TASC's strategic priorities for 2022 - 2027 are as follows:

- Conduct and publish research that benefits the public and contributes to policy debates.
- Design and deliver public education projects and events that generate greater solidarity and a fairer, more democratic and sustainable society.
- Develop progressive policy responses to regional, national, and local challenges across Ireland and the EU.
- Partner with other civil society organisations, unions, government bodies, and the private sector across Ireland, Europe and globally.
- Continue to diversify raising awareness outside of conventional methods.

Over the past year, TASC has successfully progressed each of these priorities. In 2023, we continued to publish policy reports, including our signature annual inequality report; translate this research into public education projects in social inclusion and climate justice, with ambitions to do the same for democracy in 2024; develop progressive policy recommendations; expand our networks with other civil society organisations, business, and civil servants; and organise events and other activities that raise our profile and public awareness of current policy challenges and potential responses.

Our work seeks to devise effective responses to longstanding issues like poverty, health inequalities, the decline of democratic institutions and mechanisms for achieving political consensus, and climate change, as well as more immediate crises, like the cost of living and energy poverty. We are also increasingly focused on how to improve social mobility in an era when digitalisation and other factors are transforming labour markets. We recognise that social stability and trust in the state and public institutions are fundamental to functioning economies and the capacity of the state to respond effectively to immediate and longer-term challenges, like climate change.

In order to achieve greater economic equality, and with it, climate justice, social inclusion, and stronger democratic institutions, policymakers, civil society organisations, unions and communities require creative, far-reaching policy agendas and practical interventions. TASC has contributed to both in Ireland and the EU for 23 years and is committed to doing so for the future. In 2023, TASC continued to expand our financial resilience training and the People's Transition, and published policy research reports across our areas of work that consistently received attention from policymakers, civil society representatives, media, academics, and individual activists. For example, An Úachtarán Michael D. Higgins cited the People's Transition in his reception for TASC's 20th anniversary at Áras an Úachtaráin on April 28. A report for The Wheel on the fallout from the pay difference between the NGO and public sectors contributed to negotiations on funding for a pay rise to charity staff (Sections 39, 56, and 10). TDs Pascal Donoghue and Hildegard Naughton both attended the launch of the Healthy Communities Project evaluation in December 19.

As a public education charity, TASC does not have individual or organisational members. However, we do represent stakeholders nationally through our partnerships in the areas mentioned above. As a public education charity, we publish our work for free to ensure equal access for everyone. All our work can be accessed through our website. We are politically independent and don't receive any funding from political parties or groups. As such, our work is respected by diverse audiences, including community-based and national organisations (e.g., Local Development Companies and Safe Ireland), trade unions, academic researchers, individual activists, and advocacy groups (e.g., Just Transition Alliance). In 2023, for example, we continued to partner with the Dublin City Community Cooperative (the Coop), Safe Ireland, ICBAN, and Ballyhoura Development, while also working with new partners like Clare PPN. We are also working more with government bodies, like DRCD, through commissioned work, as well as corporations, such as Aviva (for our financial resilience training).

In order to alleviate workload pressures and ensure the sustainability of TASC as an organisation, it is imperative for TASC to attract core, unrestricted funding. In 2023, the majority of TASC's funding was tied to project work, though TASC benefited from increased private donations. However, the Executive Director still has to engage in project delivery to generate income, constraining her time spent on the key areas of strategic direction and project oversight. The sustainability of the organisation depends on a mix of project work and core funding. Unrestricted funding, such as that provided by the Scheme to Support National Organisations and the Department of Rural and Community Development, enables organisational growth by supporting new projects and partnerships and increasing the scope and impact of the current education and training programmes designed and delivered by TASC. Increasing the number and value of core donations remains a priority for the board, CEO and fundraising manager for the foreseeable future.

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

- Celebrated our 22nd anniversary, marking another year of dedication to our mission and goals.
- Continued to benefit from Pobal funding, which plays a vital role in sustaining our core operations, and we are deeply appreciative of this ongoing support.
- Hosted 15 report launches throughout the year, presenting our research findings and insights on various societal issues.
- Organized 13 events, including our annual lecture featuring Stella Creasy MP, providing platforms for insightful discussions and knowledge sharing.
- Strengthened our focus on addressing health inequalities while initiating the development of a democracy stream. Funding from two sources, St Stephen's Green Trust and Dermot Desmond, enabled the inception of a participatory democracy project rooted in the People's Transition initiative.
- Expanded our network of charity and business partners engaged in social inclusion and economic inequality initiatives, fostering collaborations to drive meaningful change.
- Established new relationships with trusts and foundations such as the Roman Trust, enhancing our funding support and resource base.
- Maintained fruitful collaborations with Local Development Companies (LDCs) like the COOP and Ballyhoura, ensuring our initiatives reach communities effectively.
- Responded to growing interest in the intersection of technology and inequality, particularly in areas like artificial intelligence (AI), exploring its impacts and implications on societal disparities.
- Expanded our staff by adding 2 new members.

Main activities in 2023

List of events hosted in 2023

Month	Event name	Location
January	Media Literacy for Democracy Launch Conference	Online
January	Ballyhoura Development's Winter Networking Forum	In person
March	EU Fiscal Rules: Time for a Reboot Report Launch	In person
March	Assessing the proposed auto-enrolment Pension Scheme	In person
March	Climate policy without Stormont: TASC Shared Island Online event	Online
March	The Role of Youth Media Literacy in Fighting Disinformation: TASC event series	Online
May	An Introduction to Financial Resilience Training for Staff and Individuals – 3 events	Online
June	The state we are in, Inequality in Ireland Report Launch	In person
June	The people's transition for Enniscorthy: Report launch	In person
August	The People's Transition for Mountbellew: Report Launch	In person
September	TASC Annual Lecture 2023 with MP Stella Creasy	In person
November	Does Economics Need to Change?	In person
November	CONUNDRUM: understanding transport needs Enniscorthy	In person

Published research to benefit the public and contribute to policy debates.

In 2023, the war in Ukraine continued, the Middle East conflict entered one of its deadliest and most tragic phases, along with the consolidation of far right political power at an international level and regression from ambitious green agendas. The protests in Ireland near asylum seeker lodging, or rumored lodgings, and the Dublin riots in November have revealed a growing far right in Ireland, or at least the appeal of anti-'establishment' politics tapping into the discontent generated by persistent problems, especially housing and access to services.

TASC's response has been to continue to develop practice-based work out of its research to demonstrate how local participation in climate action and avenues to influence policy can lead to constructive change and encourage greater trust in state institutions and politics. We have expanded our networks, partnering with other charities and business, and increasingly, delivering commissioned work for government, in an effort to generate better data on civil society and multiple dimensions of inequality. Our overall message, derived from our work, is to approach policy challenges holistically, connecting aspects of inequality with political and social identity within the policymaking process. For instance, in our community health work, we have linked poor housing, deterioration of local public spaces, unemployment or lack of good employment opportunities, and access to nutritious food and cooking facilities in understanding the determinants of social isolation and capacity to manage ongoing health issues.

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Our work across the five streams continued to grow but also became more focused, as we concentrated thematically on several areas of work within each stream. For economic inequality, our work looks at income and wealth inequality, housing, and taxation and public expenditure; for social inclusion, financial resilience, the experience of social and economic marginalization, and employability; for health, community-based health services and social prescribing, mental health, and access to diagnosis, treatment, and recovery, especially amongst minority populations; for climate justice, the People’s Transition continues to be our most significant work; and for democracy, local participatory democracy – modelled after the People’s Transition, and supporting civil society.

List of publication in 2023

Month	Title
March	Fiscal Rules – Time for a Reboot
March	Is an EU-wide approach to the mental health crisis necessary?
June	The Future of Public Service Delivery by the Community and Voluntary Sector
June	The State We Are In: Inequality in Ireland 2023
June	TASC People’s Transition Enniscorthy
July	Dublin Inner City Community Co-operative Evaluation – Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018-2023
August	The People’s Transition Mountbellew
October	TASC Annual Report 2022
October	Football for Climate Justice Community and Fan Survey
October	Football for Climate Justice Research Report
November	Fair Clare
November	Towards a Green and Just Transition in Ballyhoura
December	Zero Together: Understanding the Impact of a transition to net-zero on communities in Dublin
December	Healthy Communities Project: Impact evaluation report
December	The People’s Transition Roscommon Farmers: Implementation of Community-led development for climate justice

Underpinning all our work is our annual report on economic inequality which seeks to track its evolution in Ireland and Europe and identifying how best to address it. This report is published out of our core funds to retain its absolute independence.

Designed and delivered public education projects and events

With the help of the board, especially the fundraising committee, the Executive Director, and the administrative staff, the fundraising manager has continued to diversify TASC’s income across government, charity, business, and private foundation partners. That said, TASC is still pursuing more core funds, with the aim of core funding reaching 40% of annual funding. This will ensure that some of TASC’s research can be funded independently, primarily the annual inequality report but also other reports that we believe respond to urgent policy research needs but may not receive funding in the time required

- Throughout 2023, TASC embarked on a series of impactful initiatives aimed at addressing the causes and impact of multiple dimensions of inequality. addressing various societal challenges. The year kicked off with the Media Literacy for Democracy (MLFD) launch conference in January, which saw TASC bringing together stakeholders from across Europe to enhance media literacy and combat disinformation. Funded by EU CERV, the event served as a platform for exchanging ideas and initiatives. In March, TASC launched the Financial Resilience Training (FRT) program, generously funded by AVIVA Ireland. This comprehensive three-year initiative aimed to empower individuals, especially those from a low-income background or in a precarious financial position, communities across Ireland to navigate the cost-of-living crisis effectively. By providing interactive and educational financial inclusion training to frontline charity services and community groups, FRT sought to upskill individuals and households in managing their finances. The program’s positive impact was evident as it engaged 258 charity staff and community members, benefiting 774 individuals and households throughout 2023. Moreover, the training received commendable feedback, prompting interest from partner organizations to schedule further sessions in 2024.

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

In April, TASC expanded its FRT initiative to charity staff working in diverse services, including those supporting vulnerable groups like individuals experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, chronic illness, disability, and seniors. The positive reception and tangible benefits of FRT were highlighted through feedback from staff, underscoring its importance in their work with service users. Notably, the Carlow County Development Partnership's Training and Development Manager lauded the program's organization, delivery, and relevance, emphasizing its value in working with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, TASC's commitment to collaboration and partnership-building was exemplified in September with the organization of an event focused on Initiatives to Financially Empower Survivors of Domestic Violence. Partnering with organizations like Safe Ireland and IBCB, TASC demonstrated its dedication to addressing societal challenges and promoting financial empowerment. Through these endeavors, TASC continued to uphold its mission of public education and community engagement, making meaningful contributions to societal well-being across Ireland and beyond.

- Throughout 2023, Climate Justice led several initiatives aimed at fostering climate resilience and community empowerment, and linking community development, greater equality, and climate action. Notably, in March, the organization hosted an online webinar focusing on climate policy in Ireland, highlighting the Shared Island Unit's role in promoting cross-border cooperation. In June, the launch of the People's Transition report for Enniscorthy marked the beginning of community-led climate action, supported by AIB. Furthermore, in September, TASC facilitated the launch of the People's Transition report for Mountbellew, Co. Galway, which presented insights gathered from 97 community participants through focus groups, interviews, and surveys.

Concurrently, TASC actively engaged in policy research. Noteworthy publications include the Fair Clare report, which examines socio-economic rights and a just transition in County Clare, and the Football for Climate Justice project, involving a survey of 1,432 football fans across seven European clubs to understand local environmental challenges. Additionally, TASC collaborated with Ballyhoura Local Development to develop a Green and Just Transition Strategy for the Ballyhoura Region. Moreover, the organization played a pivotal role in policy responses, advocating for inclusive transition planning. These efforts culminated in 27 recommendations presented in the Fair Clare report, which also contributed to the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan for Clare

Developed progressive policy responses to challenges across Ireland and the EU.

We have continued to produce policy research used by policymakers, civil society organisations, and academics and practice-based work providing climate-led community development strategies and financial resilience training.

TASC's unique role - with a variety of stakeholders and partners

TASC translates analysis into action, empowering other charities and delivering its own services in order to generate social change. TASC plays a crucial role linking decision makers, academia and community-based organisations to recognize and understand the impact of economic, social, political, and cultural inequalities, as well as improve existing services and advocate for policy reforms. In 2023, TASC's work involved the delivery and implementation of projects across the island while working in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and communities, including cross-border communities such as those involved in The Border Transition project in the Lough MacNeane area.

These stakeholders and partners at a national and community-level included:

- Other charitable organisations
- Government agencies like MABS (Money Advice Budgeting Service)
- Policymakers
- Academics
- Local authorities
- Activists
- Citizens
- Trusts and Foundations
- Corporations throughout Ireland & abroad.

Future plans

TASC intends to continue to increase our engagement with policymakers, civil society organisations, and public institutions, like the HSE, in Ireland and the EU. We will continue to work with the Coop, Safe Ireland, Ballyhoura Development, Age Action, Irish Cancer Society, and The Wheel in 2024.

As mentioned above, TASC's independence is critical for its reputation, its direct and indirect impact on policy in Ireland and the functioning of other community and national organisations across Ireland. Core funding will protect TASC's independent research and public education activities as well as its ability to support the services, advocacy efforts, and capacity of other charities working providing frontline services. Core funding will ensure that TASC's independent and respected voice continues to represent vulnerable and marginalised groups in Ireland through unprecedented times of global economic and political uncertainty, climate change, rising costs of living, and entrenched inequality.

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Financial Review

2023 was another successful year for TASC in terms of our fundraising efforts. TASC's operating expenditure also increased between 2022- 2023 by +35%, so to achieve a minor loss in a year of large growth for the small organisation is something we are very proud of. As a think tank with no services to run and little overheads, our overall fundraising strategy was the same as previous years: continue to diversify our income streams in order to reduce our dependence on project work as our main source of income.

In 2023, TASC's income from donations increased to comprise 19% of our overall income or €157,576. This is an increase of 30% on the previous year or +€37,779.

Fundraising strategy

Since Atlantic Philanthropies ceased Irish support in 2019, TASC's fundraising manager's goal has been to secure funding from multiple income streams to mitigate risks associated with one source of funding. The TASC Board, CEO and fundraising manager have accelerated efforts to find other sources of core funding including diversifying project partners; seeking donations from major donors (who support equality) and Trusts & Foundations; and submitting applications directly for core funding. Commissioned project funding comprised 66% of our income in 2023 but we aim to reduce dependency on project funding and increase core funding.

Principal Funding resources

The principal funding resources for the charity include donations, income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and performance related grants.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the charity had gross assets of €832,704 (2022 - €839,476) and gross liabilities of €215,408 (2022 - €194,416). The net assets of the charity have decreased by €(27,764).

Investment Policy

The Directors policy is to preserve the value of its fund by placing surplus funds on deposit in a bank regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Reserves Position and Policy

The Board will ensure that TASC always maintains a cash in bank holding which is not less than €230k or if greater an amount sufficient to discharge all obligations of the organisation, including proper and reasonable provision for staff, in the event of a winding up. In the event that this minimum cash amount appears likely to be breached, the Board will be convened at an early date and will consider its response to the financial situation, with a view to appropriate actions, and the situation will be kept under close review by the Board until rectified.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

Governing document

The Company is a company limited by guarantee, registered under Part 18 of the Companies Act 2014. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding €1.27. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association and managed by a Board of Directors. The company has been granted charitable status under section 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, charity No. CHY 14778.

The day-to-day affairs of the company are managed by its CEO (non-board member), Shana Cohen, and overseen by its Board of Directors. TASC's constitution still serves the purpose for which TASC was established - as public education charity. A single change (of name) was made in 2018. The structure remains unchanged except for an increase in the number of members of the Board. The composition of the Board provides expertise in some areas (including legal expertise) and external advice/services is sought where the Board cannot provide it.

A number of specialist sub-committees assist with managing the affairs of the company. The sub-committees are Research & Policy, Finance & Risk, Fundraising and Governance & Compliance. Directors are required to retire by rotation based on length of service and are eligible for re-election.

The company held six board meetings during the year, the record of attendance at board meetings by the Directors and Secretary during the year is as follows:

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Attendance at Board meetings

Officer name	Attendance
Mike Jennings	(5/6)
Shana Cohen (secretary)	(5/6)
Proinsias De Rossa	(5/6)
Brid Nolan	(6/6)
Ciarán Ó Mara	(6/6)
Micheál Collins	(2/6)
Joe Saunders	(4/6)
Michelle O'Sullivan	(6/6)
Elaine Stephen	(5/6)
Paul Sweeney	(6/6)
Keletso Malepe	(3/6)
Órla O'Connor (<i>left March</i>)	(1/6)
Bernard Harbor	(4/6)
Donald Storrie	(3/6)
Mathias Urban (joined Oct)	(1/6)

The company is a registered charity and the members of the Board of Directors, appointed under the Companies Acts, operate on a pro bono basis. No remuneration was paid to any member of the board.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The sector in which the company operates continues to be challenging. The Directors have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the company.

The company mitigates these risks by continually monitoring the level of activities, prepares and monitors its budgets, targets and projections. The company also has a cash reserves policy and closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an ongoing basis.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of financial policies and procedures which controls the authorisation of all transactions and procedures.

With risks and uncertainties faced in mind, the Directors are aware that any plans for the future development of the company may be subject to unforeseen future events outside of our control. The board recognises the need to concentrate on the financial resources of the company to provide for a sustainable future.

Risk management

TASC is committed to continue to seek out new funding opportunities. Income diversity means that TASC's income stems from several sources, reducing risk and protecting against potential shocks and therefore ensuring the long-term financial stability of our work on Equality.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. TASC Europe Studies CLG subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2014
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Events Since the Year End

There have been no circumstances or events subsequent to the year end, which require adjustment to, or disclosure in the financial statements.

Exemptions from Disclosure

The company has not availed of any disclosure exemptions.

TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of Others

The company does not hold and funds or assets by way of custodian arrangement.

Environmental Matters

The company will seek to minimise adverse impacts on the environment from its activities, whilst continuing to address health, safety and economic issues. The company has complied with all applicable legislation and regulations.

The Auditors

The auditors, Whelan Dowling & Associates, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Compliance Statement

The directors are responsible for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations (compliance with both company and tax law) and with respect to each of the following three items, we confirm that it has/has not been done. We confirm:"

- the existence of a compliance policy statement;
- appropriate arrangements or structures put in place to secure material compliance with the company's relevant obligations;
- a review of such arrangements and structures has taken place during the financial year

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Ground Floor, 28 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, D02 AW80.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 7 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mike Jennings
Director



Ciaran O'Mara
Director



TASC Europe Studies CLG DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at the financial year end date and of the net income or expenditure of the charity for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or expenditure of the charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and the Directors' Annual Report comply with Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 7 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Mike Jennings
Director



Ciaran O'Mara
Director



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of TASC Europe Studies CLG

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the charity financial statements of TASC Europe Studies CLG ('the Charity') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Charity as at 31 December 2023 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion, the Directors' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014; and
- the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of TASC Europe Studies CLG

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Annual Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not complied with by the charity. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 12, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of TASC Europe Studies CLG

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sean Whelan

Sean Whelan FCA

for and on behalf of

WHELAN DOWLING & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,

Northwood Court

Santry

Dublin 9

D09 E438

Ireland

7 June 2024

TASC Europe Studies CLG
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2023 €	Unrestricted Funds 2022 €	Restricted Funds 2022 €	Total Funds 2022 €
Income							
Donations and legacies	3.1	157,576	-	157,576	119,777	-	119,777
Charitable activities - Grants from governments and other co-funders	3.2	600,714	85,168	685,882	483,101	41,624	524,725
Other income	3.3	-	-	-	31	-	31
Total income		758,290	85,168	843,458	602,909	41,624	644,533
Expenditure							
Raising funds	4.1	122,537	-	122,537	120,103	-	120,103
Charitable activities	4.2	663,517	85,168	748,685	477,078	41,624	518,702
Total Expenditure		786,054	85,168	871,222	597,181	41,624	638,805
Net income/(expenditure)		(27,764)	-	(27,764)	5,728	-	5,728
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		(27,764)	-	(27,764)	5,728	-	5,728
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds beginning of the year	13	645,060	-	645,060	639,332	-	639,332
Total funds at the end of the year		617,296	-	617,296	645,060	-	645,060

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 7 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Mike Jennings
Director



Ciaran O'Mara
Director



TASC Europe Studies CLG
BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	50,973	51,242
Cash at bank and in hand	9	781,731	788,234
		<u>832,704</u>	<u>839,476</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(215,408)</u>	<u>(194,416)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>617,296</u>	<u>645,060</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>617,296</u>	<u>645,060</u>
Funds			
General fund (unrestricted)		617,296	645,060
Total funds	13	<u>617,296</u>	<u>645,060</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 7 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Mike Jennings
Director



Ciaran O'Mara
Director



TASC Europe Studies CLG
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds		(27,764)	5,728
Interest receivable and similar income		-	(31)
		<u>(27,764)</u>	<u>5,697</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		269	780
Movement in creditors		20,992	145,498
		<u>(6,503)</u>	<u>151,975</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		-	31
		<u>(6,503)</u>	<u>152,006</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(6,503)	152,006
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		788,234	636,228
		<u>788,234</u>	<u>636,228</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9	781,731	788,234
		<u><u>781,731</u></u>	<u><u>788,234</u></u>

TASC Europe Studies CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

TASC Europe Studies CLG is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Ireland. The registered office of the charity is Ground Floor, 28 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, D02 AW80 which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities include income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the charity. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.

-Time based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

TASC Europe Studies CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities and raising funds. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed, and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

Taxation

The company has received charitable status from the Revenue Commissioners and has charitable exemption from taxation.

		3. INCOME			
3.1 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022	
	€	€	€	€	
Donations and legacies	<u>157,576</u>	-	<u>157,576</u>	<u>119,777</u>	
3.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022	
	€	€	€	€	
Grants from governments and other co-funders:					
Event Income	50,393	-	50,393	-	
Foundations and trusts	12,500	-	12,500	56,671	
Project Income	497,821	-	497,821	395,930	
Pobal SSNO	-	85,168	85,168	41,624	
Society of Holy Child Jesus	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	
St Stephens Green Trust	15,000	-	15,000	5,500	
	<u>600,714</u>	<u>85,168</u>	<u>685,882</u>	<u>524,725</u>	
3.3 OTHER INCOME	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022	
	€	€	€	€	
Interest Received	-	-	-	31	
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>	
4.1 RAISING FUNDS	4. EXPENDITURE				
	Direct Costs	Other Costs	Support Costs	2023	2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Raising funds	-	-	122,537	122,537	120,103
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,537</u>	<u>122,537</u>	<u>120,103</u>

TASC Europe Studies CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

4.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Direct Costs €	Other Costs €	Support Costs €	2023 €	2022 €
Expenditure on charitable activities	134,330	-	536,571	670,901	454,652
Governance Costs (Note 4.3)	-	-	77,784	77,784	64,050
	<u>134,330</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>614,355</u>	<u>748,685</u>	<u>518,702</u>
	<u><u>134,330</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>614,355</u></u>	<u><u>748,685</u></u>	<u><u>518,702</u></u>
4.3 GOVERNANCE COSTS	Direct Costs €	Other Costs €	Support Costs €	2023 €	2022 €
Accountancy and payroll	-	-	16,451	16,451	14,514
Staff related costs	-	-	35,842	35,842	35,558
Auditors fees	-	-	5,535	5,535	5,535
Office Overheads & Running Costs	-	-	10,384	10,384	4,384
Legal and professional fees	-	-	9,572	9,572	4,059
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77,784</u>	<u>77,784</u>	<u>64,050</u>
	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>77,784</u></u>	<u><u>77,784</u></u>	<u><u>64,050</u></u>
4.4 SUPPORT COSTS	Cost of Raising Funds €	Charitable Activities €	Governance Costs €	2023 €	2022 €
Office Overheads & Running Costs	25,280	148,427	10,384	184,091	88,603
Governance Costs	-	-	31,558	31,558	24,108
Staff Related Costs	97,257	388,144	35,842	521,243	428,456
	<u>122,537</u>	<u>536,571</u>	<u>77,784</u>	<u>736,892</u>	<u>541,167</u>
	<u><u>122,537</u></u>	<u><u>536,571</u></u>	<u><u>77,784</u></u>	<u><u>736,892</u></u>	<u><u>541,167</u></u>
5. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS	Basis of Apportionment		2023 €	2022 €	
Office Overheads & Running Costs	Usage		184,091	88,603	
Governance Costs	Usage		31,558	24,108	
Staff Related Costs	Usage		521,243	428,456	
			<u>736,892</u>	<u>541,167</u>	
			<u><u>736,892</u></u>	<u><u>541,167</u></u>	

TASC Europe Studies CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

6. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

Number of employees

The average number of persons employed (including executive directors) during the financial year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Management	1	1
Project/Administration	10	8
	11	9

The staff costs comprise:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages and salaries	521,243	375,229
Social security costs	56,831	40,630
Pension costs	18,496	12,597
	596,570	428,456

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) was greater than €60,000 for the reporting period was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number of	Number of
	Employees	Employees
€60,000 - €70,000	1	-
€80,000 - €90,000	-	1
€100,000+	1	-

8. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade debtors	27,497	26,937
Prepayments	23,476	24,305
	50,973	51,242

9. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash and bank balances	781,731	788,234

TASC Europe Studies CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

10. CREDITORS	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year	€	€
Trade creditors	1,230	-
Taxation and social security costs	15,264	11,157
Other creditors	18,004	18,004
Accruals	30,910	15,255
Deferred Income	150,000	150,000
	<u>215,408</u>	<u>194,416</u>

11. STATE FUNDING

Agency

Department of Rural and Community Development

Government Department

Pobal

Grant Programme

Scheme to Support National Organisations

Purpose of the Grant

To fund a full time Director and part time Office Administrator along with a contribution to non salary costs and overhead costs. The 2 roles will contribute to improved quality and availability of services and supports offered, particularly to those experiencing poverty and social exclusion; improved education and training programmes/supports designed and delivered, particularly in the area of promoting equality; and increased organisation profile and awareness of available supports/services.

Term

01/07/2022 until 30/06/2025

Total Fund

€256,526

Expenditure

€85,168

Fund deferred or due at financial year end

€Nil

Received in the financial year

€85,168

Capital Grant

No

Restriction on use

Restricted in line with Grant Agreement

12. RESERVES

	2023	2022
	€	€
At the beginning of the year	645,060	639,332
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	(27,764)	5,728
At the end of the year	<u>617,296</u>	<u>645,060</u>

TASC Europe Studies CLG
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

continued

13. FUNDS

13.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Total Funds €
At 1 January 2022	639,332	639,332
Movement during the financial year	5,728	5,728
At 31 December 2022	645,060	645,060
Movement during the financial year	(27,764)	(27,764)
At 31 December 2023	617,296	617,296

13.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2023 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers between funds €	Balance 31 December 2023 €
Restricted	-	85,168	85,168	-	-
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted General	645,060	758,290	786,054	-	617,296
Total funds	645,060	843,458	871,222	-	617,296

13.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Current assets €	Current liabilities €	Total €
Unrestricted general funds	832,704	(215,408)	617,296
	832,704	(215,408)	617,296

14. STATUS

The charity is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 1.27.

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions with the directors during the period.

16. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

17. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 7 June 2024.



www.tasc.ie
contact@tasc.ie