

the
wheel

Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.

SHAPING SKILLS SHAPING SOCIETY

**Promoting Collaboration
Between Government,
the Nonprofit Sector and
Society for a Stronger
Nonprofit Workforce**

#NonProfitSkills

WELCOME

The Wheel is proud to host the inaugural Sector Skills event, a national forum that highlights the vital role the community, voluntary and social enterprise (CVSE) sector, which employs 281,00 people, plays in Ireland's skills system.

A healthy and progressive CVSE sector is central to providing lifelong learning opportunities and building a skilled, inclusive workforce that delivers a thriving society.

AGENDA

09:30 - 10:00 | Registration & Networking

10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome

Maria Couchman Director of Sector Skills, The Wheel

10:05 - 10:15 | Opening - The National Skills Landscape

Barry Dempsey CEO, The Wheel

10:15 - 10:35 | Impact of the National Training Fund (NTF)

Maria Couchman Director of Sector Skills, The Wheel

10:35 - 11:00 | Spotlight Sessions: The Wheel's Apprenticeship Journey / baSE Project

Sharon Hughes, Leadership Academy Manager / Perrine Cesbron – baSE Programme Officer

11:00 - 11:15 | Break and Networking

11:15 - 12:25 | Panel Discussion and Q&A – The Future of Skills for the Nonprofit Sector

Panelists:

Dr. Kevin Marshall	Head of Future Skilling, Microsoft Ireland / Chair, National Skills Council
Dr. Mary-Liz Trant	Executive Director, SOLAS
Conor Thompson	Head of Advocacy and Policy, AONTAS
Dr. Etain Kidney	Head of School, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, TU Dublin

Moderator: Mary Doyle, Chair of Sector Skills Subcommittee, The Wheel

12:25 - 12:30 | Closing & Next Steps

Maria Couchman Director of Sector Skills, The Wheel

12:30 - 13:30 | Networking Lunch

KEY THEMES FOR TODAY:



Showcase the CVSE sector's workforce development role

As demands grow, investment in skills, leadership, digital capacity and inclusion is critical to support the vital social and economic role that the sector plays in Ireland's skills system.



Demonstrate impact of investment in The Wheel's sector skills initiatives

Illustrate how initiatives like the National-Training-Fund-supported Training Calendar, Training Links, and Leadership Academy can deliver real impact for people, communities, and especially for the wider economy and society.



Collaborate with government, CVSE skills stakeholders, sector leaders and our members

Explore shared workforce-development priorities and co-create collaborative solutions for the nonprofit sector.

THE IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING FUND ON THE CVSE SECTOR



€1.94m

Total NTF
funding in 2025



€13,125,098

Total NTF investment
in the last 20 years



70,962

Trainees reached
in the last 10 years

THE WHEEL DELIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS VIA THREE PILLARS

Training Calendar

the wheel

Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



Individuals



25,259

Trainees reached
in last five years

Training Links

training links



Network Organisations



8,047

Total number
of trainees

The Leadership Academy

THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
Supporting Nonprofit Leaders



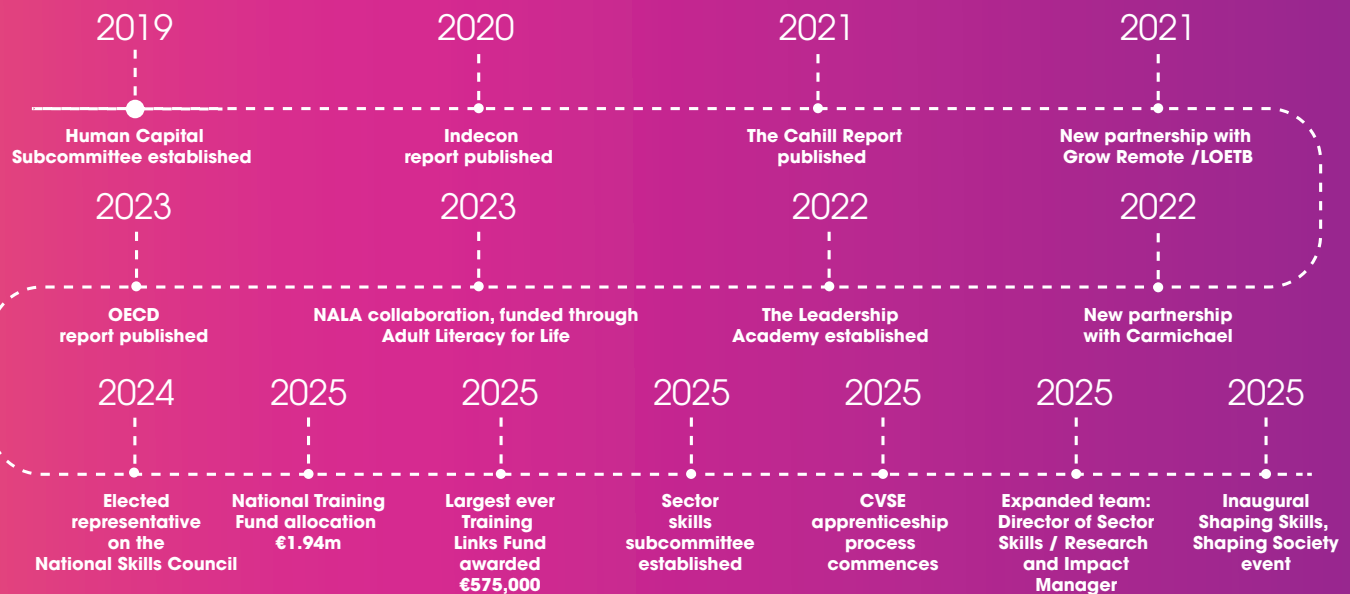
Sector Leaders



3,428

Trainees reached

THE WHEEL'S SKILLS JOURNEY



This initiative is supported by the National Training Fund
www.wheel.ie/about-us/projects/sector-skills



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Wheel is Ireland's national association of charities, community groups and social enterprises. As a representative voice, we provide leadership to the charity and community sector and we advocate on behalf of our growing community of members. As a supportive resource, we offer advice, training and other opportunities to people working or volunteering in the charity and community.

Find out more at www.wheel.ie

Contact us at info@wheel.ie

Tel: +353 (0) 1 454 8727
(Mon - Fri, 10 am - 1 pm
& 2 pm - 4 pm)

**48 Fleet Street
Dublin 2
Ireland**

**Registered Charity Number: 20040963
CHY No: 13288
Company No: 302282**

© The Wheel, 2025