



**Adult
Literacy
for Life**



Adult Learners' Week 2023

What can Wales learn from Ireland's Adult Literacy for Life Strategy?

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

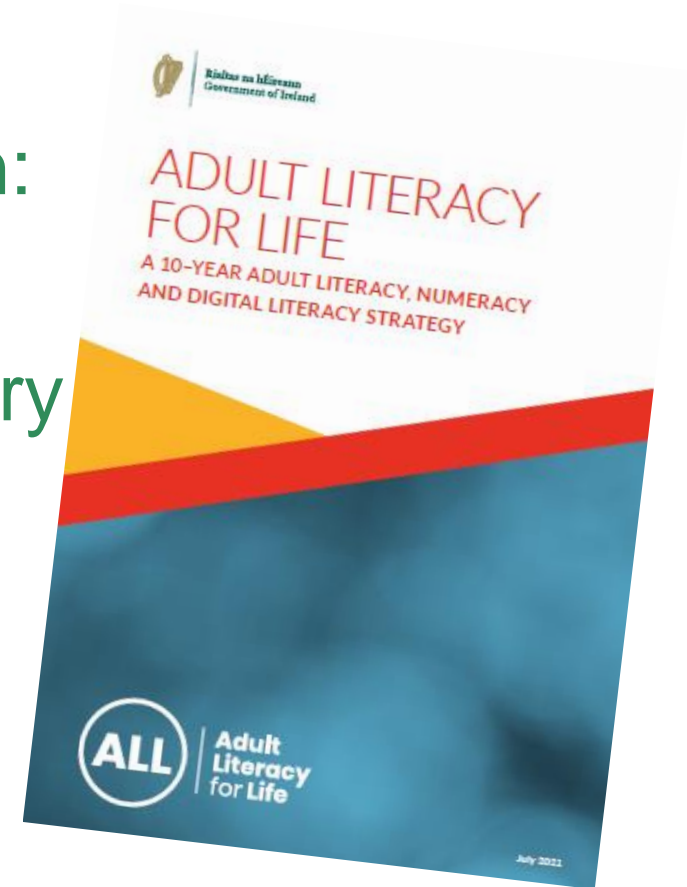
Overview

- Adult Literacy for Life: Why?
- Adult Literacy for Life: How?
- What is a cross-government, cross-economy and cross-society approach?
- Implementation of ALL
- Next steps

What is Adult Literacy for Life?

A national 10-year adult literacy, numeracy and digital literacy strategy with a single vision:

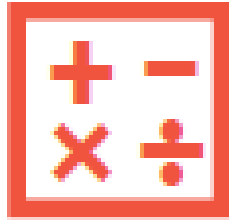
An Ireland where every adult has the necessary literacy, numeracy and digital literacy to fully engage in society and realise their potential.



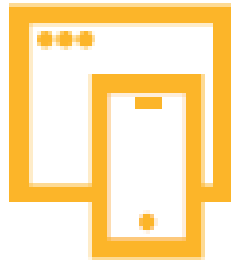
Why?



Almost 1 in 5 (18%) of adults struggle with reading and understanding everyday text.



1 in 4 adults (25%) had difficulties using maths in everyday life.



Almost 1 in 2 (47%) adults lack basic digital skills.

Why?

2020 Programme for Government

“We will:

Develop and implement a new
10-year Strategy for adult, literacy,
numeracy, and digital skills

within the first year of the Government.”



How?

**Programme
for Government**

Our Shared Future



**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



SOLAS
learning works

ALL Development Process

Research and consultation

400

relevant strategies, research papers, and other related documents reviewed.

66

bilateral meetings with external stakeholders (industry, social partners, NGOs, State Agencies and Government Departments).

Over
400

people directly or indirectly using literacy services in FET or who were currently underserved by existing services consulted through focus groups, small scale surveys, or one-to-one interviews.

1,118

people provided a representative view of literacy, numeracy and digital matters through an omnibus survey.

139

organisations and 395 individuals provided input via short or long survey or through written submissions.

10

international systems of support provision were considered.



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Pillars, Themes, Actions and Targets

UNDERSTAND

- National Campaign
- One-Stop-Shop
- Proactive Local Services
- Common Assessment Approach

1

ACCESS

- Plain and Accessible Content
- Accessible Technology
- Integrated Supports in Work and Education
- Universal Design Approach

2

EXPAND

- Focus on Numeracy
- Drive Digital Competency
- Support Skilled Practitioners
- Innovate and Enhance Provision

3

EMPOWER

- Person-centred Pathways
- Target Vulnerable Groups
- Support Community Initiatives
- Link to Health and Well-being

4

Older Adults (55+)	Members of the Traveller Community	Persons with Disabilities
Low-paid Workers	Carers	One-parent Households
Incarcerated Persons and Ex-Offenders	Persons Recovering from Addiction	Long-term Unemployed
Migrants	International Protection Applicants	People with Language Needs

Literacy	Decrease share of adults in Ireland with unmet literacy needs, that is PIAAC Level 1 or below, from 18% to 7%.
Numeracy	Decrease share of adults in Ireland with unmet numeracy needs, that is PIAAC Level 1 or below, from 25% to 12%.
Digital Literacy	Decrease share of adults in Ireland without basic digital skills from 47% to 20% (as measured by DESI).

Defining Literacy

In the past, literacy was considered to be the ability to read and write.

Today, the meaning has evolved to reflect changes in how we live and the skills needed by individuals to participate fully in society.

Family Life

Good Health

Living Safely

Services

Finances

Community

Employability

Job Retention

Shopping

New Skills

Security

Digital

The Support Landscape

Education

- ETBs
- NALA
- Community Education Providers

Health & Family

- Family Resource Centres
- Community mental health services
- GPs
- Pharmacies

Information

- Citizens information Services
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service
- Libraries
- BAI Media Literacy initiatives



Digital

- Broadband roll out including the National Broadband Plan
- Digital Skills for Citizens
- MyGov.ie
- Strategic Connection Points

Community Development

- SICAP Funded Partnership Companies & Bodies
- Local authorities
- Community Services Programme
- Sporting associations

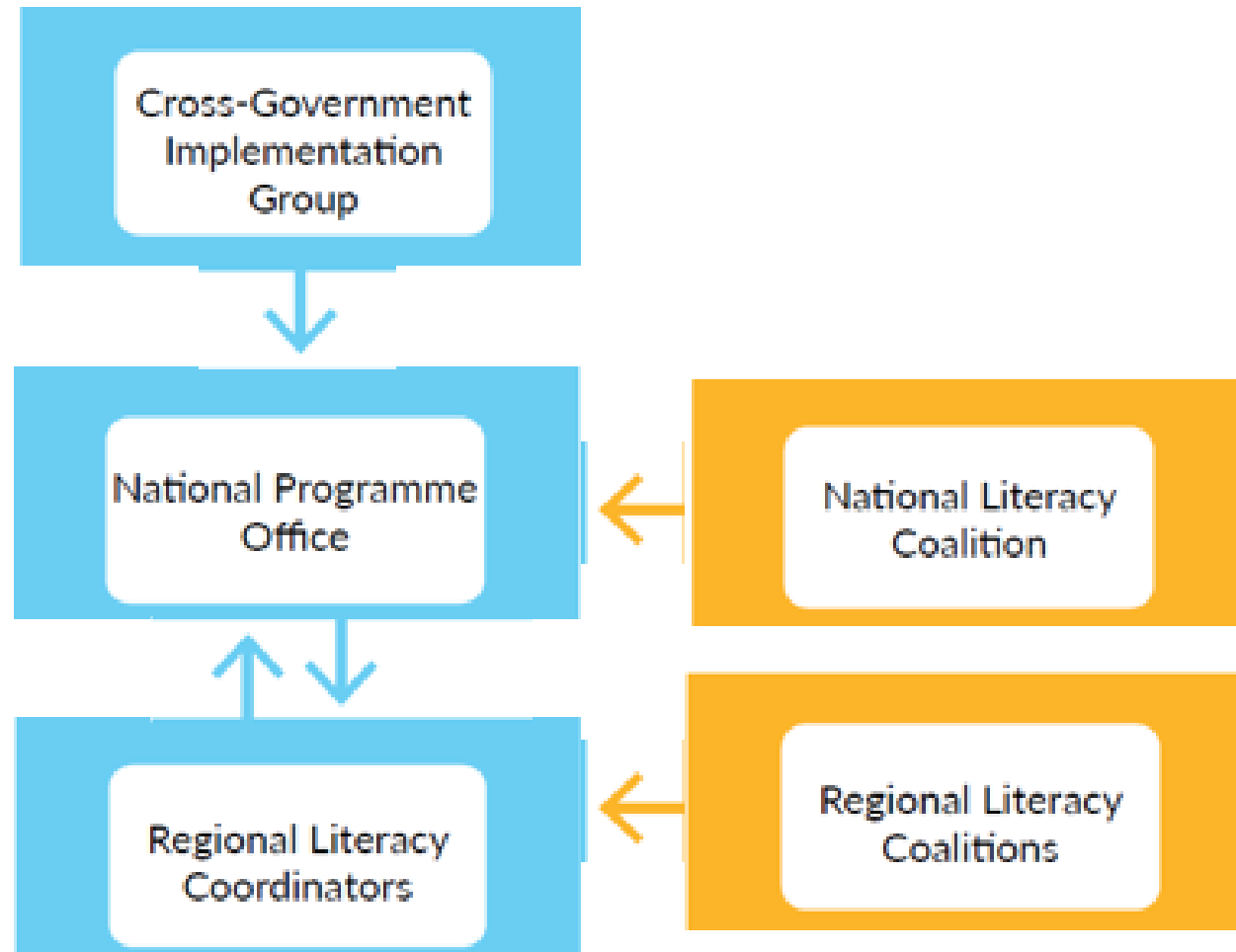
Employment

- Intreo
- EmployAbility
- Community Workplace Schemes
- Employers
- Trade Unions

A cross government, cross economy and cross society approach

While education is fundamental to achieving the vision of ALL, real progress will require all Government departments and agencies, communities (and the organisations that support and represent people), businesses and individuals to play an active role. The most fundamental change ALL must bring is a collaborative, integrated approach across all actors to drive change.

Implementation Structures and Next Steps





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Thank you!

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