



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

Decade of Centenaries Project Awards 2022 Guidelines – Community Strand

1. Background

We have now reached the penultimate year in the Decade of Centenaries (2012-2023). This is a complex and sensitive period in our history, as we mark the centenaries of events arising from the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty; the outbreak of the Civil War; and the foundation of the State.

The Government's objective is to promote an inclusive, respectful, authentic, measured and consultative approach to commemorations, which encourages a deeper understanding of the context of the time, recognising the differing perspectives on our shared history and seeking to strengthen peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

The Government's approach is grounded in the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations in its Initial Statement (published in 2012), Second Statement (published in 2017), and its subsequent guidance (published in January 2019).

Link to the Expert Advisory Group's **Initial Statement**:

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/Initial/Initial/index.html>

Link to the **Second Statement of Principles** (aka Second Phase Mission Statement):

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/Mission2017-23/Mission2017-23/index.html>

Link to the Expert Advisory Group's **Guidance for the Second Phase** (2018-2023):

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/Guidance2018/Guidance2018/index.html>

The final phase of the Decade of Centenaries began in 2021 and has a common set of broad themes and ideas that are nuanced each year to allow for specific centenaries to be remembered appropriately.

The Expert Advisory Group has identified these centenaries and associated themes as particularly significant over the final phase of the Decade (2021 – 2023):

- The Struggle for Independence, 1919 – 1921;
- The Civil War;
- The Foundation of the State;



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

- Partition and the Foundation of Northern Ireland;
- The experience of minorities and border communities in Ireland; and
- The admission of the Irish Free State into the League of Nations in September 1923.

2. Objectives of the Decade of Centenaries Programme from 2021 - 2023

The objectives of the Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2021-2023 are as follows:

- To focus on themes of remembrance and reconciliation and on the commemoration of all of those who lost their lives during this period;
- To promote a deeper understanding of the significant historical events of this period, which recognises that the shared historical experiences of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories;
- To encourage reflection about the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience;
- To respond with sensitivity to the local historical context, acknowledging that there was no uniform experience within counties or across the island of Ireland; and
- To continue to promote a consultative and open approach to commemorations, which seeks to strengthen peace and reconciliation across the island of Ireland. A core element of reconciliation is acknowledgement of the legitimacy of all of the traditions on the island that draw their identity and collective memory from our shared history.

3. Themes of the Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2022

The broad themes for the forthcoming period of commemorations are outlined below. These themes are underpinned by the principles and guidance from the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations. They are intended to support our partners in developing their initiatives and projects and to encourage a level of consistency in our approach to programme development while still allowing flexibility, community-led and creative interpretations.

1. Community-led commemoration and reflection; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events and themes that have particular significance within counties, parishes and communities.
2. Respectful, sensitive and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who suffered and died during the period from 1922-1923.



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

3. The Partitioning of Ireland – Exploration of the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during this period on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.
4. Ireland and the Wider World – Exploration of the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the revolutionary period. Also, exploring the evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
5. Experiences of women - exploration of the experiences of women during this period and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society. In May 2021, Minister Martin launched a new, online, research platform for the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries to highlight the role and experiences of women during this period, <https://www.mna100.ie/>. If local authorities have any initiatives, which could be publicised or supported in collaboration with Mná 100 (#Mna100), please contact the Mná team at commemorations@tcagsm.gov.ie.
6. Establishing a New Order –
 - Exploring the significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures at national and local level;
 - Including establishment of the various institutions of the Irish Free State (including Civil Service, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, judiciary, and courts services);
 - Development of new infrastructure (transportation, communications, postal services); and
 - Continuing the parliamentary tradition - Elections during this period – the prominent personalities and local issues associated with the 1920 local elections and also, the 1922 and 1923 general elections.
 - Looking ahead to the process of rebuilding a nation – reflections on healing, repairing, and rebuilding after the Civil War – of people, communities, and places.
7. A Changing Society during this period, including.
 - The labour movement and civil disobedience;
 - Popular social, cultural and civic movements;
 - Social class and gender;
 - The Irish language;
 - The Land Question;
 - The significance of sport in communities during this period;
 - The experiences of minority ethnic groups in Ireland during this period;
 - The humanitarian response during period 1921 - 1923; and
 - Innovation and developments in the fields of agriculture, industry, science, commerce, health, medicine, and education.
8. Creative thinking and the arts – poetry, literature, music, theatre and other art forms, 1921 - 1923



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

4. 2022 Funding Allocations for Local Authorities

Catherine Martin T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, has approved a funding allocation for every local authority in 2022 under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme.

This allocation will support the development of community-led commemorative initiatives in 2022, in remembrance of this complex and challenging period in our history.

The guidance of the Expert Advisory Group advocates that *'local stories and experience will be very significant. Local research, scholarship and access to authentic local archival sources will support communities in exploring and reflecting upon these events'*.

5. Suggested themes and initiatives for consideration

a. Significant historical events and broad themes

Without being prescriptive, we have suggested some broad themes below to assist local authorities and local communities in developing community-led commemorative initiatives in 2022. This is not an exhaustive list – we welcome other ideas and we would be delighted to hear from you.

- Local connections with the significant events that occurred in 1922; How were events such as the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the Treaty debates, the 1922 general elections, the outbreak of Civil War in Ireland, the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, and the deaths of key political figures, received or experienced locally?
- Respectful, sensitive and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who died during the Struggle for Independence within the local authority area or municipal districts.
- An examination of specific personalities, (including local civic leaders), events and themes from this period that have a particular significance within counties or parishes.
- The partitioning of Ireland – its impact and legacy on communities living along the newly established border and farther afield.
- *'Ireland and the Wider World'* – local connections with the international dimension, including the role of the Diaspora in the events from 1921 – 1923.
- Emigration from the local authority area during this period – an exploration of memories, letters, archives, etc.



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

- The social and economic consequences of the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War within the local authority area.
- The experiences of women from the local authority area during the revolutionary period and their changing role in society (see above reference to <https://www.mna100.ie/>).
- The impact of the revolutionary period on families and children.
- The experiences of minority ethnic groups during this period.
- The aftermath of World War I and the experiences of those who were part of the war effort and returned to their communities in a changing Ireland.
- Initiatives that explore this period from a humanitarian perspective, examining the contribution of movements such as the White Cross Organisation.
- An exploration of the labour movement and associated issues of class and gender, to broaden our understanding of how people were mobilised in popular social, cultural and civic movements during this period – how local events resonated nationally.
- The use of propaganda in the revolutionary period at home and abroad – including print media, cinema and radio – particularly linkages to local events that occurred.
- The role of local newspapers in a time of conflict and change – how were local events reported?
- The significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures during the revolutionary period at national and local level.
- Elections during this period – the prominent personalities and local issues associated with the 1920 local elections and also the 1921, 1922 and 1923 general elections.
- The evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
- The handing over of barracks from the British Army to the new Free State Army; and the impact and legacy of this on the barracks towns, in terms of identity and practical ramifications (e.g. social and economic impacts).
- Initiatives to explore the 'Big House' perspective on the events that occurred during the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War.
- The Irish language during this period.



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

- Creative thinking and the arts, including poetry, literature, music and theatre (1912 – 1923).
- Significant developments in the world of innovation, industry and commerce, science, health, agriculture, and communications, (1912 – 1923).
- The importance of sport to communities during the revolutionary period.
- Other significant events not mentioned above that were unique to the local authority area and were recorded from this period, e.g. natural disasters.

b. *Proposals for the planting of commemorative trees and related projects*

Local authorities may use some of their funding to assist TidyTowns Committees or other interested community organisations in planting trees or creating commemorative groves, gardens, or other similar projects, to mark the significant events being remembered during this final phase of the Decade of Centenaries.

All projects funded should be developed appropriately, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, and with a focus on reconciliation and shared remembrance.

Before proceeding, the organising committee should seek expert advice from the local authority (Parks, Heritage, or Environment Offices as appropriate), to ensure that all trees planted are native species and are suitable for the proposed planting area.

All projects funded must be located on appropriate ground and have the required permissions and insurances in place.

A sustainability plan for the ongoing maintenance of the area should also be put in place.

It is recommended that information panels, rather than plaques, are used to inform the public about the meaning and significance of the projects funded.

TidyTowns Committees will be eligible to submit their Decade of Centenaries initiatives for consideration in the annual TidyTowns Competition in the relevant category.

The Department also supports the *Community Gardens of Remembrance and Reflection Initiative*, which is led by Senator Mark Daly, the Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, in partnership with all Seanad party and group leaders, and designed by the Irish garden designer, Diarmuid Gavin. The design of these gardens was inspired by women who contributed in different ways to Ireland's Struggle for Independence. Local authorities who would like to participate in this initiative, may use some of their funding to do so. If you have



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

any queries on this initiative, you may contact Senator Mark Daly by email at mark.daly@oireachtas.ie.

6. Conditions of Funding

a. *COVID-19 Public Health Protective Measures*

All initiatives, events, and activities funded from this allocation must adhere to all of the public health advice and guidance, laid down by the HSE and the Government, with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The payment of the grant claim is subject to confirmation, by the relevant Director of Services in the local authority, of compliance with all of the prevailing public health advice and safety measures, as they evolve throughout the year (Appendix D refers).

All proposals that involve public gatherings and associated outreach activities will continue to include a 'Plan B' option, which can be implemented if physical gatherings of people are restricted or not permitted at the time of the anticipated event. Groups may be required to submit details of their compliance with public health protective measures to the Commemorations Unit.

b. *Broad Principles*

All activities will connect in an appropriate, inclusive, respectful and non-partisan way with the Decade of Centenaries Programme. All initiatives should be aligned with the principles and guidance of the Expert Advisory Group. The emphasis must always be on remembrance and commemoration of locally significant historical events and the avoidance of any sense of celebration.

All interested parties and recipients of funding are encouraged to reflect on their use of language during this complex and sensitive forthcoming commemorative period; to ensure that the messaging around all commemorative initiatives is appropriate, sensitive, inclusive, and respectful. One example of this is the way in which pro- or anti-treaty forces during the Civil War are described, and the avoidance of language which could potentially cause further hurt.

An ecumenical and inclusive approach is recommended when ceremonial events incorporating a faith dimension are being planned by either local authorities or other parties, and supported by funding from this allocation.



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

c. Ineligible Activities

The following activities are not eligible for funding from this allocation:

- Provision or maintenance of memorials, plaques, busts, or statues;
- Hiring or purchase of replica weapons or uniforms and military re-enactments;
- Production of commemorative medals or pins;
- General administration outside of the scope of the Decade of Centenaries Programme and other activities unrelated to the thematic strands of the programme; and
- Commercial activities.
- Administration and Insurance Costs

d. Publicity and Branding

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will be publicly acknowledged in all communications and materials concerning activities supported from this allocation and will be tagged on any related social media activity.

Specific events and initiatives supported under the Community Strand of the programme may also be publicised across the Department's social media channels and platforms. All activities should be referenced and tagged #DecadeofCentenaries. The handles to use are:

Twitter: @DeptCultureIRL

Facebook: @DepartmentofCultureIRL

Instagram: Tourism-Culture-Gaeltacht

The website <https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/> is our key public information platform for sharing information about the 2022 *Decade of Centenaries* programme.

The departmental logo will be provided if your application is successful or can be requested from decadeofcentenaries@clarecoco.ie

e. Child Protection

Where any engagement under this funding allocation comprises activities that will involve contact with children or vulnerable adults, or relates to the provision of activities to children, the local authority will ensure that all of the necessary policies are in place and that it complies with all relevant legislation, national guidelines, and best practice. The local authority, where appropriate, shall also request written assurances in this regard from other participating stakeholders.

Closing date for applications is Friday 4 February at 12 noon.

Further information from: decadeofcentenaries@clarecoco.ie