



**Localise**  
Youth Volunteering

# 2022 Annual Report

Celebrating 50 Years  
1972-2022

Localise is supported by:



Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

2022 was a year filled with resilience, adaptability, and remarkable growth. In the face of ongoing challenges, Localise has continued to thrive, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our team, the support of our partners, and the dedication of our volunteers.

2022 tested our ability to adapt as never before. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence our operations, demanding flexibility in our approach. Localise rose to the occasion, demonstrating an exceptional agility in adjusting to the changing needs of our young volunteers.

We are proud to have engaged even more young individuals than ever before in meaningful volunteering activities, showcasing the power of flexibility in the face of uncertainty. Volunteering fosters a sense of belonging and engagement in the community, this is particularly true for migrants, refugees (and children of migrants and refugees) as contributing to their community helps people feel like valued members of society rather than outsiders.

Localise recognised the importance of technology in connecting with our youth volunteers. Notably, we enhanced our National Youth Volunteer Platform, providing a seamless digital experience for our volunteers. We also introduced Micro-Volunteering opportunities, aligning with the preferences of the younger generation. These tech-driven initiatives enabled us to support more young people in making positive contributions to their communities.

None of our achievements would be possible without the continued support of our partners in communities and schools across Ireland. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you for standing by us during these challenging times. Additionally, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the team for their exemplary leadership in guiding Localise through turbulent waters.

As we emerged from the shadow of COVID-19 pandemic I was reminded of the quote 'Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.' As we move forward into 2023, we remain steadfast in our commitment to youth volunteerism, innovation, and community engagement, not to mention energised by the impact MyVp will have on the outcomes of young people. The challenges may persist, but so will our determination to make a difference.



**Sean Jevens**

*Chairperson*

**A message from  
our Chairperson**

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of Localise Youth Volunteering in 2022, it is fair to say that this year has been a testament to the resilience, creativity, and dedication of everyone who is part of our Localise family.

This past year brought its fair share of challenges, yet Localise thrived in the face of adversity. We embraced change with open arms, understanding that flexibility and innovation would be our guiding principles. This approach allowed us to adapt our programmes and initiatives to meet the evolving needs of young people and the communities they serve. As a result, we reached more young volunteers than ever before, amplifying our impact across Ireland.

One of the key lessons of 2022 was the pivotal role technology plays in shaping the future of volunteering. We invested in our National Youth Volunteer Platform and introduced Micro-Volunteering opportunities, recognising that technology can be a powerful tool to connect and engage with young volunteers. This investment has allowed us to seamlessly integrate digital solutions into our work, making volunteering accessible to a wider audience.

Honouring Our Founder's Legacy - As we celebrated our 50th year we remembered fondly our founder, Fr. John Wall, as we stay true to his vision for Localise, we reinforced our commitment to his dream of awakening a culture of volunteerism in young people. Fr. John's legacy lives on in the heart of Localise, and we are determined to carry it forward into a new era.

Our successes in 2022 would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our partners, communities, and schools. Belief in our mission and generosity of spirit have been instrumental in driving change. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

As Ireland's National Youth Volunteering Agency, working in local communities, in and through schools, Localise is changing the lens through which volunteering is viewed. MyVP is a revolutionary idea that has the potential to significantly alter outcomes for young people regarding employability and accessing Higher Education, because of their volunteering activities. As we turn the page into 2023, Localise Youth Volunteering remains committed to empowering young people to make a positive impact on their communities and to awaken the values of volunteerism and service.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for the dedication of our team, the passion of our volunteers, and the support of our broader community. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our youth. Thank you for being a part of our journey, and I am excited to see what the future holds as we continue to write the story of Localise Youth Volunteering.



**Derek Cleary**

*Director, Localise Youth Volunteering*

**A Message from the  
Localise Youth  
Volunteering  
Director**



# **Organisational Summary**



## Vision

Our vision is a world where all young people can have the opportunity to volunteer locally and become pro-active citizens and community leaders.

## Mission

To enable young people, through voluntary action, to care in their community and be of service to others.

Core Values and Beliefs Localise works to:

- Awaken a culture of service and volunteering in young people
- Promote inclusion and integration through social engagement
- Enable young people to develop their skills and realise their self-worth
- Contribute to the development of a caring compassionate society
- Empower young people to be decision makers, change makers and valued contributors to society

## Operating Context

2022 exceeded our expectations, thanks in no small part to our partners in the community and in schools, and the support of adult volunteers. Our team have worked tirelessly to maintain a focus on youth volunteerism throughout Ireland, maintaining a presence in schools and in the wider community.

Through innovation and perseverance, Localise was able to provide young people with a sense of purpose, self-worth, belonging and value as they directly supported those in need.

We were in a position to support the Irish Red Cross with their response to the Ukrainian crisis by using our platform to allow young people to participate in Blue and Yellow days.

Climate Justice is an area of concern to many young people, in response we have been working in partnership with many young people in five DEIS banded schools in North Dublin City to raise awareness of Climate Justice through local volunteering projects. As part of the programme, participants have identified the challenges socially economic disadvantaged communities face that affect responsible climate action. Many of the participants come from a migrant background, bringing into sharp focus the wider impact of climate justice.

We continue to develop our National Youth Volunteer Platform and have begun development on MyVP – an online platform where young people build a profile of themselves through the prism of volunteerism. MyVP will have significance for employability and when accessing Higher Education.

Localise has and continues to actively address the concerning rise of racism and xenophobia by promoting inclusivity and tolerance. Through volunteering, young people have actively learned to respect diversity and engage in constructive dialogue. By focusing on community service and volunteerism, Localise encourages young people to collaborate across different backgrounds, countering the divisive rhetoric spread by hate groups. It provides a platform for youth to become advocates for social cohesion, actively working against the spread of hate and intolerance. In doing so, Localise has played a vital role in upholding the ideals of inclusivity and tolerance that are integral to Localise's identity.

## Programme Delivery

We exceeded our projected figure of 2,400 youth volunteers with a participant total of

3,554 young people in 2022. The National Youth Volunteer Platform and Volunteering in Action were a key factor in our increased youth engagement. Because of their involvement in Localise programmes young people volunteered for approximately 59,505 hours.

In 2022 Localise delivered 142 Localise Youth Volunteer Projects under the following initiatives;

- The Localise Community Youth Programme
- The Localise Classroom to Community Programme
- The Localise Volunteering In Action Workshop
- The Localise Climate Justice Programme

Localise Youth Volunteers provided support and assistance to the following key areas during 2022:

- Over 271 vulnerable adults experiencing homelessness and those living in isolation
- Over 422 senior citizens in care facilities and hospitals throughout Ireland
- Over 386 frontline workers in hospitals and care facilities
- Supported 67 projects in areas where migration is highest

## What's New?

### Volunteering in Action Workshop

Our Volunteering in Action (VIA) workshop is a development of the Volunteering For All programme. The VIA is an online facilitator-led experience designed to introduce the core values of volunteerism to your group. This programme will consist of 3 easy steps; The Workshop, The Challenge and The Reflection. The Volunteering in Action Workshop acts as a gateway to the world of volunteerism. This introductory programme empowers young people to immediately connect with volunteering and diversity, encouraging them to unravel the implications for their own communities. Upon completion of the workshop, these young people are tasked with planning and executing a volunteer action project over a span of 4-6 weeks, which directly benefits their local community.

### MyVP

The National Youth Volunteer Platform MyVP is an online platform where young people build a profile of themselves through the prism of volunteerism. MyVP will have significance for employability and when accessing Higher Education. Our new Working Group, composed of multi-interagency representatives from Second and Third level educational sectors and the Youth Services, will identify opportunities arising from the ongoing development of MyVP as we prepare to pilot this initiative.

### Climate Justice

Since September 2022, we have been working in partnership with young people in five DEIS banded schools in North Dublin City to raise awareness of Climate Justice through local volunteering projects and how we can all participate in climate justice in real and practical ways. As part of the programme, participants have identified the challenges socially economic disadvantaged communities face that affect responsible climate action. Many of the participants come from a migrant background, bringing into sharp focus the wider impact of climate justice.

### Micro-Volunteering Caring for the Carers delivery Jan/Feb 2022

In September 2021 we launched an initiative entitled Caring for the Carers - where we

partnered with Nursing Home Ireland, so that young people across Ireland had the opportunity to show their appreciation to frontline workers.

In March of 2022 over 1,200 cards and video messages were delivered to the front line workers that put the wellbeing of people in our communities ahead of their own wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Blue and Yellow Days with the Irish Red Cross**

In partnership with the Irish Red Cross and as a show of solidarity, peace and empathy with the Ukrainian people, the people of the surrounding countries and with the Russian people advocating for peace, Localise facilitated young people to take action to support the Irish Red Cross humanitarian response.

Participants got involved in the Blue and Yellow Days campaign by holding a fundraising event such as wearing yellow and blue to school, doing a 5k walk and a range of other activities.



**“Online platforms such as Localise’s, is crucial at how we re-imagine working with young people.”**

**- Minister Roderic O’Gorman  
(Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth)**

**“We now have a great opportunity to build on the thousands of stories of volunteers across Ireland, and to build those on a national programme of volunteering - part of Ireland’s story, not just to ourselves and future generations, but to the rest of the world.”**

**- Professor Anne Looney  
(Dublin City University, and  
Chair of the Future Funding  
Implementation and Review Group)**

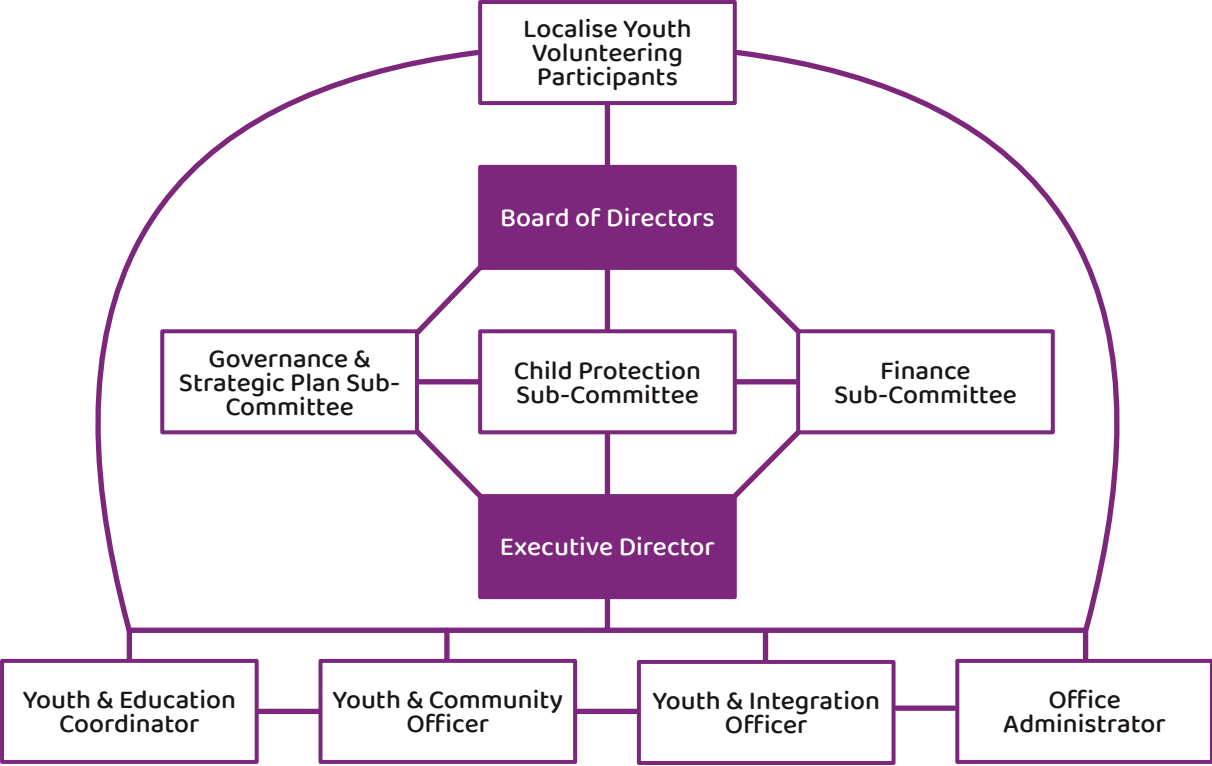


# **Governance**



Governance Structure Localise works with a Board of Directors. There are 10 members of this Board, including a Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary, and 3 subcommittees which are Governance & Strategic Planning, Child Protection and Finance.

**Organisation Organogram**



**Legal Status**

Localise is a company limited by guarantee not having share capital.

**Charitable Status**

Localise is a non-profit organisation and is registered as a charity as such, it is regulated by the Charities Regulator.

**Organisational Constitution**

As per the legal requirement of a company, the constitution of Localise comprises of a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**Appointment of Board**

The Board of Localise is appointed by registered Localise members, under the directive of the Not For Profit Company Limited by Guarantee. The rotation of Board members is laid out in our Memorandum and Articles of Association. A term of office for a Board member is one year, whereupon members can be re-elected. The positions of Board member or officer of the Localise Board are entirely voluntary and no Board member or officer receives payment from the organisation for this work. Upon appointment each Board member the Localise Governance Handbook and participates in Board training.

Directors	Appointed On
Seán Jevens (Chairperson)	AGM 3rd December 2021
Peter Foran (Treasurer)	AGM 3rd December 2021
Aideen Cassidy	AGM 3rd December 2021
Leo Gibson	AGM 3rd December 2021
Mary Wall	AGM 3rd December 2021
Adam Harris	AGM 3rd December 2021
Cora O'Farrell	AGM 3rd December 2021
Aoife Drumgoole	Stepped down 29th September 2022
Paul Malone	Stepped down AGM 2nd March 2022
Theresa O'Leary	Appointed 27th January 2022
Mark Bennet	Appointed 27th January 2022
Nuala King	Appointed 29th September 2022
Hannah Leonard	Appointed 14th February, stepped down 29th September 2022

Finance Sub-Committee	Description of Activities
Peter Foran (Treasurer)	<p>The Treasurer has the role of guiding the finance strategy and financial procedures with the assistance of the Finance Subcommittee.</p> <p>The Finance Subcommittee has the responsibility to monitor and review the accuracy of the financial statements of the organisation and announcements about the organisation's financial performance and financial controls and to monitor risk management systems</p>

Strategic Planning Sub-Committee	Description of Activities
Mary Wall	<p>In 2021, a subcommittee of the board was established with special responsibility for beginning the process of reviewing the five year Strategic Plan as it comes to an end in 2022 and developing the next Three Year Strategic Horizon.</p> <p>The development of the National Youth Volunteer Platform and the National Youth Volunteer Portfolios as key strategic tools for the implementation of the National Youth Volunteer Programme.</p> <p>A summary document was developed under the auspices of the Governance and Strategic Planning committee outlining key objectives and the implementation process for the new strategic plan.</p>

## Governance Standards

Localise is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Localise is in full compliance with the rules and regulations in accordance with CHY status and its obligations to the Companies Registration Office.

In 2022 Localise continued with our compliance journey with the Charity Regulator guided by the 6 key principles as outlined with the Charity Regulator Advancing Charitable Purpose; Behaving with integrity; Leading People; Exercising Control; Working Effectively and Being Accountable and Transparent.

The effective delivery of Board compliance duties in the following areas: Charity Regulator Report, CRO Reports, Lobbying Compliance Report, Revenue Returns.

In 2022, Localise completed the evaluation and updating of the current Localise Governance Handbook. This was in accordance with the Charity Regulator Governance Code.

The review of the Localise Strategic Plan 2017-2022 and the development of the next three year horizon was completed in 2022. The Strategic Plan Review Committee was established in Q2 2022. An implementation strategy for the strategic plan was devised in Q3 and Q4 2022.

In November 2021 Localise formed the Governance Handbook Evaluation Team. In April 2022, a new Code of Conduct for Board Trustees was developed. A comprehensive assessment of the organisation's structure and policies was conducted in Q4 2022.

The Localise Code of Conduct for Board Trustees was approved by the Board at the May 2022 Board meeting. In November 2022, Localise adopted the recommended Carmichael Centre Governance Handbook Template which reflects the Principles and Standards of the Charity Governance Code 2020.

In addition to this, Localise is affiliated to both the National Youth Council of Ireland and the Wheel and operates best practice governance codes and standards as set by both bodies. We follow all six principles within the Charities Governance Code.

Localise are engaged with Shared Services run by the DCEDIY Compliance Unit with support by The Wheel and Bradan Accountants. This is for Small to Medium organisations to support these organisations with CRO Compliance.

In 2022, all our Policies and Procedures were in accordance with Annual Charity Regulator Requirements reviewed and then subsequently approved at our Board AGM.

Our current GDPR Policy is under review in relation to our increased online programmes and services and will be due for updating approval by the Board in Q1 of 2022.

Localise has as its foremost priority the welfare and safety of its youth participants. We are committed to providing a safe environment for young people enabling them through their volunteer work to care in their community. Localise has a number of procedures in place designed to safeguard every young member involved in our programmes. Our staff and adult volunteers endeavour to ensure that children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm while taking part in any of the Localise Programmes.

Safe practice in our work is essential and Localise have in place the following procedures and guidelines for good practice, available on <https://www.localise.ie/resources/> which govern our work:

- Child Protection Policy
- Child Safeguarding statement
- GDPR Policy

- Volunteer Charter
- Virtual Meeting Policy
- Complaints Procedure Policy
- Code of Good Youth Work Practice
- Media & Public Relations Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Partnership Policy
- Substance Abuse Policy
- Cookie Policy
- LGBTI+ Inclusion Policy
- Terms of Use Policy

Garda Vetting is in place for adults working with young people in a paid and voluntary capacity in line with the National Vetting Bureau.





# **Key Objectives**

## Objective 1:

To enable young people through voluntary action to develop their skills, realise their self-worth and make a positive active contribution to their community.

- We exceeded our projected figure of 2,400 youth volunteers with a participant total of 3,554 young people. The National Youth Volunteer Platform was a key factor in our increased youth engagement.
- Supported over 271 vulnerable adults experiencing homelessness and those living in isolation.
- Supported over 422 senior citizens in care facilities throughout Ireland.
- Supported over 386 frontline workers in hospitals and care facilities.

## Objective 2:

To ensure that young people in socio-economic disadvantaged areas and in areas where migrant populations are highest participate in our programmes.

- Localise Youth Volunteering programmes are delivered in a variety of communities nationwide, including in socio-economic disadvantaged areas, and in schools that are designated with DEIS banding.
- Localise has targeted communities and schools with a high level of migrant populations using the Diverse Neighbourhoods: An Analysis of Residential Distribution of Immigrants in Ireland (Department of Justice, 2019).

## Objective 3:

To construct learning around the core values of volunteerism

- Localise programming supports and enhances the development of soft skills with youth volunteers and adult volunteers in the areas of leadership skills, communication and presentation skills planning and project management and personal development.
- Localise supports young people in becoming the next generation of civic leaders in their community. Localise does this by involving participants in decision-making, fostering positive networks of friends and community, and developing their skills personally and professionally.
- Localise Youth Volunteer Action Projects directly benefit a wide variety of charitable services and organisations.

## Objective 4:

To develop a system of the recognition of life skills gained through volunteering

- The further development of our online platform The launch of the National Youth Volunteer portfolios - MyVP
- MyVP provides young people with a place to record their achievements, have their skills and attributes endorsed and outline a vision for their future.
- The portfolio will create a pathway to further and higher education institutes.
- An opportunity for all young people nationally to have their attributes and skills recognised.



# **Future Plans**



As Ireland's National Youth Volunteering Agency, working in local communities, in and through schools, Localise is changing the lens through which volunteering is viewed. We confirm our commitment to be agile to the needs of the young people we serve by adapting our programme offering to their needs and to the needs of their communities.

## **Development of the National Youth Volunteering Portfolio – MyVP**

The development of a working group will identify opportunities arising from the development of the National Youth Volunteering Portfolio. This group is composed of multi-interagency representatives from Second and Third level educational sectors and the Youth Services. Ensuring consistent representation within the group of a broad section of non-formal and youth service development agencies throughout 2023.

To continue the development of the online portal that will host MyVP

To engage in a proof of concept for the National Youth Volunteering Portfolio with a smaller test group of young people, select secondary schools, Further Education Colleges and one Higher Education College.

## **Volunteering in Action**

Our Volunteering in Action (VIA) workshop is a development of the Volunteering For All programme. The VIA is an online facilitator-led experience designed to introduce the core values of volunteerism to your group. This programme will consist of 3 easy steps; The Workshop, The Challenge and The Reflection.

The Workshop will allow young people explore what volunteering is, how it relates back to themselves and the impact it has, The Challenge allows young people put their knowledge, skills and attributes into action by completing an act of service and The Reflection allows the group to reflect on what they have learned from the experience.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be awarded with National Youth Volunteering Portfolios (MyVP).

## **Climate Justice**

Since September 2022, we have been working in partnership with young people in five DEIS banded schools in North Dublin City to raise awareness of Climate Justice through local volunteering projects. As part of the programme, participants have identified the challenges socially economic disadvantaged communities face that affect responsible climate action. Many of the participants come from a migrant background, bringing into sharp focus the wider impact of climate justice. By participating in the programme, young people have come to realise that no matter their background or circumstance, there are practical ways to advance the climate justice agenda.

Demand for this programme has exceeded our expectations, with increased funding we aim to grow this programme in 2023 to include more young people so they too can impact climate justice through local community volunteerism.

## **Continued focus on Inclusive Volunteering**

Being cognisant of increased levels of xenophobia and anti-refugee sentiment in some communities in which we operate, we aim to increase our focus in communities with higher populations of migrants. We will specifically encourage participation from migrant youth as well as young people who are children of or dependents of migrants. To achieve this, we adopt a targeted approach, focusing on communities with higher populations of migrants. Our approach is supported by references such as "Diverse Neighbourhoods: An Analysis of the Residential Distribution of Immigrants in Ireland" (Department of Justice, 2019) and the CSO.



Findings from a study carried out by Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21) & School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork in 2022 entitled: Inclusive Volunteering: Exploring Migrant Participation in Volunteerism - highlight the contribution which migrants make to local communities and the wide range of skills and experience which they bring to their volunteering roles. In line with international research, the study also indicates that volunteering can be an important aspect of two-way processes of integration.

## **Localise Strategic Plan 2023-2026**

A new strategic plan will be finalised in conjunction with the Strategic Plan Board Sub Committee with a targeted launch of May 2023.

## **Risk Assessment Register**

An updated Risk Assessment Register will be prepared for Board approval in 2023. The current Risk Assessment Register will be reviewed with a view to updating current identified areas and incorporate new risk related issues e.g. staff retention, cost of living factors, etc.

## **The Localise Operational Plan**

The Localise Operational Plan will be created in 2023 and will focus on day-to-day financial activities, programme services and organisational development.

## **Company Finances**

### **Audited Accounts**

A copy of the 2022 Audited Accounts can be found on localise.ie on this link <https://www.localise.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2022-Audited-Accounts-Signed.pdf>

### **Income and Expenditure**

Income and expenditure can be found in the pages that follow and are taken directly from the 2022 Audited Accounts report.



**Localise Youth and Community Service CLG**

**Income and expenditure account  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2022</b> €	2021 €
<b>Income</b>	<b>5</b>	406,845	268,794
<b>Gross surplus</b>		<u>406,845</u>	<u>268,794</u>
Programme expenses		(12,188)	(4,787)
Administrative expenses		(285,901)	(290,596)
Other operating income	<b>6</b>	23,566	15,695
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>		<u>132,322</u>	<u>(10,894)</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before taxation</b>		<u>132,322</u>	<u>(10,894)</u>
Tax on surplus/(deficit)	<b>10</b>	-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year</b>		<u><u>132,322</u></u>	<u><u>(10,894)</u></u>

The notes on pages 13 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**Localise Youth and Community Service CLG**

**Statement of income and retained earnings  
Financial year ended 31 December 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	132,322	(10,894)
<b>Retained earnings at the start of the financial year</b>	<u>29,166</u>	<u>40,060</u>
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>	<u><u>161,488</u></u>	<u><u>29,166</u></u>

**Localise Youth and Community Service CLG**

**Balance sheet  
As at 31 December 2022**

	Note	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	12	1,660		2,767	
Tangible assets	13	143,264		3,759	
			144,924		6,526
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	1,992		520	
Cash at bank and in hand		125,228		144,281	
		127,220		144,801	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	(110,245)		(120,625)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			16,975		24,176
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			161,899		30,702
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	18		(411)		(1,536)
<b>Net assets</b>			161,488		29,166
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Income and expenditure account	20		161,488		29,166
<b>Members funds</b>			161,488		29,166

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 1/6/23 and signed on behalf of the board by:

  
Mr Sean Jevens  
Director

  
Mr Peter Foran  
Director

The notes on pages 13 to 26 form part of these financial statements.



# Localise

## Youth Volunteering



CHY 20511



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Company Registered No: 511416



Registered Charity No: 20081393