



Irish Nonprofits in 2022

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The Directory of Irish Nonprofits lists all nonprofit organisations registered in the Republic of Ireland in 2022 whether as an incorporated or unincorporated charity, a charter body, a entity with tax relief, a company limited by guarantee, a friendly or industrial society with public benefit purposes, a primary, secondary or higher education institution or a political party.

This analysis of nonprofit establishments and dissolutions and regulatory changes is derived from regulatory filings made by them during 2022 and is derived from public registers, under the provisions of [open data regulations](#):

- The register of **charities** maintained by the Charities Regulatory Authority
- The register of **charities** benefitting from tax relief on donations – maintained by Revenue
- The registers of **charities** and **sports bodies** respectively availing of tax relief – maintained by Revenue
- The register of **companies** - maintained by the Companies Registration Office
- The registers of **friendly and industrial societies** maintained by the Companies Registration Office
- The registers of **primary and secondary schools** respectively - maintained by the Department of Education
- The register of **political parties** - maintained by the Oireachtas
- The register of **third level education institutions** maintained by the Higher Education Authority

Many nonprofits appear on more than one register.

By amalgamating data from different sources, classifying it, and comparing new with prior year data, we can provide an analysis of the changes in the sector that's not available anywhere else.

Learn more [about the data](#), including how we recognise and classify nonprofit organisations in Ireland.

Key findings

The population of Irish nonprofits changes from year to year as new organisations are established and others are dissolved.

In 2022, according to eight national regulatory sources harvested mainly in the first quarter of 2023, Ireland had 20,542 nonprofit organisations. This does not include some 12,000 locally registered associations, clubs and societies and some 4,000 local branches of church bodies, whose data is not freely available under [open data regulations](#). Nor does it include unincorporated networks like the Ukraine Civil Society Forum of the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

Listed in the Directory of Irish Nonprofits published in May 2023 are 502 newly incorporated entities, most of them companies limited by guarantee (CLGs). 171 CLGs were removed from the register of companies in 2022. Learn more [about the data](#).

In 2022, of the fifty-four nonprofit sub-sectors, thirty four saw net growth in 2022, with more new company incorporations than wind-ups, and the greatest number of new incorporations in the area of local development

Trends in 2022 – CLGs

In relative terms, some sub-sectors grew or contracted more than others in 2022.

Environmental sustainability saw the biggest net growth at 16%, with 28 new incorporations and only two wind-ups. New nonprofit companies concerned with biodiversity, climate action, the circular economy, regenerative agriculture, green energy and related topics were registered in Carlow, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin (12), Galway, Mayo (3), Monaghan, Sligo, Waterford (3) and Wexford (3). None of these new nonprofit companies is a registered charity.

Services for travellers and ethnic minorities saw the next highest net growth at 13%, with 24 new incorporations and 4 wind-ups. New nonprofit companies were established to support African, Angolan, Arabic, Bangladeshi, Brazilian, Cantonese, Chinese, Ekiti, Georgian, Hungarian, Islamic, Polish, Sikh, Sudanese, Yoruba and other communities in Ireland. None of these new companies is a registered charity.

Legal services saw the biggest relative contraction in numbers with a 10% reduction in the number of nonprofits in that sub-sector, mainly reflecting the ongoing process of winding-up local Money Advice or Citizen Information Service offices.

Research contracted by 5%, with the wind-up of eight education, health or other research nonprofits in 2022, including Benefacts.

The subsector that experienced the greatest churn was **professional and sector representative bodies**. This subsector had 24 new nonprofit incorporations and 16 wind-ups, with the creation of collective bodies for electric vehicle owners, eyecare providers, knights hospitaller, traditional skills practitioners, voluntary health care providers and zwartbles sheep breeders, among others; and the wind up of collective bodies concerned with architectural technology, interfaith ministries, corporate governance, residential landlords, and songwriters, composers and authors, among others.

Trends in 2022 – charities

164 nonprofit organisations were added to the **register of charities** in Ireland, most of them entities already in existence – only six of the charities registered in 2022 were incorporated in the same year.

The subsector seeing the greatest number of new charity registrations were 32 recreational clubs and societies, almost all of them individual local branches of Scouts Ireland. Likewise, 22 existing primary schools and four secondary schools were brought onto the register of charities.

Aside from these, the sub-sectors seeing the greatest number of new charity registrations were 12 religious associations mostly of Christian denominations, and local development organisations in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Mayo and Monaghan.

83 nonprofits lost their charitable status, including 37 companies limited by guarantee.

Charitable status was withdrawn from the Institutes of Technology in Athlone, Carlow, Limerick and Waterford respectively, reflecting their merger into three [new technological universities](#) - the Atlantic Technological University, the South East Technological University and the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest.

Changes by regulatory source*

12	new primary schools registered
0	removed from the register of primary schools maintained by the Department of Education
5	new secondary schools registered
0	Secondary schools removed from the register maintained by the Department of Education
0	new political parties registered
2	Political parties removed from the register maintained by the Oireachtas
3	new higher education institutions created by virtue of the merger of existing institutions, according to the register maintained by the Higher Education Authority
164	nonprofits (of which 6 were companies incorporated in 2022) that gained charity status from the Charities Regulatory Authority
83	Nonprofits removed from the Register of Charities
502	new companies limited by guarantee incorporated
171	CLGs removed from the companies register

* Evidence of change in the profile of **friendly societies** and **trade unions** in 2022 will not be available until the annual report of the Registrar of Friendly and Industrial Societies is published in June 2023. No evidence of changes in tax relief status is yet available for 2022

Learn more

Use the [Directory of Irish Nonprofits](#) to access the data from which this report was derived. The data will be updated twice before the end of 2023 as new regulatory filings are made.

In 2024 along with quarterly digital updates to the Directory, we plan to provide a second analysis report, documenting changes in the sector during 2023.

If you would like to help support the maintenance of this Directory in the future, please [contact us](#).