

Celebrating Inspiring Adult Learning Initiatives Across the island of Ireland



#STARAWARDS2026

The STAR Awards 2026

The STAR Awards recognise the fantastic work and impact of adult learning groups and initiatives throughout the island of Ireland. As part of the annual national Adult Learners' Festival, the awards celebrate the positive contribution that their work makes to our society, and people's lives.

Learner Voice Shortlisted Nominees for 2026

- Certificate in Applied Development and Certificate in Personal Development (SETU)
- Dance with Me Tonight Campaign by MTM/LOETB Birr (Laois & Offaly ETB)
- Down Syndrome Ireland Advisory Councils
- The Journey Podcast (Cavan & Monaghan ETB)

Global Citizenship Education Shortlisted Nominees for 2026

- Empowering Communities in Circular Opportunities (The Rediscovery Centre)
- Family Learning Horticulture (Tipperary ETB)
- Preparation for Preschool Programme (Hillstreet Family Resource Centre)
- Roots & Horizons – Global Citizenship through Erasmus+ (Cork ETB)



Health and Wellbeing Shortlisted Nominees for 2026

- A Day in the Life (Soilse)
- Aisieri Progression Programme
- On Feirm Ground 2 (Men's Development Network)
- Understanding Mental Health through Positive Therapeutic Copper Art Facilitation Training (National Traveller MABS)

Social Inclusion Shortlisted Nominees for 2026

- New Futures Employability Programme (One Family)
- Open Doors Initiative
- Secret Street Tours
- Start360 Volunteer Service

Social Change Shortlisted Nominees for 2026

- AD:EPT Service (Start360)
- Alternatives to Violence Project Ireland
- Divergently Together (Alan James Burns)
- Who Are We Now? A Photovoice Exploration of Community, Identity and Contested Belonging (Northside Partership)

Third-level Access and Engagement Shortlisted Nominees for 2026

- A footbridge to the pathway (SETU, LOETB, Portlaoise Prison)
- Introduction to Addiction Studies Programme - Cork and Midlands Prisons (UCC)
- Level 7 Women, Gender, Social Justice (Women's Collective Ireland Ronanstown & UCD)
- Unblocking Potential (Ulster University)

We will also have special recognition awards for European Social Fund and The Open University's Shooting Star Award.



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Government of Ireland

SOLAS
learning works

AONTAS
The Voice of
Adult Learning