



ACT4DYS

Ireland



Empowering youth workers, young people, and young persons with disabilities to become active advocates, using creativity and leadership to make their cities more inclusive & sustainable

We are developing an e-portfolio featuring 40+ good practices from across Europe, offering adaptable, practical ideas. As part of this process we conducted national research and focus groups to inform the development.

Desk Research Snapshot

Ireland's sustainable mobility strategy promotes public transport, active travel, and electrification. Key projects include BusConnects, Athlone's electric buses, and inclusive design policies, yet car dependency and accessibility gaps persist.



Key Insights

- Urban-rural disparities in transport, services, and infrastructure continue to limit accessibility and inclusion.
- Lack of awareness of invisible disabilities hinder understanding and support.
- Sign language access is limited, with Irish Sign Language (ISL) often missing from public signage and events.
- Poor footpath conditions and blocked pavements, including cars parked on paths, limit safe, independent movement.
- Eco-anxiety and youth exclusion highlight the need for inclusive environmental action and dialogue.

Focus Groups

Six (6) online and one (1) in-person focus group

Who took part?

Participants included young people (including young persons with disabilities), youth workers, and staff from disability and environmental organisations.

Key Findings

Key findings revealed limited accessible school trips, inaccessible footpaths and beaches, a shortage of ISL interpreters, and weak consultation at times with persons with disabilities. However, participants also praised Local Link, sensory gardens, inclusive schools, and community-led projects!



Insights

Growing awareness is improving inclusive access to public services nationwide.

Recommendations

Expand inclusive design in public spaces, improve ISL availability, and ensure national rollout of successful rural transport initiatives.

Good Practices

MTU Kerry's universal design, Local Link, Autism Friendly Towns, ReWild Rangers, SpeakSee tech, Able Active, Buaile Bó, HEROES+, Wicklow Way upgrades, and sensory gardens.

“It's about respect and people's right to be involved in decisions in their local areas and country that will affect their daily lives.” - A focus group participant on the importance of including persons with disabilities in decision-making.

Visit the website to learn more!

