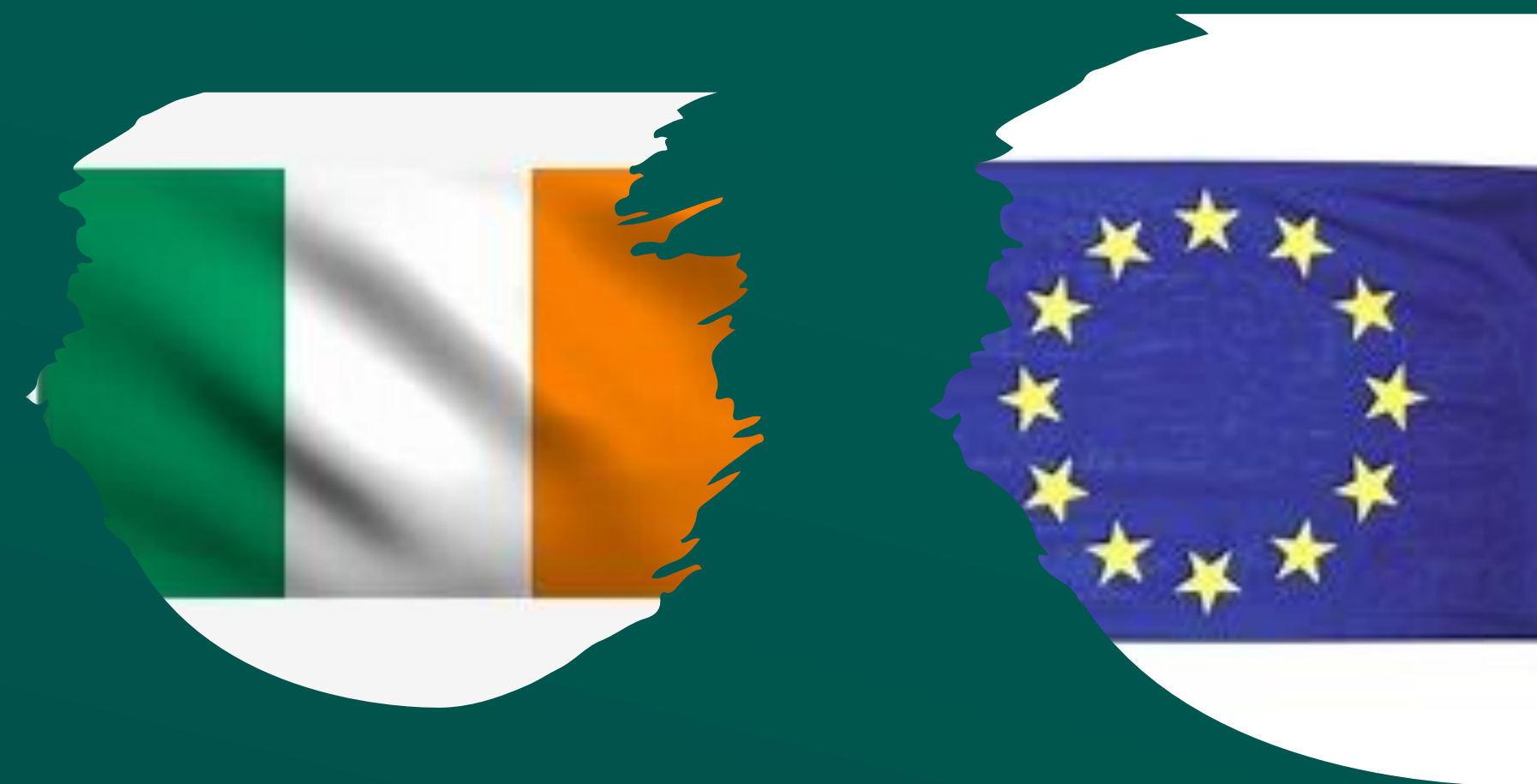




**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science



# **Ireland's Co-chair of the BFUG under the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

**BFUG Meeting 04-06 November 2026 TBC**

**Head of Governance and Quality Unit, D/FHERIS: Siobhán Sleeman**



# Ireland/Éire

- Republic of Ireland
- Approx 84,421 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population estimated at 5,458,600
- Capital - Dublin
- Member of the European Union since 01 January 1973 and member of Economic Area (EEA)
- Currently a coalition government
- Education under two Ministries – Department of Education and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

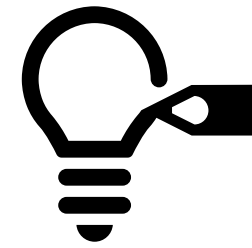


# Ireland and the Bologna Process

Ireland joined the Bologna Process in 1999 and maintains an active role.

- Co-chair of the Taskforce on the Future of Bologna
- Currently Active in:
  - ✓ Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility
  - ✓ Working Group on Fundamental Values
  - ✓ Several Thematic Peer Groups

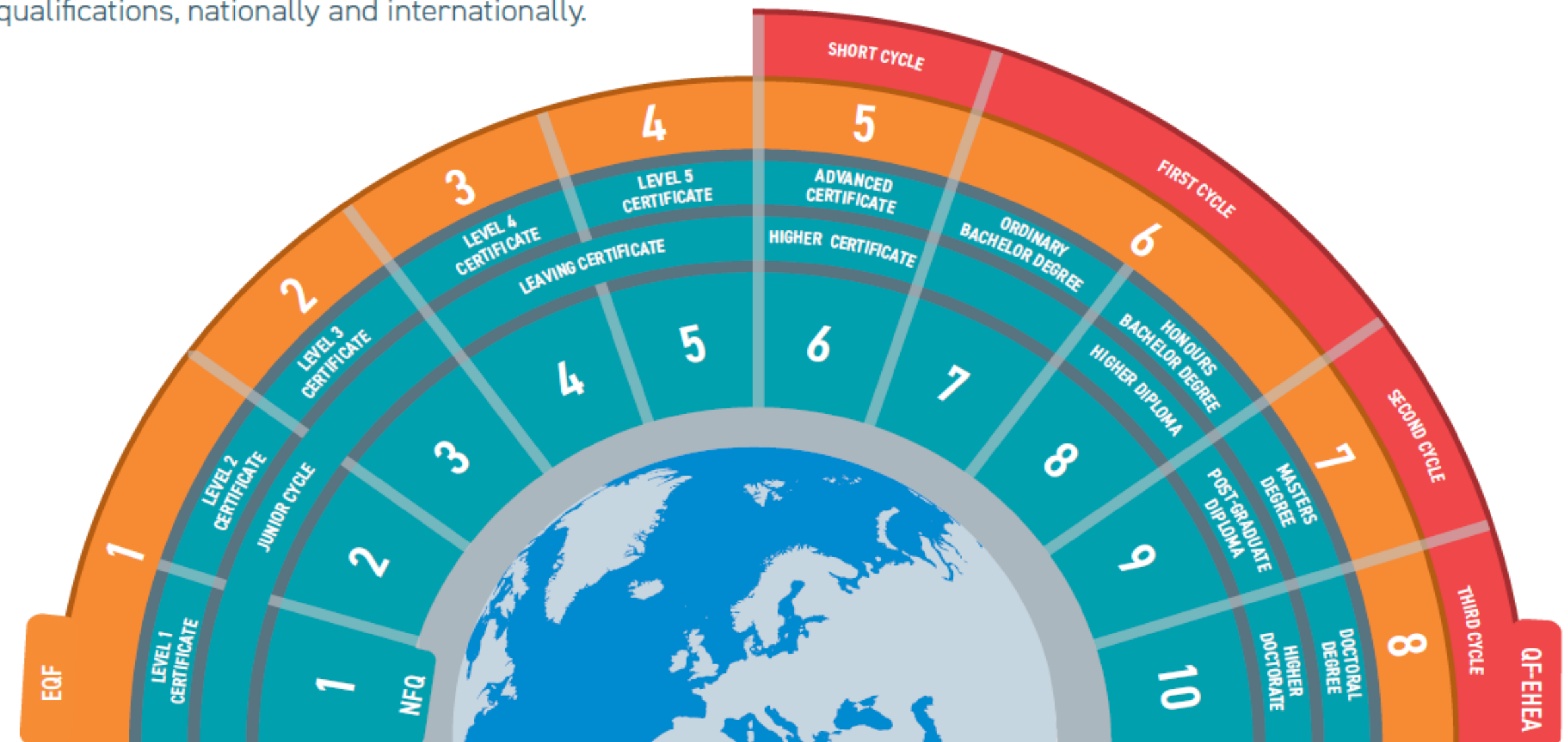
# Ireland's Tertiary Education System



## Vision

A world-leading further and higher education, research, and skills system where everyone is empowered to reach their potential and drive Ireland's economic and social progress.

**Qualifications Frameworks - Going Global**  
Enhancing the transparency, quality and mobility of qualifications, nationally and internationally.



● **NFQ** Irish National Framework of Qualifications  
● **EQF** European Qualifications Framework  
● **QF-EHEA** Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area



For further information consult: [www.QQI.ie](http://www.QQI.ie)

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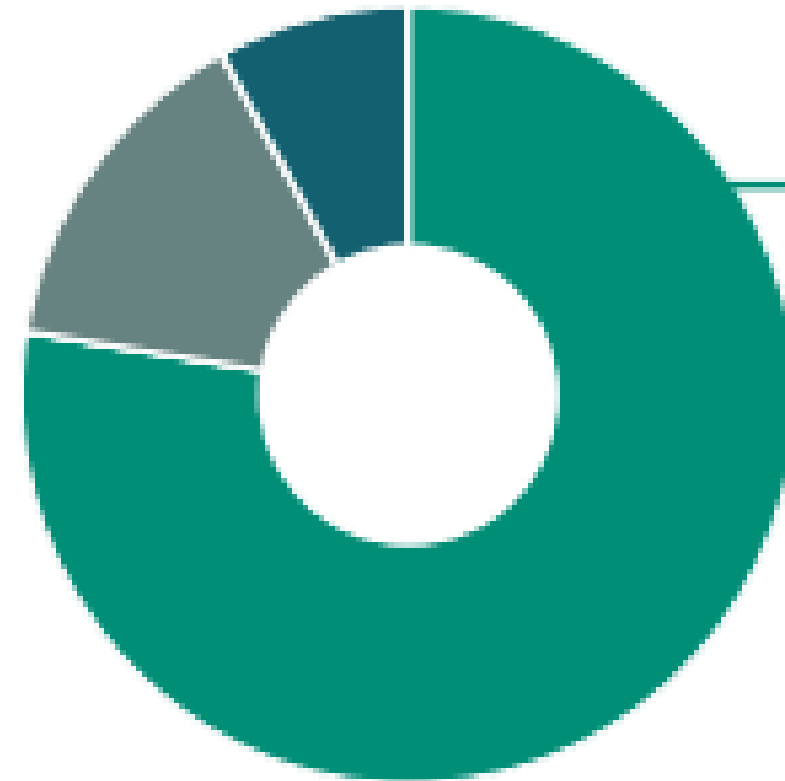


## Higher Education

# 272,675

Learners

- Full-time **211,540**
- Part-time **39,265**
- Other **21,865**



### Full-time learners

Male	94,360
Female	115,810
Non Binary/ Prefer not to say	1,370

23 & under	169,805
24+	41,730
Other	5

## Institutions

# 14

Higher Education Institutes

# 1,500

Buildings

# 16

ETBs (Education & Training Boards)

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest

Public Sector footprint

## Further Education

# 230,007

Learners

- Full-time **66,472**
- Part-time **149,275**
- Online **14,260**



Male	61%
Female	39%

Under 25	70,439
25-34	34,035
35-44	41,561
45-54	33,094
55-64	24,332
65+	26,551

# BFUG Dublin Information



- Indicative Dates for the BFUG in Dublin 5th- 6th November 2026.
- Informal gathering the evening before - 4th November.
- Potential Education files under the Irish Presidency may include:
  - Erasmus + file
  - Council Conclusions on STEM Education
  - Council Conclusions on Skills and Competences for AI

