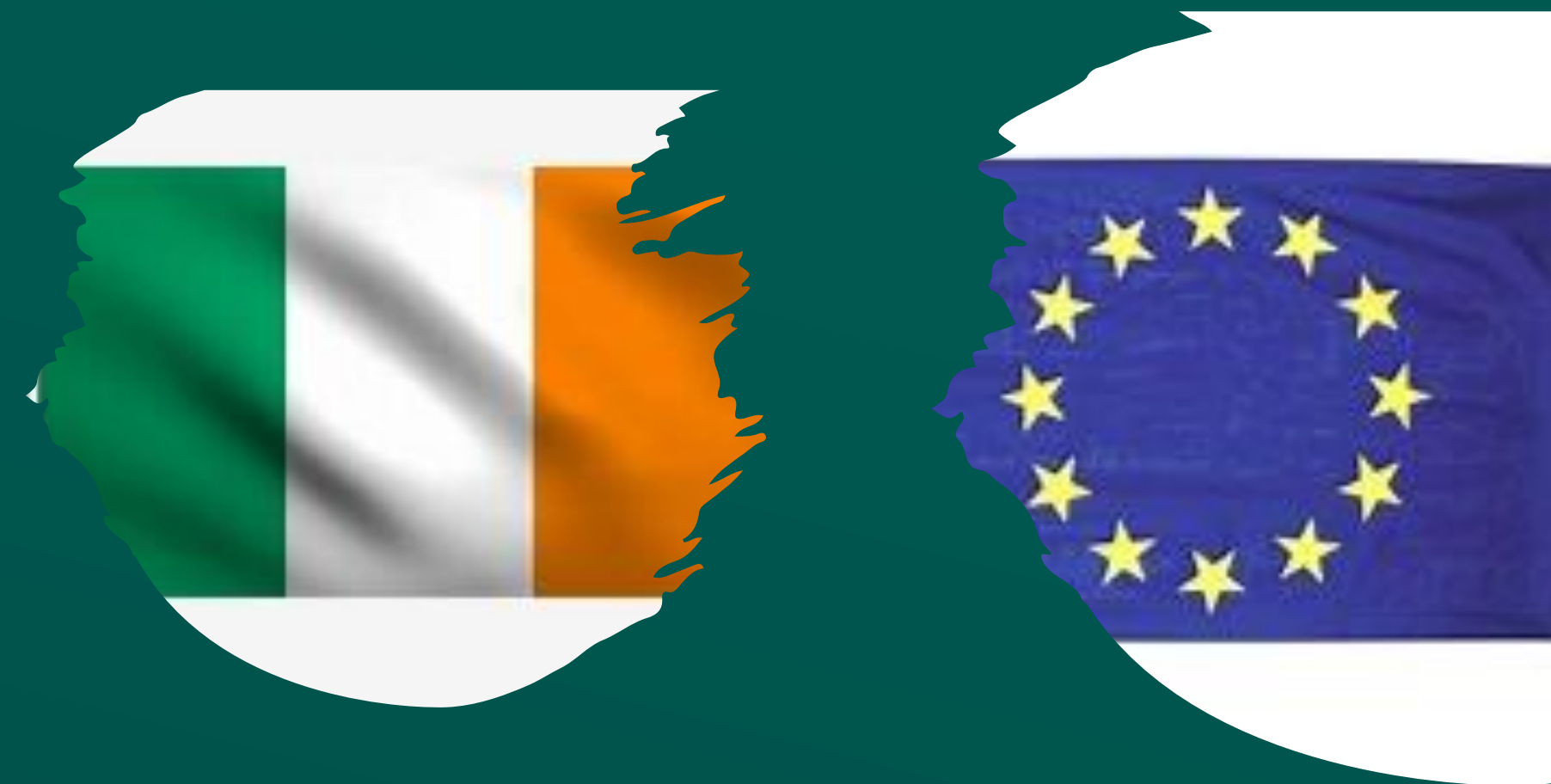




**An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta**
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science



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 km²
- 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.

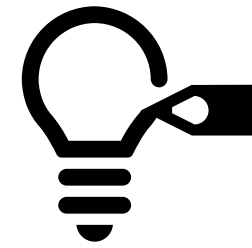


Ireland and the Bologna Process

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

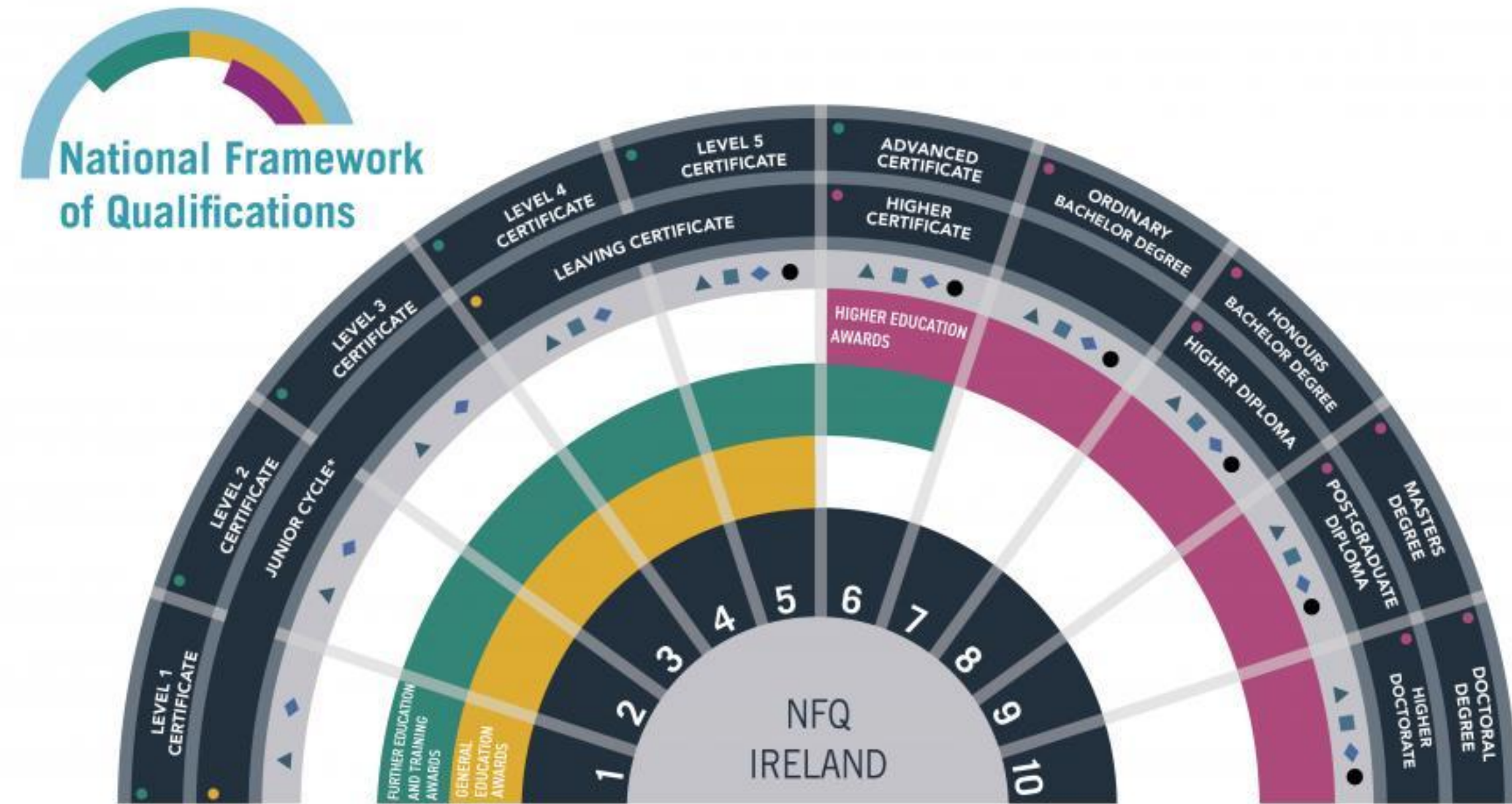
- Co-chair of the Taskforce on the Future of Bologna
- Currently Active in:
 - ✓ Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility
 - ✓ Working Group on Fundamental Values
 - ✓ Several Thematic Peer Groups

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.



CLASSES OF AWARD

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
 - Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
 - Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
 - Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
 - Professional Awards:** are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships
- *Please refer to NCCA website, ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

For more information on

- Qualifications
- Providers
- Courses

visit www.irq.ie



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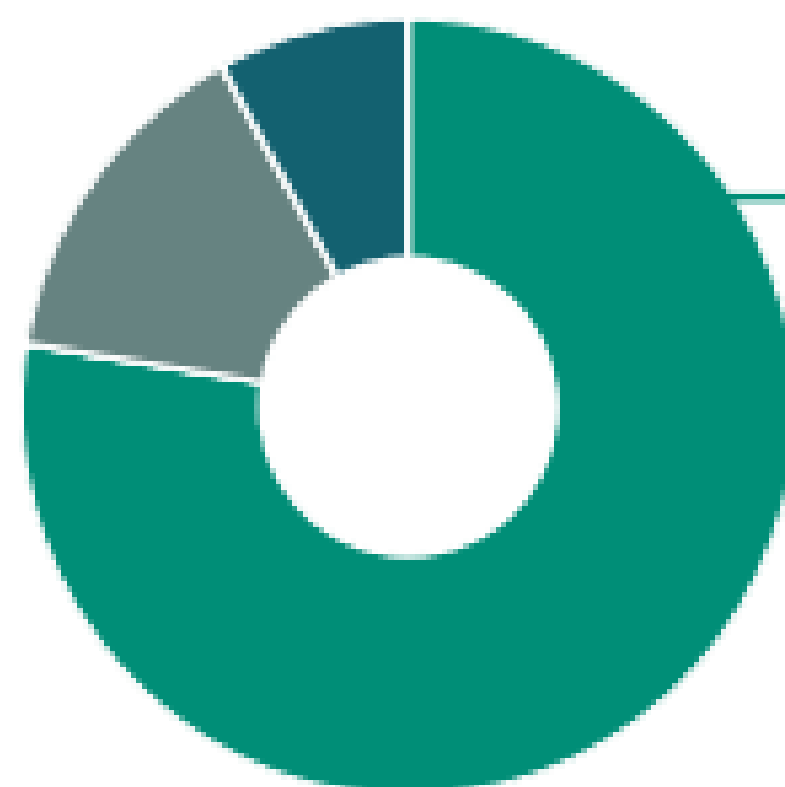


Higher Education

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)

3rd Largest

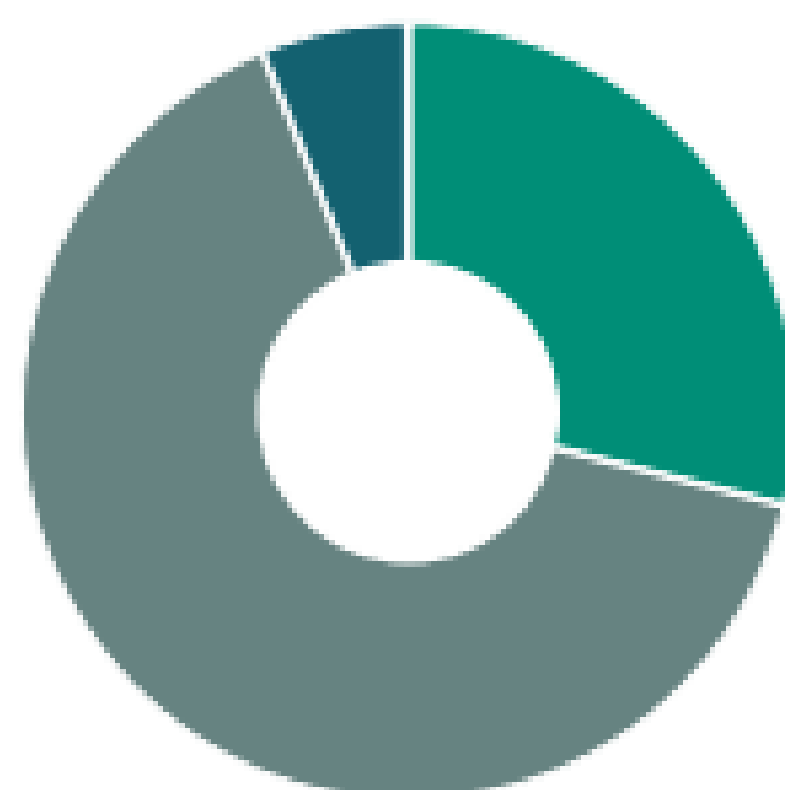
Public Sector footprint

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

