



Annual Impact Report 2023

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Marianne Checkley



Philip Sharpe

Chairperson and CEO Welcome

Dear Supporters and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with pride for the progress that we have made together in advancing our mission to deliver creative, future-focused learning opportunities to unlock and release talent. 2023 was a year of growth and meaningful impact as we delivered on our strategy towards a just and fair Digital and Green Transition. We continued to build the technology capacity of schools and youth services so they can bring within reach dreams, aspirations and reference points for young people, prioritising those who are stretching to get over barriers and need extra support.

Our work has empowered more educators and reached more young people and new communities. Thanks to the support of our partners and funders, we were able to expand our reach, deepen our approach, develop new programmes, and strengthen partnerships.

Here are a few highlights of the year:

Empowering Educators: Through our professional development courses, support and events, over 2,000 teachers and youth workers were equipped with technology skills, equipment and resources.

Inspiring Young People: In turn, these educators delivered new skills, opportunities and brighter futures to over 23,000 young people nationwide.

Innovating in Education:

- We continued to develop our online Kinia Academy with new course content in emerging technology areas like AI, Machine Learning and Green Skills.
- We partnered with Horizon Educational to bring renewable energy technology to classrooms and youth services in Ireland.
- We scaled our Credentials programme for educators and Digital Badges for young people, providing recognition

for a range of transversal skills that support formal and non-formal learning outcomes.

Co-Creating with Communities: We strengthened our collaboration with communities and partner organisations, ensuring that our programmes are considered, responsive and tailored to local needs.

Celebrating: Creative TechFest and TechFeile were held in Coláiste na bhFiann, Co Meath. We were delighted to host the Annual Creative Tech Awards, showcase Robot Wars, TechTasters and workshops with one of our Gaeltacht partners.

While we celebrate these achievements, we are very aware that there is a growing risk of a widening divide in education and in technology and digital skills. As new technologies emerge quickly, education systems and communities struggle to keep up with the pace of development. A young person or a community without the capacity to maximise the opportunities presented will be left behind.

We are convinced that we are on the right path to responding to this risk, as we deliver meaningful, positive change. With the energy of an amazing team and the commitment of our Board of Directors we are in a stronger position than ever to deliver on our mission.

Looking ahead to 2024, our focus will be on scaling our impact further, especially in under-resourced areas. We are committed

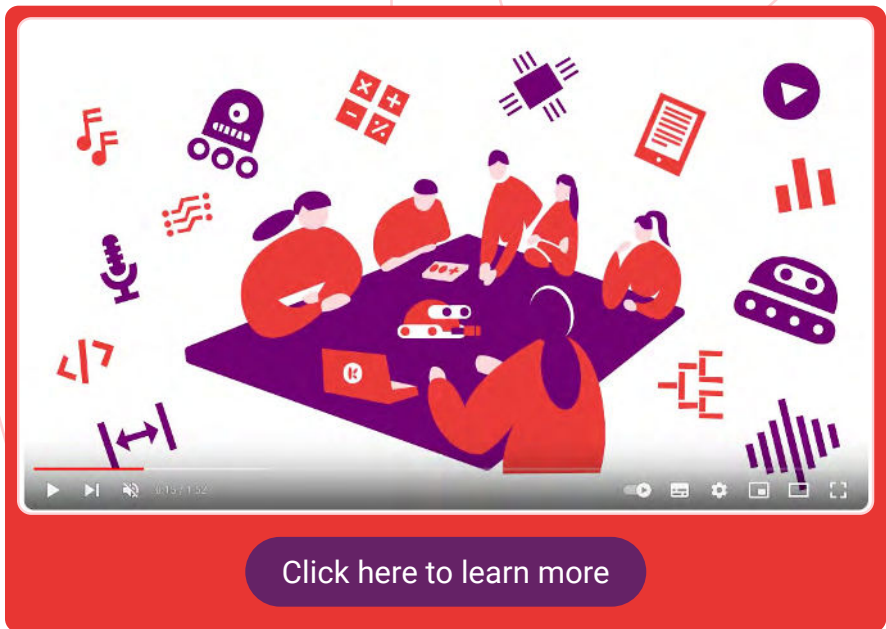
to deepening our investment in educator training, expanding access to technology, and building partnerships that drive long-term change. We will continue to develop new programmes and grow our support structures so educators can confidently activate the skills that they learn with us.

In 2023, through the generous support of a range of partners, we generated grant funding of €1.6M. We intend to continue to facilitate these impact partnerships while also growing our own sustainable income through our Social Enterprise activities.

To our supporters—
thank you for believing
in our vision. Your
contributions have
been instrumental
in everything we
have achieved, and
together we are
shaping a future
where every child has
a clear view to set
their dreams and the
pathway to achieve
them.

About Kinia

Kinia is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to reducing educational inequality by building digital skills and access to technology career pathways for young people across Ireland. We believe that learning is a lifelong journey, a key that unlocks opportunities, nurtures potential, and inspires future generations. Whether in schools, youth settings, or local communities, learning happens everywhere, and Kinia is there to support it.



Kinia brings together everyone who believes in the power of learning.

We want all young people to confidently create their future.



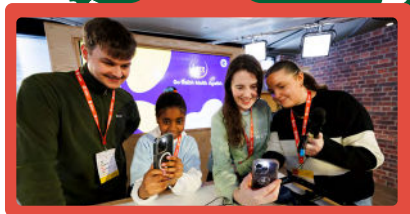
Our vision is for everyone to have the opportunity to develop the skills they need to fulfil their lifelong learning potential.



Collectively Creating Opportunity for Children, Young People and their Communities



National Reach



Impact Reach 2023



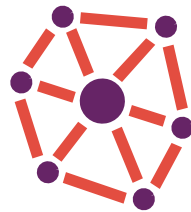
2,014
Educators



3
National Events



23,765
Young People



288
Organisations

Programme Portfolio



Trainings:

Creative Technology

Kinia offers a variety of professional development options — online, blended, or in person — designed for educators working with young people. Our training covers a range of exciting topics:



Robotics



STEAM



Mobile
FilmMaking



Machine
Learning



Green Tech



Podcasting

Literacy Support: Reading Buddy

Kinia Reading Buddy Programme operates nationwide, supporting primary-level students who face challenges with reading.

Currently, one in ten children in Irish schools struggle with serious literacy issues, and in some disadvantaged areas, this figure rises to nearly one in three. These challenges can have lasting impacts on their future opportunities, which is why Kinia is committed to making a difference.

Over the last 3 years
1,288 Volunteers
have brought a love
of reading to children
across Ireland through
Reading Buddy.



Numeracy Support: Maths Whizz

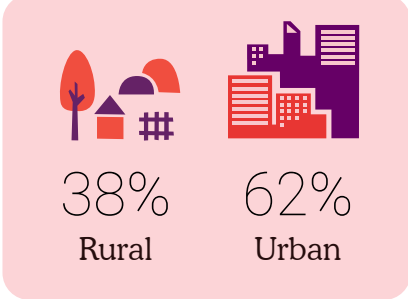
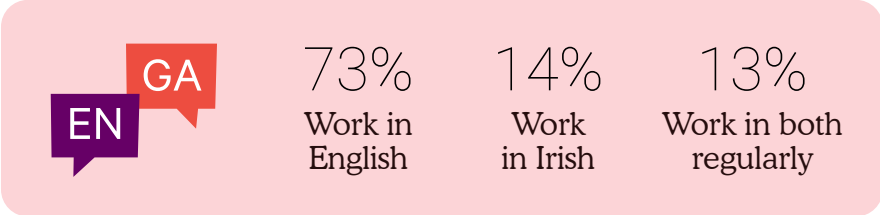
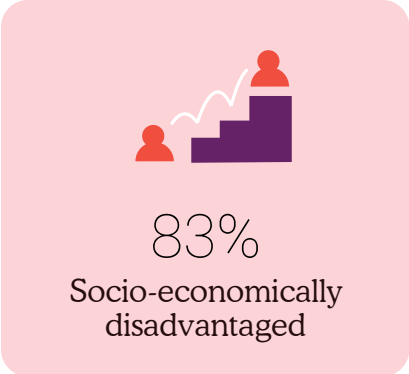
Kinia also supports numeracy development through our Maths-Whizz Programme, which offers primary schools access to the Maths-Whizz platform. Each year, a limited number of fully funded licences are available for schools to take advantage of this valuable resource.

1,363 children engaged
in MathsWhizz in 2023



We make a difference

Profile of young people our educators worked with in 2023:



Educator Story:

Katie O'Toole, Our Lady of the Wayside NS

"Having previously engaged with the SUAS paired reading programme in person, it was quite different to experience the new programme virtually. Although we were short staffed this year and it required a lot of time from the participating staff, which was difficult without staff to cover classes, it was worthwhile as the participating children were engaged and the volunteers were enthusiastic. Due to our school being short staffed this year, these children haven't

had the individual reading support that they usually benefit from in other years and many don't get that support at home either so they really benefited from the programme. It was very well organised and those involved were helpful."



Young Person Story: Glen Ó'Ceallaigh

Glen is a TY student in Coláiste de hÍde Tamhlacht who with the help of two of his classmates, entered the Computer Science category in Tech Féile 2023. Glen helped code An Sicín agus an Ubh, a game playable through Scratch. Glen and his classmates also worked on building robots for the Robot Wars.

Though only recently starting out with Kinia, his teacher, Pádraig Mac an Bhaird, recognised the hard work and dedication he put into completing his project and even helped out with other students' coding difficulties. Subsequently, Glen was nominated for TechSpacer na Bliana 2023.



Educator Story:

Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS), Co. Wexford

We had a big group in attendance from Wexford for Creative Technology Week 2023. FDYS projects across county Wexford have adopted creative technology into their work for a number of years and had a range of entries for the awards at the event. Ryan won the STEAM category for his work on a motorised car and is currently working as a youth leader/volunteer with his local group and helping other young people to develop their technology skills.



Ryan receiving his award at CTF 2023

Educator Story:

Sinéad Uí Ruairc

Sinéad Uí Ruairc has made good strides since taking up her role as Technology Coordinator in Scoil Gharbháin, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

With an interest in internet communications for primary pupils to improve fluency in spoken Irish IT skills Sinéad signed up for Kinia's Educator Event to view some of the technology options which are available and undertaken by other educators.

Sinéad attended Kinia Educator Event at Google HQ in November 2023 and was

impressed by the range of technological ideas and innovations which are coming on stream, some of which were in line with their own school needs. Fuelled by the passion and excitement which was palpable at the Educator Event with panel discussions on Creativity, AI, and demonstrations of CAD, robotics and VR, Sinéad returned to school and succeeded in encouraging most of her colleagues to take up Kinia's Robotics course which lays the foundation for further engagement with technology within school curriculum and activities.



Volunteer Feedback



"It was my pleasure to help in such a small way. I really enjoyed the event & I was super impressed by everything! Well done to you and all the Kinia Team. Definitely count me in for next year!"



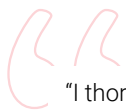
"It was honestly a pleasure to be a part of the event and to assist the Kinia team. I'm really thankful for the opportunity to contribute, and I would be delighted to join you again in the future provided my schedule allows."



"My pleasure entirely. I loved it from start to finish and well done to Team Kinia! Absolutely magic. You were super, so calm and in control!"



"Thanks so much I really enjoyed the events and meeting all the team. Congratulations to you all for such a successful weekend I'm certain it will have a powerful impact on the attendees."



"I thoroughly enjoyed the day, it was a fantastic experience. It was great to see the combination of technology & Gaelge. The workshops and the hydrogen-powered cars were really interesting. Let me know if you need a hand at any events in the future, as I'd love to help out again."

Numeracy Support Teacher Feedback

BR

"I love how I can check each individual time and progressions. If they are not making progressions I can look into it with them"

BR

"The constant reinforcement of topics throughout the year was a great help eg. Even when we moved on from weight topic in class teaching the children were constantly encountering weight questions in Maths Whizz"

BR

"Maths-Whizz facilitated station teaching in maths as it could be used as a station. When teaching topics I could select what topic and which students would do it on Maths-Whizz. It reinforced new information and learning, it added a new voice to listen to, rather than my voice re maths. It allowed me to look at progress or lack of progress without using class tests, which can be very off-putting for nervous students."



Literacy Support



The Session Leader is a company volunteer who oversees the sessions during the Reading Buddy programme. This volunteer works closely with both the school and the company to ensure that everyone has the equipment they need and to troubleshoot any problems during the reading sessions. Because of this, the Session Leader gets a birdseye view of the programme and sees all that the participants get out of it on a weekly basis.



‘The programme is an amazing way for volunteers to virtually help students who have reading difficulties. The growth that the students have had in such a short period of time is outstanding and the volunteers are also really enjoying the experience’

Session Leader, Spring 2023



‘Personally, from listening to the student and reading buddy interaction, I can see the increase in confidence from both sides. The students are now sharing stories from the weekends or evenings, before getting into the reading. This is also coming through in their reading style – breakout of conversational topics during the reading.’

Session Leader, Spring 2023





Our work broadens the horizons of children and young people by providing them with access to creative learning opportunities and future focused skills.

Creative TechWeek 2023

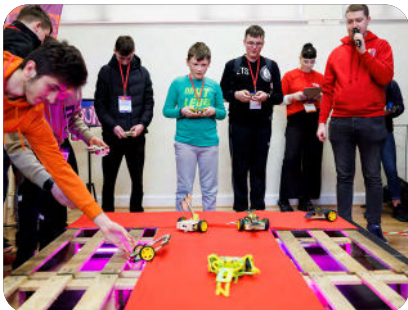


Creative Technology Week is a nationally recognised Celebration of Creative Technology, an initiative set up by Kinia to celebrate young people across the country, and their achievements in Creative Technology.

In April 2023 over 1,000 young people and their educators participated in our two flagship youth events Tech Féile and Creative Tech Fest in Coláiste na bhFiann, Co Meath. We were delighted to host the Annual Creative Tech Awards, showcase Robot

Wars, TechTasters and workshops with one of our Gaeltacht partners.

During Creative Technology Week, we host Creative Tech Fest and Tech Féile, Kinia's annual national showcase events for young people. The events are for teachers, youth workers, and young people aged between 12 – 18 years, who are part of the Kinia Network.



Educator TechFest 2023



The Kinia Educator TechFest '23 was held on Tuesday 14th November, in the Google Foundry, Dublin.

This bilingual event for educators hosted an array of exciting panel discussions, with keynote speakers, industry professionals, educators, and youth representatives.

Our creative technology workshops focused on skill building in AI, VR, Green Technology, Smart Energy, MoJo, Robotics and Podcasting.



“This kind of event gives me the hope... we’re going to be teaching and educating the next generation to think about purpose driven innovation, and technology that has human values”

Mark Little, CEO and co-founder of Kinzen
(acquired by Spotify). ETF '22 keynote speaker

Partners & Funders

We are supported by a range of fantastic public and private organisations, foundations, companies, and CSR initiatives to provide national training, support and hardware to those who need it most.



[Click here to learn more](#)

Meet the Kinia Team

About our team

Meet the Kinia Board of Directors



Philip Sharpe



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Kieran Walsh



David Moffitt



Suzanne Delaney



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Learning is Life



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