

Congress European Office Bulletin



Role of the European Office

The newly established Congress European Office serves as the central hub for coordinating and enhancing the engagement of Congress across the island of Ireland and its affiliates in European trade union activities. It will also serve as a central hub for contact with European trade unions and the ETUC and ETUFs.

Its primary objectives are:

1. Coordination

- Facilitate closer collaboration between Congress and its affiliates on European matters.
- Establish and support a **European Coordination Committee** to ensure unified strategies and actions.

2. Representation

- Act as the voice of Congress affiliates in European institutions, including the ETUC and sectoral ETUFs.
- Ensure the interests of Northern Ireland are represented in post-Brexit agreements and EU frameworks.

3. Communication

- Disseminate information on European issues to affiliates, staff, and external stakeholders.
- Develop digital content, including videos and web resources, to promote European initiatives.

4. Training and Education

- Provide training programs for European Works Councils (EWCs), activists, and staff on EU institutions, legal updates, and financial matters.
- Initiate a 'Train the Trainer' program to build capacity within affiliates.

5. Campaigning and Lobbying

- Lead advocacy efforts with Irish MEPs, EU Commissioners, and other European representatives on workers' rights and social dialogue.
- Align with ETUC and ETUF's campaigns to amplify national and European-level advocacy.

6. Project Development

- Identify and secure EU funding opportunities for collaborative projects.
- Support affiliates in participating in European initiatives and social dialogue.

The NERI is a research organisation with offices in Dublin and Belfast. It is supported by the unions affiliated to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and is the main research body for the trade union movement on the Island. Its remit is to:

1. **Advance knowledge and understanding of economics and the social sciences, with particular reference to the economic and social conditions in or affecting the island of Ireland;**
2. **Undertake, to the benefit of the public, research and analysis on the impact of economic policy development and its effects towards the attainment of a more equitable and just society;**
3. **Publish and promote research findings in order to advance awareness and comprehension of economic theory;**
4. **Undertake activities to ensure a broad dissemination of the research and analysis; and**
5. **Provide education, training and capacity building programmes to increase understanding of economic and social science policy among the general public.**

The NERI provides technical assistance for and economic updates to Irish unions. Its research programme is centred on the thematic areas of:

1. **Economic Development**
2. **Wages and Income**
3. **Employment and Future of Work**
4. **Taxes and the Welfare State and**
5. **Climate and the Just Transition**

On behalf of Congress the NERI is currently developing the theoretical outlines of a progressive 'New Economic Model' for both economies on the Island of Ireland. The NERI is open to collaborating with other European trade unions and research institutes.

Contact Information

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