



Coimisiún  
na Meán

Coimisiún Na Meán

# 2026 Work Programme

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# Introduction

In the three years since the establishment of Coimisiún na Meán, the organisation has made significant progress towards realising our vision of developing and regulating a thriving, diverse, creative, safe and trusted media landscape.

Since March 2023, we have grown to almost 300 staff working across our wide remit of media development, broadcasting and on-demand regulation, and online safety. With the growth in both our team size and the scope of our regulatory responsibilities, we recognise the considerable volume of work ahead of us, as we continue ensure the delivery of a media landscape that works in the public interest. As we continue to deliver on our three-year Strategy Statement published last year, we are happy to present our 2026 Work Programme.

Our ambitious Work Programme for the coming year reflects the six Strategic Outcomes from our Strategy Statement – Irish culture and media, Children, Democracy, Trust, Diversity and Inclusion, and Public safety. The Programme outlines a list of priority projects across the organisation that will contribute towards one or more of these Strategic Outcomes. The projects in our 2026 Work Programme include work that will commence in 2026, and work that has carried over from the previous year. It is our goal to deliver these priority projects within the next year, while recognising that some may become multi-year projects due to the complexity of the work, and the continually changing media landscape that we are operating within.

Alongside these priority projects, we have a wide range of on-going operational activities that drive our work across the media landscape. This body of work includes our wide portfolio of operating activities. These activities include the various funding schemes we operate for the benefit of the Irish media sector, our work on public service media and sectoral support, including the operation of Sustainable Media Ireland. We continue to supervise and enforce the compliance of regulated entities in the broadcasting and digital spheres. We will also continue to empower and support the public through our contact centre and broadcasting and online complaints functions. We undertake wide-ranging engagement with a variety of stakeholders, including on topics such as the Vetted Researchers scheme under the DSA, while continuing to consult our statutory Youth Advisory Committee on our work. In addition to working with national stakeholders and networks, we also engage actively in a range of EU and international networks to ensure collaborative and effective delivery of our strategy. We have built and will continue to develop organisational capacity in areas such as data, ICT and levy operations to support the efficient delivery of work, underpinned by effective and agile governance structures.

## Priority Projects/Programme of Work

Programme Area	Summary of What We Intend to Deliver in 2026
<p><b>Implementation of new statutory/regulatory functions.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to deliver our programme of work that will enable Coimisiún na Meán to prepare for new forthcoming regulatory functions. This programme of work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparatory work to determine and develop required changes for the new functions given to An Coimisiún by the Accessibility Act.</li> <li>• The delivery of a series of projects that enable An Coimisiún to set up new operations, or further develop existing ones, to stand up new European Media Freedom Act functions.</li> <li>• Planning and standing-up An Coimisiún’s functions under the forthcoming Artificial Intelligence Act. Once established, operationalise this within our existing regulatory functions.</li> <li>• Establish our regulatory supervision functions in respect of Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising.</li> <li>• Developing a public information campaign to raise awareness of online safety matters, including those related to AI.</li> <li>• Collaborate with the AI Advisory Council to review and update taxonomies of online harm to capture AI-related harms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evolve our regulatory operating model for broadcasting and video-on-demand service providers.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to deliver the programme of work that will evolve our approach for the regulation of broadcaster and video-on-demand services, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The continued design and implementation of a compliance framework, risk framework and supervision framework, in addition to governance arrangements.</li> <li>• The design and rollout of new complaint handling processes and procedures.</li> <li>• The development and operationalisation of new rules for European Works (Video on Demand)</li> <li>• Continue with our pilot project to assist in assessing the current quality of Irish sign language and subtitling provision.</li> <li>• Continue to review codes and rules to ensure these are better aligned with online safety media regulation.</li> <li>• Updating of existing call handling processes to effectively manage these new areas of work in our contact centre.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Support the development and evolution of public service media and broadcasting.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to progress key statutory obligations and strategic objectives to support the development and evolution of public service media and broadcasting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to deliver the programme of work that will oversee the revision of the Public Service Media Framework, which includes a methodology review and a performance framework.</li> <li>• New guidelines to ensure that there is an appropriate prominence of audiovisual media services of general interest.</li> <li>• A review of public service content provision.</li> <li>• The restatement of broadcasting rules, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of access rules for broadcasting, and the development of rules for Public Service Media content on corporations.</li> <li>• The preparation of a revised Coimisiún na Meán Broadcasting Service Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support opportunities for the development of new and emerging media provision.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to implement new initiatives that provide new opportunities to enable a creative, thriving and emerging media sector, including the rollout of additional new funding schemes. In 2026, these initiatives will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a new Media Funding Strategy.</li> <li>• Evolving the existing Sound and Vision scheme through the development and implementation of a fifth iteration.</li> <li>• The design and implementation of a new Community Media Fund.</li> <li>• The design and implementation of a Media Career and Training Funding Scheme.</li> <li>• Develop a Strategy for Defining an Independent Producer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keeping minors safe online and protecting them from harmful content.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to implement key actions from our plan that contribute to keeping minors safe online and protecting them from harmful content. Our core work in the area during 2026 will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop awareness campaigns of rights, rules and reporting, targeted at children and young people.</li> <li>• The continuation of a pilot programme that provides support to children at risk of imminent harm from online content.</li> <li>• Continue to enhance our Platform Compliance Framework regarding the protection of minors in line with the Online Safety Code and DSA Article 28.</li> <li>• Complete the EU Kids Online study and commence the Irish Kids Online study to gain better insights and knowledge.</li> <li>• Implement a Regulatory Strategy to establish Content Moderation Standards for CSAEM (Child Sexual Abuse &amp; Exploitation Material) on video-sharing platform services and explore service designs to mitigate these and other risks.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Support fair democratic processes and information integrity within media.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to deliver initiatives that support fair democratic processes and information integrity. In 2026, this will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise the revision of An Coimisiún’s Plurality Policy and commence the development of a Media Pluralism Measurement Framework.</li> <li>• Begin implementing actions in An Coimisiún’s Electoral Integrity Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion in the media sector.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to undertake further initiatives that promote gender, equality, diversity and inclusion (GEDI) in the audio and audiovisual media sector, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the need for diversity and inclusion within sports reporting and broadcasting as part of the development of our strategic plan for sports broadcasting.</li> <li>• Establishing equality, diversity and inclusion monitoring for Public Service Media and Public Service Content providers.</li> <li>• Continue to develop GEDI standards, with the addition of criteria for the Sound &amp; Vision Funding Scheme.</li> <li>• Further enhance the assessment of data for the Women in sound broadcasting programmes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best use of technology and data to support the delivery of our work.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to progress our use of technology and data as we develop our work, ensuring that we make the best use of new technology available. Key work planned for 2026 will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to build our enterprise architecture.</li> <li>• Recruit and onboard a new data forensic team.</li> <li>• Manage and evolve data requirements for the organisation.</li> <li>• Continue to implement actions outlined in our data strategy.</li> <li>• Develop a tailored data stack that will underpin our investigations work.</li> <li>• Commence the development of a case management system for the organisation.</li> <li>• Continue execution of our Modern-Day Workplace project.</li> <li>• Initiate the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of our ICT security project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Continue to evolve our internal operating model.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to improve our operating model across the organisation through the ongoing development of internal policies, framework and ways of working. This will include, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and implementation of a policy development framework to guide a consistent approach to establishing our policy positions.</li> <li>• Review and update An Coimisiún’s Media Literacy policy.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a new Compliance Schedule.</li> <li>• Rollout of a new Anti-Fraud/Corruption Policy.</li> <li>• Ongoing development of the levy operating model.</li> <li>• Design a new Media Literacy OSC Evaluation Framework.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Continue to establish playbooks for the regulation of online platforms.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to enhance our processes and resources to better regulate online platforms through the delivery of new and existing projects. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that will support the ongoing development of supervisory processes and cycles for the regulation of the Digital Services Act (DSA), Terrorist Content Online and Online Safety Code.</li> <li>• The ongoing development of An Coimisiún’s Regulatory Operations Risk-Based Supervision Framework.</li> <li>• Ongoing development of an Open-Source Intelligence Framework.</li> <li>• Projects that will finalise the operationalisation of specific components of the DSA and Online Safety Code.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Initiatives that keep society safe online.</b></p>	<p>We will deliver a series of diverse initiatives that discourage online content that promotes an unsafe and unhealthy society. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of a programme of work to drive progress on the prevalence of hate online, including incitement to hatred and violence.</li> <li>• The development of Guidance on Identifying and Reporting Illegal Online Hate.</li> <li>• Coordinate and manage An Coimisiún’s input into the review of the EU’s Audio-Visual Media Services directive.</li> <li>• Finalise our ‘Medium-Term Action Plan to Achieve Desired Outcomes in Respect of Public Health’.</li> <li>• Continue with the development of strategies for supporting NGOs to take on roles in the online safety system.</li> <li>• Finalise the project that will see DSC Vetted Researchers go-live.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ongoing development of policy and practice in key areas.</b></p>	<p>We will progress several policy and practice areas as a priority in 2026, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and operationalise a policy in respect of content limitation notices and content advisory notices.</li> <li>• Policy development of criminal sanctions.</li> <li>• Development and delivery of a supervision enablement programme.</li> <li>• Development of an Irish language policy and action plan for Coimisiún na Meán.</li> <li>• Continue with our pilot programme for structured engagement with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).</li> <li>• Seek public consultation on Confidentiality Guidelines.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Investing in our people and organisation.</b></p>	<p>We will continue to invest in our people and support functions to enable Coimisiún na Meán to achieve its full potential. Projects and programmes of work in 2026 will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A campaign that will enable An Coimisiún to fill all open sanctioned positions.</li> <li>• Projects that will ensure that Coimisiún na Meán will have offices that suit the size and makeup of the organisation now and in the future.</li> <li>• Procuring a new long-term contract for the operation of An Coimisiún’s Contact Centre.</li> <li>• Continue with the implementation of a new eLearning system.</li> <li>• Commence the implementation of a new ERP system for Finance.</li> <li>• Procure and prepare for the implementation of a scalable HRMS solution to streamline HR and payroll processes.</li> <li>• The development of a new corporate procurement strategy that supports the introduction of new procurement tools, training and resources.</li> <li>• Establish a new operating model for An Coimisiún’s Legal Services Division.</li> </ul>

