

students wanted

REPORT

Process, findings, recommendations, reflections and accountability. Records of 9 months of research, decisions and framework for future projects.

The statement reflects the precarious situation in what many international students, especially those which hold Stamp 2 visas, live and face in The Land of a Hundred Thousand Welcomes.

**BUT NOT
WELCOME**

PRECARITY

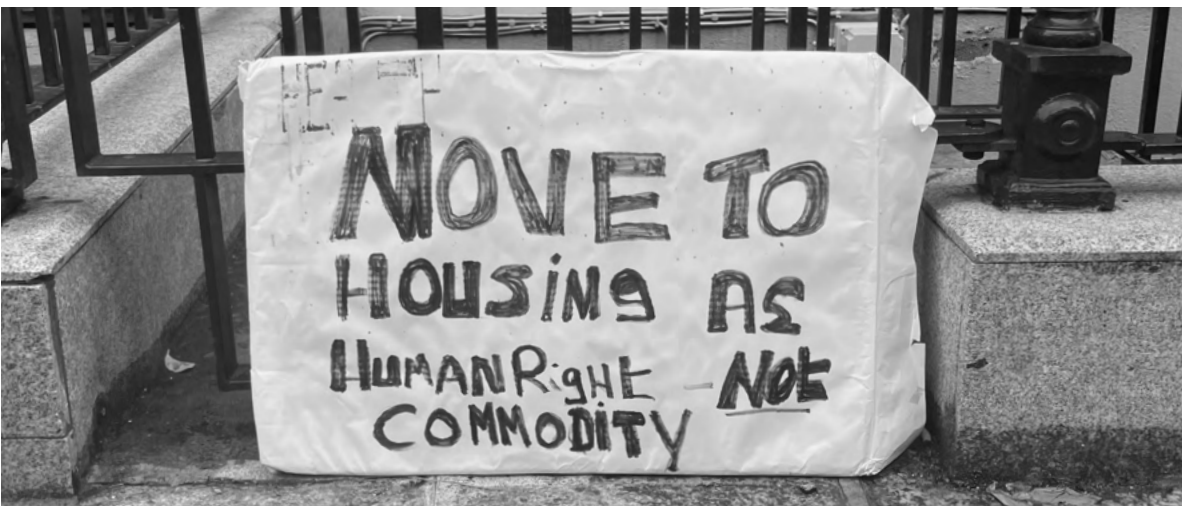
Precarity refers to the state of insecurity or instability that characterizes many aspects of contemporary life. Precariousness can manifest in various forms, such as low-paying and temporary jobs, inadequate access to social services, lack of affordable housing and existential conditions such as a sense of an uncertain future. This situation affects large segments of the population, highlighting young people, migrants, women, and those who work in the gig economy, promoting significant challenges regarding income stability, social mobility, and psychological well-being. Precarity is directly related to broader structural changes in the world, such as the rise of neoliberalism and the dismantling of labour protections.

Precarious workers experience high levels of stress and anxiety, as well as feelings of social isolation and a lack of belonging. In addition to that, the social and economic marginalization of these perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality. Addressing precarity

“PRECARITY IS NOT JUST ABOUT JOBS, IT’S ALSO ABOUT SOCIAL PROTECTIONS, AND ULTIMATELY, ABOUT CITIZENSHIP.”

Saskia Sassen

requires a systematic approach that includes policy changes at a global level, a new economic model, as well social and cultural transformations. Ultimately, acknowledging precarity requires a commitment to social justice and a recognition of the inherent dignity and value of all things.



BRIEFING, CONSIDERATIONS & TEAM

This project revolved around in-depth research, exploration and reflection on the precarity faced by people living in the modern world.

As a group, we designed a set of values which we used as lenses to view and explore precarious situations. Through the use of these lenses, we were able to categorise and analyse precarity and devise a set of questions we felt we needed to address through this project.

Leading up to a report examining the challenges faced by stamp 2 visa holders in Ireland. Our group consists of individuals who have viewed or experienced first-hand some of these difficulties. Two members of our group, one non-Irish but EU passport holder and one non-EU, holding a Stamp 2 visa, have experienced or viewed the issues described in the report. It is important to note that these experiences may have influenced the tone of the report, but not the research findings and outcomes.

We have attempted to produce an objective report, but we acknowledge that our experiences may have influenced our perspective. We have made every effort to mitigate the potential impact of our personal experiences on our analysis by conducting research and gathering input from a variety of sources.

Our report is limited by time and access to information. Additionally, the methodology we used may also have been driven by the same problem. As this is a sensitive and emotive topic, we found it challenging to recruit participants to fill out our survey and share their stories. However, we believe that the stories we did gather are relevant to many people and echo the experiences of individuals we have known, studied, and worked within our lives.

It is worth noting that the information presented in this report is subject to interpretation and opinion. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, we cannot guarantee that it is complete or up-to-date.

Despite these limitations, we believe that the information and analysis presented in this report can provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by stamp 2 visa holders in Ireland and contribute to the broader conversation around immigration issues in the country.

DATA

There are inconsistencies in the data used to build graphics and visuals of the Timeline.

Irregularities were noticed in the migration and immigration numbers provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the PEA03 and PEA17 reports, don't match. This may be attributed to the use of different methodologies in each document. However, it is notable that the discrepancies in the figures tend to follow similar trends.

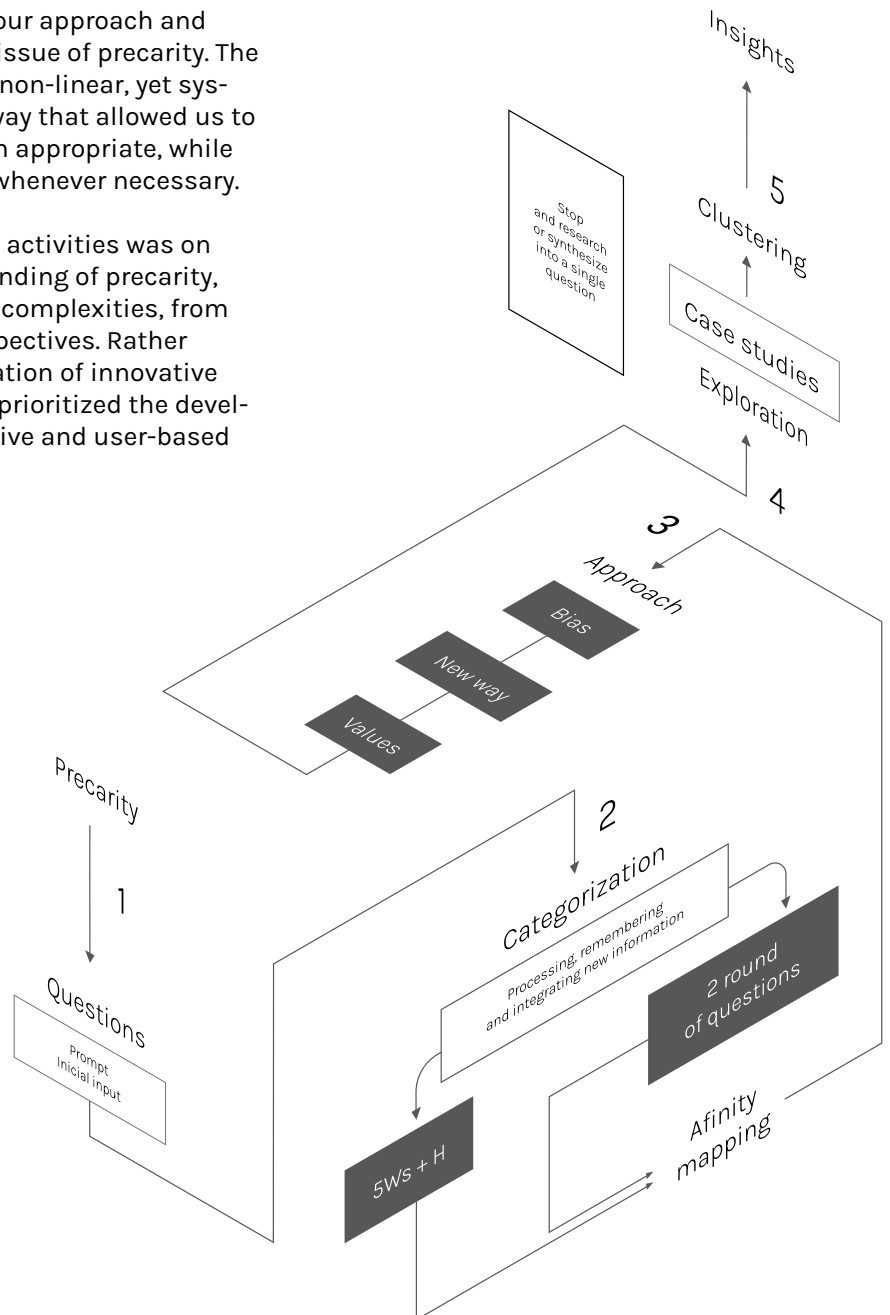
To ensure the accuracy and credibility of the data, a visual approach was employed to depict the trends over time while maintaining proportional and feasible representation.

THE PROCESS

The diagram illustrates our approach and research to address the issue of precarity. The process happened to be non-linear, yet systematic, unfolding in a way that allowed us to scale up our efforts when appropriate, while also taking a step back whenever necessary.

Our focus throughout all activities was on gaining a deep understanding of precarity, its various nuances and complexities, from a range of different perspectives. Rather than prioritizing the creation of innovative solutions, our approach prioritized the development of a more inclusive and user-based process.

Overall, our process was designed to be both strategic and friendly to changes, allowing us to adapt to new insights and ideas while staying focused on our ultimate goal of creating meaningful change.



5Ws + H

The 5Ws + H consists of 'who, what, when, where, why and how' questions which we could then categorise under different brackets. It allowed us to sort our questions and pick out the most important ones. This exercise also provided us with some potential background information on the context, users involved, places and actions.

Later in the process we also made use of the method to define our lenses when looking at the research topic and to identify our bias. Resulting in 7 main points: Living in it, Users, Change, New Way, Needs, Time & Aspects.

what?

What is precarity?
Whats the most precarious field of work?
What has more impact economic precarity or social precarity?
What are the key characteristics of precarity?
What is the best way to solve it?
What does it do?
What are the tools to fight against precarity?

why?

Why precarity?
Why do people choose to enter precarious situations
Why is capitalism the main cause of precarity?
Why did precarity become a social problem?
Why have we endured it so long?

when?

When did we blindly choose to live in precarity?
When is precarity exclusively a social problem?

When did it become so prevalent?
When will it diminish?
When can we change precarity in societies and people?
When did we entered this precarious stage?

where?

Where is it really a problem?
Where precarity affect everyone in some sense?
Where does it effect people the most?
Where did it begin?
Where are the non-precarious societies?

who?

Who took us to this precarious state?
Who does it affect?
Who are the drivers in precarity?
Who is mainly affect for our precarious situation?
Who benefits the most out of precarity state?
Who experiences precarity the worst?
Who doesn't have precarity?

how?

How did we get here?
How to deal with precarity?
How does precarity affect minorities?
How does it affect me?
How does precarity affect the rich?
How does precarity make us feel?
Precarity in multitudes? How did it got to that point?



VALUES

Values are what drive the research and are an integral part of the lens through which the rest of the thinking process is viewed.

integrity

We prioritise the impact of our actions and the reason behind them over our intentions and desirable outcomes.

collaboration

We use design as a tool, a facilitator for change. We work for community-led outcomes and consider all individuals and things as experts in their own lived experience.

empathy

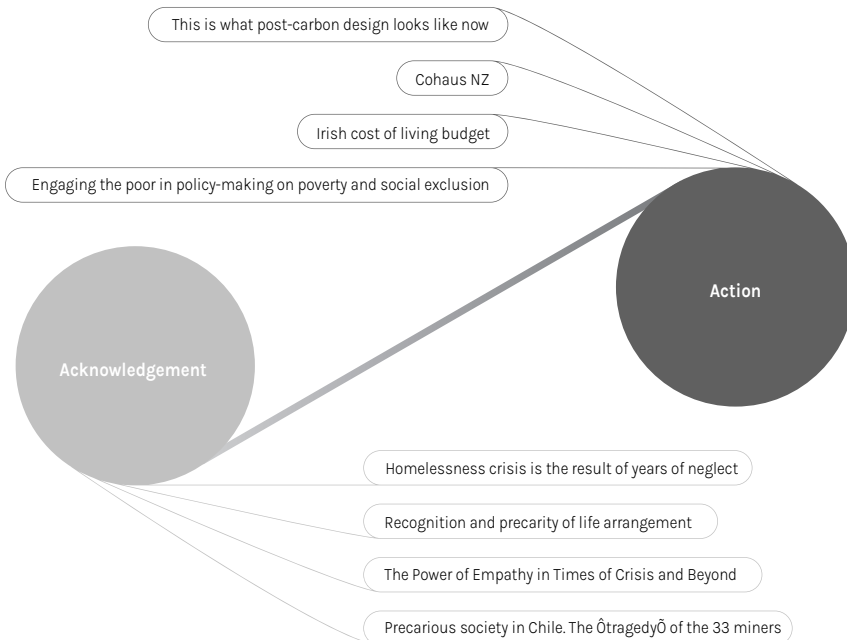
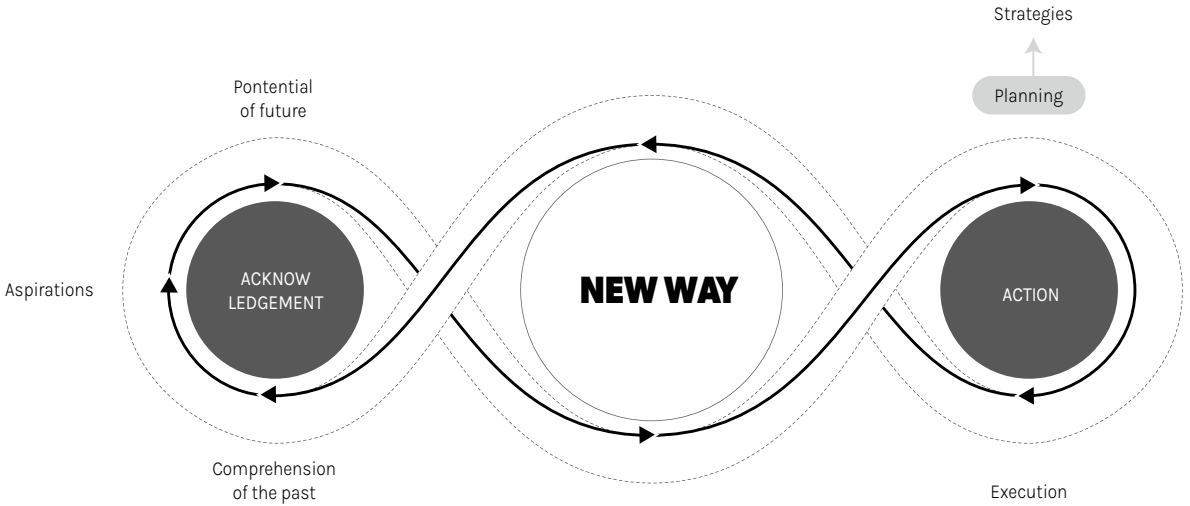
We observe and assimilate, honouring tradition and local knowledge and practices.

responsibility

We centre our actions and efforts for a sustainable and stable future, we work towards non exploitative measures.

PROCESSUAL APPROACH

By previously categorising our questions, we were able to come up with a new way to examine precarity and to pursue change. This new way breaks up what is in the middle, the gap between acknowledging precarity and actually taking action.



CASE STUDIES

The diagram on the left shows a comparison of a few case studies when considering acknowledgement and action.

We looked at a number of case studies and categorized them by which were intended to acknowledge precarious situations and which ones were real actions against them.

engaging the poor in policy-making on poverty and social exclusion

This is a case study which we felt fell under the action category as it was actually acting on an issue of precarity.

In Belgium in the 1980's, the poor were being heavily excluded from policy making which was having a great negative effect on them. The government reacted by reviewing policies and aiming towards democracy and inclusivity.

This is a case study which clearly shows how bias around people in poverty can lead to oppressive policies and how by not only acknowledging the issue, but acting on it, positive changes can be made to move people away from precarious situations.



homelessness crisis is the result of years of neglect

This case study is a clear case of acknowledgement with no actions being made. It looks at homelessness (a worldwide problem) with a British focus and addresses the fact that this has been an issue in many areas for many years, yet there is a failure to take any action.

The political systems are incapable of solving the homeless crisis as they don't have the power to interfere in other necessary systems. They also don't consider the wider issue of hidden homelessness as it isn't comfortable for them to look at. The Government acknowledges that there are issues however fails to do anything about it.

These two cases studies clearly illustrate our new way/new lenses which we can examine case studies through.

EXPERIENCE MAP

This experience map shows the journey on the transition for the Budget 2023 for a low income working family, an Irish government policy.

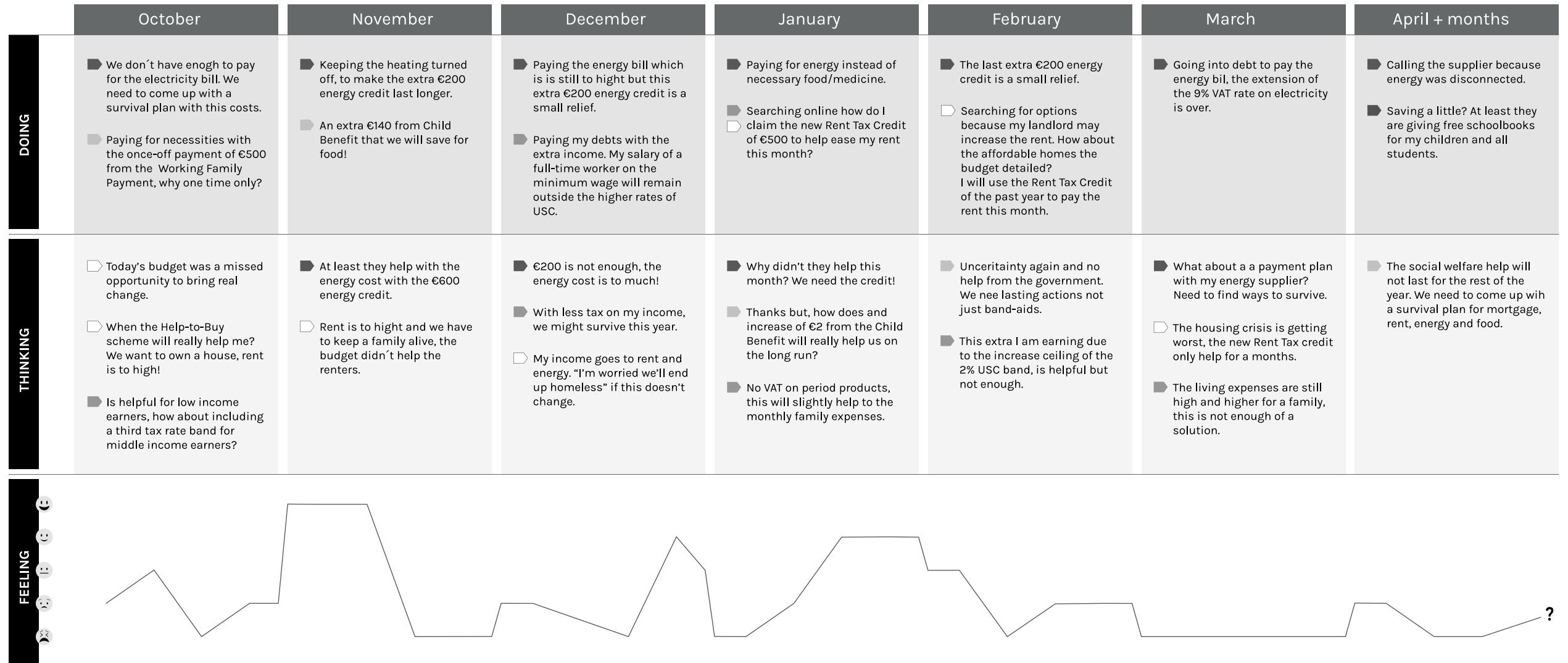
In Budget 2023, the Government provided some aids to help families with the unprecedented cost of living crisis. However for many families, some of these things weren't enough. They paid out a double child benefit in November, there were three energy bill support

credits paid out to each household, there was a rental tax credit where renters could get money back to help with rent and free schoolbooks will be given from September 2023.

All of these things took some pressure of many households but there were many others who, despite the efforts to alleviate the state of precarity they were in, still struggled to pay their bills and support their families. The experience map below shows an example of this.

“AT THE MERCY OF GLOBAL TRENDS”

The Irish Times



Main changes ■ Energy ■ Social welfare □ Housing ■ Taxation ■ Education/Health

All immediate measures for 3-4 months, no long-term solution.

REVISION

As part of the process after established project and group values, we revisited a previous step, the 5Ws + H, a previous step and worked through these questions once again. This allowed us to critically analyse our research biases and make any necessary adjustments to ensure the transparency and validity of our research.

By recategorizing our exploration areas based on this analysis, we were able to trace clear links between the different areas we explored and identify common denominators. This helped us to build a more comprehensive understanding of the problem and envision future.

NEXT STEPS

#1

Acknowledging and being transparent. Creating empathic solutions not more problems by communicating people's realities and true stories. Possible design directions:

Ideas: Storytelling and making people problems real to people in power; transparent communications campaigns

#2

I think we need to carry out more in-depth research about how precarity is affecting Irish

LIVING IN IT

Explorative

Why do we live in a precarious way?

TIMING

Start/Ending point

When did precarity became part of the system?

USERS

Minorities

Who faces precarity?

ASPECTS

Root cause

What are the key characteristics of precarity?

CHANGE

Social Justice

What can be done to change precarious systems?

NEEDS

Choices

Why do we choose to remain in precarious situations?

NEW WAY

Life with no precarity

How are the non-precarious societies existing?

people and try to locate root causes to make systematic change

#3

Follow up on the New Way concept. Now thinking systematically about the triggers we want to use to provoke reflection and change, addressing: Potential and then limitations; Plan of action, starting point & strategies; Further execution.

Ideas: Manifesto design; Design campaign.

THE MANIFESTO CONCEPT

Manifestos are public declarations of principles, beliefs, and intentions that have been used throughout history to express a vision for change. They have shaped social, political, and artistic movements, and have been used to define and mark new philosophies, practices and eras.

One of the most famous manifestos is the “Communist Manifesto,” written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1848. This manifesto laid out the principles of communism and helped to inspire revolutionary movements around the world. Another famous manifesto, written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 is the “Declaration of Independence”, it declared the independence of the American colonies from Britain and helped to establish the United States as a new rising nation.

Manifestos have been particularly important as a way of defining and diffusing new artistic movements. One of the most famous in this regard is the “Futurist Manifesto,” written by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti in 1909. Celebrating the speed, technology, and dynamism of modern life “Futurism Manifesto” the responsible for inspiring the art movement of same name. Another famous art manifesto is the “Surrealist Manifesto,” which was written by André Breton in 1924.

In the field of design, manifestos have been used to challenge prevailing norms and define new approaches to practice. The “Bauhaus Manifesto,” by Walter Gropius in 1919, lays out the principles of the Bauhaus school, the integration of art and technology to create accessible, functional and beautiful objects. Another one is the “First Things First” from a group of British designers in 1964, the piece challenged the consumerism in design and called out professionals in the field to address with their skills more social and political issues.

Today, manifestos continue to be an important tool for individuals and groups who want to articulate their values and principles and challenge the prevailing norms of their field. It's possible to define their own unique approach to work, establish a sense of community and shared purpose with like-minded individuals, inspiring and promoting change. Whether art or design manifesto, the political character of these declarations, visuals, principles and beliefs have the power to trigger and shape new and better futures. For all that, this project aimed initially to build a design manifesto to inspire change and inform the reality.

TYPES

Goal

Focused on achieving a plan of action, taking the steps needed to achieve a particular goal.

Lists

Communicates a set of ideas, principles, beliefs, or values that an author wishes to promote.

Pictorial

Use of images and graphics to convey messages, create an emotional response and make a visual impact.

Real based

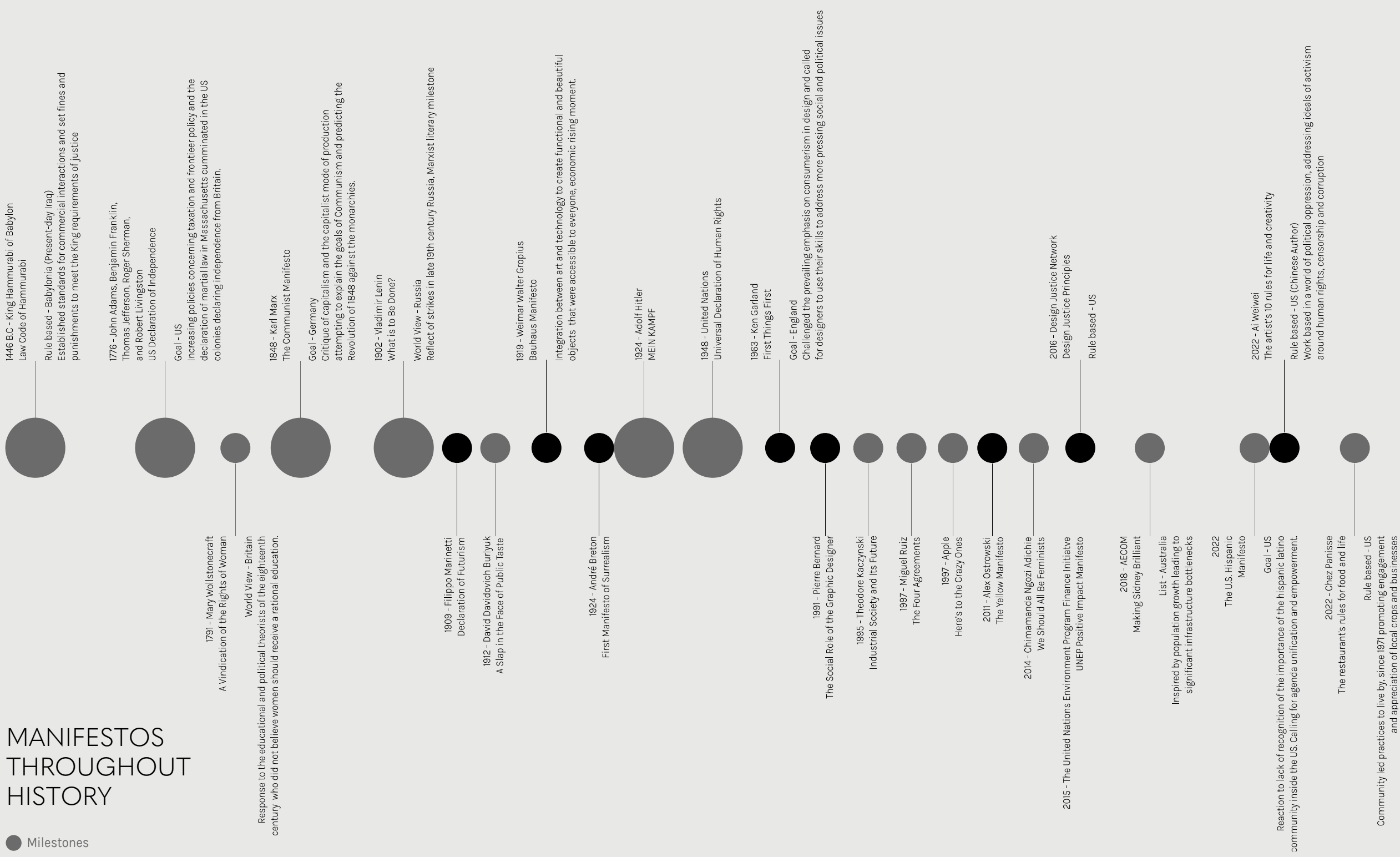
Grounded in facts, data, and evidence to persuade their audience, mostly based on actual statistics and research.

World view

Express the author's point of views on a particular field.

MANIFESTOS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

- Milestones
- Art & Design
- Others



RATIONALE

Migration has played an important role in Irish history, it has shaped our history values and culture. Ireland became a popular destination for immigrants in the past many years due to its perceivably good economy and its location as a gateway to Europe. According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the number of non-Irish nationals living in Ireland has increased significantly in the past two decades, from just over 60,000 in 1996 to over 600,000 in 2021.

problem statement

Stamp 2 visas serve as a pathway for students to engage in part-time work while studying in Ireland. They are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week during the academic term and up to 40 hours during the holidays. The English-language school sector alone is estimated to contribute €2 billion to the Irish economy, with over 100,000 adult students enrolled in these colleges, of which at least 60,000 originate from South American countries. These individuals play a crucial role in the hospitality and tourism industry, some would say they're the backbone to the hospitality industry.

Those students can stay in Ireland for up to eight months, provided they enrol in a six-month English language course and pay a minimum fee of €3,000 per term or €500 per month. However, many of these students reside in substandard living conditions, sharing overcrowded rooms, beds, and bunk beds, with access to only a single bathroom.

Living in precarity, they confront uncertain and tumultuous work environments, uncertain of whether they will earn enough to afford rent,

bills, and basic necessities, with many facing the prospect of eviction due to the ongoing housing crisis in Ireland.

Despite being essential to the survival of many hospitality businesses, the treatment of these individuals as disposable is a grave injustice. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the closure of many businesses highlighted the critical role that these workers play in the sector's survival. Therefore, it is imperative that we address the ethical implications of this situation and work towards creating a more just and sustainable system that recognises the invaluable contributions of these individuals. It is unreasonable to expect someone earning only €896 per month to pay €700 in rent, €500 for English school, and still manage to maintain a decent standard of living in Ireland

motivation

The significance of this project cannot be overstated as it addresses the pressing need to comprehend and create awareness about the ground realities of immigration in Ireland, along with the ethical implications it entails. Every year, a vast number of non-EU students leave behind their homes, families, and friends to seek new opportunities, financial growth, and thrilling experiences in the 'land of a thousand welcomes.'

Despite the promises made by agencies that recruit these students, the ground reality often presents a stark contrast as many of them face the harsh realities of homelessness, job insecurity, and financial distress due to the current housing crisis and high cost of living. The project seeks to highlight these issues and

bring attention to the ethical implications of such practices, in Ireland. We also reached out to participants to tell us their story. However, we encountered some reluctance from participants due to the sensitive nature of the topic.

process

To begin our research, we conducted desk research to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issue at hand. This involved creating a shared spreadsheet of economic, political, and social facts and events that had occurred throughout the years, such as migration rates, homelessness, and significant economic events.

In addition, we developed a survey to distribute to non-Irish students to gain insights into their experiences while studying, working, and living in Ireland. We also reached out to participants to tell us their story. However, we encountered some reluctance from participants due to the sensitive nature of the topic.

We conducted field research by attending talks and protests where we advocated for important issues such as racism, the housing crisis, transphobia, and misogyny. During our research, we also explored Dublin city, took photographs, and included them in our timeline and report. We aimed to create a visually engaging and human timeline that highlighted the social, political, and economic issues surrounding immigration in Ireland.

After extensive research and considerable effort, the international aspect of the research object, gave us the necessary insight to define the colour palette. Our starting point was

Fergio's Flag Stories project, which examines the flags, shapes, and colours of all countries around the world. Using this as a foundation, we developed a colour scheme that reflects the diverse international community residing in Ireland today. Drawing on the five dominant colours found in flags around the world (red, blue, green, yellow, and white), paring this main palette with shades of grey to create the final visuals of the project.

Subsequently, we began designing the timeline and national report, taking into consideration the gathered data and the project's goals. Overall, our efforts were geared towards creating a comprehensive and visually appealing timeline and report that would effectively communicate the challenges associated with immigration in Ireland.

SURVEY

In the early stages of our research, we conducted a survey to gain insights into the experiences of individuals in the position of “Stamp” immigrants in Ireland. Unfortunately, the survey achieved fewer responses than anticipated due to the sensitive and delicate nature of the topic. We had to shift the process and insert ourselves in the community to create connections. At first, many participants were hesitant to share their experiences out of fear, even after we explained the purpose of the research.

However, we immersed ourselves in our communities and engaged with participants, starting by participating in WhatsApp groups to be able to create human-to-human connections. We were able to collect more responses, still less than we hoped. The learning experience taught us the importance of empathy and thinking about how simple surveys can affect others, and the importance of trust in data collection.

Out of the 19 individuals who responded to the survey, the majority were aged between 25-29 and from countries such as Egypt, Brazil, Venezuela, Turkey, and El Salvador. All participants were currently residing in Ireland, with most living in Dublin for varying periods ranging from 0-8 months to over two years. The participants spoke a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, and Italian, and reported paying varying amounts of rent.

We asked the participants about their visa status and daily activities, with many reporting that they studied and worked or worked alone. Those who studied were mainly enrolled in English language courses or postgraduate programs. However, participants were hesitant to reveal the names of the institutions they

attended. When asked about their experience studying in Ireland, responses ranged from “difficult” to “challenging.” Most participants reported an improvement in their English language skills while studying in Ireland, with an average rating of 8 out of 10.

Regarding employment, the majority of participants worked in the hospitality industry, with barista and bartender being the most common job roles. While most worked between 35-45 hours per week, some worked fewer hours. When asked about fair treatment at work, the majority responded with “sometimes.”

Finally, we asked participants about their living arrangements, with the majority living with one or a few room mates. A few individuals reported living with over 10 people, most of whom described their accommodation as stable, and a significant number shared a room with one other person.

Despite the challenges of conducting research with a vulnerable population, the survey yielded valuable insights into the experiences of individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds living in Ireland. These findings can be used to inform policies and practices that better support and integrate migrants into Irish society.

Gather the quantitative information, please see on the next page some statements made anonymously by the survey respondents and insights into their lives.

"My experience is

TRAUMATIC

especially if you are already in a high level. Every day is basic talking about what you did on the day before or your plans. Boring actually."

"It's completely

DIFFERENT

from how they described it!!!"

50% of participants described

SOMETIMES

or not at all being treated fairly at work.

"It's been hard but we don't have to

GIVE UP

"I love the city, but you

CAN'T LIVE HERE

"Ireland and Europe is not for everyone, you have to be very clear about your goals and aspirations because the way to achieve them in a country that is not yours is even more

COMPLICATED

living in Ireland is not easy at first, very tiring jobs, even if the pay is good but they make you very tired, studying and working, the climate if you don't like it all that is not for everyone."

"I earn per hour:

€ 9.20

doing on average from 30h to 35h a week."



WHAT IS IT LIKE?

Stories have the ability to create and captivate narratives that enable us to truly connect with our users in a deep and empathetic way.

By immersing ourselves in their stories, we gain insight into their lives, struggles, joys, and desires. We can acknowledge their experience and see the world through their eyes. This connection allows us to truly understand their needs and problems in a way that cold, hard data would most likely not.

As designers, we can use this understanding to honour and respect each individual and their experience. The design then takes on a more empathetic and responsible form, considering the unique circumstances and contexts of the users.

The following words are not just on paper, these stories tell about people's lives through their own point of view, their narratives, pains, and happiness, but more than anything they efforts to live in Ireland.

#1

“ My name is Steban, I'm a 22 years old man, from El Salvador, living in Ireland since April 2022.

My situation here has been difficult, but I'm happy because I'm getting over it.

The problem is that if the Garda comes to where I am working, they will ask who the students are and how many hours they are doing. So far, I haven't had any problems with the Garda.

In the last job I was paid €10.80 an hour, until they raised it to €11.50. I was working there for 6 months; I hated it, and it was impossible to survive. I worked only 20 hours in the hotel. Then I moved to a pub, and they accepted me to work more than 20 hours. In this pub I worked 40 hours, and they gave me tips, the tips were a blessing, and they gave them to me in cash, it was an extra income that helped me a lot. Now I am working in a restaurant, I like it better because I work more hours and make more money, everything is accounted for by an app, and I get paid by bank transfer. This is my best option for work, because I know friends who do 20 hours in one job and 20 hours in another job, but that's the way it is, it doesn't benefit you because of the taxes.

Right now, I work 35 to 40 hours, but there are weeks when I am allowed to work 50 hours. I don't see the harm in working 50 hours or working more, because I need to, and I get more tips in cash. In this new job I get paid €11.50 an hour, but I just asked for a pay rise, and they increased it to €12.25 an hour, which I am very happy about.

I know other people who study English and live in the same situation as me, the two kitchen Porters live like me, they survive.

The most difficult thing about living in Ireland is the housing, knowing where you are going to live for a long time. I've already found where I'm going to live for a long time, and I live close to where I work.

My first place was with a host family, I lived with them for a month and a half, although the idea was only to stay for a week, I ended up staying longer because I didn't know that

the housing crisis was so hard. At the beginning I went for the cheapest but what really matters, is security, is to pay a signed contract for a long time. I found a makeshift house on the daft site, it was very difficult, they ended up giving me an eviction notice and I had to vacate my room in 1 week.

Now through Hosting Power I found a better and safer place, I get on really well with my lady landlord, and she told me to renew my contract for another 6 months but without the help of the website, so it benefits us both more.

With my English classes I am improving. I go every day to English classes in the mornings from 9 to 12, I try not to miss them because they count your attendance by the hour, and you can't afford to miss them. I'm literally only there if they help me, but as a waiter I've learnt a lot more English. The unfair thing is that there's nowhere to live, the circle of living, and if you come to study English you have nowhere to live. With 20 hours of work you don't survive, with 30 hours you survive at the minimum, but you make it. My cost of living is 880 and only working 20 hours is impossible, I can only pay the rent but not the food. I have a friend who works at the Spar and they let him work as many hours as he wants, but it's very tiring. I don't think you can come to live here and study English if you are not prepared to fight. It has been difficult, but you have to work hard for the opportunity, you know. There are days when I question myself for having come here, but I couldn't have these opportunities that I'm having. My mentality right now is to work and work because that's how I make money. I don't want to study anymore; I just want to work because I just want to make money. When you work it's a different reality, you are more efficient.

There was a moment when I thought, I must work at anything, but I have to work hard. Now my goal is to save €7,000 to be able to study again, to stop studying English and to study an under degree and to have more opportunities. I really don't want to study English anymore, I

mean the classes are good for grammar and structure, but I've become more fluent at work, I've been able to learn more fluently there. It's good to have the classes, but it's up to you to learn. I always tell them that I'm from El Salvador and they come out very interested, nobody has ever seen me ugly. Once they thought I was from Brazil, a client thought I was from Brazil and treated me badly, until he asked me where I was from, I told him I was from El Salvador and his attitude to me changed. They change to a more authentic way when I tell them I am from El Salvador, and they don't assume. ”

#2

“ Hi, my name is Lara, I'm a 32 years old woman, Brazilian and I've been living in Ireland since January 2018.

The idea was not to come to Ireland, I always wanted to travel around Europe. Like every single Brazilian. At the time, in 2017, I received a decent amount of money from a job, enough to travel around Europe for 3 months, which was the plan. However, I didn't speak any English. And then the fear started to set in, despite all my friends who took this trip saying that it was manageable and that I would always find ways to communicate. I decided then to learn the language first, I had a few options for this, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. Ireland was the most financially viable.

I spent a year saving money and finally came. I arrived here on January 26, 2018. With no English at all, just courage, which in fact we only find out that we think we have, but we don't. My first experience here at the airport was not a good one. The immigration agent started talking to me in English, which I couldn't understand, he switched to Spanish and started saying insults to me as, “You came here just to work”, “You're another one of those illegal immigrants”, “It's another Brazilian pretending he's coming to study”. At that time I regretted my decision.

My first accommodation was a Host Family,

despite being a very friendly couple, neither of them spoke any Portuguese. Communication was all done with our phones. The period in that house, those 2 weeks between the temporary accommodation and the search for a permanent one, was what woke me up. I would have to learn the language. In my new house, 13 people, even with half being Brazilian, I had to communicate with the others, I had to communicate in English. I believe this was one of the most useful things that happened to me, in another scenario I would study English at school, go back home and live the rest of my day in Portuguese.

In that period I still had the total of €3,000 needed when moving here. After living here for a month, one day after loads of crying I decided that I would live off that money as far as I could, to dedicate myself 100% to school.

I used to go through St. Stephens Green on the way to school and back home. I had the habit of leaving very early and wandering around town, trying to at least improve my listening. My daily average was 25km of walking during those first months. After a month of this routine, I had another difficult moment, I felt as if I wasn't progressing, as usual, I left the house early, even in the cold, it was right in that year that it snowed a lot around here.

I remember sitting down on St Stephens Green and bursting into tears again, meanwhile, an old man came and sat down next to me, saying nothing. He sat and stayed while I cried. When I finally stopped crying he asked, "Are you okay?" He told me a few more words of support, I understood and thanked him. It was the first time I comfortably communicate with someone using English.

I never saw him again, but he saved my dream, without him I would have left Ireland. After a few more months I started to see improvement, I stopped avoiding people on the streets and started trying to talk whenever possible.

My money was close to running out and I had

to move, I needed to work from then on to pay the next month's rent. It was another difficult time, the people in my first home were my family here. In the new house, only Portuguese was spoken, we were all Brazilians. Thanks to work, my English went from basic to something that gave me hope of being able to live here. At school, you learn the basics to get started. But it's not enough.

I went through the pandemic in Ireland, but for me, the most difficult thing has been the post-pandemic, I feel like it was an incubator of bad things in most people, xenophobia, racism. I had never experienced anything so explicit before the lock down months. I think these people staying at home, nearly locked, ended up cultivating a feeling of being trapped because of someone else and I, a foreign object within the country, became the target. Many times I heard that I should go back to my country because there are already too many Brazilians here. Retail is a cruel field to work in. You have to survive on 20 hours of work, which is impossible and still go through this.

After reaching the limit of the duration of my English course, I decided to go to college, not because it was my goal, but because I didn't want to leave and unlike many people, I don't have European descent in my family to qualify for a passport. For me, it was a difficult experience, mainly because I felt overloaded with 2 jobs, trying to survive, college and all that during the lock down.

I managed to graduate, the guaranteed job after the master's I would say is more fantasy than anything else. I went to a well-reputed college even though it's primarily designed for immigrants, but the job hasn't happened for me, not yet.

To be quite honest, as much as I've been through a lot here, the difficulties and all the rest, I still feel at home, which I never felt in Brazil, and that's what makes me want to stay. 🐾



NO PASARÁN
Resist
the Fascist
Threat

3rd Saturday 1st April
Gresham Hotel,
O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

Smash
Fascism,
Transphobia,
& Misogyny

REFLECTION

Completing this project was a very fulfilling experience. From research to design, every aspect of this journey was eye opening.

We began with the desk research and this probably was the most challenging and monotonous part of the project. We found ourselves with a mountain of information that was hard to synthesise, covering every aspect of immigration from labour, culture to economy, government and political events. Only after insights and meaning started to connect with all the data and with what we see, it felt worthwhile.

The survey was very time consuming to make so it was quiet disappointing when we realised there was a massive apprehension for people to fill out this information, but of course completely understandable. Highlighting how vulnerable the experience and circumstances tends to make people living in this scenario feel.

We communicated well as a group and met up almost every week to discuss our progress and make changes. These sessions became moments filled with small victories, once we started seeing the project come together. We also attend to a few different protests and looked around the city to see what we could find, we were blown away with the amount of relevant information and sources found.

The designing was the fun part, making words, pictures, data and colours coming to life with meaning and veracity. Since we had done a lot of primary research completed we worked very quickly with the composition of the timeline and report.

Overall we really enjoyed the project and we were very proud with the outcomes. Looking back on the project now, knowing what the initial ideas and goals were, there are a few things that stand out. The process initially developed and proposed revolved around two main spheres, acknowledgment, where understanding of the past, aspirations and future potential would be worked on, moving on to the second sphere, actions, where the planning and execution of any proposed measures/activities would be carried out.

The developed research, literature review, policies and construction of the timeline would all be steps of the first sphere. Going forward, the proposal was to build a manifesto that would communicate with the portion of the population studied and inform other people about the reality of this group, reaching the second sphere.

The awareness gained by the group, the recognition of reality and access of the big picture made us realize that all we could do with real meaning and potential to impact future and people was the research by itself.

This research proves a point, shows through literature, policies, events over the last 20 years and real stories the precariousness of life for a massive portion of society, experiencing all the key effects of precarity: labour, culture, housing, income and the uncertainty of tomorrow.

We would like to highlight our inability to solve this wicked problem with words, visuals and innovative ideas, acknowledging the real dimension of the issue and the system responsible for it.

We take part in this, with this project, months of work and effort, promoting information, empathy, awareness and speaking up about the reality of immigrant people and communities, living in Ireland and elsewhere.

TEAM

From right to left,
Sophie Ronan,
Heitor Laforga,
Tamara Markey &
Gabriela Cladellas.

Thank you!



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